

Current Affairs

06 & 07 Dec. 2025

Shri P. K. Motupalli Wins
M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award



1. Shri P. K. Motupalli Wins M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award

- **Recipient and Position:** The award was conferred upon Shri P. K. Motupalli, who is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise in India.
- **Award Significance:** He received the prestigious M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award, which is a high-profile recognition for contributions to environmental protection and sustainable development, honoring the legacy of the 'Father of the Green Revolution' in India.
- **NLCIL's Role in Energy Transition:** The recognition highlights NLCIL's evolution under his guidance, emphasizing the company's commitment to balancing national energy security needs with global climate commitments and sustainability.
- **Impact and Inspiration:** The award serves to motivate individuals and organizations in the public sector to pursue excellence in environmental stewardship and sustainable industrial development, in line with the national vision for a greener future.



2. India–Malaysia Launch Harimau Shakti 2025

- **Type and Edition:** It is the fifth edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army, highlighting the strong and continuous defense cooperation between the two nations.



- **Objective/Aim:** The primary objective is to jointly rehearse the conduct of Sub Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. This primarily involves synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
- **Location and Duration:** The exercise is being conducted at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, India, and is scheduled to run from December 5 to 18, 2025.
- **Key Training Focus:** The scope includes practicing sophisticated tactical actions such as cordon, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, securing helipads, and casualty evacuation drills. It aims to enhance the interoperability of the two forces.
- **Participating Units:** The Indian contingent is primarily represented by troops from the DOGRA Regiment, while the Malaysian side is represented by troops from the 25th Battalion of the Royal Malaysian Army, facilitating the exchange of best practices and combat skills.

3. RBI reduces repo rate to 5.25 percent

- **Context of the Decision (Goldilocks Period):** The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided on the rate cut on December 5, 2025. This move was prompted by what the RBI Governor described as a "rare Goldilocks period"—characterized by robust economic growth (FY26 GDP forecast raised to 7.3%) and benign, low headline inflation (FY26 inflation forecast revised sharply down to 2%).
- **The Specific Rate Change:** The policy repo rate was reduced by 25 basis points (0.25%), from 5.50% to 5.25%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was adjusted to 5.00%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate to 5.50%.
- **Impact on Borrowers (Cheaper Loans):** The reduction is expected to result in lower interest rates on bank loans, particularly those linked to external benchmarks like the repo rate (e.g., home loans). This will lead to lower Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) for borrowers, thereby boosting credit growth and consumption.
- **Monetary Stance and Liquidity:** The MPC decided to continue with the 'Neutral' stance, indicating that the central bank remains flexible to adjust rates in the future based on the evolving growth and inflation dynamics. The RBI also announced significant liquidity support measures (e.g., bond purchases and FX swaps) to ensure that banks have sufficient funds to facilitate effective transmission of the lower rate into the broader economy.



Foot notes:

About RBI-

- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Established:** 1935
- **Bank rate:** 5.5% (as of 6 June 2025)
- **Interest on reserves:** 3.35%
- **Policy repo rate:** 6.0%
- **Marginal standing facility rate:** 6.25%
- **CRR:** 4.0%
- **SLR:** 18.00%

4. RBI Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3%

- **Stronger-than-Expected Q2 Performance:** The upward revision was primarily driven by the robust GDP growth of 8.2% recorded in the July-September quarter (Q2) of FY26, which was a six-quarter high. This demonstrated a resilient economic momentum.
- **Buoyant Domestic Demand:** Economic activity was underpinned by resilient domestic demand, supported by factors like the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), festival-related spending, and a steady recovery in urban demand alongside robust rural demand.
- **Healthy Investment Activity:** The RBI noted that investment activity remains healthy, with private investment gaining steam supported by an expansion in non-food bank credit and high capacity utilisation in industry.
- **Benign Inflation and Policy Space:** A sharply lower inflation outlook (revised to 2.0% for FY26) created "policy space" to focus on supporting growth. The low inflation environment allows the central bank to maintain supportive financial conditions.
- **Favorable Supply-Side Factors:** On the supply side, the economy benefited from buoyant industrial and services sectors. Additionally, agricultural prospects were healthy, supported by good kharif crop production and favorable rabi crop sowing conditions.



5. Asim Munir becomes Chief of Defence Forces in Pakistan

- **Dual Role and Historical First:** Field Marshal Asim Munir is the first military officer in Pakistan's history to hold the titles of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence



Forces (CDF) concurrently. He was appointed for a five-year tenure in this combined role.

- **Creation of the CDF Post:** The CDF position was formally created and approved by Pakistan's Parliament through the 27th Constitutional Amendment. The new post effectively replaces and centralizes the authority previously held by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), which has been abolished.
- **Consolidation of Power:** This restructuring significantly consolidates operational, administrative, and strategic authority under a single command. The CDF is now charged with command of all three service branches (Army, Navy, and Air Force) and oversight of the National Strategic Command, which is responsible for Pakistan's nuclear assets.
- **Field Marshal Rank:** Munir was promoted to the rare rank of Field Marshal earlier in 2025. This makes him only the second officer in Pakistan's history (after Ayub Khan in 1959) to hold this five-star rank, further cementing his stature and authority over the military establishment.
- **Impact on Tenure and Immunity:** The appointment effectively resets his five-year tenure as COAS-cum-CDF, and the constitutional amendment also granted him and the office lifelong immunity from criminal prosecution

6. Anahat Singh Beats Joshna Chinappa to Win Chennai Squash Title

- **The Title and Participants:** Anahat Singh won the Women's Title at the HCL Squash Indian Tour 4 tournament held in Chennai. The final was an all-Indian clash between the rising star, Anahat Singh (17), and the veteran compatriot, Joshna Chinappa (39).
- **Match Result and Intensity:** Anahat Singh, who was the top seed, defeated the unseeded Chinappa in a thrilling and closely contested five-game battle. The scoreline was 3-2 (11-8, 11-13, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8) in a match that lasted 52 minutes.
- **Significance of the Win:** This victory further solidifies Anahat's emergence as India's premier female squash player, especially since she is the country's highest-ranked woman (World No. 29). It was her third consecutive win over Joshna Chinappa in as many matches.
- **Fourth Title of the Season:** The Chennai title marked Anahat Singh's fourth Professional Squash Association (PSA) title of the current season (2025), adding to wins in previous editions of the Indian Open in Mumbai, another SRFI Indian Tour title in Chennai, and the SRFI Indian Open in Indore.



- **Momentum for Team India:** The tournament served as an important preparatory event, as both Anahat Singh and Joshna Chinappa (along with the men's winner, Velavan Senthilkumar) are set to represent India in the WSF Squash World Cup which is scheduled to take place in Chennai the following week.

7. Dibyajyoti Sarkar Makes Guinness World Record

- **The Record Category:** Dibyajyoti Sarkar, an Indian martial artist and electrical engineer, achieved the Guinness World Record for the "Most Full Extension Punches in One Minute While Holding Two Eggs."
- **The Achievement:** He successfully executed an extraordinary 331 full-extension punches in one minute. Crucially, he performed this feat while keeping both eggs unbroken in his hands, demonstrating immense speed, precision, and control.
- **Surpassing the Previous Benchmark:** Sarkar significantly surpassed the previous world record for this category, which stood at 302 punches.
- **Date and Location:** The historic attempt took place on November 26, 2025, at the Gymnasium of the Friends' Association in Barasat, West Bengal, India. The official recognition and verification from Guinness World Records were received shortly after the attempt.
- **Significance:** This accomplishment highlights Sarkar's elite athletic capability and martial arts excellence, combining explosive speed with flawless technical precision. He undertook the challenge to represent India and inspire people across the country, showing that nothing is impossible with commitment.



8. BEML & Sagarmala Finance Corp Sign Maritime Manufacturing Pact

- **Dedicated Financial Support:** The primary goal is to unlock dedicated financial avenues for India's domestic maritime manufacturing ecosystem. SMFCL, being the country's first maritime sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), will provide this crucial financial backing through instruments like the Maritime Development Fund.
- **Focus on Indigenous Production (Atmanirbhar Bharat):** The collaboration directly aligns with the Indian government's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). By strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities, the partnership aims to significantly reduce India's dependence on imports in the maritime industry.



- **Enhancing BEML's Maritime Role:** The financial support will enable BEML (a Defence Public Sector Undertaking) to accelerate the development and expansion of domestically manufactured marine equipment, including port cranes, cargo-handling systems, marine engines, shipbuilding auxiliaries, and related infrastructure.
- **Strategic Sector Alignment:** The initiative is set to drive the modernization of India's maritime infrastructure and is specifically aligned with the goals of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which aims to strengthen India's position as a global maritime power.
- **Potential for Major Investment:** The strategic alliance is expected to involve a planned investment, with reports mentioning a figure of up to ₹10,000 crore, to establish and expand both brownfield and greenfield manufacturing facilities across India for the maritime sector.

9. International Civil Aviation Day observed on 07th December

- **Date and Commemoration:** It is observed every year on December 7th, which is the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as the Chicago Convention) in 1944, the treaty that established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- **Key Objective:** The day's purpose is to generate and reinforce worldwide recognition of the vital importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of nations. It highlights how air travel connects the world, facilitates trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.
- **Role of ICAO:** The observance acknowledges the unique role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, in helping member states cooperate to realize a truly global, safe, and efficient rapid transit network.
- **Theme for 2025:** The theme for International Civil Aviation Day in 2025 is "Safe Skies, Sustainable Future: Together for the next 80 years." This theme strongly emphasizes the industry's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, accelerating innovation, and advancing green transformation, especially in air traffic management systems.
- **Official UN Recognition:** The day was first established by ICAO in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Chicago Convention.



10. Ex Mizoram Governor Swaraj Kaushal passed away

- **Mizoram Governor and Record:** He served as the Governor of Mizoram from 1990 to 1993. At the age of just 37 when



appointed, he was noted for being one of the youngest Governors in India's history.

- **Key Role in Peace Accord:** A major highlight of his public service was his crucial role as a lawyer and advisor in the negotiations that led to the historic Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986. This accord successfully ended the two-decade-long insurgency in the state, bringing long-lasting peace.
- **Legal and Parliamentary Career:** He was a highly distinguished Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India, designated at the young age of 34. Following his governorship, he also served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2004.



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