

64 DAYS

OF 18 JUNE 1946



SANDESH PRABHUDESAI

QURATE PUBLISHERS

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01

64 DAYS OF DISCONTENT

18 JUNE

MADGAO

- **MORNING:** Madgao had turned into a silent battleground. The Portuguese police vans were patrolling the whole city. Armed police were deployed at strategic locations. People had started gathering in groups at various points, whispering and murmuring about Dr Rammanohar Lohia (36) defying the ban on public speaking at 4 pm.

- **AFTERNOON:** Over 3000 people gathered at the open ground between the municipal building and a chapel (today's Lohia Maidan). At 4 pm, Dr Lohia and Dr Juliao Menezes (37) arrived in a horse cart, amidst sloganeering. Captain Miranda stopped them and pointed a gun at Dr Lohia. He pushed Captain's hand and started speaking. Both were arrested and driven to the police station, followed by the arrests of 16 Goan Satyagrahis as they tried to give public speeches and lead the crowd.
- Police failed to disperse the charged crowd shouting slogans of 'Jai Hind' despite repeated lathicharges and driving vans into the crowd. Traders shut down the market in protest and joined the crowd.
- **EVENING:** Drama moved to the police station amid a heavy downpour, as the crowd swelled to 7,000. Around 40 women marched to the police station, demanding either to release Vatsala Kirtani (22) or arrest them. Panicked police released Kirtani unconditionally.
- **NIGHT:** Helpless police requested Dr Lohia to address and calm down the furious crowd. Dr Lohia appealed to the people to go home but to continue the civil liberties struggle with statewide protests. A frenzied crowd took to the streets in a procession throughout the city, public speeches were made, and people dispersed late at night.
- Prominent citizens and moderates from Salcete met at night and decided to approach the Governor, requesting that he relax the restrictions on civil liberties and calm the situation.
- **MIDNIGHT:** Fearing an attack on the police station at night, the police shifted Dr Lohia, Dr Menezes and Vishwanath Lawande (23) to Panaji at midnight.

19 JUNE

INDIA

- **MORNING:** Prominent newspapers across India reported on Dr Lohia's protest and the people's fury in Goa, also quoting Dr Lohia's undelivered speech, which had been sent in advance.

who was leaving for Bombay. He was then shifted to Panaji late at night.

13 JULY

AGUADA

- Dr T B Cunha was shifted from Panaji to a filthy, dark room at Fort Aguada Jail.

15 JULY

PANAJI

- Bhaskar Bhandare (34) was arrested and shifted to Fort Aguada Jail on charges of trying to close down shops and institutions on 19th June, when Dr Lohia and Dr Menezes were shifted to Panaji.

PANCHAGANI

- EVENING: Purushottam Kakodkar & Evagrio Jorge met Mahatma Gandhi at Panchagani Ashram on Monday, his 'Moun Vrat' day, conversed with them through writings, and Gandhi told them to follow Dr Lohia's instruction.

17 JULY

LISBON

- An interview with the Portuguese Minister for Colonies, Marcelo Caetano, was published in 'Diário Popular', a Lisbon-based daily. He said: "Estado da Índia is not a colony; it's a state of Portugal. Indo-Portuguese people in Goa, Daman and Diu are different from Indians."

MADGAO

- MORNING: After meeting Mahatma Gandhi, Purushottam Kakodkar and Evagrio Jorge reached Madgao, travelling by goods train as a precaution.

18 JULY

By spreading verbal messages, the completion of one month of 18th June was observed across Goa, with processions, demonstrations and public meetings, amidst tight police vigilance.

MADGAO

- AFTERNOON: A military march was held to prevent people from

GOAN FIGHTERS OF 64 DAYS

(Age into bracket)

1. Almeida Massilon
2. Amonkar Prabhakar
3. Andrade Frank (28)
4. Barve Pandurang (29)
5. Bhandare Bhaskar (34)
6. Bhembre Dr Narayan (33)
7. Bhembre Laxmikant (40)
8. Bhise Indira
9. Bir Madhav (23)
10. Borkar B B Baikibab (36)
11. Borkar Lalji (student)
12. Borkar Shripad (student)
13. Borkar Laxmidas (21)
14. Caissoro Adv Vinayak
15. Carvalho Dr J (36)
16. Cunha Dr T B (55)
17. Cunha Vicente (36)
18. D'Souza Antonio Jose Sanches
19. D'Souza Frank

94. Pai Dattatray Venkatesh (45)
95. Palondikar Sharada
96. Peres Carlos
97. Pimenta Enio (23)
98. Raikar Baburao
99. Rebeiro Dionosio
100. Rodrigues Lucio (31)
101. Sardesai Libia Lobo (22)
102. Sardesai Venkatesh
103. Sarsdesai Laxmanrao (41)
104. Sawkar Manohar D
105. Shah Jaisinglal (40)
106. Shah Tarabai
107. Shet Kanekar Padmanabh
108. Shinkre Mukund (27)
109. Shirali Umabai
110. Shiroadkar Pandurang P (30)
111. Sinari Prabhakar (23)
112. Sukhatankar Dr Balkrishna D (43)
113. Sukhatankar Jagannath S (32)
114. Sukhatankar Prasad
115. Talaulikar Upendra (54)
116. Teles Adv Jose Paulo (43)
117. Tendulkar Dr A G
118. Tendulkar Indumati
119. Tilve Shantaram
120. Vaidya Trivikram
121. Vaidya Venkatesh (46)
122. Vaz George (27)
123. Velingkar Tatoba (27)
124. Vernekar Venkatesh(33)
125. Wagle Vimal

“The movement is neither directed nor organised. This movement is spontaneous and based on the discontent of the masses, which is economic in nature, stemming from issues such as supply shortages, unemployment, and others. Even Dr Lohia... started the demonstrations but was pushed by the crowd to take the action he did. For the people, the movement was not about demanding civil liberties, but merely about economic matters. It was Dr Lohia and those who followed him who steered the movement toward civil liberties.”

Dr Tristao Braganza Cunha

Father of Goan Nationalism

“Could Goa have been liberated earlier, given the intensity of the Civil Disobedience movement? Was this movement a result of the economic hardships faced by the people of Goa as portrayed by T. B. Cunha in pamphlets and articles, or was it a movement for civil liberties as Ram Manohar Lohia contended? How is it that there have been massive upsurges in Goa almost every 20 years – which appear to herald a revolution – but why did no revolution take place? Did the leadership fail to have a finger on the pulse of the people? The book sifts through events during the period in an attempt to answer these questions.”

Dr Nishtha Desai

Researcher & Activist