

CM TO DISTRIBUTE MONETARY BENEFIT TO MARTYRS FAMILY

December 16, 2024

Goa, a small coastal State in western India, was a Portuguese colony for over 450 years. The Goan freedom struggle, which lasted from the mid-19th century to 1961, was a testament to the bravery and sacrifice of many Goans who fought for the liberation of the State.

Under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister, Dr. Pramod Sawant for the first time, the Government of Goa has decided to honour the contribution of Martyrs.

As a mark of their contribution, Monetary benefit of Rs. 10 lakhs will be handed to family members of Martyrs upto 1st generation at the hands of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister.

15 Martyrs are identified for the honour of legal heirs upto 1st generation are alive.

A special function will be being held at PAC Hall, Goa Legislative Assembly Complex, Porvorim-Goa on [18th December, 2024](#), at 11.00 a.m.

Chief Minister on [27th September 2022](#), has already visited the family of Martyr Karnail Singh Benipal, Ludhiana, Punjab and had presented cheque amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs as one time monetary support to Smt. Charanjeet Kaur Spouse of the martyr.

The brief contribution of 15 Martyrs who along with many others played a crucial role in Goa's struggle for Liberation whose bravery, sacrifice and dedication to the cause of freedom inspired generations of Goans are as under:

BALA RAYA MAPARI :

Born at Assanora, Bardez on [8th January, 1929](#), he took a leading part in conducting raids on the Portuguese police outpost at Assanora. The Police were over powered and all their arms and ammunition captured by the nationalists. He was arrested by the Portuguese Police in [February 1955](#) and subjected to brutal physical torture. He refused to divulge any information about his comrades and was mercilessly beaten and tortured that he expired on [18th February 1955](#) while in Police custody and was the First Martyr of Goa's Freedom struggle.

KARNAIL SINGH BENIPAL:

Born at Chak No. 50 G.B.Tal. Samundri in West Pakistan on [8th June 1934](#), he was a student leader and also led the State Middle Teachers' strike for pressing their demands. He travelled throughout Punjab for enlisting volunteers for offering Satyagraha in Goa at the call of the GVVS. He offered Satyagraha by participating in the march across the India- Goa border at Banda on [15th August 1955](#); when the Portuguese soldiers opened machine gun fire on the unarmed Satyagrahis, he was rushed from the rear to shield the leader Comrade Chitale from the bullets aimed at the latter and himself fell victim to them; was honoured posthumously by the Freedom Fighters Association, Goa, Daman and Diu on [15th August 1980](#).

BASAVRAJ HUDGI:

Born at Vagadal, Dist. Bidar, Karanataka in 1918 was a social and political worker, took active part in the popular movement demanding merger of Hyderabad State in the Indian Union and was arrested and tried on the charge of conspiring to throw a bomb on the Nizam of Hyderabad. He participated in the 1955 Satyagraha movement for the liberation of Goa and was seriously injured in the indiscriminate firing by the Portuguese police on the Satyagrahis at Dudhsagar Tunnel on [15th August , 1955](#).. He was then taken to Ribandar hospital where he expired after a month.

SHESHNATH WADEKAR:

Born in Nasik in Maharashtra in 1915, he joined the Satyagraha movement in the first week of [August 1955](#) at the call of the GVSS and led a batch of Satyagrahis from Shiroda, Ratnagiri along with Pannalal Yadav of Rajasthan. The Satyagrahis entered Pali in Pernem and started shouting patriotic slogans in front of the village temple wherein people gathered and as the Portuguese police got the news, they rushed there in a jeep and started beating the Satyagrahis. Sheshnath and Pannalal Yadav were told to throw down the Tricolours and return to the Indian border which was refused and continued to shout patriotic slogans by holding the Tricolours aloft. Both of them were shot at and killed on 3rd [August 1955](#). He was cremated by the Portuguese authorities near the Terekhol fort.

TULSHIRAM BALKRISHNA HIRVE:

Born at Gorbhat, Chincholi, Dist. Kolaba in Maharashtra was engaged in social and cultural activities and was respected by the people in that area. He joined the Liberation movement of Goa at the call of GVSS and actively participated in it. On 15th [August 1955](#), he led a batch of 127 Satyagrahis and entered Goa via Shiroda-Redi. He offered Satyagraha at Terekhol fort by holding the Tricolour aloft and shouting nationalist slogans. He was ordered by the Portuguese soldiers to retreat but as he proceeded forward they tried to snatch the Tricolour from him which he resisted. He was fired at and succumbed to the bullet injuries on the same day. He was honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on [18th June, 1984](#).

BABURAO KESHAV THORAT:

Born at Chandrapur, Dist. Chanda in Maharashtra in [August 1955](#). He joined the Goa's freedom movement at the call of the GVSS and led a group of Satyagrahis and entered Goa via Satarda. As he reached Naibag in Taluka Pernem on 3rd [August 1955](#) he was ordered by the Portuguese police to return and on his refusal he was beaten so severely that he expired on the same day.

SAKHARAM YESHWANT SHIRODKAR:

Shri Shirodkar belonged to Ekoshi. His house was used for storing arms and ammunition, he used to repair rifles. He was arrested on 13th [August 1955](#) alongwith Krishna Shamba Shet. He attained martyrdom at Mandovi Coast on 14th [August 1955](#) as he was shot dead.

ROHIDAS P. MAPARI:

Born at Assonora, Bardez on 12th [December 1924](#); He was a member of AGD and took a leading part in the daring nationalist attack on the police outpost at Assonora under the leadership of Prabhakar Sinari where the policemen were overpowered and their arms and ammunition captured. He was arrested later by the Portuguese police at Siolim and kept under detention for 18 months. He expired on 28th [September 1956](#) in the Aguada jail as a result of repeated physical torture by the police. He was awarded Tamrapatra posthumously by the Central Government and was also honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on 18th [June 1986](#).

YESHWANT SUKHA AGARWADEKAR:

Born at Oxel, Siolim, Bardez on 15th [January 1918](#). He was a member of the AGD since 1954 and took active part in several armed raids against the Portuguese police and military positions under the leadership of Prabhakar Sinari; a prize of Rs. 5000/-was announced for his arrest. He was killed in an encounter with a police patrol at Parra on 17th [December 1958](#).

RAMCHANDRA NEVGI:

Born in Bicholim in 1910 - he was a member of the NCG who participated in the nationalist activities like affixing and distributing pamphlets. His house was raided on 20th [May 1956](#) wherein handbills were seized and was arrested alongwith his two sons. He was detained in police custody and released on 14th [September 1956](#). On the night of 10th [March 1957](#), the Portuguese police at Assanora out-post on suspicion tried to stop the moving taxi in which he was travelling and as it did not halt they fired at it indiscriminately killing him on the spot.

BAPU VISHNU GAVAS:

Born at Chandel, Pernem in 1927- He resigned from the Government service and joined the AGD in 1954. On 26th [November 1955](#), he participated in the attack on Chandel police Station and also dynamited police jeep at Chandel alongwith his associates. He along with Bala Desai attacked the police jeep at Halli, Pernem killing several Portuguese soldiers and seriously injured the notorious Portuguese Agente Casmiro Monteiro. He got seriously wounded in the encounter and succumbed to his wounds on the same day. His body was dragged brutally by the police for a mile and then burnt. H was honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on 18th June.

BABLA DHONDO PARAB:

Born at Mopa, Pernem; He was a member of the NCG and ; brought nationalist pamphlets from border areas and distributed in Goa including circulating messages. He was once caught red-handed and was detained in police custody for three months. He helped the Satyagrahis to enter Goa and informed the NCG leaders in border area about the actual situation in Goa during 1955 Satyagraha movement. He was arrested in [September 1956](#) while entering Goa and was detained and tortured to death in police custody in the same month; was honoured by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on 18th [June 1986](#)..

LAXMAN NARAYAN VELINGKAR:

Born at Veling, Ponda on 24th [December 1922](#) – he was associated with the NCG since 1948 and was inspired by Dr. Lohia. He actively participated in the nationalist activities and was arrested in [January 1955](#) and detained in jail. He was mercilessly beaten and tortured in order to extract information from him about the underground nationalist workers. He died as a martyr due to the injuries sustained from the brutal beatings whose dead body was not handed over to his relatives for funeral rites. He was honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on [18th June, 1986](#).

KESHAVBHAI SADASHIV TENGSE:

Born in Canacona in 1926 - he was working as a priest in a temple at Poinguinim, and provided shelter to the underground workers and at times even helped them to conceal their arms and explosives at the safer places. He joined the AGD; in mid-1950's Jeronimo Betreto, a policeman who had been deported from Nagar Haveli after his surrender there subsequent to its Liberation, used to avenge the Liberation of Nagar Haveli by harassing the nationalists and the sympathizers of the freedom movement; around [September 1956](#), he forcibly entered the Rama temple sanctum sanctorum and arrested the temple priest Parshuram Acharya: on Caccount of his rude behaviour, the underground activists in the area raided his house in Ardhafond on 17th [September 1956](#) and shot him dead; on the following day on suspicion Tengse was arrested and he as well as Parshuram were brutally beaten to such an extent that they died in a couple of days in jail: was honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on 18th [June 1986](#).

PARSHURAM SRINIVAS ACHARYA:

Born at Poinguinim, Canacona in 1916; son of Srinivas Acharya. He sympathized with the cause of Goa's Liberation though he was not actively participating in the freedom struggle and helped in his own way as Head Pujari in the Gokarn Math at Partagal | Poinguinim: He was arrested on 18th [September 1956](#) in connection with the assassination of Jeronimo Barreto by the AGD workers for his cruelties towards the nationalists: He was tortured to death at Madgaon police station in spite of intervention of the leading disciples of the Math for securing his release after holding him responsible for that act of slaying. He died on 20th [September 1956](#) due to brutal tortures and was honoured posthumously by the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on 18th [June 1983](#).

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