

## **Goa Celebrates 40 Years of Progress and Pride on Statehood Day**

**“There is no Viksit Bharat without Viksit Goa,” says Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan**

**“Goa’s rich history, sacrifice and progress continue to inspire the nation,” says CM Dr. Pramod Sawant**

Panaji: May 30, 2026

Goa marked its 40th Statehood Day with grandeur and pride at Kala Academy, Panaji, in the presence of Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, celebrating four decades of remarkable progress, rich cultural heritage and evolving identity since attaining statehood. The landmark event brought together people from all walks of life to honour Goa’s inspiring journey and shared aspirations for the future.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan said he was delighted to make his first official visit to Goa on such a momentous occasion. He praised Goa’s harmony of culture, heritage, education and civic consciousness, describing the state as a beautiful blend of ancient temples, magnificent churches and vibrant traditions.

Recalling former Defence Minister Late Manohar Parrikar, he appreciated Goa’s leadership and lauded the State Government for its transparent recruitment process, inclusive governance and sustainable development approach. Stressing the importance of balancing progress with identity, the Vice President stated that “there is no Viksit Bharat without Viksit Goa,” while encouraging the youth to use creativity as their greatest strength. He also expressed optimism about Goa’s future potential in the blue economy sector and paid tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives for Goa’s freedom.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant extended warm greetings to the people of Goa on the occasion of the 40th Statehood Day and thanked the Hon’ble Vice President for gracing the celebrations. Remembering the sacrifices of Goa’s freedom fighters, CM paid tribute to the brave individuals who fought for Goa’s liberation, recalling historic movements such as the Cuncolim Revolt and the contribution of revolutionary leaders like Deepaji Rane.

CM Dr. Sawant noted that Goa’s freedom struggle was strengthened not only by Goans, but also by patriots from across the country who stood united for Goa’s liberation during Operation Vijay. He further highlighted Goa’s rapid development across various sectors and spoke about the Government’s commitment towards building a self-reliant and progressive Goa through initiatives like Swayampurna Goa. He also mentioned the state’s expanding infrastructure projects highlighting the creation of Goa’s third district, Kushavati, as part of efforts to improve administration and governance.

The event featured the screening of a special documentary showcasing Goa’s inspiring transformation over the last four decades. Several key initiatives and recognitions marked the occasion, including the release of Padma Bhushan and

Padma Vibhushan Awardee and legendry Cartoonist Mario Miranda's commemorative stamp and special cover, and the launch of the coffee table book titled "Goa Engineering the Next Era."

The celebration featured the felicitation of Iconic brands of Goa which includes several eminent personalities and contributors from different sectors whose work has strengthened Goa's development journey over the years.

Eminent personalities in dairy farming were felicitated under the Gopal Ratna Award Scheme for their outstanding contribution as highest milk producers and suppliers, alongside the felicitation of Swayampurna Mitra and Swayampurna Villages for their exemplary community initiatives.

Appointment letters were distributed to selected new recruits, while enhanced assistance under the Dayanand Social Security Scheme (DDSSY) was also launched.

Among those present at the occasion were Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Governor of Goa; Shri Shripad Naik, Union Minister for State of power and new renewable energy; Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP; Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism; Shri Subhash Shirodkar, Minister for Water Resource Department; Shri Nilkanth Halarnkar, Minister for Fisheries, Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS, Chief Secretary along with MLAs, senior government officials, awardees, representatives from various sectors and citizens from across the State.

The event concluded on a patriotic and celebratory note, reflecting the collective pride, unity and aspirations of the people of Goa as the State marked four decades of progress, achievement and identity.

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