

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 7, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - issued an order permitting shops and establishments across Tamil Nadu to remain open 24x7 — initially for a period of three years — with certain conditions on June 6**
 - ✓ As per the order, all shops and establishments employing 10 or more people are permitted to remain open for 24x7 on all days of the year for a period of three years with effect from the date of publication of the notification
 - ✓ Conditions of the order
 - ✓ As per the notification, an employer shall not require or allow any person employed to work for more than eight hours on any day and 48 hours in any week
 - ✓ Period of work including overtime shall not exceed ten and a half hours in any day and fifty-seven hours in a week
 - ✓ Woman employee shall not be required to work beyond 8pm on any day in normal circumstances
 - ✓ After obtaining a written consent of a woman employee, the employer shall allow her to work between 8pm and 6am subject to providing adequate protection to her.
 - ✓ Every employee shall be given one day holiday in a week on a rotation basis
 - ✓ The employer shall exhibit details of employees who are on holiday/leave on a daily basis in a conspicuous place in the establishment
 - ✓ The wages, including overtime wages, of the employees shall be credited to their savings bank account.
 - ✓ Transport arrangements shall be provided to the woman employee who works in shifts
 - ✓ Every employer employing woman employee shall constitute internal complaints committee against sexual harassment of women under the Sexual

Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

- ✓ The Union ministry of labour and employment had earlier notified a model bill of the Shops and Establishment (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016
- ✓ As per the bill, states could modify the State Shops and Establishments Act either by adopting the model bill completely or by modifying the provisions as per their own requirement.

STATES

◆ **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy - allows CBI to enter into state for conducting investigations without the permission of the State Government**

- ✓ He has cancelled previous governments' order of barring Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from conducting raids in state without seeking the permission of the state government
- ✓ Former CM of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu has withdrawn the 'general consent' to CBI officers for conducting investigation in the state without the permission of the Government on November 8, 2018
- ✓ He had accused the centre of misusing central agencies such as CBI and Income Tax (IT) department to target TDP leaders
- ✓ The CBI now gets back its powers to investigate all corruption and other cases in AP. The order also relieves the state anti-corruption bureau (ACB) from looking into complaints against central government employees.
- ✓ The CBI functions under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946
- ✓ Under Section 6 of the Act, a state government 'routinely' grants consent to the CBI for exercising its authority in the state

◆ **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy - announced the launch of a new scheme 'YSR Rythu Bharosa'**

- ✓ Under the new scheme, farmers holding up to five acres will be given financial assistance of ₹50,000 in four equal instalments of ₹12,500 starting from October 15
- ✓ He has also announced the scrapping of the farmers' welfare scheme 'Annadata Sukhibhava' introduced by the TDP government.
- ✓ As on date, a sum of approximately ₹1,822 crore has been disbursed to the beneficiaries of 'Annadata Sukhibhava'

NATIONAL

◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved the reconstitution of Niti Aayog and retained economist Rajiv Kumar as its vice-chairman on June 6



- ✓ DRDO ex-chief V K Saraswat, agri expert Ramesh Chand and noted paediatrician from AIIMS V K Paul have been retained as members.
- ✓ However, economist Bibek Debroy was not renominated.
- ✓ Debroy, who was a member of the government think-tank when Modi set it up in 2014, was also chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM
- ✓ The Centre said defence minister Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar will be Niti's ex-officio members
- ✓ Transport and MSME minister Nitin Gadkari, social justice minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot, railway minister Piyush Goyal and planning, statistics and programme implementation minister Rao Inderjit Singh will be special invitees
- ✓ The statement did not mention Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer, whose term is ending on June 30.
- ✓ During the first five years, Niti Aayog managed to prepare a three-year strategy paper, but did not release the seven-year and 20-year vision plans

◆ The Government - changed the notification regarding the composition of key cabinet panels on June 6 to accommodate defence minister Rajnath Singh in 4 other panels

U-TURN WITHIN A DAY

<p>▶ As per original notification issued early in the day, defence minister Rajnath Singh figured in just two Cabinet panels – cabinet committees on security and economic affairs</p>	<p>▶ Rajnath's exclusion from cabinet panel on political affairs became a topic of intense political discussion</p> <p>▶ In last govt, he was part of cabinet committees on both political and parliamentary affairs</p>
 <p>▶ In contrast, home minister Amit Shah featured on all eight panels. It was taken as another hint of his status as No. 2 in the govt</p>	<p>▶ Later in the day, govt changed notification and accommodated Rajnath in cabinet committees on political affairs, parliamentary affairs as well as those on investment & growth and employment & skill development</p>

- ✓ As per the original notification issued, the defence minister figured in just two panels
- ✓ BJP chief and home minister Amit Shah featured on all eight panels

- ✓ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman comes next with membership of seven bodies. After the revision, Singh comes next with seats on six committees.

◆ **The Centre - has set a time-frame of 120 days for foreigners tribunals in Assam to decide on appeals against exclusion from final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) after submission of complete records**

- ✓ The home ministry has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 2019 to this effect
- ✓ Any person, not satisfied with the outcome of the decisions on claims and objections on draft NRC, may prefer an appeal, before the designated tribunal within a period of 60 days from the date of such order.
- ✓ After an appeal is filed, the tribunal shall issue a notice to the district magistrate to produce NRC records within 30 days from date of receipt of the notice and a copy of the notice shall also be sent to the appellant.
- ✓ Upon production of the records, if the tribunal finds merit in the appeal, it shall issue notice to the appellant and the district magistrate for hearing, specifying the date of hearing which shall be within 30 days from the date of production of the records
- ✓ When the draft NRC was published on July 30, 2018, there was a huge controversy over the exclusion of 40.7 lakh people from it.
- ✓ The final NRC, a list of Assam's residents, will be published on July 31, 2019
- ✓ The Centre is also going to help the Assam government in setting up 1,000 foreigners tribunals by July 31.
- ✓ When the NRC was first prepared in Assam way back in 1951, the state had 80 lakh citizens.
- ✓ According to the 2011 census, Assam's total population is over 3.11 crore
- ✓ The Supreme Court-monitored NRC exercise, aimed at identifying illegal immigrants in the state that borders Bangladesh, was carried out only in Assam, which faced an influx of people from Bangladesh for several decades

◆ **PM Narendra Modi – is scheduled to visit Maldives starting June 8**

- ✓ During the visit, he will inaugurate a coastal surveillance radar system and a composite training centre for the Maldives defence forces
- ✓ Modi's visit to the Maldives will be the first full-fledged bilateral by an Indian PM to India's Saarc neighbour since 2011
- ✓ Modi will first travel to the Maldives, in his first bilateral visit after returning to power in the Lok Sabha elections, before heading to Sri Lanka on June 9
- ✓ Modi visited the Maldives in November to attend President Ibrahim Solih's swearing-in

◆ **The 7th economic census – taking complete count of all establishments – will commence across the country by June end**

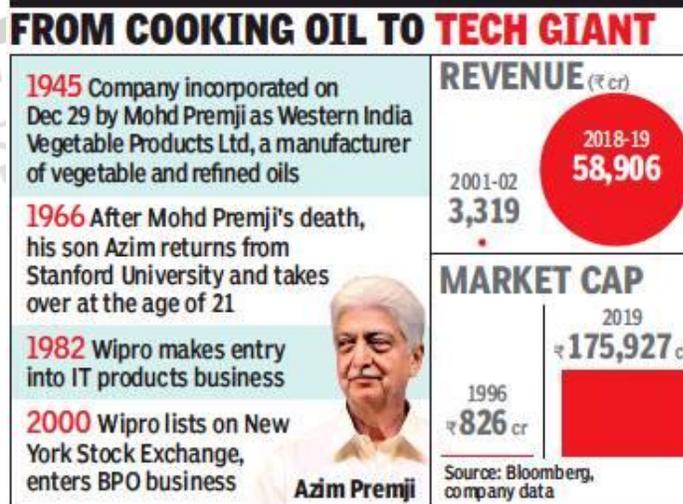
- ✓ The economic census provides information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments in the country.
- ✓ The training workshop for Tamil Nadu will be held on June 11 and for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep it has been scheduled on June 12.
- ✓ It will cover all establishments, including household enterprises engaged in production or distribution of goods/services (other than for the sole purpose of own consumption) in non-farm agricultural and non-agricultural sector.
- ✓ The coverage is same as the one in the 6th economic census, conducted in 2013
- ✓ In the current economic census, the ministry has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Union ministry of electronics and information technology as the implementing agency

◆ **The urban affairs ministry - launched quarterly ranking of cities - Swachh Survekshan (League) for the current year on June 6**

- ✓ The survey will involve assessing the cities in three quarters till December 2019 and the weightage will be 2000 marks for each quarter.
- ✓ The change is expected to reflect ground level realities far better than the annual evaluation

PERSONALITIES

◆ **Founder of Wipro Ltd and acclaimed IT Czar, Azim Premji - to retire as executive chairman of Wipro on July 30**



- ✓ He has transformed the cooking oil company his father started in 1945 into a \$25 billion (□ 1.8 lakh crore) global IT powerhouse on retirement
- ✓ He led Wipro for 53 years when he retires after having taken over the company on his father's death in 1966
- ✓ Premji, together with Infosys's N R Narayana Murthy and TCS's F C Kohli, is regarded as a pioneer of the Indian IT industry

- ✓ Premji will be succeeded by his elder son Rishad Premji, a Harvard Business School and London School of Economics graduate, who joined the firm in 2007 in its financial services business division
- ✓ Rishad, 42, has played several roles in the company, and is currently chief strategy officer
- ✓ The Premji family owns 74.3% of the shares in the company
- ✓ Premji's philanthropic commitments are unprecedented in India
- ✓ In March this year, he announced an increase in this commitment by ₹52,750 crore, taking his overall commitment to his endowment to a humongous ₹145,000 crore (67% of Wipro shares), which made his foundation one of the biggest in the world
- ✓ He was the first Indian to be a signatory to The Giving Pledge initiative started by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and billionaire investor Warren Buffett, under which billionaires commit at least 50% of their wealth to philanthropy.
- ✓ Premji will continue to serve on the Wipro Board as nonexecutive director and founder chairman

◆ **Jiya Vaducha, an 11-year-old Indian-origin girl in London whose parents hail from Mumbai - has achieved the top possible score in a Mensa IQ test**

- ✓ She now can join Mensa, the global high IQ society after scoring 162, the maximum mark



- ✓ The Mensa test is split into two papers which test different types of IQ.
- ✓ Cattell III B includes verbal reasoning, while Culture Fair is diagrams and images.
- ✓ A score within the top 2% on either is required for Mensa membership.
- ✓ Jiya got a score of 162 in the Cattell III B Scale, putting her in the top 1% in Britain, and in the Culture Fair Scale she came in the top 3% with a score of 131

◆ **Ai-Da, the brainchild of Aidan Meller - becomes the world's first ultra-realistic humanoid artist**



- ✓ She is able to draw creatively thanks to the in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology
- ✓ Ai-Da can currently only hold certain hard tools like pencils, not brushes
- ✓ Meller, also an art gallery director, first dreamed up Ai-Da — named after Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician and writer often called the world's first computer coder — eight years ago
- ✓ But he only began seriously working on the project in 2017.
- ✓ With the help of British robotics company Engineered Arts, and researchers at both Leeds and Oxford universities, Ai-Da was finally completed in April

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Bengaluru-based private firm, Team Indus - is part of a consortium that has bagged a contract from the US space agency to design and build a lander for Nasa's next lunar mission in 2020.**



- ✓ Nasa has selected three such consortiums – commercial moon-landing service providers – to deliver science and technology payloads under Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) as part of the Artemis lunar exploration programme
- ✓ Among the three players is US-based **Orbit Beyond**, a consortium of nine firms including **Team Indus**, which is the only company with lander-making credentials
- ✓ The other seven firms in the consortium specialize in other aspects of aerospace and space technology.
- ✓ The consortium has been awarded \$97 million to fly four payloads to Mare Imbrium, a lava plain in one of the Moon's craters by September 2020
- ✓ The other two consortiums are **Astrobotic**, which has been awarded \$79.5 million to fly as many as 14 payloads to Lacus Mortis, a large crater on the near side of the Moon, by July 2021 and **Intuitive Machines**, which has been awarded \$77 million to fly five payloads to Oceanus Procellarum, a scientifically intriguing dark spot on the Moon, by July 2021.
- ◆ **A team of astrophysicists from Northwestern University, Oxford University, and the University of Amsterdam - unveiled the most detailed simulation of a black hole on June 6**
- ✓ A black hole is born when a large star collapses in on itself.
- ✓ Far from being a “hole”, they are instead incredibly dense objects with a gravitational pull so strong that nothing, not even light, may escape them.

- ✓ As they suck in matter, they form an accretion disk — a churning mass of super-accelerated particles that are the brightest objects in the Universe — around them



- ✓ It is the accretion disk that can be seen as a blurry halo around the image of the black hole released in April from the Event Horizon Telescope
- ✓ The theory had also accounted for magnetic turbulence, which occurs when different particles churn at different speeds within the accretion disk
- ✓ It is precisely this electromagnetic effect that causes matter to fall to the centre of the black hole.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Nigeria's Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) - was elected as President of 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)**



- ✓ He succeeds Maria Fernanda Espinosa as the President of next General Assembly session that will commence in September 2019
- ✓ He will oversee the 75th anniversary celebrations of the establishment in 2020

