Daily Current Affairs – 17 June 2026

Important Days

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026

Key Highlight: The **United Nations** observes **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** annually on **17 June** to raise awareness about land degradation.

The theme for **2026** is "**United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future**".

The global observance event is hosted by the **Government of Germany**.

The day marks the 32nd anniversary of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.

It emphasizes the importance of land stewardship to ensure food, water, and energy security.

International News

Cyril Ramaphosa Re-elected as President of South Africa

Key Highlight: Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected for a second term as the **President of South Africa** on **14 June 2026**.

Ramaphosa, leader of the **African National Congress (ANC)**, secured 283 votes in the **National Assembly**.

The election followed a landmark coalition deal between the **ANC** and the **Democratic Alliance (DA)**.

He defeated **Julius Malema** of the Economic Freedom Fighters.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to take place in **Pretoria**.

About South Africa

Capitals: Pretoria (Executive), **Cape Town** (Legislative), **Bloemfontein** (Judicial)

Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)

Thailand’s Senate Passes Historic Same-Sex Marriage Bill

Key Highlight: Thailand is set to become the first country in **Southeast Asia** to legalize same-sex marriage after its **Senate** passed the final reading of the **Marriage Equality Bill**.

The bill was passed with **130 votes** in favor and only 4 against.

It grants full legal, financial, and medical rights to **LGBTQ+** couples.

The legislation will come into effect **120 days** after receiving Royal Approval from **King Maha Vajiralongkorn**.

Thailand joins **Taiwan** and **Nepal** as the only Asian jurisdictions to allow such unions.

National News

India Ranks 129th in WEF Global Gender Gap Index 2026

Key Highlight: India has been ranked **129th** out of 146 countries in the **World Economic Forum’s (WEF)** Global Gender Gap Index 2026.

India slipped two places from its **127th** rank in the previous year.

Iceland maintained its position as the most gender-equal country in the world for the 15th year.

India’s performance in 'Educational Attainment' and 'Health and Survival' remained low.

In South Asia, India ranks behind **Bangladesh**, **Nepal**, and **Sri Lanka**.

About World Economic Forum (WEF)

Established: 1971

Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland
Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab

Banking & Finance

WPI Inflation Rises to 15-Month High of 2.61% in May 2026

Key Highlight: India's wholesale price-based inflation (**WPI**) rose to a 15-month high of **2.61%** in **May 2026**.

The increase is primarily attributed to a sharp rise in the prices of **food articles** and **manufactured products**.

Food inflation surged to **9.82%** compared to 7.74% in the previous month.

The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** released these figures on **14 June 2026**.

WPI inflation was 1.26% in April 2026.

SEBI Mandates Disclosure of Material Information within 24 Hours

Key Highlight: The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has tightened disclosure norms for listed companies to ensure transparency.

Companies must now disclose 'material events' to **Stock Exchanges** within **12 hours** for internal events and **24 hours** for others.

The rule aims to prevent information asymmetry in the **Capital Markets**.

This falls under the **SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015** amendments.

Non-compliance will result in stiff penalties and forensic audits.

Appointments & Resignations

Inder Pal Singh Bindra Appointed as Secretary of CCI

Key Highlight: Inder Pal Singh Bindra has been appointed as the new **Secretary** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.

Bindra is an **IRS officer** of the **2006 batch**.

The appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.

He succeeds **Anupama Anand** who recently demitted office.

The tenure is for **three years** from the date of joining.

About Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Established: 2003
Headquarters: New Delhi
Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur

Sports

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold at Paavo Nurmi Games 2026

Key Highlight: Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra** secured the **Gold Medal** at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2026** held in **Turku, Finland**.

Chopra clinched the top spot with a best throw of **85.97 metres**.

He defeated **Toni Keranen** of Finland, who took silver.

This marks his successful return to competition after a brief injury hiatus.

The **Paavo Nurmi Games** is a prestigious **World Athletics Continental Tour Gold** meet.

India to Host 'Tarang Shakti' Multinational Air Exercise in August 2026

Key Highlight: The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to host its first-ever multinational air exercise, **'Tarang Shakti'**, in **August 2026**.

Around **10 countries** are expected to participate with their fighter jets and transport aircraft.

The exercise will be conducted in **two phases** across different airbases in India.

It aims to enhance **interoperability** and share best practices in aerial combat.

Major participants include the **USA**, **France**, and **UK**.

Science & Technology

NASA Re-establishes Full Contact with Voyager 1

Key Highlight: NASA engineers have successfully restored all four scientific instruments on **Voyager 1** after a technical glitch in **November 2025**.

Voyager 1 is the **farthest human-made object** in space, located over **15 billion miles** from Earth.

The spacecraft is currently traveling through **interstellar space**.

The glitch involved the **Flight Data Subsystem (FDS)** computer.

The mission was launched in **1977** to study the outer solar system.

State News

Maharashtra Government Launches 'Ladli Behna' Scheme

Key Highlight: The **Maharashtra Government** has announced the **Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladli Behna Yojana** to provide financial assistance to women.

The scheme will provide **₹1,500 per month** to eligible women aged 21–60.

The annual income limit for beneficiaries is set at **₹2.5 lakh**.

It is modeled after the **Ladli Behna** scheme of **Madhya Pradesh**.

The move is aimed at women's empowerment and economic independence.

Uttar Pradesh to Develop India's First 'AI City' in Lucknow

Key Highlight: The **Uttar Pradesh** government is accelerating the development of the country's first **AI City** in **Lucknow**.

The project covers **40 acres** in the **Nadarganj** area.

It will house premier **IT companies**, **AI startups**, and research centers.

The **UP Electronics Corporation Limited** is the nodal agency.

The project aims to boost the state's **$1 trillion economy** goal.

Defence News

DRDO Successfully Tests Rudram-II Anti-Radiation Missile

Key Highlight: The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the **Rudram-II** air-to-surface missile.

The test was conducted from a **Su-30MKI** fighter jet off the coast of **Odisha**.

Rudram-II is an indigenously developed **solid-propelled** anti-radiation missile.

It is designed to neutralize enemy **radar** and communication assets.

The missile incorporates state-of-the-art **RF seeker** technology.

Business & Economy

Mutual Fund SIP Inflows Cross ₹20,000 Crore Mark in May 2026

Key Highlight: Monthly inflows into **Mutual Funds** through **Systematic Investment Plans (SIP)** touched a record high of **₹20,904 crore** in **May 2026**.

The data was released by the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**.

Total **Mutual Fund AUM** (Assets Under Management) crossed **₹58 lakh crore**.

Retail investor participation has seen consistent growth despite market volatility.

The number of SIP accounts reached an all-time high of **8.75 crore**.

Obituaries

Veteran Kannada Actor P.R. Varalakshmi Passes Away

Key Highlight: Renowned **Kannada** and **Tamil** actress **P.R. Varalakshmi** passed away on **15 June 2026** at the age of 78.

She acted in over **600 films** across South Indian languages.

She was famous for her roles in movies like **'Bhakta Kumbara'** and **'Sree Manjunatha'**.
She received several state awards for her contribution to **South Indian Cinema**.
Her career spanned over five decades, starting in the 1970s.

Rankings & Reports

India Ranks 3rd Globally in Domestic Air Passenger Traffic

Key Highlight: India has emerged as the world's **third-largest** domestic aviation market, according to a report by **OAG**.
India's domestic airline capacity has grown by **15%** annually.
The **USA** and **China** occupy the first and second positions respectively.
The growth is fueled by low-cost carriers like **IndiGo** and **Air India**'s expansion.
The report highlights the success of the **UDAN** regional connectivity scheme.

Science & Technology

ISRO to Launch 'Shukrayaan-1' Venus Mission in December 2026

Key Highlight: The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has finalized the launch window for its first mission to **Venus**, **Shukrayaan-1**, in **December 2026**.
The mission aims to study the **atmosphere** and surface chemistry of Venus.
It will carry a **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** to map the planet's surface.
The launch will likely use the **LVM3** launch vehicle.
This will be India's first interplanetary mission following **Mangalyaan** and **Chandrayaan**.

Banking & Finance

RBI Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty on Central Bank of India

Key Highlight: The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹1 crore** on **Central Bank of India** for non-compliance with certain directions.
The penalty was related to violations of **'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'**.
The action was taken under **Section 47A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
The bank failed to ensure that subsidized loans were used for intended purposes.
RBI clarified that this action is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction.

National News

Government Announces 14% Hike in MSP for Kharif Crops 2026-27

Key Highlight: The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the **Prime Minister** has approved an increase in the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for all mandated **Kharif crops**.
The MSP for **Paddy** has been increased by **₹117** per quintal.
The highest increase was announced for **Oilseeds** and **Pulses** to encourage crop diversification.
The increase is at least **1.5 times** the all-India weighted average cost of production.
This move aims to boost **farmers' income** and ensure food security.

International News

Switzerland Hosts Global Peace Summit on Ukraine Conflict

Key Highlight: A **Global Peace Summit** focused on the **Ukraine-Russia conflict** was held at the **Burgenstock Resort** in **Switzerland**.
Representatives from over **90 countries** attended the summit.
India was represented by a high-level delegation led by the **Secretary (West)** of MEA.
The summit discussed nuclear safety, food security, and the return of prisoners.

A joint communique was issued emphasizing the **territorial integrity** of Ukraine.