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Current Affairs Today – June 17, 2026

17 June 2026

REPORTS & SCHEMES**GS2****GS3**

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Current Affairs Today — June 17, 2026

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A roundup of all the current affairs that matter for UPSC and State PCS aspirants on June 17, 2026. June 17 is observed worldwide as the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**, marked by the UNCCD since 1995, with the 2026 theme “**Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.**” hosted by Kenya in the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026**.

INDIA'S DEFENCE PRODUCTION HITS RECORD ₹1.78 LAKH CRORE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced on June 17, 2026 that India's defence production touched a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY26.

Key Data

Production rose 15.6% year-on-year and more than 110% since FY21. DPSUs and PSUs accounted for about 76%, with the private sector contributing roughly 24% (about ₹42,000 crore). Defence exports hit a record ₹38,424 crore.

UPSC Angle

Links to Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India in defence, the positive **indigenisation** (<https://ujyari.com/vocab/indigenisation/>) lists and the target of ₹3 lakh crore production by 2029.

FY21 base figure was ₹84,643 crore. India aims to be a net exporter of defence equipment.

US REVERTS INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND TO PACIFIC COMMAND

The United States renamed its Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) back to US Pacific Command (PACOM) on June 16 to 17, 2026.

Key Data

The command was established in 1947 and renamed INDOPACOM in 2018. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth oversaw the change. Its headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, and its area of responsibility remain unchanged.

UPSC Angle

The 2018 renaming had symbolically elevated India and the Indian Ocean in US strategy; the reversion raises questions for the Quad and Indo-Pacific framing.

The mission and geographic area of responsibility are unchanged despite the name reversion.

INDIA-UK CETA TO ENTER INTO FORCE

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will enter into force on July 15, 2026.

Key Data

Signed in July 2025 and ratified by both sides, the deal gives about 99% of India's exports duty-free access to the UK and opens 137 services sectors. The Double Contribution Convention on social security takes effect the same day.

UPSC Angle

India's first major FTA with a developed European economy; protects sensitive sectors like dairy, cereals, millets, edible oils and apples.

The Double Contribution Convention exempts Indian professionals from double social security payments in the UK for a set period.

KISHAU MULTI-PURPOSE DAM: SIX STATES END DEADLOCK

Six states agreed on June 16, 2026, in a meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah, to build the Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam, ending an eight-year deadlock.

Key Data

The ₹15,000 crore project on the Tons River, the largest tributary of the Yamuna, features a 236-metre concrete gravity dam generating 660 MW, irrigating about 97,000 hectares and providing 517 MCM drinking water. The six states are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Delhi.

UPSC Angle

Inter-state river water cooperation, [federalism](https://ujijari.com/terms/federalism/) and Yamuna basin management; the Centre funds 90% of the water-component cost.

Live storage is 1,324 MCM. The next step is Union Cabinet approval.

HEALTH MINISTRY ENDS COUGH-SYRUP VILLAGE EXEMPTION

The Health Ministry notified the Drugs Fifth Amendment Rules 2026 on June 15, ending an exemption that let small villages sell cough syrups without licensing.

Key Data

The change removes the Schedule K Serial 13 exemption that allowed villages with under 1,000 population to sell certain syrups without a licence. It follows child deaths in Madhya Pradesh from contaminated syrup.

UPSC Angle

Drug regulation under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Drugs Rules 1945; public health governance and quality control.

Sale of cough syrups is now permitted only through licensed pharmacies.

UNICEF CHILDREN'S CLIMATE RISK REPORT 2026

UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 found about 1.1 billion children globally face three or more overlapping climate hazards.

Key Data

India's hazard score is 9.21 out of 10, with extreme heat at 10 and air pollution at 9.94. About 392 million Indian children (around 92%) are exposed to extreme heat and 89 million to recurrent heatwaves. Pakistan scored 9.44 and Bangladesh 9.38.

UPSC Angle

Climate justice, child rights, heat action plans and the [disproportionate](https://ujijari.com/vocab/disproportionate/) vulnerability of children to climate change.

India's air pollution sub-score of 9.94 is among the highest in the report.

SPACEX BECOMES WORLD'S 5TH MOST VALUABLE COMPANY

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SpaceX became the world's fifth most valuable company at about \$2.65 trillion, overtaking Amazon at market close on June 16, 2026.

Key Data

The IPO priced at \$135 per share, up about 62%. SpaceX announced a \$60 billion acquisition of AI coding startup Cursor.

UPSC Angle

Privatisation of space, the new space economy, and India's parallel push via IN-SPACe and private launch firms.

The IPO is among the largest in history; private space ventures are reshaping the launch market.

MADHYA PRADESH TO INTRODUCE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE BILL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on June 17, 2026 that Madhya Pradesh will introduce a Uniform Civil Code Bill in the monsoon session.

Key Data

A committee led by Justice Ranjana Desai is involved. The UCC covers marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption. Uttarakhand was the first state to implement a UCC.

UPSC Angle

Article 44 (<https://ujivari.com/terms/article-44-ucc/>) of the Constitution (Directive Principles), personal laws, and the federal dimension of state-level UCCs.

Article 44 directs the State to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout India.

KALYANI-PARAMOUNT UNVEIL SIMHA 4X4 AT EUROSATORY 2026

Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd, a subsidiary of Bharat Forge, with Paramount unveiled the "Simha 4x4" light armoured multirole vehicle at Eurosatory 2026 in Paris on June 16.

Key Data

The vehicle is built on NATO-qualified aggregates. The firms also showcased the MARG 155mm mounted artillery system.

UPSC Angle

Private sector in defence manufacturing, defence exports and global arms fairs.

Eurosatory is one of the world's largest land and air-land defence exhibitions.

NEW LYNX SPIDER SPECIES DISCOVERED IN MEGHALAYA

A new lynx spider species, Hamataliwa mawlyngot, was discovered in Meghalaya by the Zoological Survey of India with the University of Calcutta.

Key Data

It is the first record of the genus Hamataliwa in Meghalaya. It is named after Mawlyngot village in East Khasi Hills and belongs to the family Oxyopidae.

UPSC Angle

Biodiversity of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and the role of the ZSI in species documentation.

The Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot is one of the world's most biologically rich and threatened regions.

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT 2026

June 17 is observed as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, marked by the UNCCD since 1995.

Key Data

The 2026 theme is “Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.” with Kenya as host, during the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026. The UNCCD is one of the three Rio Conventions of 1992.

UPSC Angle

Land degradation neutrality, India's Bonn Challenge pledge of 26 million hectares restored by 2030, and the Aravalli Green Wall.

India hosted UNCCD COP14 in 2019.

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL 381ST REPORT ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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The Parliamentary Standing Committee released its 381st Report on higher education on June 17, 2026, chaired by Digvijaya Singh.

Key Data

The FY27 higher-education allocation is ₹55,727 crore, up 11.28%. Education spend stands at 4.12% of GDP against the NEP target of 6%. PM-Vidyalaxmi provides collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh.

UPSC Angle

NEP 2020 implementation, education financing and Institutions of Eminence.

Only 12 of the 20 planned Institutions of Eminence have been notified.

SUPREME COURT VALUES THE HOMEMAKER (EXPLAINER)

A recent Supreme Court ruling valuing the unpaid work of homemakers has drawn renewed attention to the economics of domestic care.

Key Data

In *Shishu Pal v. Surjeet* (delivered June 11, 2026) the Court set a minimum notional income of ₹30,000 per month for homemakers under Motor Vehicles Act compensation, calling them “nation builders”, with a 10% rise every three years; compensation was enhanced to about ₹62.78 lakh.

UPSC Angle

Recognition of unpaid care work, gender and the economy, and the NSO (<https://ujjiyari.com/terms/nso-mospi-statistical-architecture/>) Time Use Survey.

*The ruling builds on *Kirti v. Oriental Insurance* (2021).*

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Defence production FY26: ₹1.78 lakh crore, up 15.6% YoY; exports ₹38,424 crore.

India-UK CETA: Enters into force July 15, 2026; about 99% of India's exports get duty-free UK access.

Kishau Dam: 236-metre concrete gravity dam on the Tons River; 660 MW; six states.

UNCCD: One of three Rio Conventions (1992); India hosted COP14 in 2019; 2026 theme on Rangelands.

UNICEF report: India hazard score 9.21/10; 392 million children exposed to extreme heat.

Article 44: Directive Principle on a Uniform Civil Code; Uttarakhand was first to implement.

INDOPACOM: Established 1947, renamed 2018, reverted to PACOM in June 2026.

Sources: *Press Information Bureau* (<https://pib.gov.in>), *The Hindu* (<https://www.thehindu.com>), *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com>)

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