

Goa Movements and Freedom

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The Portuguese invaded Goa in 1510, and rule it for over four centuries', subjecting Goans to the most diabolic torture. By 1540, they 'started the bloodiest period of inquisition and persecution. of Hindus and Goan Catholics, as well as the suppression of the Konkani language. They destroyed Hindu temples and placed prohibitions on Hindu marriage rituals.

The liberation of Goa was very much in the heart and mind of the then Prime Minister of Bharat. To Nehru in 1946, "Goa was a small pimple on the beautiful face of Bharat and it would not take Much time to pinch after Bharat gained its independence". But in the late 50's it became, evident that Portugal was hell-bent on retaining Goa at all costs. Bharat became a victim of its non-violent philosophy and Nehru faced, the dilemma of 'To use or not to use - force'.

18 June 1946, was the beginning of the end of the Portuguese rule in Bharat; 71 Years ago, the first cry for freedom emanated from the streets and sands of Goa. Freedom fighter, nationalist and socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia launched a movement to fight for the lost civil liberties of the Goans.

June 18, 1946, defying the ban on public meetings, Lohia launched the Civil Disobedience Movement. June 18 movement was a movement to gain back the lost civil liberties. Dr. Lohia along with Dr. Julia Menezes arrived in a horse carriage at the venue. The Portuguese police had planted their people all Over. The moment Dr. Lohia highlighted from his carriage and took out the speech, the Portuguese officer hurled a a pistol at him which Lohia brushed aside and was about to give his speech, that is when they arrested him and lodged him in the Margaon Police Station.

It was the' of people like Prabhakar Vitthal Sinari that lived on to Ultimately, liberate Goa from the Portuguese. Sinari along with revolutionaries like Prabhakar Trivikam Viadiya and Vishwanath Lawande were among those brutalized during the non-violent civil disobedience movement: These men went on to form a revolutionary outfit called the' Azad Gomantak Dal that played a crucial role in keeping the battle for freedom of Goa alive.