

## **Statehood Day Usher in New Vistas of Development By Naguesh .S. Sardessai**

"We are unnecessarily wasting our precious resources in war. If we must wage war, we have to do it on unemployment, disease, poverty and backwardness" rightly said by former Prime Minister, the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Goa, the picturesque coastal state in the western part of India is all set to celebrate its 36<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023. As the sun rises over the beautiful State the air is filled with a festive buzz. The journey from the liberation of the territory from the colonial Portuguese power on 19th Dec 1961 to a centrally administered territory along with Daman and Diu for nearly three and half decades to the territory getting the status of a state on **May 30<sup>th</sup>** 1987. Goa has come a long way in every sphere thereby ushering in peace and prosperity all through. **Today** Goa has the highest per capita income in the country. As we take a walk down the memory lane we find that the territory **today** has become a global hub for national and international seminars and conferences to sporting and even cultural extravaganza. From G20 to SCO meet to the IFFI to World cup football U17 Goa has had foreign tourists and guests in big numbers. The upcoming 37th edition of the National Games will catapult the state into a destination of the National sporting pride.

The dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat of the Prime Minister Shri Narendraji Modi to the Swayampurna Goem of our Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has resulted in average Goan speaking the language of an entrepreneur in several domains. The imparting of skilling re-skilling and up- skilling has given rise to a new hope among the youth. The launching of coding and Robotics alongwith numerous start ups launched by our talented youth has opened up new vistas of progress, development and skill which has developed new capacity building alongwith zeal and enthusiasm.

On the infrastructure front Atal Setu alongwith the new Zuari Bridge and Manohar Parrikar Bypass highway alongwith Ayush Hospital and the setting up of International law institute, a new agriculture college alongwith forensic university and the IIT, NIT and institute of water sports and Hotel Management Institute have opened up new vistas of learning for our youth.

The recent launch of the Jal Amrut Yojana initiative to provide free and clean drinking water to every household in the state is a unique one in the Country. To develop tourism infrastructure in the state initiatives like night tourism and the development of new tourist destinations. On the health care front providing free medical services to the underprivileged and

implementing health insurance schemes. Social front has seen Government launching facilities for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities in a big way.

The women entrepreneurs have been provided financial incentives setting up of womens self help groups and launching a new scheme of sanitary pads to school girls. Goa is proving to be a wellness destination as well with health enthusiasts and wellness seekers worldwide. Yoga, meditation and spa treatments have come all over.

On the educational front the introduction of the National educational policy will commence from the coming academic year which will realise the true goal of creating well rounded individuals in the times ahead.

The slashing of fees coupled with numerous scholarships will create enthusiastic youngsters. The rising Gross enrolment ratio will also result in paying great dividends. The Divyangs have been well cared to and the successful hosting of purple fest alongwith a separate Dept for the disabilities welfare Will help in creating an inclusive environment

As we felicitate our greats Shri Vinayakji Khedekar and Pt Prabhakar Karekar with the prestigious award of the state the Gomant Vibhushan on this auspicious day we need to work hard and create a congenial environment to faciliate the all round growth of our people and follow the antodaya path of reaching to the last person in our villages to make Goa a model state in the Amrut kaal.

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