

Politics and history in Goa

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Recently, Prime Minister launched an attack on Nehru's decisions during Portuguese rule and accuses Congress of apathy towards Goa.



[Ref: In Goa 24*7]

Goa's freedom movement

- Goa became a **Portuguese colony** in 1510, after defeating the forces of the **sultan of Bjiapur, Yusuf Adil Shah**.
- It witnessed an **upsurge of nationalist sentiment** opposed to Portugal's colonial rule during the twentieth century.
 - Various **revolts** erupted against Portuguese when they persecuted Hindus and Goan Catholics, suppressed the Konkani language, and introduced many laws.
- The movement gained momentum when in 1946 when the socialist leader **Ram Manohar Lohia** launched **first civil disobedience movement**.
 - It was characterised by a range of tactics including nonviolent demonstrations, revolutionary methods and diplomatic efforts.
- The **Portuguese firing** at Indian steamers and fishing boats in 1961 forced Indian government to launch a secret operation of Goa's freedom named '**Operation Vijay**'.
- Goa was **liberated** on December 19, **1961**, ending 450 years of colonial rule.

TAKING BACK CONTROL

While the British and French left India, the Portuguese continued to hold on to Goa, Daman and Diu. When Portugal ignored India's final ultimatum to lay down arms and surrender, the Indian Armed Forces launched a multi-pronged offensive to liberate Goa

LEADING TO LIBERATION

Nov 1961 | Lt Gen J N Chaudhari of the Southern Command entrusted Operation Vijay to Major General K P Candeth. Air operations were delegated to Air Vice Marshal Eric Pinto. Rear Admiral B S Soman, the then Flag Officer Commanding Indian Fleet, was the Naval theatre commander

Dec 1 | Indian Navy commences surveillance and reconnaissance exercise, Operation Chutney

Dec 2 | Indian Army finalised its ground assault plan

Dec 8 | Indian Air Force fighters and bombers carry out probing flights over Goa



Dec 11 | Indian Army troops arrive in Belgaum

Dec 17 | Capture of the border town Maulinguem in Bicholim after a brief skirmish

Dec 18 | D-Day. Combined tri-service assault commences

Dec 19 | Military operations end at 6pm. Portuguese governor general Vassalo e Silva surrenders at 8.30pm



Wireless station at Bambolim bombed



> Dabolim airfield bombed

> Three Indian Frigates – Betwa, Beas and Cauvery – steamed into Mormugao harbour and attack the Portuguese frigate, Afonso de Albuquerque



It was in 1957, in a letter to Vinoba Bhave, that Jawaharlal Nehru first hinted at the possibility of military action



Operation Vijay of 1961 is India's first tri-service 'integrated' military operation

Major General (later Lieutenant General) K P Candeth was appointed as the military governor of Goa



Armed guerrillas, satyagrahis, journalists and even legendary film artistes fought for Goa's independence

The cumulative casualties on the Indian side were 34 dead and 51 wounded; while there were 31 killed and 57 wounded on the Portuguese side, apart from the surrender of 4,669 prisoners



[Ref: TimesofIndia]

The issues in liberating Goa

- **Post-independence crisis:**
 - The **trauma of Partition** and **war with Pakistan**, kept the Government of India from opening another front in which the international community could get involved.
- **Failed Negotiations:**
 - The Portuguese claimed that **India had no rights** to this territory because the Republic of India did not exist at the time when Goa came under Portuguese rule.
- **Lack of Political Unity**
 - According to Gandhi, there was a need to raise a **unified political consciousness** to bring the diverse political voices under a common umbrella.
- **India could not launch a military attack on Goa as it was part of NATO.**
 - Portugal had changed its constitution in 1951 to claim Goa as an **overseas province**.
 - **Aim:** to make Goa a part of the newly formed North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) military alliance.
 - The **collective security clause** of the treaty would be triggered in the event of an attack by India.