

Mozambique: Al Shabab Attack, Help by Algeria

March 8, 2024

INDIAN INTEREST *and increase in RADICALISM in Mozambique*: Three Indian **Public Sector Undertakings** (PSUs) hold a 30% stake in the Mozambique **Liquefied Natural Gas** (LNG) project, which requires an investment of \$20 Bn.

The project originated in 2010 with the discovery of substantial LNG reserves off the northern Mozambique coast, in the northern **Cabo Delgado** province. The Area 1 block holds around **75 Trillion Cubic Feet** (TnCF) of recoverable gas, promising a resource life of about 120 years. The initial production rate is estimated at **12.88 Million Tonne** (MnT)s of LNG per year.

The project is being delayed due to attacks by the local al-Shabab militia, having links to the wider Islamic State (IS) group. Radicalism in Mozambique is becoming worse. The al-Shabab militia is getting more recruits, not only from Cabo Delgado, but from other provinces also. Boats full of young men, from other provinces, are coming to Cabo Delgado for joining the militia.

March 8, 2024: **Maputo, Mozambique**: Insurgency in **Cabo Delgado Province**: An **Islamic State** (IS)-affiliated group has launched a surge of attacks. These attacks have left more than **70 children missing**, with fears that they may have drowned in a river or been kidnapped by militants.



People's Republic of Mozambique, a member of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, the Southern African Development Community, and, an observer at La Francophonie

Capital and largest city: **Maputo**; Other 5: **Matola, Nampula, Beira, Chimoio, Tete**
Population (2023 Estimate): 34.2 Mn (45th); Area: 801,590 Km² (35th); Density: 28.7/Km²
GDP (2023 Estimate): \$21.94 Bn (128th); GDP/ capita \$647 (185th)

Over 700,000 people have fled the region, seeking safety in neighboring provinces. Nearly a million people are facing **severe hunger, highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian assistance.**

MYSTERY DISEASE affecting CATTLE: In January 2024, a mystery disease killed hundreds of cattle in Mozambique, impacting adversely on livelihoods and food security in affected areas.



The province of Cabo Delgado (in the North) of Mozambique

“Algeria has pledged that it will support Mozambique in its fight against terrorism in the northern province of Cabo Delgado,” said **Filipe Nyusi**, the Mozambican President made the announcement on Sunday, March 2, 2024, after a four-day working visit to Algeria.



Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, the President (since 19 December 2019) of **Algeria

Even while the two Governments work out a detailed plan for the help, the Algerian government has promised immediate support in individual equipment for members of the local militias who are fighting the terrorists alongside the armed forces. Since July 2021 troops from **Rwanda** and the **Southern African Development Community** are deployed in support of the Mozambican army. (During the **Mozambican independence war**, Mozambique’s fighters received training in Algeria in the 1960s.)



***Filipe Nyusi**, the Mozambican President*

The **hydrocarbon** and **ruby-rich Cabo Delgado** province has been facing attacks for six years. A number of **multi-national companies** are working in the province.

---A BACKGROUNDER on Portugal's EXPLORATIONS---



Members of the **Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)**

The **Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)** was created on July 17, 1996, at the Lisbon Constitutive Summit, with seven member countries: **Portugal, Brazil**, Angola, Cape Verde, **Guinea-Bissau**, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

East Timor (Timor-Leste) joined the community in 2002 after gaining independence.

Two countries, which are **Associate Observers** are **Mauritius** and **Senegal**.

Equatorial Guinea is a small country located in Central Africa. Its name reflects the country's location near both **the equator and the Gulf of Guinea**.

Equatorial Guinea is a former Spanish colony, and **Spanish is the first official language, followed by French**. A new law drafted in 2011 declared **Portuguese the third official language**.

Besides Portuguese as an official language, **other requirements for joining CPLP included political reforms to give room for effective democracy and respect for human rights**.

President Obiang made efforts in 2007 to improve communications, trade, and bilateral relations with Portuguese-speaking countries.

Equatorial Guinea joined the organization following its approval at the 10th CPLP Heads of State Summit in Dili, East Timor on July 23, 2014.

The 10th Summit also saw the **re-incorporation of Guinea-Bissau as a full member of the CPLP, after its suspension following a coup d'état in April 2012**. Guinea-Bissau was readmitted in the wake of the country's recent presidential and legislative elections, and the transition of the CPLP's presidency from President of Mozambique, **Armando Guebuza**, to the President of East Timor, **Matan Ruak**, who will be in office for the next two years.

The nation-states with **Portuguese as an official language in Africa** are referred to by the acronym PALOP (**Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa**) and include the following: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and Equatorial Guinea.

New Observer Countries: In addition to new member Equatorial Guinea, the CPLP's July 2014 summit also admitted four new Associate Observer countries: **Georgia, Japan, Namibia, and Turkey**.

----A Brief BACKGROUNDER on **Portugal's COLONIES**----

The Portuguese colonial empire was **the first and the last** European empire overseas, from the **conquest of Ceuta (1415)**, in Morocco, North Africa, until the formal handover of **Macau to the People's Republic of China (1999)**.

From the coastline excursions in Africa and the gradual establishment of trade routes in Asia and in the Indian Ocean and the related emergence of the **Estado da Índia** (*the Portuguese empire east of the Cape of Good Hope*), to the colonization projects in the Americas, namely, in Brazil, and, in the second half of the 19th century, in Africa, the Portuguese empire assumed diverse configurations.

The Portuguese Empire originated at the beginning of the **Age of Discovery**, and the power and influence of the Kingdom of Portugal would eventually expand across the globe. The Portuguese colonial empire was the first and the last European empire overseas, from **the conquest of Ceuta (1415), in Morocco, North Africa**, until the formal **handover of Macau to the People's Republic of China (1999)**.

In Africa, actual colonization was a belated and convoluted process, which started and ended with violent conflicts, the so-called **Pacification Campaigns of the 1890s**, and the **Liberation Wars of the 1960s and 1970s**. In **Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde**, and **São Tomé and Príncipe**, the Portuguese enacted numerous modalities of formalized rule. However, until the very end, coercive labor and tax exactions, racial discrimination, authoritarian politics, and economic exploitation were the fundamental pillars of Portuguese colonialism in Africa.

Country	Population ^[9]	Area (km ²)	GDP (nominal) per capita	Percentage of Lusophones
 Angola	35,678,572	1.247.000	1.953,53	71%
 Cape Verde	587,925	4.033	3.293,23	87%
 Equatorial Guinea	1,468,777	28.050	14.637,01	Unknown
 Guinea-Bissau	2,095,887	36.126	795,12	57%
 Mozambique	20,069,738	801.590	466,557	60%
 São Tomé and Príncipe	204,454	963.5	526,7	91%
Total	60,105,353	20,894,055	21,672,147	

The major earthquake of 1755 led to loss of lives and property in Lisbon. As it was being re-built, in 1761, slavery was banned in Portugal, though it continued in the colonies.

----A BACKGROUNDER on Portugal's EXPLORATIONS in the EAST----



The voyages of **Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama (1497–99, 1502–03, 1524)** opened the sea route from western Europe to Asia by way of the Cape of Good Hope. For almost a century (1500–1600), the Portuguese held a monopoly on European exploration and trade in the Indian Ocean.

PORTUGUESE INDIA (parts of India which were under Portuguese rule *during 1505 to December 1961*):

GOA (a defensible island site with excellent harbor facilities): Goa was Portugal's first territorial possession in Asia, captured by **Afonso de Albuquerque in 1510**, and it served as the main Portuguese base in the East for four and a half centuries. Portuguese men settled in Goa as farmers, retail traders, or artisans. These men and their descendants soon became a privileged caste, and Goa acquired a large **Eurasian population**.

Albuquerque and later colonial administrators left almost untouched the customs and constitutions of the **30 village communities**, on the island; only the rite of suttee was abolished. (*Reference: 1526: "Charter of Usages and Customs"*)



Areas affected by Portuguese attacks, at various times

As the capital of Portugal’s eastern empire, Goa was granted the same civic privileges as Lisbon. **Its senate, or municipal chamber, maintained direct communications with the King and paid a special representative to attend to its interests at court.** The city reached the climax of its prosperity between 1575 and 1625. The splendor of **Goa Dourada** (“Golden Goa”) inspired the Portuguese proverb, “**He who has seen Goa need not see Lisbon.**” Merchandise from all parts of the Portuguese empire was displayed in Goa’s bazaar, and **separate streets** were set aside for the sale of different classes of goods:

- pearls and coral from Bahrain,
- Chinese porcelain and silk,
- Portuguese velvet and finished textiles, and medicines and,
- spices from the Malay Archipelago.

In the main street, slaves from Portugal’s African colonies were sold at auction.

PORTUGUESE India (parts of **India**, under Portuguese rule during 1505 to December 1961): Portuguese rule in India consisted of several isolated tracts: (1) the territory of **Goa** with the capital, **Panjim** – on the west coast of India; (2) **Damão**, or **Daman**, with the **separated territories of Dadrá and Nagar Haveli**, north of Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and lying between the Indian States of Maharashtra and Gujarat; (3) **Diu**, with **Pani Kota Island**, on the **southern coast of the Kathiawar Peninsula** in Gujarat state.

The total area under Portuguese control was 4,193 Km². Goa accounted for the bulk of Portuguese India in terms of both territory and population.

For judicial purposes, **the province of Goa also included Macau in China and Timor in the Malay Archipelago.**

Portuguese India formed a single administrative province under a Governor-General and a single ecclesiastical province subject to the Archbishop of Goa, who was also Primate of the East.



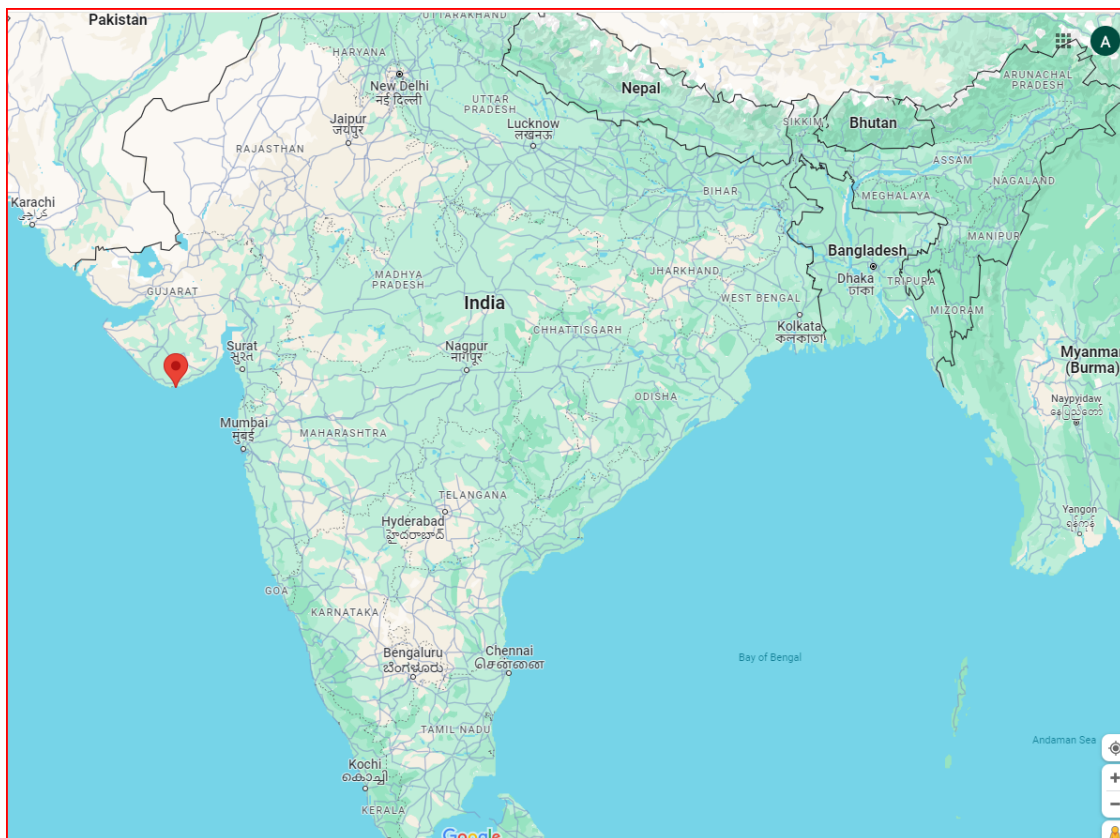
The Conquistas of Goa. Red: Velhas Conquistas (1510-1546). Cream: Novas Conquistas (1763-1788)

Elsewhere in India, the Portuguese had constructed a fort at Diu, an important port that commanded the commercial and pilgrimage routes between India and the

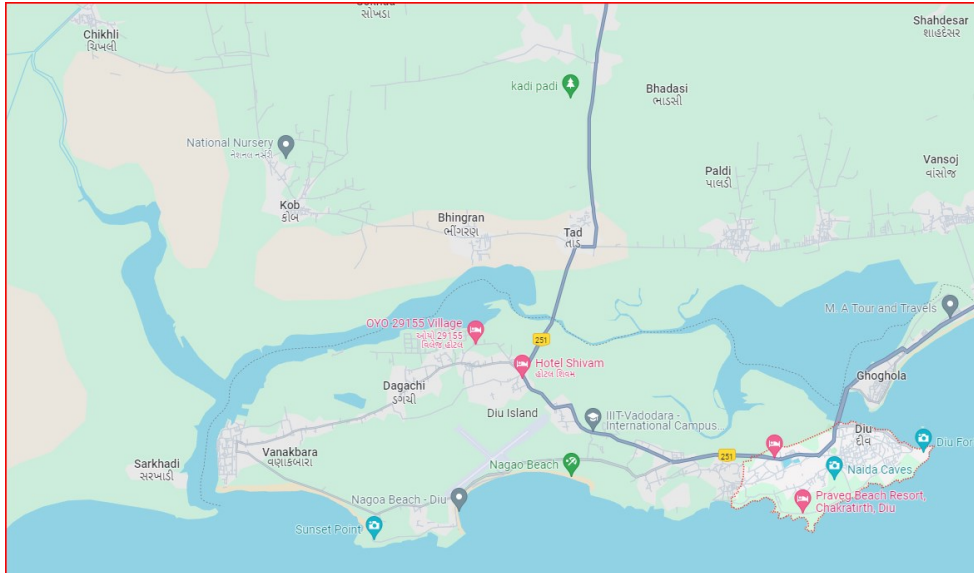
Middle East. By the mid-1550s, all Gujarati ships entering and leaving the Gulf of Khambhat, were being required to pay Portuguese duties at Diu.



Entry Ramparts to the Diu Fort



Location of **Diu** (an island in Kathiawad peninsula) wrt **Goa** (below Mumbai)



Diu island and the Diu Fort (right of the island)

KINGDOM of **CAMBAY**: Cambay was a flourishing port city, the seat of an extensive trade, and celebrated for its manufactures of silk, chintz and gold stuffs. Indigo and fine **buckram** were particular products of the region, but much cotton and leather were exported through Cambay. **Buckram** is a stiff cotton (occasionally linen) cloth with a plain, usually loose, weave, produced in various weights similar to muslin and other plain weave fabrics. For **buckram**, the fabric is soaked in a **sizing agent such as wheat-starch paste, glue (such as PVA glue), or pyroxylin (gelatinized nitrocellulose, developed around 1910)**, then dried. When rewetted or warmed, it can be shaped to create durable firm fabric for book covers, hats, and elements of clothing. In bookbinding, **buckram** is **highly durable**, **buckram** does not allow the bookbinder's paste to seep through and cause discoloration or stains on the book's front and back covers.

In the Middle Ages, "**bokeram**" designated a **fine cotton cloth**, not **stiff cloth**.

Many ships from the **Kingdom of Cambaya** sailed to the **Sultanate of Mogadishu** in the Horn of Africa with cloths and spices for which they in return received gold, wax and ivory.

Owing principally to the gradually increasing difficulty of access by water by the silting up of the gulf, its commerce has long since fallen away, and Cambay became poor and dilapidated. The spring tides rise upwards of 10 m and in a channel usually so shallow that it is a serious danger to shipping.

RICH ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE of **CAMBAY**: The houses in many instances are built of stone (a circumstance which indicates the former wealth of Cambay, as the material had to be brought from a very considerable distance); and remains of **a brick wall, 5 Km in circumference, which formerly surrounded Cambay, enclose four large reservoirs of good water and three bazaars**. To the southeast there are very extensive ruins of subterranean temples and other buildings, half-buried in the sand, by which the ancient City was overwhelmed. These temples belong to the Jains and contain two massive statues of their deities: one black, the other white. **The principal one**, as the inscription intimates, is white **Pariswanath** or **Parswanath**; the black one has the date of **1651** inscribed.

The DECLINE of PORTUGUESE India: The **Dutch blockaded Goa in 1603 and 1639**, though Goa was never captured.

In 1635, Goa was ravaged by an epidemic.

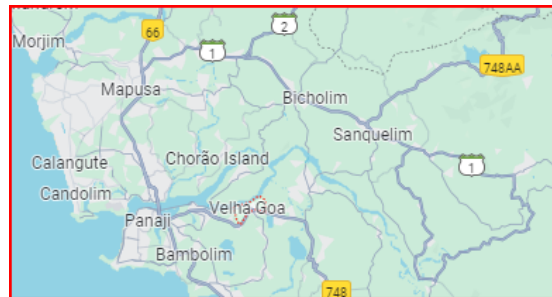
Trade in Portuguese India was gradually monopolized by the Jesuits, and chroniclers throughout the late 17th century described the ever-increasing poverty and decay in areas under Portuguese control.

In 1683 only the timely appearance of a Mughal army saved Goa from capture by Marathas.

In 1739 the entire territory of Goa was attacked by the Marathas, and only the unexpected arrival of a new Viceroy, with a fleet, headed off military disaster.

The peril of capture by Marathas was imminent until **1759, when a peace treaty with the Marathas** was concluded.

In the same year, **1759, the seat of government was changed to Panjim (Panaji)** from Velha Goa.



Between 1695 and 1775 the population of Goa, a city that had rivaled Lisbon, dwindled from 20,000 to 1,600. By 1835 the old city of Goa was inhabited by only a handful of priests, monks, and nuns.

With the end of the British rule in India in 1947, and the quiet **handing over of former French settlements in 1949–54**, there was a natural desire by the nascent Republic of India to absorb the Portuguese territories as well.

In the Portuguese territories, Four and a half centuries of intermarriage and the influence of the Roman Catholic Church had produced **a distinctive racial, cultural, religious, and linguistic group, especially in Old Goa** itself.

In August 1961 Dadrá and Nagar Haveli were incorporated into India, but Portugal rejected India's demands for the cession of its remaining holdings.

Border clashes intensified beginning in September 1961, and **on November 26 the Portuguese government reported that it had repulsed an attack on Anjediv Island off the coast of Goa. On December 11 Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru declared that "India's patience was exhausted."**

Over the following week, Western diplomats urged restraint, but **on December 18, 1961, Indian forces invaded Goa, Daman, and Diu. Portuguese India ceased to exist the following day** with the end of active resistance to Indian rule.

Portugal appealed its case to the United Nations Security Council, but it was blocked by a Soviet veto.

The former Portuguese territories were incorporated into India as the Union Territory of Goa, Daman, and Diu. In 1987 Goa was separated from the union territory and was made India's 25th state.
