

## **SPEECH OF GOA STATEHOOD DAY**

My Dear People of Goa,

1. On the joyous occasion of Goa Statehood Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to every Goan across our State and around the world.
2. Today, we celebrate not merely a constitutional milestone, but the spirit, identity, and aspirations of Goa and its people. Statehood Day reminds us of the democratic journey through which Goa secured its rightful place as the 25th State of the Indian Union in 1987. It stands as a proud tribute to the vision, determination, and sacrifices of generations who preserved Goa's unique cultural soul while embracing progress and modernity.
3. Goa is far more than a beautiful destination. It is a living example of harmony, literacy, social development, and peaceful coexistence. Our State has always demonstrated that development and heritage can go hand in hand; that tradition and innovation can complement each other.

4. Today, as India marches forward with confidence in the Amrit Kaal, Goa too stands at an important moment in its journey. The world around us is changing rapidly. Technology is transforming economies, climate challenges are becoming more visible, and societies everywhere are searching for models of sustainable and humane development. In this changing landscape, Goa has the opportunity to emerge as a leader — not only in tourism, but in knowledge, innovation, culture, sustainability, and quality of life.
  
5. We must therefore think beyond the Goa of today and prepare for the Goa of tomorrow. Our youth are talented, ambitious, and globally connected. We must empower them with quality education, skills, entrepreneurship opportunities, and a sense of responsibility toward society. The dreams of young Goans should find fulfilment here in their own homeland, where talent meets opportunity.
  
6. At the same time, we must preserve the priceless treasures entrusted to us — our rivers, forests, coastlines, villages, traditions, music, language, architecture, and community values. Development should strengthen our identity, not weaken it. A truly progressive Goa will be one

that grows economically while remaining environmentally conscious and culturally rooted.

7. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of every section of society — our farmers, fishermen, teachers, healthcare workers, government employees, entrepreneurs, artists, workers, and members of civil society. Your dedication forms the foundation of Goa's progress.
8. On this occasion, let us also reaffirm our collective commitment to constitutional values, public service, and social harmony. Goa has always shown that diversity is not a weakness but a strength. The spirit of mutual respect and communal harmony that defines our State must continue to guide future generations.
9. Every generation receives a Goa from the past, but it also carries the responsibility of shaping the Goa of the future. Let us therefore work together with unity, discipline, compassion, and vision — so that the coming decades become a golden chapter in the history of our State.

10. May Goa continue to prosper in peace, progress in confidence, and inspire the nation with its example.
11. On this proud occasion of Goa Statehood Day, I once again convey my best wishes to all citizens.

Jai Hind.

Jai Goa.