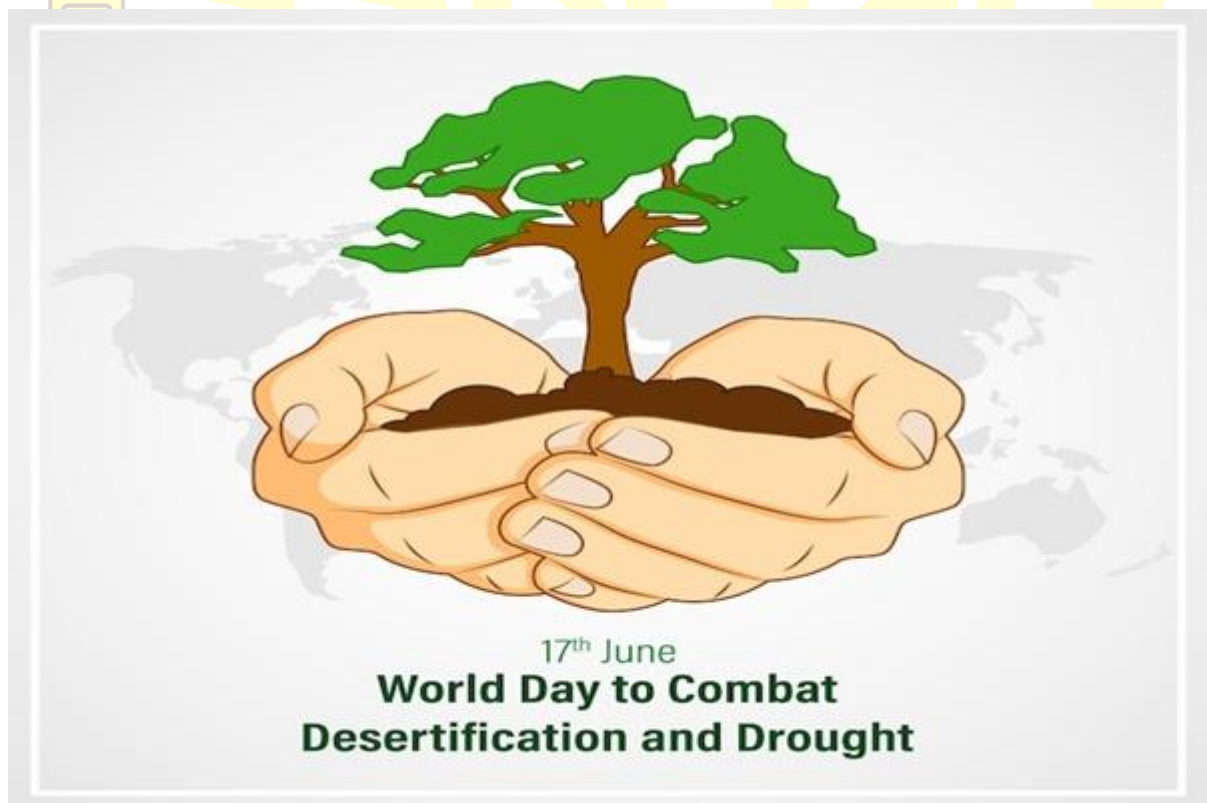


Daily Current Affairs

17 June 2025

World Day To Combat Desertification

- **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is celebrated every year on 17 June. The day is a **unique moment to remind everyone** that land degradation neutrality (LDN) is achievable. The commemoration of the day is led by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- The theme for this year is – **“Restore the land. Unlock the opportunities”**, which shines a light on how restoring nature’s foundation-land-can create jobs, boost food and water security, support climate action and build economic resilience.
- The celebration of this day was started by **the United Nations General Assembly in the year 1994**, when it adopted the "United Nations Convention against Desertification" (UNCCD).



- This **day was first celebrated in 1995** and since then it is being organized every year. As part of its celebrations in India, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will inaugurate the National Workshop on **“Strategies for Combating Desertification and Drought”** at the Arid Forest Research Institute in Jodhpur.

Status of desertification in India:

- About 30 percent of India's total land is affected by desertification and land degradation.
- India hosted the UNCCD COP-14 conference in the year 2019, in which many important global decisions were taken regarding land restoration.
- India has set a target of restoring 26 million hectares of land by the year 2030.

- The **workshop is aligned with the 2025 global theme**, and it will emphasise the importance of land restoration for climate resilience, biodiversity, and sustainable rural development.

Important international efforts:

- UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) – Established in 1994, implemented in 1996.
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) – Global strategy to balance land degradation.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 – Focused on protecting “life on land”.

- The workshop will bring together scientists, policymakers, forest officials, and civil society organisations. Moreover, the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** is also organising a webinar under its Business for Environment (B4E) Series, titled ‘Forests and Finance: Unlocking the Power of **Carbon Markets and REDD+**’. This session will highlight how forest conservation, carbon markets, **and REDD+ mechanisms can** mobilise climate finance and advance nature-based solutions for a sustainable and resilient future.

“Grand Cross Of The Order Of Makarios III’

- On the second day of his historic visit to Cyprus, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia**. He held a one-on-one meeting with President Nikos Christodoulides, during which the President conferred upon him the **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III** – the highest civilian honour of the Republic of Cyprus.



- The recognition added to the growing list of international accolades received by the Prime Minister. Expressing his gratitude, **Prime Minister Modi said the honour was not just for him**, but for the 1.4 billion people of India. The honour marks a significant moment in Prime Minister Modi’s historic visit to Cyprus, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over two decades.

G-7 Summit at Kananaskis

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Calgary, Canada**, this morning. Upon his arrival, he received a warm welcome at the airport.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G-7 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada, this evening. This would be the **Prime Minister’s 6th consecutive participation in the G-7 Summit**. During the two-day visit to Canada at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Mr Modi will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit.



- The **Prime Minister will exchange views with leaders of G-7 countries**, other invited outreach countries and Heads of International Organisations on crucial global issues. **These issues include energy security**, technology and innovation, particularly the AI-energy nexus and Quantum-related issues. The Group of Seven (G7) was formed as an informal forum for the world's leading industrialised nations to discuss economic stability and coordinate their economic policies.



- **Originating in 1975 amidst oil shocks and economic crises**, the G7's goals have evolved to address a broader range of global issues impacting international economic policy, security, technological advancement, climate change, etc.

- **G7 originally began as the Group of Six (G6)** in 1975, consisting of the United States, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and West Germany. Canada joined the group in 1976, leading to its transformation into the G7, and Russia joined in 1997, temporarily expanding it to the G8; however it was excluded in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea.



- **Since 1981, the European Union has been involved in G7 meetings**, represented by the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission.
- **The EU participates in the group's work** but does not hold the rotating presidency.

Wind Power Growth

- **Karnataka achieved the highest wind power capacity addition** in India during FY 2024–25, with 1,331.48 MW added, **followed by Tamil Nadu** (1,136.37 MW) and Gujarat (954.76 MW); the award was presented during Global Wind Day 2025 celebrations in Bengaluru.
- The state's **total installed wind power capacity** has now reached 7,351 MW, with plans to implement 17 GW of additional wind projects, including over 5 GW under the Renewable Energy Cluster Programme.



- **Karnataka signed ₹4 lakh crore worth of renewable** energy investment agreements at the 2025 Global Investors Meet, comprising nearly 40% of the state's total investment commitments.
- **India currently ranks 4th in global wind energy generation** with 51.5 GW installed capacity and aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, including 100 GW from wind, as highlighted by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.

First Cyber- Security Operation Centre

- **Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSC Bank)** has launched the country's first dedicated cybersecurity centre for cooperative banks, named '**Sahakar Suraksha**', located in Vashi, Navi Mumbai, with an investment of ₹50 crore to counter rising cyber threats.



- The **AI-powered C-SOC provides 24×7 threat detection**, real-time alerts, and free cybersecurity services to 31 district central cooperative banks in Maharashtra, especially targeting rural and small banks that lack technical and financial resources.

Food Planet Prize 2025

- A **Swedish startup, NitroCapt, has won the prestigious 2025 Food Planet Prize** for its pioneering green fertiliser that uses plasma technology and renewable energy to create nitrogen fertilisers sustainably.
- This disruptive innovation has the potential to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions **from fertiliser production and improve food security** amid geopolitical and climate challenges. **The \$2 million prize**, awarded by the Curt Bergfors Foundation, will help scale the innovation globally.



- **NitroCapt won the 2025 Food Planet Prize**, the world's largest environmental award. Its green fertiliser technology offers a fossil-free, locally produced alternative to conventional nitrogen fertilisers. The win brings global attention to innovative climate-resilient solutions in agriculture amid rising concerns about food security, emissions, and geopolitical dependencies.
- **Nitrogen fertilisers are responsible for 2.7% of global CO₂ emissions**—on par with aviation. **Fertilisers contribute to 50% of the world's food production**, making sustainable alternatives essential.
- Geopolitical issues, like the Ukraine war, have disrupted fertiliser supplies in Europe.



- **Benefits of NitroCapt's Technology**

- Emission Reduction: Potential to drastically cut greenhouse gas output from the fertiliser sector.
- Energy Efficient: Uses 90% less energy than conventional methods.
- Food Security: Local production makes countries less dependent on global supply chains.



- Resilience: Protects against supply shocks due to conflict or trade disruption.
- Food Planet Prize : Founded by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation** in 2019, Stockholm. Recognises future-impact innovations aimed at reducing the environmental impact of food systems. **Prize: \$2 million** (world's largest environmental award).
- Jury: 10 international experts, co-chaired by Johan Rockström and Magnus Nilsson.

Nishant Dev

- In Boxing, **Indian pugilist Nishant Dev won his second professional fight**, defeating Josue Silva via unanimous decision 60-54 in the Super Welterweight bout at **Madison Square Garden in New York**.
- **The 24-year-old, who recently turned professional**, was victorious in his debut match in January this year, winning against Alton Wiggins via first-round stoppage. Nishant gained popularity during the 2024 Paris Olympics, where he made it to the quarterfinals before narrowly losing to Mexico's Marco Verde.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Which Indian State Secured The First Rank In The Country By Achieving The Highest Wind Power Capacity**
 - A. Maharashtra
 - B. Rajasthan
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. Karnataka

ANSWER: D

2. **Who Won Gold Medal In Women's Model Physique Category At 15th South Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championships**
 - A. Deepika Kumari
 - B. Yajik Hillang
 - C. Mary Kom
 - D. Lovlina Borgohain

ANSWER: B

3. Who Will Chair The High-level Committee Investigating The AI-171 Crash

- A. DGCA Director
- B. Civil Aviation Minister
- C. Prime Minister
- D. Union Home Secretary

ANSWER: D

4. Which International Agency Approved A \$109.97 Million Results-based Loan To Support Gujarat's Efforts In Developing A Future-ready Industrial Workforce

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- D. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

ANSWER: C

5. Which State Government Has Digitised The National Family Benefit Scheme To Enhance Transparency And Efficiency

- A. Bihar
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: C

6. Which Country Reported A Salmonella Outbreak That Led To The Recall Of 1.7 Million Egg Cartons

- A. Canada
- B. United States
- C. Australia
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: B

7. Who Will Receive Honorary Leopard Award At The 2025 Locarno Film Festival

- A. Wes Anderson
- B. Martin Scorsese
- C. Alexander Payne
- D. Quentin Tarantino

ANSWER: C

8. Where Was First Task Force Meeting On Boosting India's Textile Exports Held

- A. Mumbai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Tiruppur

ANSWER: B

9. What Is The Name Of The First-ever Unified Global Checklist Of Bird Species Launched To Standardize Bird Taxonomy

- A. BirdTaxa
- B. OrniList
- C. AviList
- D. GlobalBirds

ANSWER: C

10. Which Bank Became First Foreign Entity To List A Bond On NSE IX At GIFT City

- A. DFCC Bank
- B. Bank of Ceylon
- C. HSBC Sri Lanka
- D. Hatton National Bank

ANSWER: A

11. Who Has Been Appointed As The Global Ambassador For The Esports World Cup 2025

- A. Lionel Messi
- B. Cristiano Ronaldo
- C. Kylian Mbappe
- D. Neymar Jr.

ANSWER: B

12. Which Organization Approved A \$109.97 Million Loan To Support Skills Development In Gujarat

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. Asian Development Bank
- D. United Nations Development Programme

ANSWER: C

13. Which Indian State Launched The 'Udyog Kranti' Initiative To Drive Industrial Growth And Ease Of Doing Business

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: D

14. On Which Date Is World Blood Donor Day Observed Annually

- A. May 8
- B. July 11
- C. August 19
- D. June 14

ANSWER: D

15. Which Company Partnered With GoI To Launch A Training Programme Focused On EV Technologies And Green Energy

- A. Shell India
- B. Reliance Industries
- C. Tata Power
- D. Adani Green Energy

ANSWER: A

16. Which Country Was Affected By India's Decision To Halt Rare Earth Exports In Order To Boost Its Domestic Capacity

- A. Japan
- B. France
- C. South Korea
- D. Germany

ANSWER: A

17. Which Country Won First ICC World Test Championship Title In 2025 At Lord's

- A. Australia
- B. South Africa
- C. England
- D. New Zealand

ANSWER: B

18. Who Won The Bronze Medal In The Vault Final At The 12th Senior Women's Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships

- A. Yihan Zhang
- B. Thi Quynh Nhu Nguyen
- C. Dipa Karmakar
- D. Pranati Nayak

ANSWER: D

19. Which Indian Agency Secured The Country's First 'Silver Notice' From Interpol

- A. Enforcement Directorate
- B. Central Bureau of Investigation
- C. National Investigation Agency
- D. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

ANSWER: B

20. Which Chalukyan Ruler Set Up It Capital At Vengi

- A. Vishnuvardhan
- B. Mahendravarman
- C. Kakusthavarman
- D. Pulakesin II

ANSWER: A