



Goa Liberation Day

Why in News

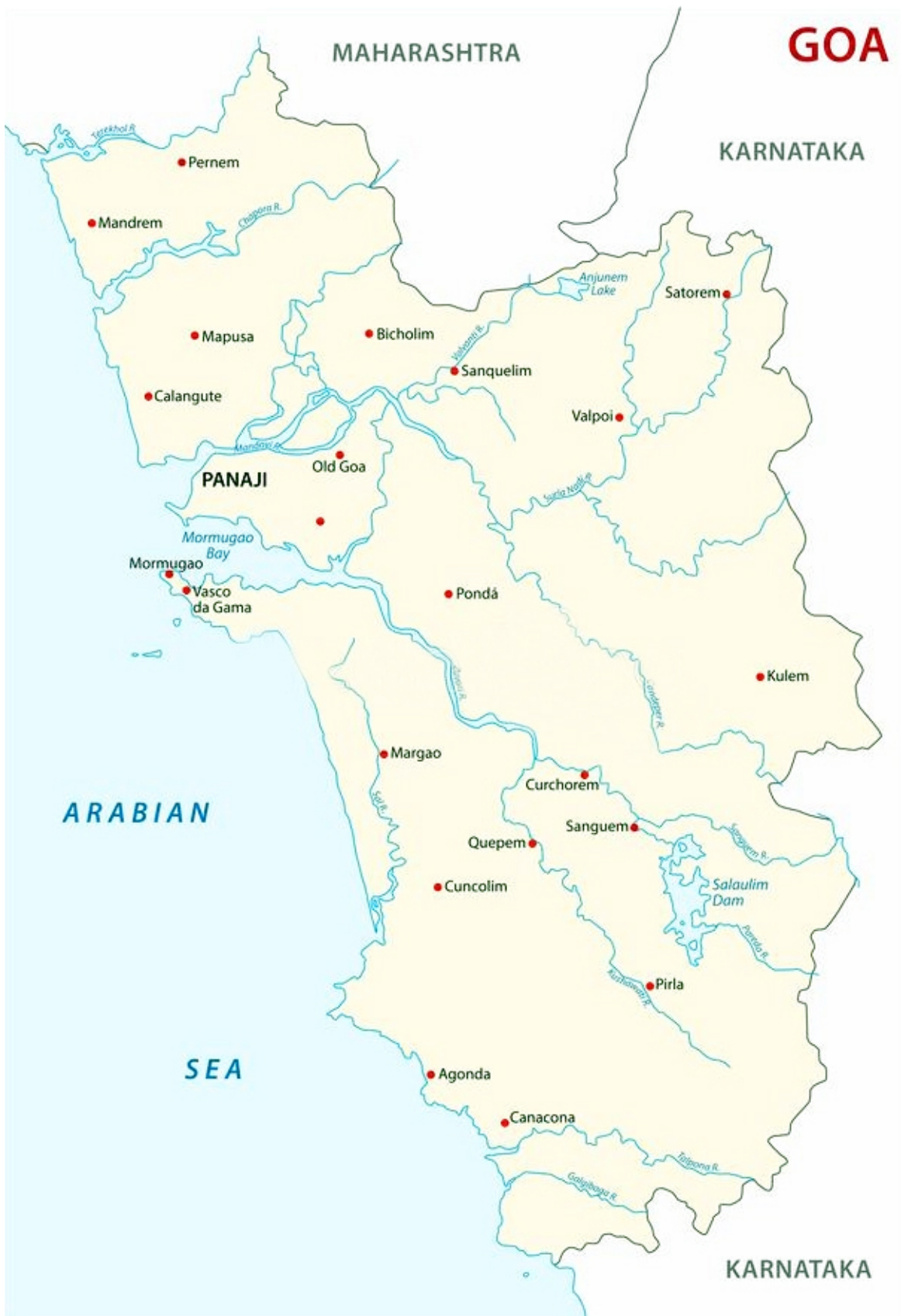
Recently, the [Indian Navy](#) conducted a **Seminar** to commemorate the **Diamond Jubilee (50 Years) of the liberation of Goa**. [Goa Liberation Day](#) is celebrated on 19th December every year.

Key Points

- The day marks the occasion when the Indian **armed forces freed Goa in 1961 from 450 years of Portuguese rule.**
 - The Portuguese colonized several parts of India in 1510 but by the end of the **19th-century Portuguese colonies in India were limited to Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Anjediva Island** (a part of Goa).
 - As India gained independence on 15th August, 1947, it requested the **Portuguese to cede their territories but they refused.**
- The Goa liberation movement started off **with small scale revolts, but reached its peak between 1940 to 1960.**
- In 1961, after the failure of diplomatic efforts with the Portuguese, the Indian Government launched **Operation Vijay** and annexed **Daman and Diu and Goa with the Indian mainland on 19th December.**
 - On 30th May 1987, the territory was split and Goa was formed. Daman and Diu remained a Union Territory.
 - Hence, 30th May is celebrated as the [Statehood Day of Goa](#).

Goa

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- **Location:** It 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.
 - Konkani is one of the 22 languages from the [Eight Schedule](#).

- It was added in the list along with Manipuri and Nepali by the [71st Amendment Act of 1992](#).
- **Borders:** It is surrounded by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its western coast.
- **Geography:**
 - The highest point of Goa is Sonsogor.
 - Goa's seven major rivers are the Zuari, [Mandovi](#) (also called Mhadei), 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

[Source: PIB](#)

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