

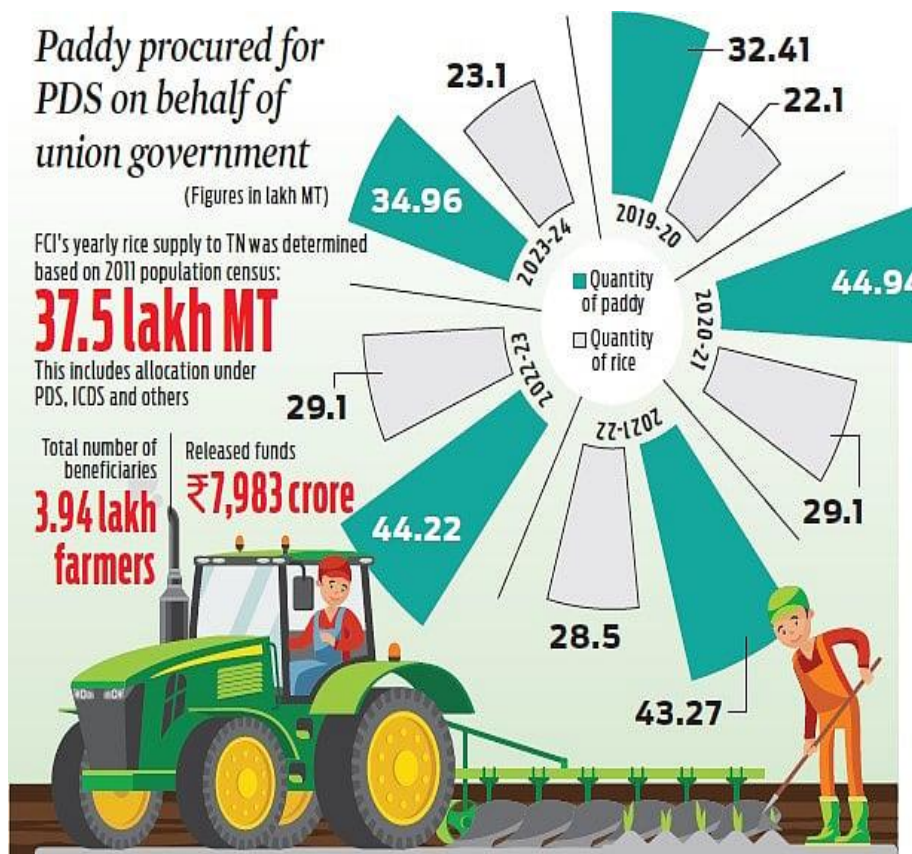
February - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Doordarshan has been honoured with the award in the Electronic Media category for its comprehensive campaign on Voter Awareness and Education.

TAMIL NADU

Additional rice allocation - Tamilnadu



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation has sought from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) allocation of nine lakh tonnes of rice for meeting the shortfall in its requirements.
- ❖ The reserve price of rice had been fixed at ₹22.5 per kg (pan-India) for sale to State governments.
- ❖ Two years ago, the Centre hiked the price for the States to ₹34 per kg from ₹23 a kg and in June 2023.
- ❖ It had even suspended the sale of rice and wheat to the States.



- ❖ As against the monthly allocation of 2.97 lakh tonnes for Tamil Nadu, the average monthly offtake of rice is around 3.63 lakh tonnes.

NATIONAL

SC verdict on residence-based quota

The Supreme Court ruled that residence-based reservations for PG medical seats are **unconstitutional.**

This **violates Article 14** of the Constitution. Seats under the state quota must be filled based solely on NEET exam merits.

Current students and graduates with existing domicile reservations **will not be impacted.**

The judgment underscores the importance of merit-based admissions for **specialized PG medical courses.**

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that the residence-based reservation for admission to postgraduate (PG) medical courses within the State quota is invalid.
- ❖ It stated that it ran counter to the very idea of one citizenship for all and right to equality under the Constitution.
- ❖ The court acknowledged that though residence-based reservation was allowed to a reasonable degree for MBBS courses.
- ❖ The court pointed out how States use 'domicile' as a synonym for 'residence'.
- ❖ Legally, 'domicile' did not mean the 'place of residence' of an individual.
- ❖ The concept of regional or provincial domicile is alien to the Indian legal system.
- ❖ Permanent residence or residence have a meaning which is different from that of 'domicile'.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu implements 69% reservation.
- ❖ It reserves 50% of the seats for students who are native to the State or were born in the State.

- ❖ In PG courses (MD/MS/Diploma), there is a total of 2,294 seats in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Of this, 50% seats have been reserved for students of Tamil Nadu, benefiting nearly 1,200 students.

INTERNATIONAL

Pashmina Festival 2025

- ❖ The first three-day International Pashmina Festival cum Exhibition organised by Nepal Pashmina Industries Association in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Pashmina is hand-combed from the undercoat of Chyangra goats during their natural shedding season.
- ❖ Nepali Pashmina is marketed as “Chyangra Pashmina” to emphasize its superior quality.

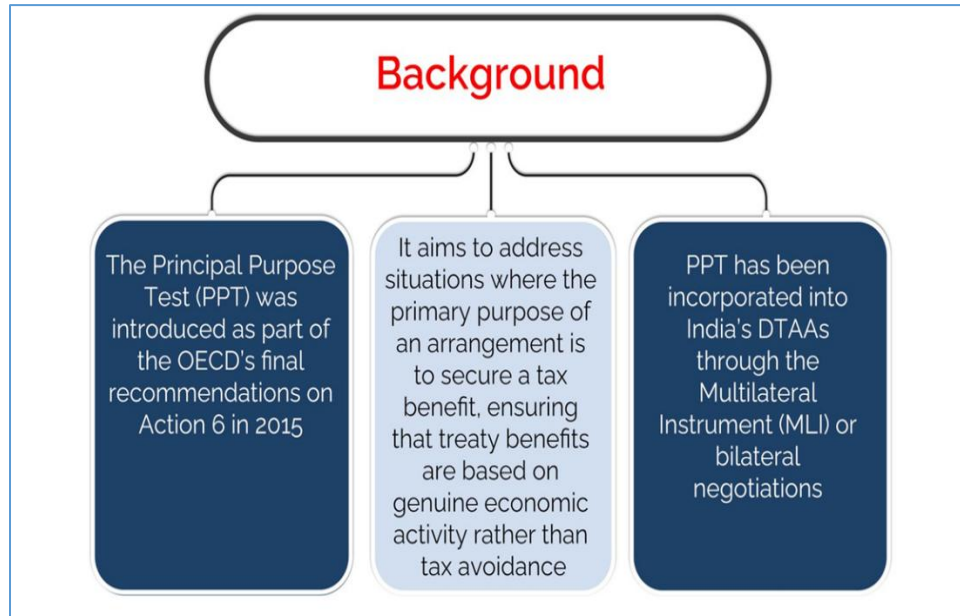


ECONOMY

Principal Purpose Test (PPT)

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued the updated guidance for the application of the Principal Purpose Test (PPT) under India’s Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs).
- ❖ It exempts certain provisions under the India-Cyprus DTAA, India-Mauritius DTAA, and India-Singapore DTAA.
- ❖ PPT is a part of international tax rules aimed at preventing misuse of tax treaties.
- ❖ It is a key provision under the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty related provisions to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

- ❖ DTAA's are bilateral treaties aimed at preventing the same income from being taxed twice.



Temporary Identification Number – CBIC



- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified a new amendment to GST rules.



- ❖ It aims to issue TIN to entities that are not required to register under the GST Act but need to make payments under some specific provision.
- ❖ Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules, registration is mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of ₹40 lakh and ₹20 lakh in the manufacturing and services sectors, respectively.

eCoO 2.0 system

What's new?

- Exporters can now assign **multi-user access** under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC).
- In addition to the digital signature token, **Aadhaar-based e-signing** would be available.
- A common **integrated dashboard** will provide seamless access to eCoO and other related services.

- ❖ The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 System.
- ❖ It is a significant upgrade designed to simplify the certification process for the exporters and enhance trade efficiency.
- ❖ This upgraded platform offers several user-friendly features, such as multi-user access, which enables exporters to authorize multiple users under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC).
- ❖ As of 1st January 2025, the electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin has become mandatory via the eCoO 2.0 platform.
- ❖ The Certificates of Origin (CoO) authenticates the origin of exported goods.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

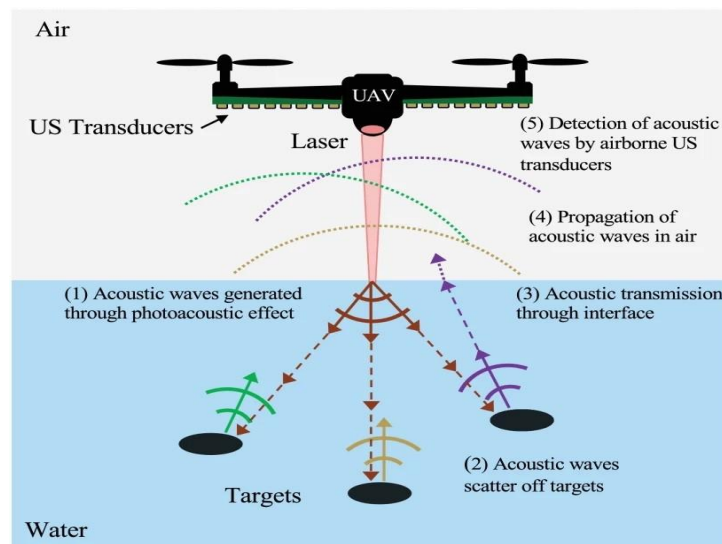
NVS-02 - 100th Mission from Sriharikota

- ❖ ISRO on January 29, 2025 launched its historic 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

- ❖ The GSLV-F15 with the NVS-02 satellite lifted off from the spaceport's second launch pad.
- ❖ NVS-02 is the second satellite in the NVS series.
- ❖ The GSLV-F15 is the 17th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and 11th flight with Indigenous Cryo stage.
- ❖ It is the 8th operational flight of GSLV with an indigenous Cryogenic stage.
- ❖ The first launch, on August 10, 1979, was the experimental flight of the Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3 E10) carrying the Rohini Technology Payload.



World's 1st deep sea radar

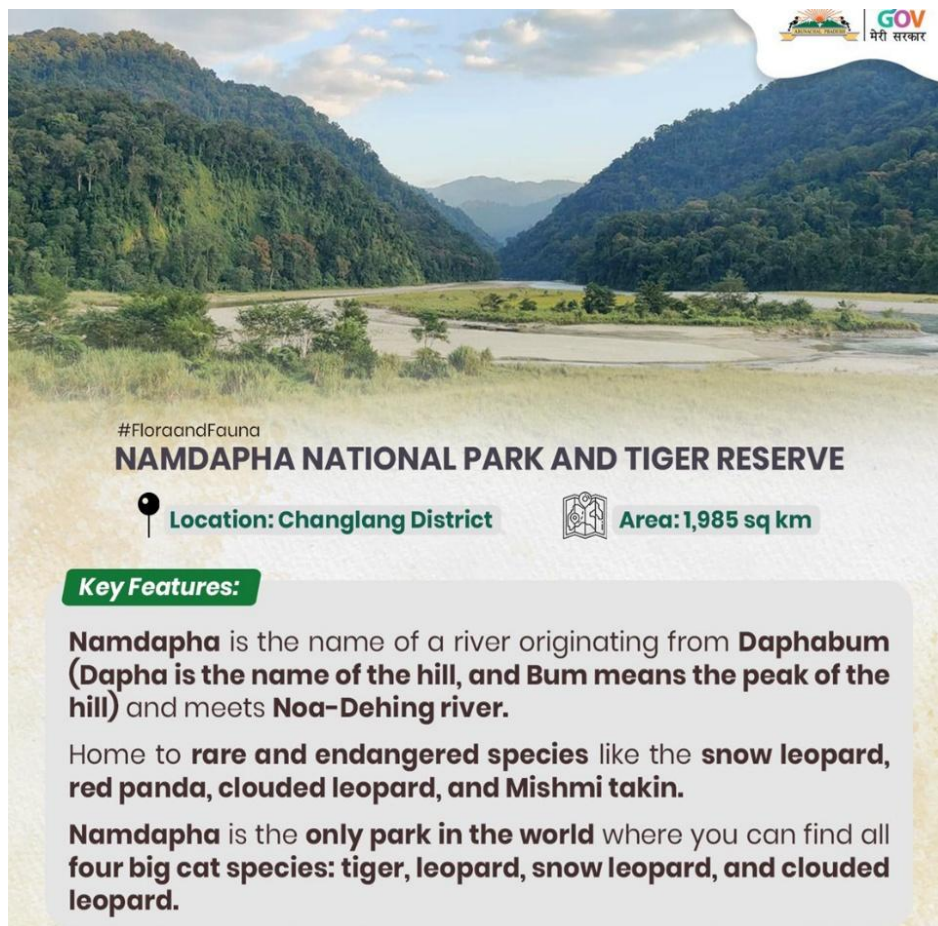


- ❖ Chinese scientists claim to have developed the world's first seabed 'radar' capable of detecting high-altitude aircraft.

- ❖ It could significantly enhance China's intelligence network and reshape future naval warfare.
- ❖ It is an acoustic sensor array positioned on the seabed at a depth of 1,000 metres.
- ❖ It has reportedly detected and tracked a fixed-wing aircraft flying at an altitude of 5,000 metres.
- ❖ China already operates a satellite network capable of tracking aircraft globally, including US F-22 stealth fighters.

ENVIRONMENT

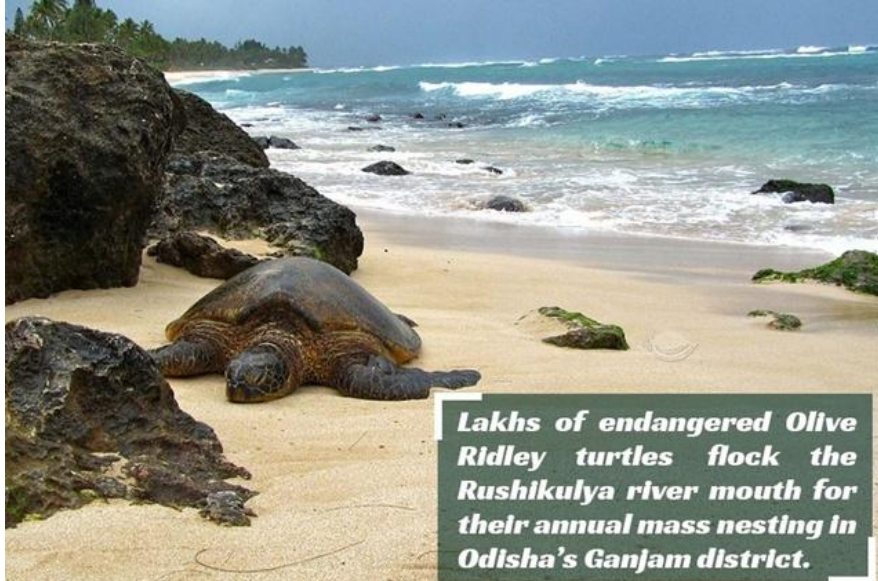
Elephant in Namdapha National Park



- ❖ An elephant has been camera-trapped in India's easternmost tiger reserve- Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve after 12 years.
- ❖ The last such sighting was in 2013.
- ❖ Namdapha National Park is located in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

- ❖ It was established in 1983 and it is also recognised as a biodiversity hotspot.
- ❖ The park is home to over 1,000 plant species and approximately 1,400 animal species.

Olive Ridley turtles in Rushikulya mouth



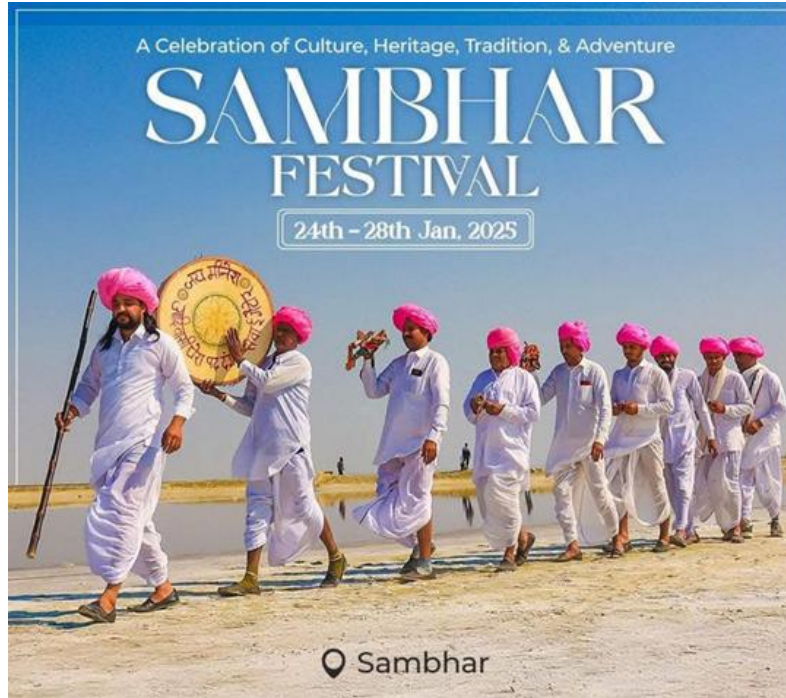
- ❖ The Olive Ridley turtles had skipped the River Rushikulya mouth in Odisha's Ganjam district in 2024 for the mass nesting.
- ❖ Rushikulya river mouth is one of the major rookeries in the country, where millions of female Olives Ridley turtles' throng for mass nesting (arribada in Spanish).
- ❖ The other sites in Odisha, where mass nesting of the Olive Ridleys take place are Gahirmatha and Deve river mouth in Kendrapara and Puri districts, respectively.
- ❖ The mass nesting in the river mouth was missed in 2002, 2007, 2016, 2019, 2021 and 2024.

STATES

Sambhar Festival 2025

- ❖ It is a vibrant celebration of culture, adventure, and heritage of the famous Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan.
- ❖ It aims to attract tourists while showcasing the region's rich culture, traditions, and natural beauty.

- ❖ The lake is renowned for its salt production and as a migratory destination for millions of foreign birds.



Population of Koraga tribe

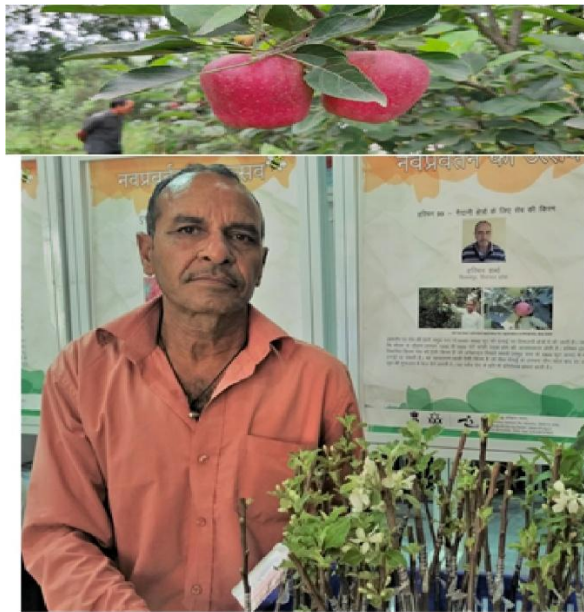
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Koragas are native residents of the coastal region ➤ Habasika, the king of Koraga community, fought with local kings and lost. This led Koragas to move into forests where they lived as nomads and hunters, according to the State Gazetteer ➤ An anthropological survey on their culture, practices and traditions was done in 2008, covering 781 Koraga families 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>➤ 1961</td> <td>6,382</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ 1971</td> <td>7,620</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ 1981</td> <td>9,439</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ 1991</td> <td>11,656</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ 2001</td> <td>4,542</td> </tr> <tr> <td>➤ 2011</td> <td>4,858</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Population	➤ 1961	6,382	➤ 1971	7,620	➤ 1981	9,439	➤ 1991	11,656	➤ 2001	4,542	➤ 2011	4,858
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Now, Koragas have moved out of the forests. The elderly are skilled in weaving bamboo baskets and collecting honey. Some grow jasmine in their fields. A majority of them live in the city as civic workers 															

- ❖ With falling birth rate and increase in infant mortality rate, the population of Koragas is declining drastically.

- ❖ Two decades ago, Koragas were 20,000 in number, now it come down to 16,000.
- ❖ The Koraga tribe is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- ❖ They are mainly found in the Dakshina Kannada district and Udupi districts of Karnataka.
- ❖ Earlier, the Kerala government has initiated programmes to provide nutritious food to tribal households.
- ❖ Koragas identify them as Hindus and follow distinct tribal religious practices.
- ❖ They worship spirits known as Bhutas and believe in the power of magic and rituals.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Apple Man of India



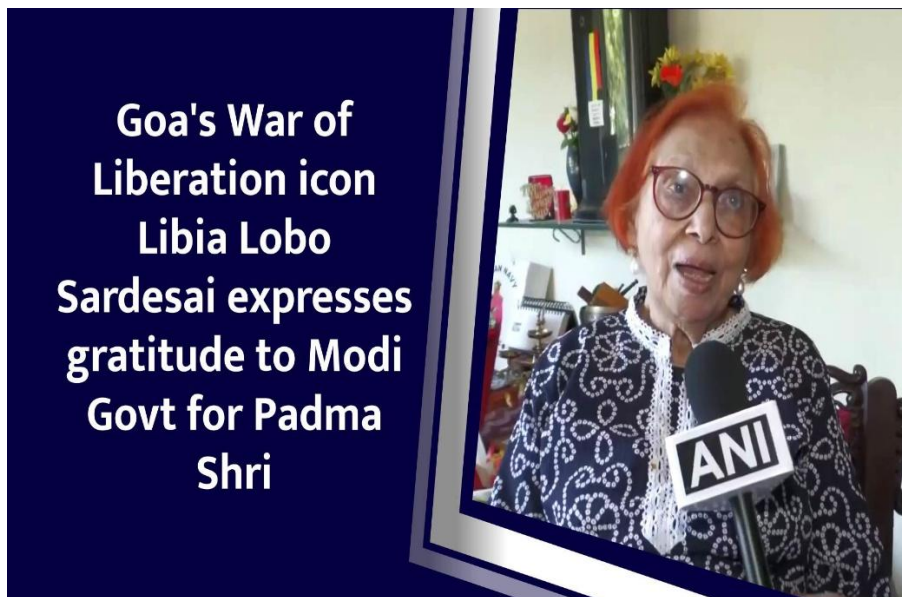
Hariman Sharma: The Apple Man of India Revolutionizing Farming with HRMN-99

- ❖ Hariman Sharma, a farmer from Himachal Pradesh, was recently conferred with Padma Shri for his transformative contribution to Indian agriculture.
- ❖ He is popularly known as the 'Apple Man of India'.
- ❖ He revolutionised apple cultivation by developing a variety that can be cultivated under warmer conditions in the lower hills.
- ❖ It was earlier believed that apples could only be grown in the mid and the higher hills under cold conditions.
- ❖ He has developed an innovative, self-pollinating, low chilling apple variety called HRMN-99.

- ❖ The HRMN-99 thrives in tropical, sub-tropical, and plain regions with summer temperatures reaching 40-45°C.

Libia Lobo Sardesai

- ❖ Goan freedom fighter Libia Lobo Sardesai, 100, was honoured with the Padma Shri for her pivotal role in the state's liberation struggle.
- ❖ From 1955 to 1961, Libia and her colleague Vaman Sardesai ran an underground radio station from the jungles of the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It was she who announced the news of Goa's liberation from four-and-a-half centuries of Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961.
- ❖ On the morning of December 19, 1961, Libia and Vaman flew over Panaji in an Indian Air Force (IAF) plane with a radio transmitter aboard and a loudspeaker fitted on the plane's belly, dropping leaflets and announcing in Portuguese and Konkani that the Portuguese had surrendered.

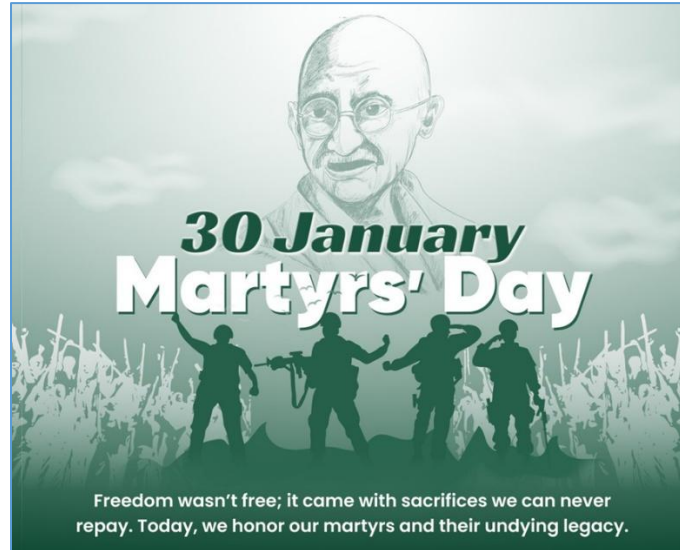


IMPORTANT DAYS

Martyrs' Day 2025 - January 30

- ❖ It is observed annually in India to honour the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the country's independence.
- ❖ This day marks the death anniversary of MK Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent freedom struggle.

- ❖ MK Gandhi was assassinated on his way to a prayer meeting at Birla Bhawan in Delhi in 1948.



World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2025 - January 30

- ❖ On 31 May 2021, the World Health Assembly (WHA) recognized this day.
- ❖ It aims to support the growing momentum for the control, elimination and the eradication of these diseases.
- ❖ This marks the simultaneous release of the first NTD road plan (2012-2020) and the London Declaration on NTDs.
- ❖ This year's Theme is "Unite. Act. Eliminate."

