



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# Goa Statehood Day — 39 Years of India's 25th State (1987-2026)

30 May 2026

HISTORY &amp; CULTURE

POLITY

GS1

GS2



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

# Goa Statehood Day — 39 Years of India's 25th State (1987-2026)

 30 May 2026 · 7 min read · 2 tags

## WHY IN NEWS:

**May 30, 2026 marks the 39th anniversary of Goa becoming India's 25th state.** Goa attained full statehood on **May 30, 1987** under the **Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987**, enabled by the **56th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1987**. Until then, Goa had been a **Union Territory (1962-1987)**, formed after the **liberation from Portuguese rule on December 19, 1961** through **Operation Vijay**. Daman and Diu were carved off as a separate Union Territory at the same time. **May 30 is annually celebrated as Goa Statehood Day** (Goa Sthapna Divas) — a public holiday in the state.

## THE GOA STORY — FIVE PHASES

PHASE	PERIOD	KEY EVENT
<b>1. Portuguese conquest</b>	<b>1510</b>	Afonso de Albuquerque seized Goa from the Sultan of Bijapur
<b>2. Portuguese rule</b>	1510-1961 (451 years)	Estado da Índia; Inquisition (1560-1812); Salazar's "Overseas Province" framing (1951)
<b>3. Indian liberation</b>	<b>December 19, 1961</b>	<b>Operation Vijay</b> — Indian Armed Forces enter Goa, Daman, and Diu
<b>4. Union Territory</b>	1962-1987	UT of Goa, Daman & Diu; <b>1967 Opinion Poll</b> rejected merger with Maharashtra
<b>5. Statehood</b>	<b>May 30, 1987</b>	<b>Goa</b> becomes India's 25th state; Daman & Diu remain UT (later merged with Dadra & Nagar Haveli in 2020)

## OPERATION VIJAY (DECEMBER 1961) — THE LIBERATION

By 1961, Portugal under **António Salazar's Estado Novo** regime refused to leave Goa despite India's repeated diplomatic overtures. After Portuguese forces fired on Indian fishermen and the Sabarmati ship incident at **Anjadiv Island**, India launched a coordinated military operation:

PARAMETER	DETAIL
<b>Operation</b>	<b>Operation Vijay</b>
<b>Duration</b>	<b>December 17-19, 1961</b> (36 hours of operations)
<b>Tri-service</b>	Indian Army (17 Infantry Division), Indian Air Force (Hunters and Canberras), Indian Navy (INS Mysore, INS Trishul, INS Betwa, others)
<b>Land thrusts</b>	Multi-prong – from Belgaum, Karwar, Anjadiv
<b>Indian casualties</b>	~22 killed, ~54 wounded
<b>Portuguese surrender</b>	<b>Governor-General Manuel António Vassalo e Silva</b> surrendered on the evening of <b>December 19, 1961</b> in <b>Vasco da Gama, Goa</b>
<b>Territory liberated</b>	Goa, Daman, Diu (collectively ~3,800 sq km)

The operation was **internationally controversial** – Portugal protested at the UN Security Council; the Soviet Union vetoed a resolution condemning India. **Pope John XXIII** issued a statement; Portugal severed diplomatic relations with India until 1974 (post-Carnation Revolution).

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL PATH

Goa's integration required **constitutional amendments** to add it to the **First Schedule**:

STEP	CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENT
<b>Initial integration (1962)</b>	<b>Constitution (12th Amendment) Act, 1962</b> – added Goa, Daman & Diu as a Union Territory
<b>Opinion Poll (1967)</b>	First and only <b>referendum-like exercise</b> in independent India under the <b>Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966</b> – Goans voted to <b>reject merger with Maharashtra</b> ; preferred separate identity
<b>Statehood (1987)</b>	<b>Constitution (56th Amendment) Act, 1987</b> – created Goa as a state; revised the <b>First Schedule</b> and added <b>Article 371-I</b> providing transitional provisions
<b>Implementation</b>	<b>Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987</b> – operationalised the statehood; Daman & Diu separated as UT
<b>2020 merger</b>	<b>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli and Daman &amp; Diu (Merger of UTs) Act, 2019</b> (effective Jan 26, 2020) – merged the two UTs

## THE 1967 OPINION POLL — A FIRST IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

When Goa became a UT in 1962, the **Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP)** demanded merger of Goa with Maharashtra (citing linguistic affinity — Konkani classified as a dialect of Marathi at the time). The **United Goans Party (UGP)**, supported by Catholics and Konkani-language activists, opposed merger.

PARAMETER	DETAIL
<b>Date</b>	<b>January 16, 1967</b>
<b>Legal basis</b>	Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966
<b>Question</b>	Should Goa merge with Maharashtra? (Daman and Diu had separate question for Gujarat merger)
<b>Result for Goa</b>	<b>No to merger</b> — 54.2% voted <b>against</b> merger; 43.5% voted for merger
<b>Result for Daman &amp; Diu</b>	Also voted against merger with Gujarat
<b>Significance</b>	<b>First and only opinion poll/referendum in independent India</b> at the territorial level; established precedent that <b>populace consent matters in state-merger decisions</b>

The Konkani-Marathi controversy resurfaced — the **Konkani language was recognised in the Eighth Schedule in 1992 (71st Constitutional Amendment Act**, alongside Manipuri and Nepali).

## CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES IN PLAY

ARTICLE	PROVISION
<b>Article 2</b>	Admission or establishment of new states
<b>Article 3</b>	Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states
<b>Article 4</b>	Laws made under Articles 2 and 3 — amendment of the First and Fourth Schedules; do <b>not</b> count as constitutional amendments under Article 368
<b>Article 371-I</b>	Special provisions for Goa (transitional; relating to legislative assembly composition, etc.)
<b>Eighth Schedule</b>	<b>Konkani</b> added by <b>71st Amendment, 1992</b>

## STATES REORGANISATION — CONTEXT

Goa's 1987 statehood is part of India's broader state-reorganisation history:

YEAR	ACT/AMENDMENT	STATE CREATED
1953	Andhra State Act	<b>Andhra State</b> (carved from Madras; following Potti Sriramulu's death)
1956	States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (7th CA)	14 states + 6 UTs based on Fazl Ali Commission
1960	Bombay Reorganisation Act	<b>Maharashtra + Gujarat</b> (May 1, 1960)
1962	12th CA Act	Goa, Daman & Diu admitted as UT
1963	Nagaland State Act	<b>Nagaland</b>
1966	Punjab Reorganisation Act	<b>Haryana + Himachal Pradesh (UT)</b> ; Chandigarh UT
1971	NE Areas (Reorganisation) Act	<b>Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura</b> as states
1975	36th CA	<b>Sikkim</b> as 22nd state
1987	56th CA + Goa Reorganisation Act	<b>Goa</b> as 25th state; Arunachal Pradesh (24th) and Mizoram (23rd) also became states in 1987
2000	Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand Acts	3 new states
2014	AP Reorganisation Act	<b>Telangana</b> (29th state, June 2, 2014)
2019	J&K Reorganisation Act	<b>J&amp;K + Ladakh</b> as Union Territories (Aug 5, 2019; effective Oct 31, 2019)

## GOA TODAY — QUICK PROFILE

PARAMETER	DETAIL
<b>Area</b>	<b>3,702 sq km</b> — India's smallest state by area
<b>Population (2011 Census)</b>	~14.6 lakh — India's 4th-smallest state by population
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Panaji</b> (Panjim)
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>	<b>40 seats</b>
<b>Languages</b>	<b>Konkani</b> (state language, Eighth Schedule from 1992) + Marathi (associate official) + English
<b>CM (2026)</b>	<b>Pramod Sawant</b> (BJP)
<b>Governor</b>	(rotational)
<b>GSDP (FY25 est.)</b>	~₹95,000 crore; India's <b>highest per capita income</b> among Indian states
<b>Major industries</b>	Tourism (~30% of GDP), iron-ore mining (controversial), fisheries, pharmaceuticals
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	<b>Churches of Goa</b> (Old Goa) — <b>UNESCO World Heritage Site</b> (1986); rich Indo-Portuguese architecture, music (Mando, Fado), cuisine

## GOA'S DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- 1 Uniform Civil Code** — Goa is the **only Indian state with a UCC**, inherited from Portuguese civil law (Portuguese Civil Code, 1867, applied in Goa). The Goa UCC governs marriage, divorce, succession, adoption uniformly across communities — frequently cited in national UCC debates.
- 2 Konkani revival** — Konkani's recognition in the Eighth Schedule (1992) and its development under the **Sahitya Akademi** has been a cultural milestone.
- 3 Goa Inquisition (1560-1812)** — historical episode of religious persecution; foundational reference in Goan historiography.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	RELEVANCE
<b>GS1</b>	Post-independence integration of princely territories/colonies; Portuguese colonialism; cultural geography of India
<b>GS2</b>	Articles 2, 3, 4 – state reorganisation; constitutional amendments; Eighth Schedule (Konkani); Uniform Civil Code debate; opinion polls in Indian democracy
<b>Mains</b>	“Examine the constitutional and political mechanisms used to integrate the Portuguese territories of Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian Union. What does the 1967 Opinion Poll reveal about the role of popular consent in state-creation?”
<b>Prelims</b>	Operation Vijay (Dec 17-19, 1961), Goa as UT (1962, 12th CA), Opinion Poll (Jan 16, 1967), Statehood (May 30, 1987, 56th CA), Konkani in 8th Schedule (1992, 71st CA), Goa area (3,702 sq km – smallest), capital (Panaji), UCC of Goa, Churches of Goa (UNESCO 1986)

## FACTS CORNER

### GOA STATEHOOD — KEY DATES:

- 1510 — Portuguese conquest (Afonso de Albuquerque, Sultan of Bijapur)
- December 19, 1961 — Liberation via Operation Vijay (36-hour tri-service action)
- 1962 — UT status via 12th Constitutional Amendment Act
- January 16, 1967 — Opinion Poll (54.2% rejected merger with Maharashtra)
- May 30, 1987 — Full statehood via 56th Constitutional Amendment Act + Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987
- 1992 — Konkani added to Eighth Schedule (71st Constitutional Amendment Act — along with Manipuri and Nepali)
- 2020 — Daman & Diu merged with Dadra & Nagar Haveli (new combined UT)

### OPERATION VIJAY:

- Duration: December 17-19, 1961 (36 hours)
- Tri-service: Indian Army, Air Force, Navy
- Portuguese Governor-General: Manuel António Vassalo e Silva
- Indian casualties: ~22 killed, ~54 wounded

### 1967 OPINION POLL:

- Date: January 16, 1967
- Legal basis: Goa, Daman and Diu (Opinion Poll) Act, 1966
- Result: No to merger with Maharashtra (54.2% against)
- First and only referendum-like exercise in independent India

### GOA STATE — FACTS:

- India's 25th state | Area: 3,702 sq km (smallest)
- Capital: Panaji | Legislative Assembly: 40 seats
- Population (2011): ~14.6 lakh
- State language: Konkani; associate: Marathi, English
- GSDP per capita: highest among Indian states

### CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES FOR STATE CREATION:

Article 2 – Admission/establishment of new states

Article 3 – Formation of new states; alteration of areas/boundaries/names

Article 4 – Implementation laws under Art 2-3; First Schedule amendments

Article 371-I – Special provisions for Goa

#### **OTHER 1987 STATE CREATIONS:**

Mizoram – 23rd state (Feb 20, 1987)

Arunachal Pradesh – 24th state (Feb 20, 1987)

Goa – 25th state (May 30, 1987)

#### **GOA'S UNIQUE FEATURES:**

Only Indian state with a Uniform Civil Code (inherited from Portuguese Civil Code, 1867)

Churches of Goa – UNESCO World Heritage (1986)

Konkani in 8th Schedule – 1992 (71st Amendment)

Source: Goa Statehood Day – 39 Years of India's 25th State (1987-2026) – Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

[← NEWER ARTICLE](#)

**Hindi Journalism Day — Bicentenary of Udant Martand...**

[OLDER ARTICLE →](#)

**WHO Declares Ebola PHEIC; India Issues Traveller Advisory**

## RELATED EDITORIALS

---

### DOWN TO EARTH

#### [The Great Indian Bustard vs Solar: Did the Supreme Court Get the Balance Right?](#)

30 May

---

### INDIAN EXPRESS

#### [How Delimitation Can Enable Both Women's and Urban Representation](#)

30 May

---

### INDIAN EXPRESS

#### [Converted Tribals and ST Reservation: The Janajati Suraksha Manch Debate](#)

30 May

---

### THE HINDU

#### [Contradictions in India's Cow Protection Regime: When Prohibition Hurts Both Cattle and Farmers](#)

29 May

---

## RELATED KEY TERMS

---

### KEY TERM

#### [42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [AERB](#)

India's regulatory body for nuclear and radiological safety,...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [AFSPA \(Armed Forces Special Powers Act\)](#)

A central legislation granting special powers to armed forces...

---



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujyari →](#)<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/05/30/goa-statehood-day-39-years-2026/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujyari.com](http://ujyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com)