

## GOVERNOR EXTENDS INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

**Panaji: August 14, 2026**

Governor of Goa, PUSAPATI Ashok Gajapathi Raju has extended heartiest greetings and warm wishes to the people of Goa, fellow citizens across the country, and to all Indians residing abroad on the occasion of 80<sup>th</sup> Independence Day.

Governor in his message said that, “We proudly celebrate the freedom that our great nation attained on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. On this solemn occasion, we remember with deep gratitude the supreme sacrifices made by our freedom fighters who devoted their lives to the cause of our motherland. We pay our respectful homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhagat Singh and countless other known and unknown heroes whose courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment inspired the nation in its struggle for freedom”.

Governor further stated that, “The Independence we cherish today was achieved through decades of struggle, sacrifice and determination. Our freedom fighters dreamt of an India that would be sovereign, democratic, inclusive and just. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this hard-earned freedom and to work towards fulfilling their vision of a strong, prosperous and united India.

The celebration of Independence Day is not merely a commemoration of our past; it is also an occasion to reflect upon our responsibilities towards the future. As citizens, we must remain committed to the ideals enshrined in our Constitution and contribute towards building an India that is developed, self-reliant, inclusive and compassionate.

India today is moving forward with confidence and determination. Our achievements in science and technology, space exploration, digital innovation, infrastructure, education, healthcare, agriculture and other sectors have strengthened our position on the global stage. The vision of **Viksit Bharat** calls upon every citizen to become an active participant in the nation-building process.

Goa, though one of the smallest States in the country, has always made a contribution far greater than its size. Our State is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, educational institutions, tourism, entrepreneurship and vibrant social fabric. Goa has also continued to contribute meaningfully to the nation’s economic and social progress.

We also remember with pride the historic struggle for the liberation of Goa. The sacrifices and determination of the freedom fighters and the people of Goa ultimately led to the liberation of Goa on December 19, 1961. Their courage, patriotism and commitment remain an enduring source of inspiration for generations to come.

Goa has made significant progress in various fields and continues to aspire towards higher standards of development and human welfare. As a recent example of the spirit of service and community participation, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji, appreciated in his *Mann Ki Baat* programme the commendable efforts of Shri Balakrishna Aiya, a retired teacher from Canacona, for addressing the drinking-water needs of families in his locality through his personal initiative. His selfless efforts demonstrate how individual commitment and community participation can contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society.

Goa continues to strengthen its position as an attractive destination for investment and entrepreneurship. As per the report released by NITI Aayog, Goa has emerged among the top five States in the Investment Friendliness Index 2026, securing the fourth position in the country. This recognition reflects the State's efforts towards creating a conducive environment for investment, promoting entrepreneurship and generating new opportunities for employment. Our focus must remain on attracting responsible and sustainable investments that strengthen the local economy and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of Goa.

Governor stated that, "Our youth are the greatest strength and the future of our nation and our State. I urge our young people to dream big, pursue excellence, and embrace knowledge, innovation and technology while remaining firmly rooted in our rich cultural and ethical values. Their talent, energy and creativity can contribute meaningfully to society and to the building of a strong, prosperous and developed India".

We must also ensure that the benefits of development reach every section of society. The welfare and empowerment of women, children, senior citizens, and economically and socially disadvantaged sections must remain among our foremost priorities. A truly developed society is one in which progress is accompanied by dignity, equality, social justice and equal opportunities for all.

Environmental protection is another area that demands our collective attention. Goa's forests, rivers, beaches, wetlands and biodiversity constitute our precious natural heritage. Development and environmental sustainability must go hand in hand. He appealed to every citizen to adopt responsible and sustainable practices and to join hands in protecting Goa's environment for future generations.

The strength of India lies in its unity in diversity. Goa beautifully reflects this spirit through its harmonious blend of cultures, languages, traditions and communities. Let us continue to preserve this spirit of communal harmony, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, which is among our greatest strengths, he added.

On this Independence Day, let us renew our pledge to uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of our nation. Let us discharge our duties as responsible citizens, respect the rule of law, protect public property, care for our environment and extend compassion and assistance to those in need.

Governor has called upon the people of Goa to work together with dedication and a spirit of service to build a Goa that is prosperous, peaceful, sustainable and inclusive and to contribute to the making of a strong, developed and self-reliant India.

"Let us remember that nation-building is not the responsibility of the Government alone. Every citizen has an important role to play. Our small acts of responsibility, honesty, discipline and service, when multiplied across society, can bring about transformative change," he added.

"As we celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> year of our Independence, let us look towards the future with confidence, hope and determination. Let us honour the sacrifices of our freedom fighters by building a nation worthy of their dreams and sacrifices and by leaving behind a stronger and more prosperous India for generations to come" Governor concluded.

**Jai Hind!**

**DIP/NB/AXP/SGN/UB/SN/2026/510**

--

-----  
Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

Department of Information & Publicity,  
Government of Goa,  
Udyog Bhavan, Third Floor,  
Near Azad Maidan,  
Panaji – Goa.