

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme	: Bachelor of Commerce (First Year)
Subject	: Geography
Course Code	: GEO - 02/16
Course Title	: Geography of Commercial Activities
Unit	: IV
Module Name	: Introduction to Geography of Goa
Name of the Presenter	: Mr. Anand S. Velip

Notes

Introduction

Goa, one of the most beautiful coastal states of India, situated on the western margins of the country. It is the smallest state which comprises 0.11 % land area & approximately 0.13% of population of our country.



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Physiographic Setting

Location & Extent

The state of Goa is located between the states of Maharashtra & Karnataka along the Arabian Sea. Its absolute position extends between 14° 53' 59" to 15° 47' 59" N Latitude and 73° 40' 53" to 74° 20' 11" E Longitude. Goa covers an area of 3702 sq. km. Its North –South distance is about 120 km while East – West length admeasures 65 km. The total coast line is around 105 km while land frontier extends up to 183 km.

The neighbouring districts are Sindhudurg in North, Belgaum in North–East & Karwar in East and South

Relief Features

The state of Goa can be divided into 4 physiographic divisions by considering its topographic characteristics. These divisions are as follows

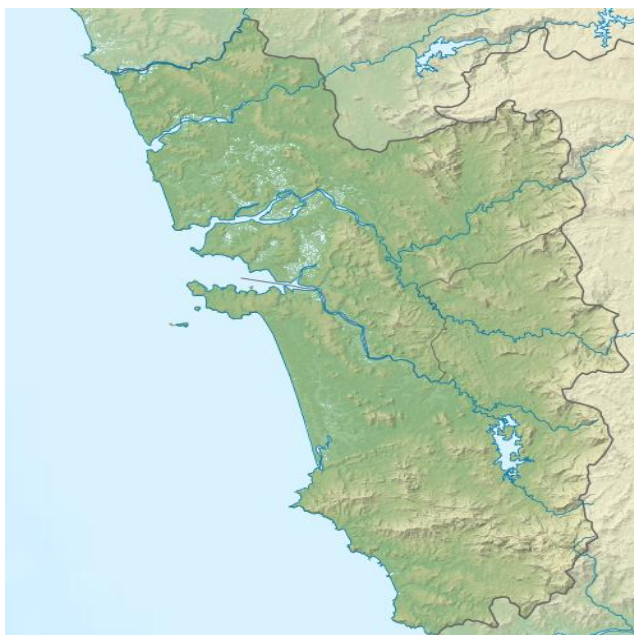
1. Western Ghats or Sahyadri – A continuous hill chains of Western Ghats lies all along the eastern talukas of Goa with their protrusion extending up to Arabian Sea coast in some cases. It covers about 16% area of the state. The average height of this land is about 600 m. Sosogod is the highest peak admeasuring 1022m above mean sea level. Besides this, other important peaks are Morlemgad, Katalachi Mauli and Vagheri Dongor.

2. Central Plateau Land – This highland covers about 37% area having the average height of 30 – 100 m. It is highly dissected land criss-crossed by river

systems of Goa. Due to location of minerals, this belt has assumed lot of significance.

3. River Basins & lowlands – The low lying area drained by river systems in Goa covers about 36% area. This is highly fertile land in the region.

4. Coastal Plains & Islands – This is one of the most spectacular patches of the land which comprises about 11% state's area. Beautiful beaches, estuaries, mud flats, mangroves, islands are chief features.



Source - Goa relief map.svg retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Goa_relief_map.svg licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license

Climate

Goa enjoys tropical maritime monsoonal climate with profound orographic influence on its character. The average annual rainfall ranges between 250 and 350 cm with July being heaviest month followed by August.

Being tropical in location, the temperature hovers between 20⁰C and 36⁰C with a seasonal variation. Low diurnal (4^o - 6^oC) & annual (10^o - 20^oC) range of temperature due to maritime location is an important feature.

There are 3 distinct seasons namely Rainy (June – Oct), Winter (Nov – Mid Feb) & Summer (Mid Feb – May)

River System

Goa has well developed river system along with lakes, springs and wells. The important rivers that drain the land include Mandovi, Zuari, Terekhol, Chapora, Sal, Talpona, Galgibag, Saleri, Harmal, Mandrem and Baga.

River Mandovi & Zuari are considered to be lifelines of Goa which draining in each district runs for about 81km & 67 km respectively. All these rivers are short distance channels since Western Ghats runs very close to the Arabian Sea.

Soils

Soils found in Goa can be categorized into 5 different types.

- **Laterite Soil** – It covers 81% of the land. The soil is highly porous, acidic in character. However it is low in organic matter, calcium and phosphorous.
- **Alluvial Soil** – This soil has surficial area of 3.4%. The soil is well drained, acidic and low in organic matter.
- **Sandy Coastal Soil** – With 3.2% areal coverage, this soil is characterized by well drained structure with low pH and high organic matter. However it is deficient in phosphate & potash.

- **Saline Soil** – It covers 4.2% area having deep but with poor porosity. The soil has high pH and high salinity.
- **Marshy Soil** – The soil is mostly found in the talukas of Salcete, Quepem, Bardez and Canacona. It is fine grained soil with less porosity. Poor porosity makes the area waterlogged. It covers about 8% area of the state.

Natural Vegetation

The state of Goa is endowed with 4 types of forest.

- **Evergreen & Semi-Evergreen Forest** – confined to high rainfall areas of Western Ghats generally above 500 m
- **Moist Deciduous Forest** – It constitutes commercially important varieties like teak, jamun. The forest lies mostly between the heights of 200 and 500 m and is bordered by dry deciduous varieties at 150 – 200 m.
- **Scrub & Thorny Vegetation**– lies on plateaus & undulating terrain of the state at the height of 50 to 150m. This is highly degraded patch of the land.
- **Littoral/Tidal Forest** – It is confined in narrow belt along the coast and at river mouths. This forest comprises mostly mangroves, coconut & salt resisting varieties.

Cultural Setting

Population Distribution

As per 2011 census, Goa had population of 1458545 which is grown at the rate of 8.23 % over 2001 census. Among the districts, North Goa comprised about 818008 while South Goa comprised 640537 people.

The largest taluka in terms of population was Salcete constituting 294464 people followed by Bardez (237440) and Tiswadi (177219). The lowest population was witnessed in Canacona (45172) Sattari (63817) and Sanguem (65147).

Population Distribution By Density

Though the state has about 0.13 % of country's population, the density of population (394) was higher than the national average (382) in 2011.

The densest taluka in the state is Mormugao with a density of 1416 p.p.sq.km. while lowest was observed in Sanguem (65 p.p.sq.km.). More densely populated talukas are in coastal stretch which includes Mormugao, Bardez, Salcete, Tiswadi and Ponda. Eastern hilly talukas comprising Sattari, Sanguem, Dharbandora, and Canacona have low density of population while remaining talukas have moderate density.

Literacy

As per 2011 data, Goa had 88.70% literacy which is greater than country's total of 72.98%. With 89.57%, North Goa stands higher than South Goa (87.59%).

Linguistic Characteristics

Population migration in the state of Goa has made it linguistically diverse making Goa a 'Mini India.' More than 46 languages are spoken in the state.

Konkani is the mother tongue of Goans and Marathi is spoken by the sizeable number of people. Other languages spoken by sizeable population include Kannada, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, English and Bengali.

Religious Composition

As per census 2011, Hinduism constitutes 66.08% of Goa population. Christian Population in Goa was 25.10% while Muslim comprised 8.33%. The proportion of other religion people was less than 1%