



GOA'S FIRST MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE

On August 15, 1947, India gained independence from the British Raj, but a part of independent India remained subject to foreign rule for many years after independence. This part of the country's coastal region of Goa, which was then under Portuguese control, took another 14 years to be liberated. The British were clearly getting ready to leave India, but the Portuguese were not. Ram Manohar Lohia, a socialist leader, arrived in Goa on June 18, 1946, and launched the anti-Portuguese movement. Thousands of Goans joined this movement over the years, and Goa gained independence in 1961.



The country had gained independence prior to Goa. The vast majority of people in the country got their rights. It was now time for them to realise their hopes and dreams. They could have fought for power, risen to positions of power, and gained prestige. However, many fighters chose the path of struggle and sacrifice to ensure Goa's independence. The people of Goa, too, never gave up the fight for independence and Swaraj. They stoked the flame of independence for the longest time in Indian history.

**Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**



The liberation struggle for Goa is an immortal flame that has remained lit and unshaken amidst adversities. Everyone worked tirelessly for Goa, from the Kunkali Sangram to the valiant Marathas led by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji. On June 18, 1946, socialist leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia launched the first Satyagraha movement for Goa's independence, launching the final phase of the Goa Liberation Struggle. Lohia ignited the Goa Revolution, and as a result, Goans began organising themselves, taking inspiration from India's Independence movement. The Goa Revolution also saw unprecedented revolutionary sacrifice. A revolutionary party called "Azad Gomantak Dal" was also active to liberate Goa from the clutches of the Portuguese.

The Government of India liberated Goa through military operation "Vijay" on the 18–19 December 1961, 14 years after the 18th of June 1946. As a result, the 76th anniversary of the start of the Goa Liberation Struggle and the 61st anniversary of Goa's liberation fall this year. Between 1946 and 1961, thousands of Indians gave their lives to free Goa from Portuguese slavery. Many people were tortured in Portuguese prisons for years. Everyone fought together in Goa's fight for independence. Hands were raised in unison in support of Goa's liberation from all corners of India. To crush the movement, the Portuguese arrested and imprisoned many agitators and revolutionaries. Despite this, the movement in Goa never slowed, and the jails were packed with satyagrahis.

The Portuguese arrested many of these people and sentenced them to long prison terms. Some of these people were even imprisoned in the African country of Angola. Many fighters fought for Goa's independence, enduring hardships and making sacrifices but refusing to give up the fight. During Goa's independence struggle, 31 Satyagrahis were killed in the Goa Mukti Vimochan Samiti Satyagraha. Many Azad Gomantak Dal leaders have devoted their lives to the Goa movement as well. Many such fighters, such as Prabhakar Trivikram Vaidya, Vishwanath Lavande, Jagannath Rao Joshi, Nana Kajrekar, and Sudhir Phadke, fought for Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli independence and gave this movement direction and energy.

MADHU LIMAYE: PLAYED KEY ROLE IN FREEING GOA

Born on May 1, 1922; Died on January 8, 1995

Madhu Limaye, a disciple of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, was imprisoned in Portugal for two years between 1955 and 1957 during Goa's struggle for independence. He faced many difficulties there, but he did not give up and continued to work for Goa's liberation. Madhu Limaye was imprisoned in the freedom movement when he was 14–15 years old and released when World War I ended in 1944. When the Satyagraha for the Liberation of Goa began, he went back to jail and played an important role in freeing Goa from the Portuguese and integrating it into India. Madhu Limaye, born on May 1, 1922 in Pune, Maharashtra, is one of modern India's most prominent personalities, having played an important role in both the national and Goan independence movements. Madhu Limaye had completed his matriculation exam at a young age. After finishing high school, he enrolled in higher education at Fergusson College in Pune in 1937, where he became involved in student movements. Following that, drawn by the national movement and socialist ideology, he joined the Goa Liberation Movement in the 1950s.



Madhu Limaye, a staunch opponent of colonialism, led a major Satyagraha in July 1955 and entered Goa, where the Satyagrahis were attacked by Portuguese police. The Portuguese Military Tribunal sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment in December 1955, but Madhu Limaye did not defend or appeal. While imprisoned in Goa, he wrote, 'I have realised how profoundly Gandhiji has changed my life.' They have had a significant impact on my personality and willpower. Even after being released from Portuguese custody, Madhu Limaye continued to mobilise the masses for Goa's liberation, soliciting support from various groups and urging the Indian government to take concrete steps in this regard. The Indian government was forced to intervene militarily in Goa, and the state was thus liberated from Portuguese rule. During the Goa Liberation Movement, he was held captive by the Portuguese for more than 19 months. During his confinement, he wrote a prison diary, which was published in 1996 by his wife, Champa Limaye, as "Goa Liberation Movement and Madhu Limaye."

MOHAN RANADE: SPENT 14 YEARS IN PORTUGAL JAIL

Born: December 25, 1930, Died: June 25, 2019

Goa's liberation movement leader, Mohan Ranade, who attacked Betim, Banstarim, and other police outposts during Goa's liberation movement, was arrested by Portuguese police in 1955 and imprisoned in the fort of Caxias near Lisbon in Portugal. Even after Goa's liberation in 1961, the Portuguese kept him in solitary confinement for six years before releasing him in January 1969, after nearly 14 years in prison. Mohan Ranade joined the Azad Gomantak Dal to gain Goa independence from Portuguese rule after being influenced by freedom fighter and nationalist ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. In fact, those fighting for Goa's independence realised that a movement like Satyagraha could not result in victory.



In such a situation, they chose a different course of action, in which Ranade also participated. Following this, he became involved in secret agitational activities against Portuguese colonial rule. Ranade arrived in Goa as a Marathi teacher in the early 1950s. He took part in armed attacks on Portuguese police stations. His last attack occurred in October 1955 at Betim. Ranade, who was born in Sangli, Maharashtra, was shot in the lungs during the attack and was apprehended. He was sentenced to 26 years in prison for this attack, of which he was to serve 6 years in solitary confinement. Many people agitated for his release from prison, and many national leaders demanded it, but he was not released.

After 14 years he was finally released on January 25, 1969 on the intervention of pope. Ranade relocated to Pune after his release. He did, however, make two trips to Goa each year. One on June 18, known as Kranti Diwas, and the other on December 19, known as Goa's Liberation Day. Mohan Ranade received the Padma Shri award in 2001 and the Sangli Bhushan award in 2006. In 1986, he received the Goa Award for social work. He has also published books about the Goa Liberation Movement. Ranade was a fearless freedom fighter whose sacrifices and struggles for Goa will be

PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: A TRUE KONKANI HERO

Born on May 18, 1913; Died on May 2, 1998

Purushottam Kakodkar is a prominent figure in Goa's liberation movement and post-independence history. He led underground activities during the Quit India Movement. Kakodkar was imprisoned for his participation in Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience movement. He was a Gandhian freedom fighter, social activist, and a true Konkani hero. He also lived at the Gandhi Sevagram Ashram in Wardha, making him one of the few Goans to have had direct contact with Gandhi. When Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia founded the Goa Liberation Movement in Goa in 1946, he joined it and was imprisoned. In 1943, he and other supporters of Goa's independence, formed the Goa Seva Sangh. Through this, he installed a new spirit in the Goans and began preparing them for the liberation struggle.



In June 1946, Purushottam Kakodkar and Vasant Kare first met Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia at Juliao Menezes' house in Assolna. This meeting on June 18th sowed the seeds of Goa's civil liberties struggle. On August 9th, 1946, he was arrested by Portuguese police for his hyperactivity regarding Goa's independence, and he was court martialled on September 27th, 1946. Purushottam Kakodkar, known affectionately as "Bhau," was then deported to Portugal.

In 1956, he was released from a Portuguese prison. Not only that, but his love for Goa can be seen in the fact that when he thought Goa could be merged with Maharashtra, he raised the issue of opinion polls. Because of him, the Center was forced to conduct an opinion poll in Goa in 1967, preventing a merger. Purushottam Kakodkar was also the founding president of the Goa Konkani Academy in 1984. Kakodkar died in Mumbai on May 2, 1998.

BALA RAYA MAPARI: THE FIRST MARTYR FOR GOA'S INDEPENDENCE

Born: January 8, 1929; Died: February 15, 1955

Goa's freedom fighter, Bala Raya Mapari, a member of the Azad Gomantak Dal, was a Goa freedom fighter who gave his life for Goa's independence from the Portuguese.

He is regarded as the first martyr of the Goa freedom struggle. Mapari, who was born in Asonora, Bardez taluk in Goa, was an active member of the revolutionary organisation Azad Gomantak Dal, whose goal was to free Goa from the clutches of the Portuguese. Revolutionaries once stormed the Asonora police station, kidnapped the cops, and looted their weapons and ammunition. The Portuguese police identified Bala Raya Mapari as the main suspect in the attack on the police station. He was eventually apprehended in February 1955. Mapari was subjected to severe torture during his arrest. Mapari, on the other hand, was not one to break up and refused to give the police any confidential information about other freedom fighters. He was brutally tortured in jail and was martyred on February 15, 1955.

The Goa Liberation Movement is assumed to have claimed the lives of 68 people. Maya Raya Mopari was the first of these people to be martyred, and he was the youngest at the time. Even today, Bala Raya Mapari is remembered with pride in Goa's independence history, and his name is held in high regard. On the occasion of Goa Liberation Day celebrations on December 19, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered Bala Raya Mapari and said, "The sacrifices of youth like Bala Raya Mapari, how many of our fighters agitated even after independence, suffered pains, sacrificed, but did not let this movement stop." ■