

# Current Affairs 17-June-25

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## 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.

## 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.

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.

## 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.

## NitroCapt - 2025 Food Planet Prize

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.

## New Earthworm Species: Kanchuria Tripuraensis & Priyasankari

Two new species of earthworms—Kanchuria Tripuraensis and Kanchuria Priyasankari—have been discovered in Tripura. Conservation activists have expressed concern over tourism promotion through wildlife safari in the Kali Tiger Reserve.

### **New Flowering Plant: Portulaca Bharat**

A new flowering plant species named Portulaca Bharat has been discovered in the rocky and semi-arid landscape of Aravali hills near Jaipur, Rajasthan. It exhibits unusual morphological characteristics.

### **Kali Tiger Reserve**

Kali Tiger Reserve, earlier known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve, is located in Uttara Kannada (North Canara) district of Karnataka. It covers an area of 834.16 sq.km and includes Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park.

### **Valley Fever**

Valley fever (acute coccidioidomycosis) is a fungal infection caused by coccidioides organisms. Two species of fungi cause it, commonly found in soil in specific regions like the Pacific Northwest and southwestern United States, parts of Mexico, Central and South America. Dogs may help detect early spread.

### **Achal Fast Patrol Vessel**

Achal FPV is the fifth in a series of eight vessels constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd for the Indian Coast Guard. It features 60% indigenous content, measures 52 meters long, and has a displacement of 320 tons.

### **Extended Trajectory–Long Duration Hypersonic Cruise Missile (ET-LDHCM)**

India is preparing to test the most advanced indigenously developed hypersonic missile under Project Vishnu. It is designed for launch from land, sea, or air.

### **Radio Nellikka**

Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KeSCPCR) will launch Radio Nellikka, an exclusive internet radio station for children.

### **Rinderpest Virus**

India's ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal has been designated as a Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility by WOA and FAO during the 92nd WOA General Session in Paris.

### **NAKSHA Programme**

NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-Based Land Survey of Urban Habitations) is a tech-driven initiative by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

It modernizes urban land records using geospatial tools. Collaborators: Survey of India, MPSeDC, NICS.

### **Registrar-General of India**

Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) manages census and civil registration in India. Currently held by a senior civil servant of Additional Secretary rank in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Census 2027 preparations have begun.

### **Shipki La Pass**

Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh is a high-altitude motorable mountain pass at 3,930 meters in Kinnaur. Lies on the India-Tibet (China) LAC. Sutlej River enters India here. Previously known as Pema La.