

July - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Abhinav Bindra has been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.
- ❖ Charaideo Maidam of Assam has been nominated to become the North East India's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in the cultural category.
- ❖ The Padma Shri awardee (2019) and noted organic farmer of Odisha Kamala Pujari passed away recently.
 - She also won the 'Equator Initiative Award' in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.
- ❖ Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel, India's longest (11.8 km) urban tunnel, was inaugurated recently.
 - It will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali to 12 minutes cut the distance by 12 km.
- ❖ To recognize the hard work and dedication of those in thermal engineering, the United States observes July 24 as National Thermal Engineer Day.

TAMIL NADU

Tamilnadu State Minorities Commission 2024



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government reconstituted the State Minorities Commission with Rev. Fr. Joe Arun as its Chairperson.
- ❖ The State government also posted M.M. Abdul Kuthoos alias Iraianban Kuthoos as its Vice Chairperson.
- ❖ It also named Hamilton Welson, A. Sornaraj, Nagore A.H. Nazimuddin, Praveen Kumar Thatiya, Rajendra Prasad, Rameet Kapoor, J. Mohammed Rafi and S. Vasanth as its members.

- ❖ The State government also named C. Fernandas Rathina Raja as the chair of the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation.

NATIONAL

New Pension Scheme 'VATSALYA'

- ❖ The finance minister introduced a new type of pension scheme for minors where parents can contribute to their children's future retirement.
- ❖ The new pension scheme for minors is called the NPS Vatsalya.
- ❖ This regular contribution can be made by parents or guardians.
- ❖ The scheme will get converted to regular NPS once the child attains the age of 18.
- ❖ The National Pension Scheme (NPS) is a voluntary pension system for all citizens, including both residents and NRIs between the ages of 18 and 70 years.



U-WIN portal

- ❖ The U-Win portal is one of the important steps towards halving the number of zero-dose children by 2030.
- ❖ U-WIN is an online vaccine management portal for childhood vaccination, similar to CoWIN used during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Children, up to the age of six years, and pregnant mothers are registered on U-WIN using government ID like Aadhaar, and their mobile phone numbers.
- ❖ Upon registration, records of all 25 shots given to a child — and the two given to pregnant mothers — can be added.
- ❖ The digital vaccine certificate can be downloaded by parents using their registered mobile numbers.

- ❖ It also registers all births, the three vaccines against polio, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis administered at birth, a child's birth weight, and any physical deformities observed at birth.

Digital impetus

U-WIN is a digital platform to monitor and track routine immunisation. Here are some of its objectives and features

1 To facilitate tracking of pregnant women, newborns and adolescents for vaccination

2 To ensure 100% immunisation coverage and reach all types of beneficiaries and health facilities in government and private sectors

3 Session/vaccinator-wise identification of dropouts or left-out persons can be done on real-time basis

4 Eventually, it will be linked to State's PICME (Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation) system and all other service provider portals

Activities proposed under U-WIN

- Digitisation of routine immunisation microplan through U-WIN registration module
- After registration, targeted beneficiaries will receive a message from U-WIN for their upcoming vaccination dose as per Universal Immunisation Programme
- Beneficiaries are verified on U-WIN through their Aadhaar before vaccination. Ayushman Bharat Health Account unique ID is created for all registered beneficiaries
- Acknowledgement will be sent to beneficiaries after every dose. Vaccination certificate can be downloaded from U-WIN portal
- Engaging private sector in the future as 20-30% of beneficiaries are utilising private health facilities for delivery services and vaccination

Aiming high: After launching the programme on a pilot basis in Dindigul and Erode, the Health Department is working on expanding it to rest of the State. FILE PHOTO

KIRTI Program

KIRTI Phase - I

70 Centres

close to 51,000

Assessments

28 States

KIRTI Phase - II

AIM

Achieve 20 lakh assessments in

FY 2024-25

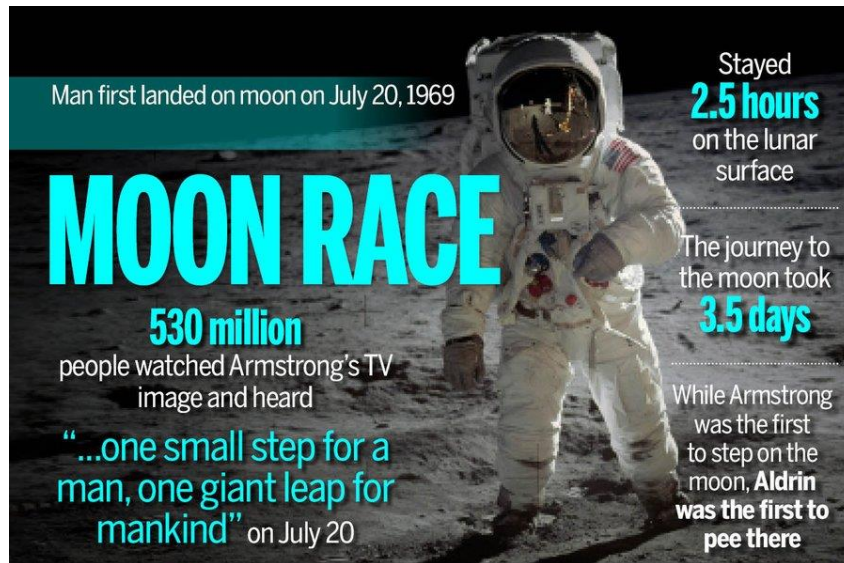
by onboarding all states and using districts as assessment units.

- ❖ The Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) programme was launched in Chandigarh this year.
- ❖ It aims to develop an integrated talent identification architecture based on the modern ICT tools and global best practices.
- ❖ KIRTI aims to reach every block in the country, connecting with children who aspire to play sports but lack guidance.
- ❖ It seeks to streamline the process of grassroots talent identification on a single platform.

- ❖ In the first phase, out of 3,62,683 registrations across 70 centres, close to 51,000 assessments were conducted in 28 states and Union Territories.
- ❖ The programme aligns with the nation's aspiration to become a top 10 sports nation by 2036 and among the top five by 2047.

INTERNATIONAL

Apollo 11 Anniversary 2024



- ❖ USA celebrated 55th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing at Space Center at Houston.
- ❖ Humanity had reached the Moon on July 20, 1969.
- ❖ Astronaut Neil Armstrong made history as he stepped down the ladder and onto the lunar surface, followed by astronaut Buzz Aldrin.
- ❖ The two spent the next few hours collecting samples and planted an American flag on the Moon's surface.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World's Most Powerful Passports 2024

- ❖ The latest ranking released by the Henley Passport Index puts India's passport at the 82nd spot.
- ❖ It will be allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries.

- ❖ Singapore passport has been named the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to 195 countries.
- ❖ France, Italy, Germany and Spain are tied with Japan in second place, providing passport holders access to 192 countries.
- ❖ Then, in third place in the ranking are Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, and Sweden which all have visa-free access to 191 destinations.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is in the fourth place, alongside New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland.
- ❖ Australia and Portugal shared the No. 5 spot, while the United States dropped down to eighth place, with visa-free access to 186 countries.
- ❖ Pakistan is positioned at 100th, providing passport holders access to 33 countries.
- ❖ At the bottom of the list is Afghanistan with easy access to 26 destinations.

MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS IN 2024		
Rank	Country	Destinations
1	Singapore	195
2	France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain	192
3	Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden	191
4	Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom	190
5	Australia, Portugal	189
6	Greece, Poland	188
7	Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Malta	187
8	United States	186
9	Estonia, Lithuania, United Arab Emirates	185
10	Iceland, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia	184
82	India	58

STATES

Panchamasali Lingayats

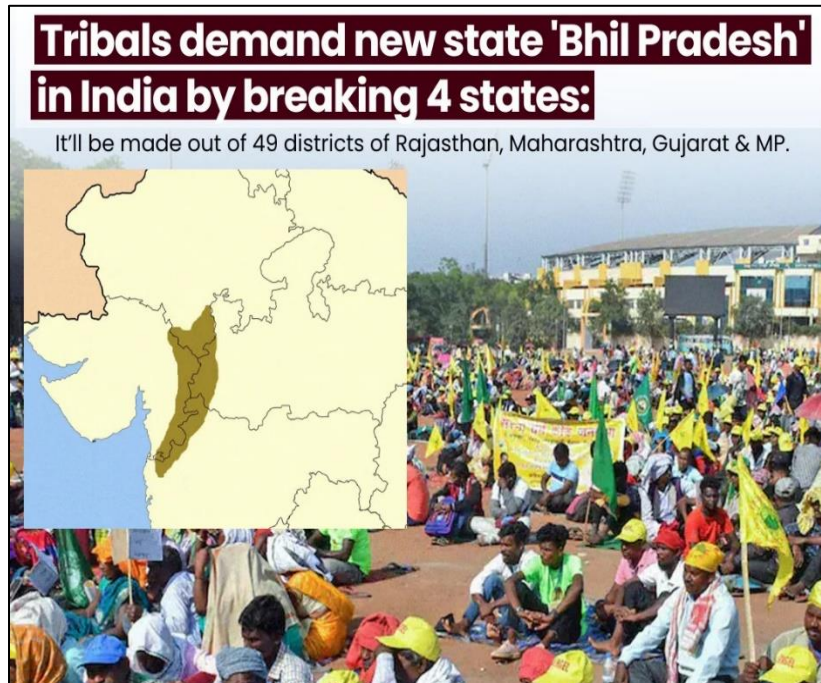
- ❖ The Panchamasali Lingayats, a dominant agrarian caste in Karnataka, are demanding 2A category reservation under the OBC list.

- ❖ They have been demanding special reservation for nearly a decade, citing social backwardness of the community.
- ❖ They are forming about 80% of the politically powerful Lingayat caste group.

Table 1: Karnataka's current quota matrix

CATEGORY		QUOTA
Other Backward Classes (OBC)		32
Category 1	Backward Castes	4
Category 2A	Other Backward Classes	15
Category 2B	Muslims	4
Category 3A	Vokkaliga, etc.	4
Category 3B	Lingayat, etc.	5
Scheduled Castes (SC)		15
Scheduled Tribes (ST)		3
Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)		10
TOTAL RESERVATIONS		60

Bhil Pradesh



- ❖ The demand of the Bhil tribal community for a separate state is gaining momentum in Rajasthan.

- ❖ They are demanding for a separate state of “Bhil Pradesh” by carving out 49 districts from four states.
- ❖ As per Census 2011, there are 1.7 crore Bhils across the country.
- ❖ Their largest concentration is in Madhya Pradesh at about 60 lakhs.
- ❖ It is followed by 42 lakhs in Gujarat, 41 lakhs in Rajasthan and 26 lakhs in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The demand for Bhil Pradesh dates back to 1913.

Kharchi Puja – Tripura



- ❖ Kharchi Puja is observed annually on the Shukla Ashtami day, which falls on the eighth day of the lunar month of Ashadha.
- ❖ It is also known as the festival of 14 Gods.
- ❖ During the week-long festival, people worship Chaturdasa Devata, the ancestral deity of the Tripuri people.

IMPORTANT DAYS

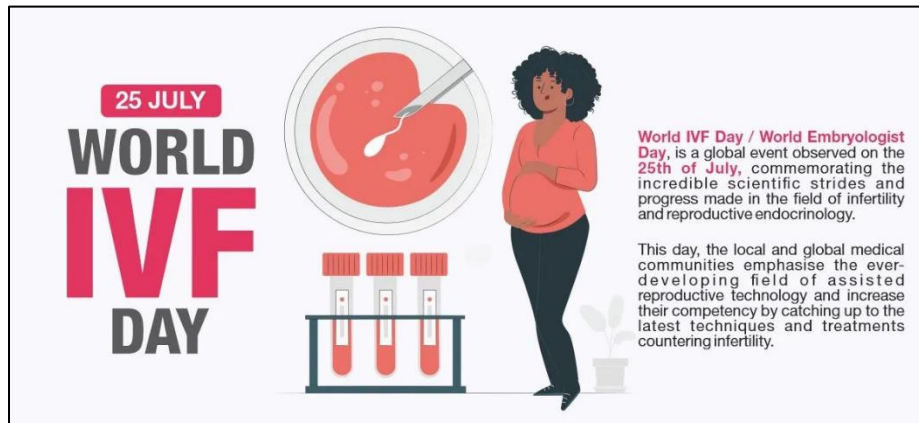
World Drowning Prevention Day 2024 - July 25

- ❖ It aims for raising the awareness and accelerating action on the global drowning prevention.
- ❖ This year, the overarching theme is "Anyone can drown, no one should."

- ❖ The World Health Organization has chosen the slogan "Seconds can save a life."
- ❖ Globally, an estimated 236,000 lives are lost to drowning every year—an average of 650 every day, or 26 every hour.



World Embryologist Day 2024 - July 25



- ❖ It recognises the amazing work that embryologists from the past and present have accomplished.
- ❖ It honours their contributions to the field of reproductive medicine, particularly in vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- ❖ July 25 was chosen as World IVF Day because it is the birthday of Louise Brown, the first baby ever born through in vitro fertilisation (IVF).
- ❖ Louise was born in Oldham, United Kingdom, on this day in 1978.
- ❖ Since then, over 8 million babies have been born through IVF.

