

Politics and history in Goa

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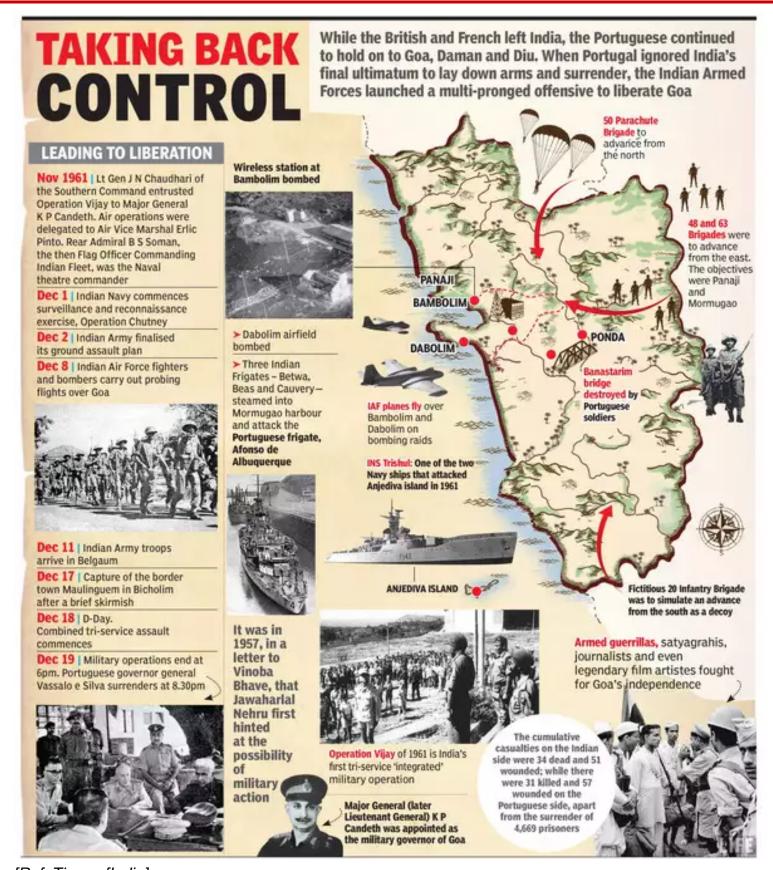
Recently, Prime Minister launched an attack on Nehru's decisions during Portuguese rule and accuses Congress of apathy towards Goa.



[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.



[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.