

JUNE.....
.....2019

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SECOND WEEK

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1. What is the current repo rate in the second bi-monthly monetary policy review of RBI for FY20?

- A) 5.25% B) 5.50% **C) 5.75%** D) 5.0%

- ✓ On June 6, the 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75% from 6.0% with immediate effect in its 2nd bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20.
- ✓ Repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank provides liquidity to banks to overcome short-term liquidity mismatches. A repo rate cut allows banks to reduce interest rates for consumers on loans, and lowers equal monthly installments on home loans, car loans and personal loans.
- ✓ Consequently, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 5.50%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0%. Beside this, RBI has also unanimously decided to change the stance of monetary policy from neutral to accommodative. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during August 5 to 7.

2. Which country has recently launched Arctic train service?

- A) Russia** C) Germany B) France D) US

- ✓ In Russia, the first tourist train service traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from St. Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey on June 5.
- ✓ The tourists came from 7 countries including the US, Germany, Norway and Russia. The train, named Zarengold ("The Tsar's gold" in German), complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through Petrozavodsk. According to the organisers, the whole trip will take 11 days.

3. Dzukou Valley, which is in news recently, is located in which of the following North-East states of India?

- A) Assam B) Mizoram
C) Nagaland D) Arunachal Pradesh

- ✓ In Nagaland, the scenic Dzukou Valley has been officially declared Plastic Free Zone on the occasion of 2019 World Environment Day. The declaration was

made officially by Advisor of Youth Resources and Sports, Zale Neikha.

- ✓ The much-appreciated initiative on declaring this scenic valley as a 'plastic-free zone' was taken by Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) in accordance with its pledge to conserve and protect the environment.
- ✓ The Dzukou valley is situated at an altitude of 2452 m above sea level. It is famous for its wide range of flower in every season. The rare Dzukou Lily is found only in this valley.

4. Who of the following players has become the India's highest capped footballer?

- A) Robin Singh B) Jeje Lalpekhlua
C) Sandesh Jhingan **D) Sunil Chhetri**

- ✓ Sunil Chhetri has become the India's highest capped footballer by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.
- ✓ In his milestone match of the King's Cup football tournament in Buriram, Thailand, he scored the lone goal for his side in the 31st minute from a spot kick for his 69th goal. However, his effort did not make any difference as India ranked 101, lost 1-3 to higher ranked Curacao.

5. Which social networking site has launched its first interactive game show 'Confetti' in India?

- A) Facebook** B) Instagram
C) Twitter D) Pinterest

- ✓ Facebook has launched its first interactive game show titled "Confetti" in India, which will start from June 12 on its dedicated video platform - Facebook Watch.
- ✓ The interactive show will air from Wednesday to Sunday and will challenge participants to answer pop culture trivia questions for a chance to win Rs 3 lakh as cash prize every day.
- ✓ In 2018, the social networking giant globally rolled out Facebook Watch as its video-on-demand service in an attempt to take on its rival YouTube.

6. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has recently signed pact with which company to modernize air traffic management in India?

A) Dassault B) Airbus C) Embraer **D) Boeing**

- ✓ The US aircraft maker Boeing co and national airports body Airports Authority of India (AAI) have signed a technical assistance agreement for developing a comprehensive roadmap for modernisation of air traffic services in the country.
- ✓ The air traffic services comprise Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) and Air Traffic Management (ATM). The 10-year modernisation roadmap will be undertaken with a grant from the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- ✓ The agreement is aimed at developing a roadmap for AAI to use as guidance in the modernisation of the Indian National Airspace System (NAS) based on global and local best practices to optimally utilize airspace capacity, enhance CNS/ATM.

7. Who has become the first South Asian American woman to chair US House?

A) Gayatri Spivak C) Medha Yodh
B) Pramila Jayapal D) Kausalya Hart

- ✓ Indian-American Congresswoman, Pramila Jayapal has become the first South Asian American woman to preside over the US House of Representatives. She is a Democrat from Washington DC. A record number of 17 Asian Americans serve in Congress, with 14 in the House and three in the Senate.

8. Sidharth Rawat is associated to which sports?

A) Football C) Table Tennis
B) Badminton **D) Tennis**

- ✓ Indian tennis player Sidharth Rawat defeated Rio Noguchi of Japan to win his first title in the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament on June 2, 2019. With the ATP points being restored for events of this level, he will be able to improve his current rank of 510. He had a career-best rank of 430.

9. Which country has successfully launched its first sea-based space rocket from Yellow Sea?

A) China B) Indonesia C) Japan D) Vietnam

- ✓ China has successfully launched a space rocket from sea for the first time and became the third nation to successfully demonstrate the ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform after Russia and United States.
- ✓ The China National Space Administration (CNSA) has announced that a Long March 11 rocket was launched from a floating launch pad in the Yellow Sea just off the coast of Shandong on 5th June 2019.
- ✓ China now spends more than Russia and Japan on its civil and military space programmes. Earlier this year, China became the first nation to land a rover on the far side of the moon. It also unveiled ambitious plans to build a research base on the lunar surface, send a probe to Mars and build a space station in Earth orbit.

10. The 2019 G-20 Finance Ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities?

A) Hanoi **B) Fukuoka** C) Mumbai D) New Delhi

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Japan on June 8 and 9. This will be the first overseas visit of Ms. Sitharaman as Finance Minister.
- ✓ Among other things, the meeting is likely to focus on risks and challenges being faced by the global economy, investment in infrastructure and international taxation.
- ✓ G-20, which is a group of developing and developed nations, includes India, the U.S., the U.K., China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, France and Australia.
- ✓ The G20 meetings, convened annually since 1999, provide a forum for key countries in the international financial system to discuss major international economic issues and to coordinate to achieve the stable and sustainable growth of the global economy.

1. Which Indian personality has been conferred Maldives's 'Nishan Izzuddin' award?

- A) Sushma Swaraj B) Ram Nath Kovind
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) **Narendra Modi**

- ✓ Maldives has conferred 'Nishan Izzuddin' award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals. On June 8, Mr. Modi arrived in Male on the first leg of his two-nation tour to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. This will also be the first bilateral visit to the Maldives of an Indian Prime Minister after 2011.
- ✓ Mr. Modi will have bilateral discussions with President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, hold meetings with Vice President Faisal Naseem and Speaker of Majlis and former President Mohamed Nasheed during his visit. He will also address the legislative body of the island nation called the People's Majlis.
- ✓ Along with President Solih, Prime Minister Modi is likely to inaugurate the Coastal Surveillance System (CSS) and the Comprehensive Training Centre for National Defence Forces of Maldives. The two projects have been developed with Indian Grants.
- ✓ India is likely to announce a few new projects to the Maldives including building a cricket Stadium there and renovating the Friday Mosque by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

2. 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace' has recently organized in which of the following countries?

- A) Oman C) **Saudi Arabia**
B) Kenya D) South Africa

- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia organised a 'Gandhi cycle rally for peace' in Riyadh on Friday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The cycle rally was organized in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.
- ✓ Over 150 participants participated in the cycle rally. The rally was flagged off by Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Oceans Day?

- A) **Gender and Oceans**

B) Clean our Ocean!

C) Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet

D) Our Oceans, Our Future

- ✓ The World Oceans Day is observed every year on June 8 to celebrate the majesty of the world's oceans and raise awareness about their preservation. Oceans are important for mankind because they generate an estimated 70% of the earth's oxygen.
- ✓ They regulate the globe's climate and weather. They support marine life. They provide us with food, and ingredients for many of our medicines. But our oceans and marine life are under threat: from pollution and overfishing.
- ✓ Hence, the day aims to address these challenges. The 2019 conservation action theme "Gender and Oceans" reflects on equalizing the representation of women and men in marine fields.

4. India has recently signed Rs 300 crore deal with which country to procure 100 SPICE bombs used in Balakot airstrike?

- A) France B) **Israel**
C) Japan D) United States

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently signed a deal worth around Rs 300 crore for buying more than 100 SPICE bombs from Israel. The IAF fighter jets used these bombs to target Jaish-e-Mohammed training camps in Pakistan's Balakot on 26th February 2019 after the ghastly Pulwama terror attack in which over 44 CRPF jawans lost their lives after a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden SUV into the convoy which was passing from the area.
- ✓ As per the contract, the advanced SPICE bombs would be delivered to the Air Force in the next 3 months as the deal is under emergency powers.
- ✓ SPICE bomb has a standoff range of 60 km and approaches the target as its unique scene-matching algorithm compares the electro-optical image received in real-time via the weapon seeker with mission reference data stored in the weapon computer memory and adjusts the flight path

accordingly. Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Defence Systems manufactures the weapon.

5. Which of the following Indian NGOs has won the UN's Equator Prize for 2019?

A) Save Life Foundation

B) Akanksha Public Charitable Trust

C) Swayam Shikshan Prayog

D) Deccan Development Society

- ✓ The women members of Telangana-based Deccan Development Society (DDS) groups have bagged the prestigious United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Equator Prize for 2019. They have been selected for standing as 'an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development.
- ✓ The women farmers have been building their own seed banks and growing millets in the predominantly rain-fed villages of Sangareddy district. The women farmers of DDS are the first group in the Telugu states to have been selected for the prestigious award which will be presented at a ceremony in New York in September 2019.
- ✓ The US\$10,000-prize is given annually for nature-based solutions to climate change as well as sustainable development. The award recognizes local and indigenous community initiatives.

6. Who has been elected as new Prime Minister of Thailand?

A) Thaksin Shinawatra

B) Prayuth Chan-ocha

C) Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit

D) Prem Tinsulanonda

- ✓ The Thai parliament has recently elected ex military government Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha as its new Prime Minister. He beat the popular billionaire leader of the anti-junta Future Forward Party, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, with 500 votes to

244 after a 12-hour session that included 10 hours of fierce debate in Parliament on June 5.

- ✓ Prayuth will now head a coalition government led by the pro-military Palang Pracharat Party. Prayuth's appointment becomes official when it is endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy.

7. Which former US president will be bestowed with the George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship?

A) Bill Clinton

C) George W. Bush

B) Barack Obama

D) Jimmy Carter

- ✓ Former President Jimmy Carter will be bestowed with the George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship for his contributions to relations between the U.S. and China. A private award ceremony is scheduled June 12 at the Carter Center in Atlanta.
- ✓ The George H. W. Bush Foundation has said that the award goes to people who have made profound contributions to the development of constructive and mutually beneficial relations" between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

8. Which union ministry has instituted the Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman?

A) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

D) Ministry of Human Resource Development

- ✓ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted the first Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) for 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga. The AYDMS will be conferred to print and electronic media houses.
- ✓ The contribution of the media in popularizing Yoga would be assessed by six juries. A total of 33 awards, under three categories, will be conferred. The award will comprise a special medal, plaque and trophy and a citation. The duration of the coverage for AYDMS would be from June 10 to June 25.

9. The first-ever World Food Safety Day has officially observed on which date?

- A) June 7 B) June 6
C) June 5 D) June 8

students to skip school to join protests demanding faster action on climate change. The movement has now spread beyond Sweden to other European nations.

- ✓ The first-ever World Food Safety Day (WFSD) has officially celebrated on 7th June 2019 to strengthen efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe. The theme of this year's inaugural WFSD 'Food Safety, everyone's business'.
- ✓ The day gives us an opportunity to share the outcomes of the two food safety conferences, discuss ways in which food safety can incentivize healthy diets, and discuss how the United Nations in New York can further support the efforts to improve food safety.
- ✓ The day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2018. The UN has designated two of its agencies - the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) - to lead efforts in promoting food safety around the world.

10. Greta Thunberg, who won the Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019, is from which country?

- A) Germany B) Sweden
C) Portugal D) France

- ✓ The 16-year-old Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and her "Fridays for Future" global movement has won a prestigious Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019.
- ✓ She has been recognized for mobilizing world public opinion on the looming peril of global warming. The Fridays for Future movement was started in August 2018 by Greta Thunberg, who decided to miss school every Friday and protest outside the Swedish parliament until it took more serious action to tackle climate change.
- ✓ Her efforts to raise awareness of the climate crisis quickly went global. Her strike inspired millions of

1. Which state government has recently launched Pink Sarathi vehicles for women's safety?

A) Karnataka

B) Kerala

C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Jharkhand

- ✓ Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has recently launched the 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles to attend to the complaints of women passengers travelling in city buses. The vehicles are procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) under the 'Nirbhaya' scheme.
- ✓ The corporation had received Rs 56.07 crore from the Union government under the scheme and had taken up various measures for the safety of women passengers, including the launch of Pink Sarathi vehicles.

2. Bancha, which has become the first Solar Kitchen only village in India, is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

A) Jabalpur

C) Chhindwara

B) Bhopal

D) Betul

- ✓ Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh has become the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs.
- ✓ The team of IIT Mumbai has designed a special solar stove & now no trees are being cut by the villagers for lighting their stoves. The project of installing solar power plates, batteries and stoves in all the 74 houses was started in September 2017 and got completed by December 2018.

3. Which of the following parties has become the first Political Outfit from the Northeast to get Status of National Party?

A) National People's Party

B) All India United Democratic Front

C) Hill State People's Democratic Party

D) Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura

- ✓ The ruling National People's Party (NPP), which is in an alliance with the BJP in Meghalaya, has been granted recognition as a national party by the Election Commission of India (ECI). As per the party's request, the symbol 'book' has been allotted to it.

- ✓ With this, the NPP has become the first party from the North East (NE) to get the national party status. It is a recognized party in four states of the region viz. Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

- ✓ According to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968, a political party can be recognised as a national party if its candidates secure at least 6% of votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections.

- ✓ In addition, it has at least 4 members in the Lok Sabha. It also has to have at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats and its candidates come from not less than 3 states. Third, it is recognised as a state party in at least four states.

4. Who lifted the men's singles title at the 2019 French Open tennis tournament?

A) Dominic Thiem

B) Rafael Nadal

C) Novak Djokovic

D) Roger Federer

- ✓ In Tennis, World No. 2 Rafael Nadal has lifted the French Open Men's Singles title for the 12th time. In the summit clash played at Paris on June 9, he defeated Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 to win at the Roland Garros for the third straight year.
- ✓ Hence, Nadal became the first player to win 12 Singles titles at the same Grand Slam and has now won 18 majors overall. The win also gave Nadal an 82nd career title and 950th match win.

5. Which of the following plays is/are written by Girish Karnad, who passed away recently?

A) Tughlaq

B) Yayati

C) Rakshasa Tangadi

D) All of the above

- ✓ Girish Karnad (81), well-known writer, playwright, actor and public intellectual, has passed away on

June 10 in Bengaluru. Born in May 1938, he was one of the most prominent theatre personalities of the 60s and 70s, a period regarded as the Renaissance of Indian theatre.

- ✓ He worked with mythology and history and gave them a contemporary resonance in plays such as Nagamandala, Tughlaq and Hayavadana. He wrote his first play Yayati in 1961 when he was a Rhodes Scholar in England.
- ✓ Karnad translated most of his plays himself. His last play was 'Rakshasa Tangadi', published in 2018. He was a recipient of the 1998 Jnanpith Award -- the highest literary honour conferred in India. He was also conferred the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

6. Mohan Rangachari, who passed away recently, was the ace scriptwriter of which regional cinema?

- A) Tamil B) Telugu
C) Kannada D) Malayalam

- ✓ Crazy Mohan (67), prominent theatre artiste and ace scriptwriter for Tamil films, has passed away in Chennai on 10th June 2019.
- ✓ Born in 1952, as Mohan Rangachari, 'Crazy' was an epithet that he acquired after his popular play 'Crazy Thieves in Palavakkam'. An engineer by profession, Mohan started writing stage plays and established his own drama troupe called "Crazy Creations" in 1979.
- ✓ He entered the film industry after a long and successful career as a theatre personality. He penned the scripts for several super hit films, including Kamal Haasan-starrer "Avvai Shanmugi", "Vasool Raja MBBS", and "Michael Madhana Kamarajan", besides acting in many.

7. India has partnered with which country to set up a national maritime heritage museum at Lothal?

- A) United Kingdom C) Portugal
B) Japan D) France

- ✓ India has partnered with Portugal to set up a national maritime heritage museum at the ancient

Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat. It is likely to come up on the lines of a similar museum at Lisbon, which is administered by the Portuguese Navy.

- ✓ The Government of India has allocated a grant for building the maritime museum and the foundation stone for the project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2019.
- ✓ The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Shipping through its Sagarmala programme, with the involvement of the Archaeological Survey of India, the State government and other stakeholders.

8. R V Janakiraman, who passed away recently, was the former Chief Minister of which state/UT?

- A) Tamil Nadu C) Karnataka
B) Odisha D) Puducherry

- ✓ R V Janakiraman (79), the former Puducherry Chief Minister and senior Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader, has passed away in Puducherry on 10th June 2019.
- ✓ He was the Chief Minister between 1996 and 2000, heading the coalition government of DMK and the Tamil Maanila Congress. Mr. Janakiraman became the Chief Minister in 1996 and represented the Nellithope Assembly constituency for five consecutive times.

9. Who led Indian delegation at the 2019 G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy in Japan?

- A) S Jaishankar B) Nitin Gadkari
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Piyush Goyal

- ✓ The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation for the 2-day G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy at Tsukuba city in Japan on June 8.
- ✓ The G-20 Trade Ministers deliberations will form part of the G-20 Summit Leaders agenda in the formal discussions and will also be a part of the Summit Declaration.
- ✓ Over 50 Trade and Digital Economy Ministers get together for the first time in G20 history in Tsukuba,

to discuss how G20 economies can promote trade and investment and maximize benefits from the development of the digital economy.

- ✓ The Trade and Digital Economy meeting is one of the 8 Ministerial meetings taking place in Japan alongside the 2019 G20 Summit.
- ✓ The other seven Ministerial meetings are Agriculture Ministers', Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting, Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting, Tourism Ministers meeting, Ministerial meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, Health Ministers' meeting and Foreign Ministers' meeting. The G20 members represent two-thirds of the world's people and 85 percent of its economy.

10. Which Indian personality has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS)?

- A) Vikram Seth **B) Romila Thapar**
C) Chetan Bhagat D) Amitav Ghosh

- ✓ Dr. Romila Thapar, the well-known historian and writer, has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in United States.
- ✓ Dr. Thapar, a Professor Emerita of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, was among 1,013 members elected to the society at its Annual Spring Meeting.

1. Which North American country has decided to ban single use plastics from 2021?

- A) Canada B) Mexico
C) United States D) Cuba

- ✓ Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has recently announced that harmful single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021 to reduce ocean waste. He declared it a global challenge to phase out the plastic bags, straws and cutlery clogging the world's oceans.
- ✓ Currently less than 10% of plastic used in Canada gets recycled. The Canadian government said that one million birds and over 100,000 sea mammals worldwide are injured or die each year when they mistake plastic for food or become entangled. Single-use items represent some 70% of the plastic waste littering the marine environment.
- ✓ Canada's move follows one by the European Union (EU), which late last year announced a similar ban. Canada, France, Germany, Britain and Italy, along with the European Union, subscribed at 2018 G7 summit in Quebec to a new charter against pollution in the world's oceans.
- ✓ The non-binding Ocean Plastics Charter called on participating countries and the EU to commit to making all plastics reusable, recyclable or recovered by 2030.

2. Which of the following banks has introduced repo-linked home loan product?

- A) SBI C) PNB
B) BoB D) BoI

- ✓ After linking its short-term loans and large savings deposits rates to the repo rate, the State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to introduce a repo rate-linked home loan product from July 1.
- ✓ The home loans under this product will be priced at 2.65% over the repo rate of 5.75%. So, the home loan interest rate will work out to 8.40%. Currently, SBI offers home loans, which are linked to its marginal cost of funds, at 8.55%.
- ✓ The lender has also reduced the interest rate on cash credit /overdraft customers (limits above Rs1 lakh) after RBI cut its repo rate from 6% to 5.75%. Now the

effective Repo-Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for CC/OD customers is 8%. Repo rate is the key interest rate at which commercial banks borrow short-term funds from the Reserve Bank of India.

3. Mount Sinabung is located in which of the following islands of Indonesia?

- A) Java B) Bali
C) Sumatra D) Sumbawa

- ✓ Mount Sinabung, on the island of Sumatra, erupted for around 9 minutes on June 9 & send clouds of volcanic ash 7 km into the sky.
- ✓ The volcano has seen a spike in activity since its last major eruption in 2010. Mount Sinabung, which is 2,460m (8,071 ft) high, is among Indonesia's most active volcanoes, but had been inactive for four centuries before its 2010 eruption.
- ✓ Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country. It follows the eruption of Mount Agung on the Indonesia island of Bali last month, which caused several flights to be cancelled.

4. India's first Dinosaur-Museum-Cum-Park is located in which of the following states?

- A) Rajasthan B) Odisha
C) Gujarat D) Himachal Pradesh

- ✓ India's first dinosaur museum and fossil park has recently inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at Raiyoli village near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
- ✓ The new museum will create a prehistoric-like era environment when dinosaurs might have roamed around freely in Raiyoli. As many as 50 sculptures of dinosaurs, including a life-size one of Rajasaurus Narmadensis that was found in Gujarat, have been erected at the museum.
- ✓ The museum would have 3D projection, 360 degrees virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks, gaming consoles and other facilities. According to government officials, Raiyoli is globally known to be the 3rd largest fossil site and about 10,000 dinosaur eggs have been found there.

5. Which country has decided to conduct its first-ever simulated space warfare exercise 'IndSpaceEx'?

- A) Italy B) Israel
C) Indonesia D) India

- ✓ India is planning to conduct its first-ever simulated space warfare exercise titled 'IndSpaceEx' in the last week of July under the aegis of the Integrated Defence Staff of the defence ministry.
- ✓ All military stakeholders, including those from the scientific community, will participate in it. The purpose of the exercise is to understand the possible challenges in space warfare and to counter China's growing influence in this domain, which poses a major threat to India's national security interest.

6. Guadalajara International Book Fair (GIBF), which is in news recently, is scheduled to be held in which of the following countries?

- A) Mexico B) Canada
C) Germany D) Spain

- ✓ India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Guadalajara International Book Fair (GIBF) 2019 in Mexico, which is scheduled to be organized from Nov 30 to Dec 8. The book fair will be the largest book fair in the Spanish speaking world.
- ✓ The dedicated India pavilion at the fair will showcase over 35 Indian authors and artists, along with 15 publishing houses. Ancient and rare manuscripts including 'Mahabharata' and 'Ramayana' will be put on exhibition, along with photo books, handicrafts and paintings. India's participation at the fair will also include a film festival showing movies like 'Dangal', 'Chennai Express' and 'Omkaara'.

7. Who has been elected as the new president of Kazakhstan?

- A) Amirjan Qosanov
B) Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
C) Toleutai Rakhimbekov D) Daniya Yespayeva

- ✓ On 9 June, Interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has won the 2019 Presidential election of Kazakhstan with 70.96% of the vote. He was recognised as the elected president by the Central Election Commission and will take an oath of office June 12.
- ✓ Earlier, on 20th March 2019, Tokayev took office as the Interim President of Kazakhstan & succeeded Nursultan Nazarbayev who served as the President from the country's independence in 1992 until his resignation.
- ✓ The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the head of state, commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the Republic of Kazakhstan.

8. The scientists of which US University have created a global map of where groundwater meets oceans?

- A) Duke University B) Stanford University
C) Yale University D) Ohio State University

- ✓ The researchers from Ohio State University in United States have created high-resolution maps of points around the globe where groundwater meets the oceans — the first such analysis of its kind that may help protect both drinking water and the seas.
- ✓ The study showed that nearly one-half of fresh submarine groundwater discharge flows into the ocean near the tropics.
- ✓ They also found that regions near active fault lines send greater volumes of groundwater into the ocean than regions that are tectonically stable. The findings may help coastal communities better protect and manage their drinking water.

9. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development?

- A) V H Deshmukh B) V S Kaumudi
C) Indla Srinivas D) R P Thakur

- ✓ V.S. Kaumudi, a 1986 batch Andhra Pradesh cadre IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

- ✓ He has been appointed BPR&D chief for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He succeeded 1984 batch IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia. Prior to this post, Kaumudi was ADG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

10. Who will be the pro-tem speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha?

- A) Vivek Sejwalker B) Virendra Kumar
C) Shankar Lalwani D) Anil Firojiya

- ✓ Virendra Kumar, the BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, will be the pro-tem speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha. Kumar is a 7-term Member of Parliament and won the Lok Sabha polls from Tikamgarh.
 - ✓ As pro-tem speaker, he will preside over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administer the oath of office to the newly elected MPs. The first session of the newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha will be held from June 17 to July 26.
 - ✓ As pro-tem speaker, Kumar will also oversee the election of the Lok Sabha speaker.
-

1. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Day against Child Labour?

A) End Child Labour in Supply Chains

B) Children shouldn't Work in Fields, But on Dreams

C) Generation Safe & Healthy

D) No to Child Labour – YES to Quality Education!

- ✓ The World Day against Child Labour is observed every year on June 12 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.
- ✓ The day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people to highlight the plight of child labourers and the measures to help them.

2. Who has been appointed China's new Ambassador to India?

A) Luo Zhaohui

C) Sun Weidong

B) Liu Xiaoming

D) Wei Wei

- ✓ China has appointed veteran diplomat Sun Weidong as its new envoy to India. He is an expert in South Asian affairs and worked closely with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his tenure in Beijing as the Indian ambassador from 2009 to 2013.
- ✓ Sun, who also served as the ambassador to Pakistan, is currently the Director General of the Policy and Planning Department of the Foreign Ministry. He will succeed Luo Zhaohui, who has been appointed as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

3. Amasebailu village, which has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat, is located in which of the following districts?

A) Belgaum

B) Bellary

C) Chikmagalur

D) Udupi

- ✓ Amasebailu village in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. Over 1800 houses were provided solar lamps at a total cost of Rs 2.13 crore.

- ✓ The project was funded by Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30:20 and the rest was paid by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.
- ✓ As per the agreement with Selco Light Pvt. Ltd, the solar lamps have a guarantee of 5 years and any faulty lamps will be replaced by the supplier within the guarantee period.

4. Who has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha?

A) Piyush Goyal

B) Rajnath Singh

C) Pragalath Joshi

D) Thawar Chand Gehlot

- ✓ Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha. He will replace senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley who opted out of the government citing health reasons.
- ✓ Gehlot is an experienced parliamentarian from and a Dalit face of the saffron party. He was a member of the Madhya Pradesh state assembly for several terms and has served in the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Union Minister for Railways and Commerce Piyush Goyal will take charge as the Deputy Leader for the Upper House of the Indian Parliament.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha has been convened to meet for the Budget Session from 20 June, the day President Ram Nath Kovind will address the joint sitting of Parliament. The session will continue till 26 July. In all, there will be 27 meetings of the upper house of the Parliament.

5. Who is the head of the Sashakt Committee that recommended changes in existing Inter-Creditor Agreement?

A) Sandeep Bakshi

B) Manoharan

C) Venugopal Dhoot

D) Sunil Mehta

- ✓ The Sashakt Committee, headed by PNB non-executive chairman Sunil Mehta, has recommended changes in existing Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) to incorporate revised voting threshold and other

changes for decision making stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

- ✓ It will enable expeditious implementation of the new framework on stressed assets. Under the RBI's new framework, it is a mandatory requirement for lenders to enter into an Inter-Creditor Agreement during the review of the borrower account within 30 days from date of first default to any lender.
- ✓ The New Framework further lays down some parameters to be included in the Inter-Creditor Agreement including decision-making by lenders holding 75% (by value of total outstanding facilities) and 60% by number and protection of dissenting lenders.
- ✓ The Inter-Creditor Agreement is required to be executed by all lenders covered under the New Framework and asset reconstruction companies.
- ✓ The New Framework applies to all banks, term financial institutions, small finance banks, systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) as well as deposit taking NBFCs.

6. Who clinched women's title at the 2019 French Open tennis tournament?

- A) Marketa Vondrousova **B) Ashleigh Barty**
C) Johanna Konta D) Madison Keys

- ✓ Ashleigh Barty, an Australian professional tennis player and former cricketer, has clinched the women's title at the 2019 French Open tennis tournament.
- ✓ In the final, she defeated Marketa Vondrousova 6–1, 6–3 at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris.
- ✓ Barty is the first Australian player (male or female) to win a French Open singles title since Margaret Court in 1973. The 2019 French Open was the 123rd edition of a Grand Slam tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts.

7. The scientists at which Indian university have discovered a new species of 'paddy frog' belonging to the microhylid genus Micryletta from Northeast India?

- A) Delhi University**
B) Lovely Professional University
C) Jawaharlal Nehru University
D) Calcutta University

- ✓ A team of scientists from Delhi University (DU) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with researchers from Indonesia and the US, have discovered a new species of 'paddy frog' from Northeast India, primarily Assam.
- ✓ The frog belongs to the microhylid genus Micryletta. It is a group of narrow-mouthed frogs that is primarily and widely distributed in Southeast Asia. Currently, there are only four recognized species in this group.
- ✓ The newly discovered Micryletta frog from Northeast India was confirmed as a new species by detailed comparison of both DNA and morphology with all previously known members across Southeast and East Asia.
- ✓ The new species has been named 'aishani', derived from the Sanskrit word 'aishani' or aisani (meaning North – east), referring to the Northeast regions of India where this frog was discovered.

8. Who has been appointed new Secretary to the Vice President of India?

- A) Ashok Dewan **B) I V Subba Rao**
C) Prashanth Kumar D) Arvind Kapoor

- ✓ Dr. I V Subba Rao, a 1979 batch IAS officer from Andhra Pradesh, will continue as secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on a contract basis in the rank and pay of a secretary of the Government of India. His tenure will be co-terminus with the tenure of the vice president.

9. The 2019 edition of Mela Kheer Bhawani is celebrated in which of the following states?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Maharashtra D) Jammu & Kashmir

- ✓ The 'Mela Kheer Bhawani' is one of the biggest religious festivals of the displaced community of Kashmiri pundits, and is associated with Hindu Goddess Ragnya Devi.
- ✓ It is recently celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety at Tulmulla area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Kupwara with thousands of Pandith devotees participated in the function.
- ✓ The annual festival is held on Jesht Ashtami (May-June) when Kashmiri pandits visit the place in large number to offer prayers to seek the blessings of the deity. The devotees carry rose petals, walk barefoot and offer tribute to the goddess, and also offer milk and kheer (pudding) at the sacred spring.
- ✓ It is believed that the color of the water in the spring, which flows below the temple, is an indication of the valley's well-being. Black or darkish colour of the water is believed to be a sign of inauspicious times for Kashmir. However, the water in the spring this time was clean and milky white.
- ✓ The mela has become a symbol of communal harmony as Muslims in the locality make all the arrangements for the devotees, including setting up of stalls for flowers and other offerings.

10. Who is the head of the RBI committee to review ATM charges?

- A) Dilip Asbe B) Giri Kumar Nair
C) V G Kannan D) K Srinivas

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a six member high-level committee under the chairmanship of VG Kannan, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees.
- ✓ There are around 2 lakh ATMs in India. At end of April 2019, there were over 88.47 crore debit cards and 4.8 crore credit cards in function, and as per RBI data

during April only 80.9 crore transactions were done through debit cards on ATM.

- ✓ It will examine existing patterns of costs, charges and interchange fees by banks for ATM transactions. It will review overall patterns of usage of ATMs by cardholders and also assess impact (if any) on charges and interchange fees levied by banks.
- ✓ It will make recommendations on optimal charge or interchange fee structure and pattern. It will submit its report to RBI within two months from date of its first meeting.