

PART IV

GOA, NOT JUST FOR A HOLIDAY

Goa, a former Portuguese colony, lies south of Maharashtra and became the 25th state of India in 1987. It's one million people, on a small coastal territory of 3,702 square kilometres, speak Konkani and Marathi. The state capital of this tourist destination is Panaji.

1. SECTORS:

Goa is very rich in mineral wealth consisting of iron ore, manganese, ferro-manganese, bauxite, and silica sand. The mining industry contributes substantially to the economy of the state. In India, iron ore produced during 1988-89 was 48.9 million tonnes, of which Goa was the major iron ore producing state, contributing nearly 25% of the total output.

From mining alone, the industrial activity of the territory has diversified into tourism, electronics, automobile accessories, pharmaceuticals, and agro-chemicals.

The state of Goa with its pollution free environment, international sea and airports and excellent infrastructure, offers itself as an ideal state for the establishment and growth of the electronics industry. The Government of Goa has declared the state an "electronic state" and established an "electronics city". An estimated \$26.7 million (cdn) is being invested to develop the basic infrastructure and common facilities for the electronics city. An almost equal amount will be invested to develop it into a growth centre.

Goa has made strides in tourism. It provides an ideal location with lush green fields and miles of Golden sand and beaches. It has scenic surroundings and the country's best climatic conditions with

Maximum temperature (May) 33.5 degrees C.

Minimum temperature (January) 20.9 degrees C.

Monsoon June-October

The state offers a choice of modern urban amenities including moderately priced to luxury 5 star hotels.

For centuries Goa has featured as a port-of-call on the trade-rich east-west routes. During the late 19th century, the foundations of Mormugao harbour were laid. Mormugao port, the major cargo port of Goa handles mostly iron ore but also handles general cargo. Imports handled range from chemicals, fertilizers and cement to food grains, machinery and logs, while exports were mainly oil cakes, sugar, shrimps, alumina besides iron ore. There has been a steady increase in the tonnage of global traffic handled by the Mormugao port, especially in the last 15 years. Currently the main trading areas are Japan, South Korea and Taiwan in S.E. Asia, Romania and Poland in East Europe, U.K., Italy and Germany in West Europe, U.S.S.R., U.S.A. and several countries in Africa and Middle East.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE:

Ports: Panaji and Mormugao are the two main ports in the state.

Aviation: Bombay, Delhi, Belgaum and Bangalore are air linked to Dabolim airport through Indian Airlines services. Since Air India operates flights to the Gulf and Europe from Dabolim, Goa is now on the international map.