



Goa's Liberation Struggle

For Prelims: Goa's liberation struggle, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Operation Vijay.

For Mains: Post-independence Consolidation of India, History of Goa's Freedom Movement.

Why in News

Recently, the **liberation of Goa became a controversial topic** during the political campaign in the election of Goa.

- **In 1962**, Goa was liberated from **Portuguese rule**, 15 years after India attained freedom in 1947. Goa, not becoming independent immediately after independence was because of a **variety of complex factors**.
- Goa was liberated on **19th December 1961 (Statehood Day of Goa)** by swift Indian military action that lasted less than two days.

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What is the Timeline of Integration of Goa into the Indian Union?

- Relations between **India and Portugal** began amicably in 1947 after India's independence and diplomatic relations were established in 1949.
- Bilateral relations however went into decline after 1950 over Portugal's refusal to surrender its

- enclaves of **Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli on India's west coast.**
 - **Daman & Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli** were integrated into India in **1961**.
- Portugal had changed its constitution in 1951 to claim Goa **not as a colonial possession, but as an overseas province.**
 - The move was apparently aimed at making Goa a part of the newly formed [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#) military alliance.
 - It was intended to invoke the collective security clause of the treaty, in the event of an attack by India.
- By 1955, the two nations had **cut off diplomatic relations**, triggering a crisis which **precipitated the liberation of Goa by Indian military forces**, ending Portuguese rule over **Indian enclaves in 1961**.
- 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.
- It brought an end to **451 years of Portuguese overseas provincial governance in Goa.**

What is the History of Goa's Freedom Movement?

- Goa became a **Portuguese colony in 1510**, when **Admiral Afonso de Albuquerque** defeated the forces of the **sultan of Bjiapur, Yusuf Adil Shah**.
- By the turn of the twentieth century, Goa had started to witness an upsurge of **nationalist sentiment opposed to Portugal's colonial rule**, in sync with the anti-British nationalist movement in the rest of India.
- Stalwarts such **Tristão de Bragança Cunha**, celebrated as the father of Goan nationalism, founded the **Goa National Congress at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress in 1928**.
- In 1946, the socialist leader [Ram Manohar Lohia](#) led a historic rally in Goa that **gave a call for civil liberties and freedom, and eventual integration with India**, which became a watershed moment in Goa's freedom struggle.
- At the same time, there was a thinking that civil liberties could not be won by peaceful methods, and a more aggressive armed struggle was needed. This was the view of the **Azad Gomantak Dal (AGD)**.
- As India moved towards independence, however, it became clear that Goa would not be free any time soon, because of a variety of **complex factors like**:
 - **Trauma of Partition**
 - **Experience of War with Pakistan**
 - **India wanted to showcase itself as a peace-abiding nation.**
 - **Portugal being member of NATO**
- These factors kept the Government of India from opening another front in which the international community could get involved.
- Besides, it was [Mahatma Gandhi's](#) opinion that a lot of groundwork was still needed in Goa to raise the consciousness of the people, and the diverse political voices emerging within should be brought under a common umbrella first.
- The dichotomies within the groups fighting (**Satyagraha vs Military Action**) for freedom in Goa, also led to delay in liberation of Goa.
 - The idea of satyagraha emphasised the **power of truth and the need to search for truth**.
 - It suggested that if the cause was true, if the struggle was against injustice, then **physical force was not necessary** to fight the oppressor.

What are the Salient Features of Goa's Geography?

- **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.
- **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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