

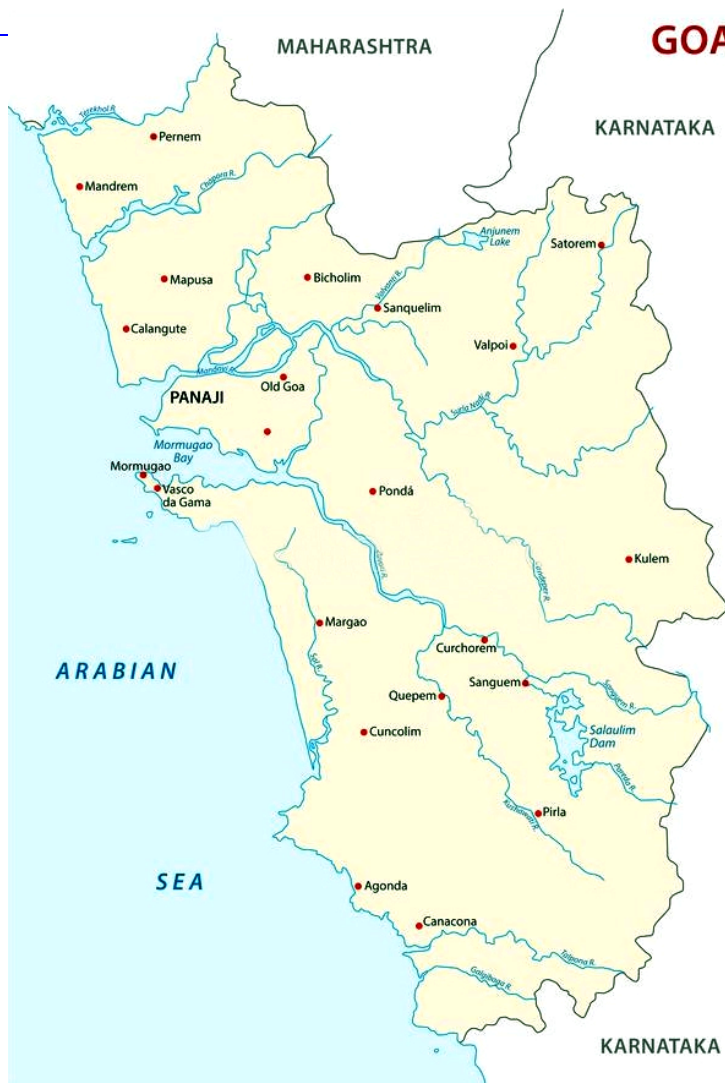


Statehood Day of Goa

Why in News?

On the [Statehood Day of Goa](#) (30th 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 15th 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 19th 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 30th 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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