

# **STATEHOOD DAY SPEECH AT KALA ACADEMY**

**ON 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2026**

- The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan ji
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant ji
- Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Shri Shripad Naik ji,
- Hon'ble Speaker, Dr Ganesh Gaonkar ji,
- Hon'ble Members of the Council of Ministers,
- Hon'ble Leader of Opposition,
- Hon'ble Members of Parliament
- Hon'ble MLAs, Officers, Distinguished Dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to address you all on the proud and historic occasion of Goa Statehood Day.

2. Today is a day of deep significance for every Goan. On this day in 1987, Goa attained full statehood and became the 25<sup>th</sup> State of the Indian Union. This achievement was not merely an administrative transition; it was the recognition of Goa's unique identity, rich heritage, democratic aspirations, and the determination of its people.

3. As we celebrate this important milestone, we fondly remember the contributions of all those leaders, freedom fighters, social reformers, and ordinary citizens whose vision and perseverance shaped modern Goa. Their efforts laid the foundation for a State that today stands as one of India's most progressive, literate, peaceful, and culturally vibrant regions.

4. This occasion becomes even more special with the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Vice President of India. Sir, your presence among us today is a matter of great honour for the people of Goa. Through your distinguished public life and constitutional leadership, you continue to inspire citizens across the nation with your wisdom, simplicity, and unwavering commitment to democratic values.

5. I also extend my greetings to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his Government for their continued efforts toward the development and welfare of the State. Goa today is witnessing rapid progress in infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, education, digital governance, healthcare, and investment. At the same time,

there is a conscious effort to preserve the unique ecological and cultural character that defines Goa.

6. Goa occupies a very special place in India's national life. Though geographically small, its contributions are immense. Goa has always been a meeting point of cultures and ideas — a land where diversity thrives naturally. The spirit of harmony, tolerance, and coexistence visible in Goa is truly an example for the entire nation.

7. Today, as India moves forward confidently in the Amrit Kaal under the vision of a developed India by 2047, Goa too has the opportunity to become a model State for sustainable and inclusive growth. The future of Goa lies not only in its scenic beauty and tourism potential, but also in the strength of its human capital, innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge economy, and environmental stewardship.

8. Our youth are central to this journey. They are talented, ambitious, and capable of leading Goa into a new era of opportunity and excellence. We must create conditions where young Goans can pursue their aspirations while remaining connected to the values and traditions that define this land.

9. At the same time, development must be balanced with responsibility. Goa's rivers, forests, coastlines, heritage structures, villages, and community life are precious assets that must be protected for future generations. Progress becomes meaningful only when it remains sustainable and humane.

**My dear Goans,**

10. Statehood Day is not only a celebration of the past, but also a reminder of our collective responsibility toward the future. The strength of Goa has always been its people — hardworking, resilient, educated, and socially conscious. If we continue to work together with unity, mutual respect, and a spirit of public service, Goa will continue to shine as one of the finest examples of progress and harmony in our nation.

11. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all the people of Goa.

12. May Goa continue to prosper in peace, pride, and progress.

**Jai Hind.**

**Jai Goa.**