

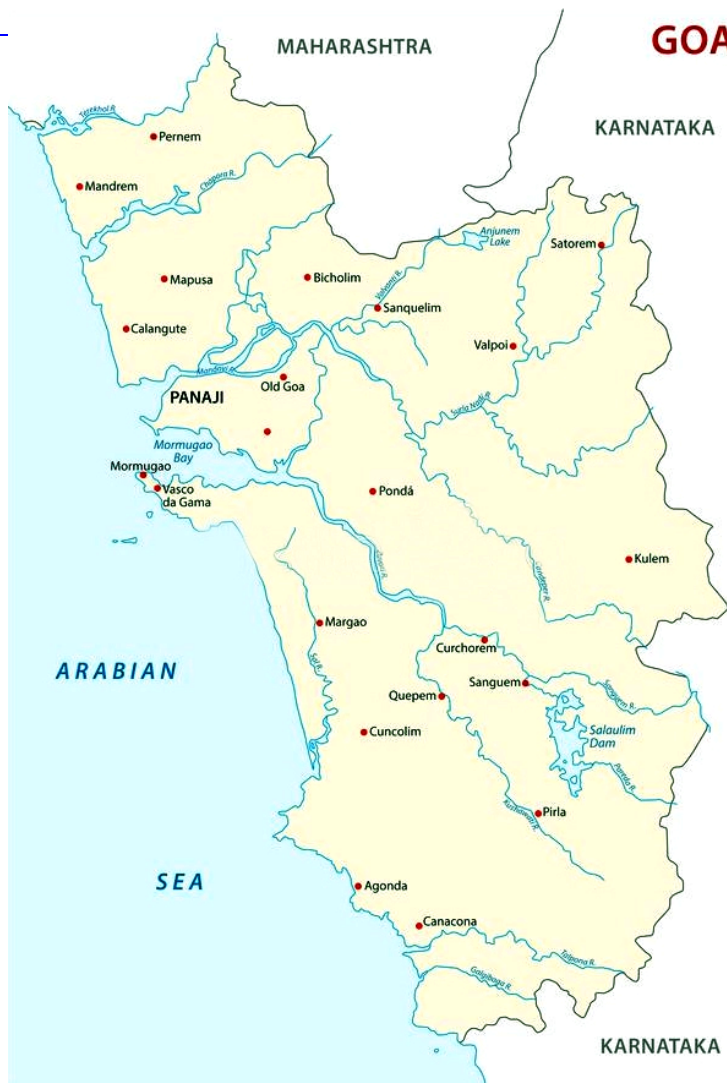


# Statehood Day of Goa

## Why in News?

On the [Statehood Day of Goa](#) (30<sup>th</sup> May), the Prime Minister greeted the people of the state.

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## What are the Key Highlights about Goa?

- **About:**
  - Goa is located on the **southwestern coast of India** within the region known as the Konkan, and geographically separated from the Deccan highlands by the [Western Ghats](#).
- **Capital:**
  - Panji.

- **Official Language:**
  - **Konkani** which is one of the 22 languages from the [Eight Schedule](#).
- **Borders:**
  - It is surrounded by **Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east** and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its western coast.
- **History:**
  - As India gained independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, it requested the Portuguese to cede their territories. However, Portuguese refused.
  - In 1961, Indian Government launched [Operation Vijay](#) and annexed Daman and Diu islands and Goa with the Indian mainland.
    - [Goa Liberation Day](#) is observed on 19<sup>th</sup> December every year in India.
    - It can be noted that the Portuguese were the first Europeans to come to India (1498) and were also the last to leave this land (1961).
  - On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1987, the territory was split and Goa was formed. Daman and Diu remained Union Territory.
- **Geography:**
  - The **highest point of Goa is Sonsogor**.
  - Goa's seven major rivers are the Zuari, [Mandovi](#), Terekhol, Chapora, Galgibag, Kumbarjua canal, Talpona and the Sal.
  - Most of Goa's soil cover is made up of laterites.
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks:**
  - **Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary**
  - [Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
  - [Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
  - [Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary](#)
  - [Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary](#)
  - **Mollem National Park**

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