

Quadrant II – NOTES

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)

Subject: History

Paper Code: HSD 101

Paper Title: History of Goa (From the Phase of Resistance to Statehood and Beyond)

Unit: 02

Module Name: 18th June Movement

Module No: 06

Name of the Presenter: Ms. Domitel D'Souza

NOTE:

The 18th June Movement was launched in protest against the denial of the Civil Liberties to the people of Goa. DR. ANTÓNIO DE OLIVEIRA SALAZAR was the Prime- Minister of Portugal during the 18th June Movement. The 18th June Movement was launched as a protest against the dictatorial policies of Dr. Salazar.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was on a visit to Goa. He was invited by a friend Dr. Julião Menezes at his residence at Assolna. The news of Dr. Lohia's visit to Goa spread quickly and the Goan Nationalist leaders met Dr. Lohia and apprised him of the political situation in Goa under the Salazar's regime.

Meetings were held which culminated in a decision –that Dr. Lohia would address a public meeting at Margao on 18th June. The historic day arrived- the 18th June 1946 amidst heavy downpour. Despite, a huge crowd of people gathered. Dr. Lohia arrived in a Victoria (a horse driven carriage).

As Dr. Lohia stepped down from the carriage people rushed to garland him. As he was being garlanded Capt. Fortunato Miranda (Portuguese Administrator Salcette)told Dr. Lohia to go back. Dr. Lohia proceeded to deliver his speech; he was not allowed to do so and was arrested.

Ms. Vatsala Kirtani was a young girl who participated in the gathering. She was raising slogan 'Jai Hind' and the Portuguese Commandant Figuerado scolded her for it. She gave him a defiant reply 'If Viva Salazar brings you prides', 'Jai Hind' gives me the spirit to fight for my freedom.' She was arrested.

The Portuguese Government made arrest of prominent Goan leaders, sentenced and deported to Portugal and her colonies Angola-Dr. T.B. Cunha, Dr. Vinayak Mayekar, Adv. Pandurang P. Shirodkar etc.

It was on 29th September 1946 Dr. Lohia planned to visit Goa as promised earlier. He was arrested at Collem itself and taken to Aquada jail. After 8 days Dr. Lohia was released with an order prohibiting his entry into Goa for the next five years.

The movement is significant as it led the people -from struggle for liberties to a greater-the struggle for liberation. It led to the growth in political consciousness- the people began think in terms of their political rights and Liberations. People became fearless. Dr. Lohia did not only guide them to act but pushed them into the arena of the freedom struggle.

The 18th June has been acclaimed as the 'GOA REVOLUTION DAY.' It celebrates Dr. Lohia's challenge to the might of the Portuguese Government and his lesson to the Goans on how to defy the dictatorial regime which had curbed their civil liberties.