

GOA AT A GLANCE

Goa is India's smallest State by area and the fourth smallest by population. Located in South West India in the region known as the Konkan, it is bounded by the State of Maharashtra to the North and by Karnataka to the East and South, while the Arabian Sea forms its western coast. Goa is India's richest State with a GDP per capita two and a half times that of the country as a whole. It was ranked the best placed State by the Eleventh Finance Commission for its infrastructure and ranked on top for the best quality of life in India by the National Commission on Population based on the 12 Indicators.

Panaji is the State's capital, while Vasco da Gama is the largest city. The history city of Margao still exhibits the cultural influence of the Portuguese, who first landed in the early 16th century as merchants and conquered it soon thereafter.

Renowned for its beaches, places of worship and world heritage architecture, Goa is visited by large numbers of International and domestic tourists each year. It also has rich flora and fauna, owing to its location on the Western Ghats range, which is classified as a biodiversity hotspot.



The State of Goa stretches over an area of 3,702 sq. km., 1,736 sq. km. in North Goa and 1,966 sq. km. in South Goa. With the Arabian Sea on the west of its 100 km coastline, Goa has some of the most scenic beaches with a fringe of palm trees along its shores.

Goa is divided for administrative purpose into two Districts, North Goa & South Goa. There are 11 Talukas or CD Blocks; 6 in North Goa and 5 in South Goa. According to the 2001 Census the total population of Goa was 13,43,998. North Goa: 7,57,407 and South Goa: 5,86,591. There are 209 inhabited villages in North Goa & 138 in South Goa; totaling to 347 inhabited villages in the State of Goa. There are a total of 188 Panchayat with 119 in the North Goa District and 69 in the South Goa. There are 14 Municipal Towns with 7 each in North & South Goa and 30 Census Towns with 20 in North Goa and 10 in South Goa.

The State of Goa has 40 Vidhan Sabha seats, 2 Lok Sabha seats and 1 Rajya Sabha seat. Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule as late as 1961 and the last census that was conducted by the Portuguese administration was in 1960. The subsequent censuses from 1971 followed the Indian pattern of decadal census. Goa was a Union Territory right up till 1987, when Goa was declared the 25th State in India.