

CM Chandrababu Naidu promises to establish Telugu varsity, name it after Potti Sriramulu

Key Points:

- ❖ Recently, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced the establishment of a Telugu University in honor of martyr Sri Potti Sriramulu to commemorate his sacrifices for the Telugu people. Sri Potti Sriramulu is honored for his crucial role in advocating for a Telugu-speaking state from Madras.
- ❖ His sacrifice on 15th December led to the creation of linguistic states in India. His death after a 56-day fast led to widespread violence, prompting the government to form a State Reorganisation Commission (Dec 1953), creating Andhra Pradesh in Oct 1953.
- ❖ Sriramulu participated in the Indian Independence Movement and was jailed for his involvement in the 1930 Salt Satyagraha and also participated in the Quit India Movement.



- ❖ He was a dedicated follower and ardent supporter of Mahatma Gandhi. He also joined the Gandhi Ashram in Komaravolu, established by Yerneni Subrahmanyam. He undertook a fast to support Dalit entry rights to the Venu Gopala Swamy Temple in Moolapeta, Nellore, which were eventually granted.



Russian paramilitary soldiers killed in friendly fire attack by North Koreans after enlisting DPRK help

Key Points:

- ❖ Russian soldiers have been killed—not by Ukrainian forces, but by their own allies: North Korean troops. This catastrophic incident, caused by a language barrier, highlights the chaos that ensues when communication fails in the heat of battle. The tragedy, revealed by Ukrainian military intelligence, occurred in the Kursk region, where Russian forces are attempting to reclaim territory. However, this incident exposes a troubling reality—Russia's inability to effectively control the foreign troops it has deployed to the frontlines.



- ❖ Ukraine initially seized a large swathe of Kursk in its surprise cross-border raid — around 500 square miles — but Russian forces have retaken about 40% of that land, a senior Ukrainian military source told Reuters in late November.
- ❖ North Korea has sent thousands of troops to aid Russia in its fight against Ukraine, officials from South Korea, Ukraine, and the US have said.
- ❖ Dmytro Ponomarenko, Ukraine's ambassador to South Korea, told Voice of America last month that the number could reach 15,000, with troops rotated out every two to three months. He said a cumulative 100,000 North Korean soldiers could serve in Russia within a year.
- ❖ Most of the North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia's Kursk region, which has been under partial Ukrainian control since Kyiv's surprise incursion into Russian territory in August.

Numbers Behind 'One Nation, One Poll', Can Bill Pass?

Key Points:

- ❖ The BJP does not have - as of Tuesday evening - the numbers to push through the Lok Sabha two bills to amend the Constitution and guide its 'one nation, one election' dream a step closer to reality. The bills - one proposing changes to the duration and dissolution of state legislatures and linking their terms to the Lok Sabha, and a second proposing similar changes to the legislatures of the union territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry - were tabled in the Lower House.
- ❖ Recommended by a panel led by ex-President Ram Nath Kovind these amendments will require a two-thirds majority to clear the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Based on the number of MPs who voted on introducing the bill, it appears that the BJP does not have that majority. Party leaders Manickam Tagore and Shashi Tharoor, after the division vote, pointed out the BJP had managed only 269 votes in support of its initiative. 198 MPs stood opposed to it.
- ❖ "Two-thirds majority (i.e., 307) was needed out of 461 votes (MPs present and voting today)... but the government secured only (269), while the opposition got 198. The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal failed to gain two-thirds support," Mr Tagore said on X, with a screenshot of the e-voting system.
- ❖ Normally, a simple majority of those present and voting is enough to allow a bill to be tabled. In this case, that number was 231, which the BJP cleared easily. However, legislation to amend the Constitution requires approval from two-third of the members present and voting.
- ❖ In that case, if today's vote were meant to pass the bill, the proposal would have lost.

In fact, even at full strength the BJP and its allies, the National Democratic Alliance, do not have the numbers - it has only 293 MPs in its camp.

- ❖ The Congress-led INDIA bloc has 234. In a Lok Sabha at full strength, a bill to amend the Constitution will need 362 votes to pass.
- ❖ The BJP will, therefore, need support, from non-aligned parties, but there are really only two possibilities - the YSR Congress with four MPs and the Akali Dal with one, and both have pledged their support. Most of the others are aligned either with the NDA or the INDIA bloc.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS BY RAM NATH KOVIND PANEL

1 The govt must develop a legally tenable mechanism to restore the cycle of simultaneous polls.

2 For the purpose of synchronising the LS and Assembly polls, the President shall notify the date of the first sitting of LS after a general election as the "appointed date".

3 The tenure of all state Assemblies formed via polls after the "appointed date" and before the expiry of the full term of LS will only be for the period ending up to subsequent parliamentary polls. After this one-time transitory measure, all LS and Assembly polls will be held simultaneously.

4 Fresh elections could be held to constitute a new LS in the event of a hung House or a no-confidence motion or any such event.

5 Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha), the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired

Source: PTI

FIRST STEP

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved Bills to implement 'One nation, One election'. In first stage, elections for LS and state assemblies can be held together.



SECOND STEP

The elections to municipalities and panchayats will be synchronised with LS and state assemblies in such a way that the polls

to municipalities and panchayats are held within 100 days of the holding of the parliamentary and Assembly elections.

(remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House".

6 When fresh elections are held for state legislative assemblies, then such new assemblies — unless sooner dissolved — shall continue up to the end of the full term of LS.

7 A single electoral roll and EPIC shall be prepared by the EC in consultation with the state

election commissions and the same will substitute any other electoral roll prepared by the EC.

8 For making logistical arrangements for simultaneous polls, the EC may draw up a plan and estimate in advance for the procurement of equipment, deployment of polling personnel and security forces and make other necessary arrangements.

ବିଲ୍ କିପରି ପାରିତ ହେବ?

ଏକ ଦେଶ, ଏକ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ବିଲ୍ ୧୨୯ତମ ସାମ୍ବିଧାନିକ ସଂଶୋଧନ ବିଲ୍ ଭାବରେ ଉପସ୍ଥାପିତ ହୋଇଛି। ଏହାକୁ ପାସ୍ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଲୋକସଭାରେ ଦୁଇ ତୃତୀୟାଂଶ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା, ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଦୁଇ ତୃତୀୟାଂଶ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା ଏବଂ ଆଧିକାରୀୟ ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ ୧୫୫ ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟର ସହମତି ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହେବ।

ଲୋକସଭାରେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ କିପରି ପାରିତ ହେବ?

ଲୋକସଭାର ମୋଟ ୫୪୩ଟି ସିଟ୍ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଶାସକ ଏନଡିଏ ପାର୍ଟିରେ ୨୯୨ ଟି ସିଟ୍ ରହିଛି। ଏଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ, ଦୁଇ ତୃତୀୟାଂଶ (୨/୩) ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା ପାଇଁ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ୩୬୨ ଭୋଟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହେବ। ଯାହା ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା ଠାରୁ ୭୦ ଟି ସିଟ୍ କମ୍ ଅଟେ। ଏହାର ଅର୍ଥ, ଯଦି ଏନଡିଏ ଅନ୍ୟ ୭୦ ଜଣ ସାଂସଦଙ୍କ ଭୋଟ୍ ପାଇବ, ତେବେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ ଲୋକସଭାରେ ପାରିତ ହେବ।

ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ କିପରି ପାରିତ ହେବ?

ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ମୋଟ ୨୪୫ ଟି ଆସନ ଅଛି। ଯେତେବେଳେ କି ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଏନଡିଏର ସାଂସଦ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ୧୧୨ ରହିଛି। ଦୁଇ ତୃତୀୟାଂଶ (୨/୩) ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା ସହ ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ ପାସ କରିବାକୁ ୧୬୪ ସାଂସଦଙ୍କ ଭୋଟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହେବ। ଏଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଏନଡିଏକୁ ଆହୁରି ୪୨ ସାଂସଦଙ୍କର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିବ।

ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସହମତି ମଧ୍ୟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ

ଲୋକସଭା ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟସଭାରେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ ପାରିତ କରିବା ପରେ ଦେଶର ୧୫ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅନୁମତି ନେବାକୁ ପଡିବ। ଏହାର ଅର୍ଥ ହେଉଛି ଯେ, ୧୫ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟ ବିଧାନସଭାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହି ବିଲ୍‌କୁ ସାଧାରଣ ସଂଖ୍ୟାଗରିଷ୍ଠତା ଦ୍ଵାରା ପାରିତ କରିବାକୁ ପଡିବ। ଏହା ପରେ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତିଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ ଚାଳ ଦସ୍ତଖତ ପାଇଁ ପଠାଯିବ। ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତିଙ୍କ ଅନୁମୋଦନ ପରେ ଏହି ବିଲ୍ ଏକ ଅଧିନିୟମରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବ।

What Is 'One Nation, One Election'?

- ❖ Simply put, it means all Indians will vote in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections - to pick central and state representatives - in the same year, if not at the same time.
- ❖ As of 2024, only four states voted with a Lok Sabha election - Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Odisha voted alongside the April-June Lok Sabha election.
- ❖ Three others - Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jammu and Kashmir - voted in October-November. The rest follow a non-synced five-year cycle; Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana, for example, were among those voted at different times last year, while Delhi and Bihar will vote in 2025 and Tamil Nadu and Bengal are among those that will vote in 2026.

Govt launches CGS-NPF scheme to help farmer access post harvest loan

Key Points:

- ❖ The government of India has launched a credit guarantee scheme to enable the farmers to access credit from eligible financial institutions on harvested crops deposited in registered warehouses.
- ❖ The Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF) was launched by the central government in New Delhi on 6 December 2024. The

government hopes that the launch of the scheme will boost the post-harvest lending to farmers/traders to Rs 5.5 lakh crore in the next 10 years.



Who launched the CGS-NPF Scheme?

- ❖ The Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-based Pledge Financing (CGS-NPF) was launched by the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, in New Delhi.

Corpus of the CGS-NPF Scheme

- ❖ The corpus of the CGS-NPF Scheme is Rs 1000 crore.

Which Ministry will manage the CGS-NPF fund?

- ❖ The CGS-NPF fund will be managed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Feature of the Scheme

- ❖ The farmers/traders can avail loans from eligible financial institutions against the electronic negotiable warehouse receipts issued by Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) accredited warehouses.
- ❖ The electronic negotiable warehouse receipts will be issued against the agricultural commodities deposited by farmers/traders with Warehouses.
- ❖ The government will counter-guarantee the loan extended by the financial institutions against such electronic negotiable warehouse receipts.
- ❖ If the farmers/traders fail to repay the loan, then the government will reimburse the financial institution under the CGS-NPF Scheme.

- ❖ This will encourage the financial institutions to extend loans to farmers/traders as their loans are being counter-guaranteed by the government.

Counter Guarantee of Loans

- ❖ Agricultural loans up to Rs 75 lakhs and loans up to Rs. 2 crores for nonagricultural purposes are covered.
- ❖ The government will reimburse the financial institution 85% of the loan amount for loans up to Rs 3 lakhs.
- ❖ For loans of Rs 3 -75 lakhs, the reimbursement amount is 80 % of the loan amount for small and marginal farmers/women/scheduled caste/scheduled tribes/persons with disabilities farmers.
- ❖ For the other borrowers, the counter-guarantee for Rs 3-Rs 75 lakh loan is 75 % of the loan amount.

Eligible Farmers/Traders

- ❖ Small and Marginal farmers/Women/Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes/Person with Disabilities farmers and other category farmers.
- ❖ Micro Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME), Farmer Producer Organisation, Farmer Cooperatives and Traders.

Eligible financial institutions

- ❖ All scheduled banks and all cooperative banks.

Team Asia of Manika Batra wins inaugural TT Waldner Cup 2024 in Norway

Key Points:

- ❖ Team Asia won the inaugural Waldner Cup 2024 Table Tennis tournament, defeating Team World 14-10. Manika Batra was the only Indian player to be included in the Team Asia team. World no.25 ranked Manika Batra lost her singles and doubles match in the Waldner Cup.

- ❖ She lost her singles match to Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico. In the doubles, she paired with Shin Yubin of South Korea but lost the match against the pair of Adriana Diaz and Romania's Bernadette Szocs.



About the Waldner Cup

- ❖ The Waldner Cup has been instituted by Swedish table tennis great Jan-Ove Waldner. It was an invitational tournament approved by the Norwegian Table Tennis Association. The Waldner Cup was held in Oslo, Norway, from 13-15 December 2024.
- ❖ Team Asia comprised Manika Batra of India, six-time Olympic gold medallist Ma Long of China, two-time Olympic bronze medallist Shin Yubin of South Korea and Kirill Gerassimenko of Kazakhstan.
- ❖ The Team World consisted of 2024 Paris Olympics men's singles silver medallist Truls Moregardh of Sweden, six-time Olympic medallist Dimitrij Ovtcharov of Germany, Hugo Calderano of Russia, Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico and Bernadette Szocs of Romania.

Hardik Pandya most Searched Indian Sportsperson

Key Points:

- ❖ According to the Google Year in Search 2024, cricketer Hardik Pandya was the most searched Indian sportsperson across the globe.
- ❖ Overall, he was ranked the seventh most searched sportsperson in the world in 2024. No other Indian sportsperson was included in the world's top 10 most searched sportspersons.

Most Searched Sportsperson in world

- ❖ The list was topped by the female Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who won a gold medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, she later became controversial due to questions about her gender.
- ❖ Former boxing world champion Mike Tyson was the second most searched sportsperson.
- ❖ The 17-year-old female football player Lamine Yamal of Spain and Barcelona was in third place.
- ❖ Lamine Yamal won the 2024 Ballon d'Or award for best player under the 21-year category.
- ❖ In terms of sports trends in India, the Indian Premier League (IPL), T20 World Cup 2024, and the 2024 Paris Olympics occupied the top three slots.

Himanta Biswa Sarma attends Bhutan's National Day

Key Points:

- ❖ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended Bhutan's 117th National Day celebration on 17 December 2024 at Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. Himanta Biswa Sarma was on a three-day visit to Bhutan from 16-18 December 2024 at the invitation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Significance of Himanta Sarma Visit

- ❖ Assam shares an international boundary with Bhutan, and the Himanta Biswa Sarma visit is intended to strengthen the cultural and regional ties between Bhutan and Assam.
- ❖ Discussion was also held on the development of the clean energy and hydropower sector.
- ❖ Assam, like Bhutan, is blessed with hydropower, and Assam wants to benefit

from Bhutan's expertise in developing hydropower and clean energy.

- ❖ Discussion was also held on sustainable water management with a focus on drinking water.
- ❖ During the visit, both sides discussed collaboration in power generation, resource sharing, and infrastructure development, benefiting both Assam and Bhutan.

Bhutan National Day

- ❖ Every year, 17th December is observed as a National Day in Bhutan. This day marks the coronation of the first King of Bhutan, Druk Gyalpo Ugyen Wangchuck, on December 17, 1907.
- ❖ In Bhutan, the official title of the King is Druk Gyalpo, which means Dragon King in Dzongkha. Dzongkha is the official language of Bhutan. The current King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, is the descendant of the Ugyen Wangchuck and is the fifth King of Bhutan.

Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck Visit to India

- ❖ The King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, and his wife, Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, visited India on 5&6 December 2024.
- ❖ During his visit to India, he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. India and Bhutan have close ties, and the two countries have regular high-level visits.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Bhutan in March 2024, where he became the first foreign leader to receive the highest Bhutanese civilian award, the Order of the Druk Gyalpo'.

Bhutan

- ❖ Bhutan, also known as Druk Yul, meaning "Land of the Thunder Dragon", is a landlocked South Asian country. Bhutan is a Monarchy where the King is the Head of

the State while a democratically elected Prime Minister is the Head of the Government. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim share a land border with Bhutan. India shares a 699 km long international boundary with Bhutan.

- ❖ Capital: Thimphu ▪ Currency: Nagultram
- ❖ Language spoken in Bhutan-Dzongkha
- ❖ King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
- ❖ Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay

Rithvik Kumar wins Odisha Masters 2024 badminton men's singles title

Key Points:

- ❖ Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar won the men's single title of the 2024 BWF Super100 Odisha Masters badminton tournament on 15 December 2024.
- ❖ Rithvik was the sole Indian winner in the Odisha Masters, which was dominated by the Chinese players, who won three titles, and the Japanese claimed the women's doubles title.
- ❖ The BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters 2024 was organised jointly by the Badminton's governing body in India, the Badminton Association of India and the Odisha Badminton Association.



- ❖ The \$100,000 lakh prize money BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters 2024 was held in Cuttack, Odisha, from 10-15 December 2024. It was the third edition of the BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters after the inaugural edition in 2021 and 2023.

First BWF Super 100 Masters Title for Rithvik

- ❖ 21-year-old Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar, ranked 78th in the world, defeated fellow Indian Tharun Mannepalli in the finals to

win the men's singles title of the Odisha Masters. World 68th-ranked Tharun Mannepalli defeated the defending champion and the winner of the 2024 Guwahati Masters, Sathish Karunakaran, in the semi-finals.

Chinese Cai Yan Yan wins the women's singles title

- ❖ Chinese Cai Yan Yan won her second consecutive BWF Super 100 title in Cuttack by defeating 15-year-old Tanvi Sharma in the final. Last week, Cai Yan Yan won the 2024 BWF Super 100 Guwahati tournament's singles title, defeating Anmol Kharb of India. The Chinese player continued their dominance of the Odisha Master by winning the men's and mixed doubles titles. The Japanese women's team clinched the doubles title.

Super 100 Odisha Masters 2024 Badminton Title Winners

- ❖ Following is the list of the winners and their nationalities of the BWF Super 100 Odisha Masters 2024 Badminton Masters.

Serial Number	Events	Winner	Runners-Up
1	Men's Singles	Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar (India)	Tharun Mannepalli (India)
2	Women's Singles	Cai Yan Yan (China)	Tanvi Sharma (India)
3	Men's Doubles	Huang Di/Liu Yang (China)	Kakeru Kumagai/Hiroki Nishi (Japan)
4	Women's Doubles	Nanoka Hara / Riko Kiyose (Japan)	Keng Shu Liang / Wang Ting Ge (China)
5	Mixed Doubles	Gao Jia Xuan / Tang Rui Zhi (China)	Hee Yong Kai Terry / Jin Yu Jia (Singapore)

Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP

Key Points:

- ❖ Britain has become the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member. The bloc comprises Canada and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The UK, following its 2016 Brexit referendum, is attempting to establish new trade deals abroad after signing the accession treaty with most EU members.



- ❖ Established in 2018, the bloc safeguards against Chinese hegemony in the region, providing British companies access to a market of over 500 million people, contributing over 15% of the world's GDP.

Google appoints Preeti Lobana as India Head

Key Points:

- ❖ Tech giant Google has appointed Preeti Lobana as its new Country Manager and Vice President for India.
- ❖ Lobana succeeds Sanjay Gupta, who was recently transitioned to a bigger role as President of the Asia Pacific region.
- ❖ A seasoned Googler with eight years of experience as Vice President of customer-centric solutions, Lobana will now spearhead Google India's sales and operations, driving the company's commitment to India's burgeoning digital economy.

- ❖ Google had also appointed Roma Datta Chobey, the managing director for the digital native industries division of Google India, as the interim country manager.



Recent Appointment

- ❖ Fielding coach of Mumbai Indians – Carl Hopkinson (replace James Pamment)
- ❖ Speaker of 6th Jharkhand Legislative Assembly – Rabindra Mahto
- ❖ Speaker of 15th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly – Rahul Narwekar of BJP
- ❖ Acting Secreary of BCCI – Devajit Saikia (replace Jay Shah)
- ❖ Chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC) – Jay Shah (replace Greg Barclay)
- ❖ President of FICCI for 2024-25 – Harsha Vardhan Agarwal (replace Anish Shah)

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