

Dr Gomes was one of the earliest Indian leaders to talk about rights of colonized people: Phal Dessai

Panaji: May 31, 2025

Prior to Goa's liberation movement, Goa gaining in momentum, it was Dr Francisco Luis Gomes who raised his voice in the Portuguese Parliament for the Liberation of Goa. He used to argue passionately for civil liberties, educational reforms, economic development, and justice. He was one of the earliest Indian leaders to talk about the rights of colonized people, not just in Goa but across India stated Minister for Social Welfare, Shri Subhash Phal Dessai. while addressing the State level function organized at Navelim to commemorate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter late Late Dr Francisco Luis Gomes.

The Minister further mentioned that Dr Gomes was a colonial genius, eloquent parliamentarian, eminent economist, learned historian and a brilliant novelist and above all, a true patriot. His life is a shining example of how a person rooted in his land can leave a mark on the world, the Minister said.

The Minister said at the young age of 32, Dr. Francisco Luís Gomes was elected to the Portuguese Parliament (Cortes Gerais), where he served from 1861 until his untimely death in 1869. As Goa's representative in Lisbon, he became the voice of the voiceless, tirelessly raising issues that affected the people of his homeland, he said.

The Minister elaborating on the achievement's of Dr Gomes said he was a brilliant economist who understood that true freedom cannot come without economic justice. He critiqued colonial exploitation and the feudal systems that kept people in poverty. Shri Phal Dessai said that Dr Gomes stood in a foreign land and spoke with courage and conviction about India's need for self-respect, self- governance, and economic independence-long before the freedom struggle had gained momentum therefore he said he was one of the earliest Indian leaders to talk about the rights of colonized people, not just in Goa but across India

The Minister further speaking also informed that Dr Gomes had a deep sense of love towards India as a nation.

Chairman of Dr. Francisco Luis Gomes and former Chief Minister, Shri Luizinho Faleiro, said Dr. Gomes was a son of Goa who raised his voice for the freedom of Goa and India at large.

He has achieved a degree in medicine but never confined himself to a single field. His mind was broad and his heart even broader.

Shri Faleiro speaking about the vision of Dr Gomes for India said that Dr Gomes championed free trade, land reforms, and education for all. He was a fierce abolitionist, advocating for the end of slavery and caste discrimination. At a time when many remained silent, Dr Gomes advocated equality, dignity, and fairness for all. With his vision, sense of patriotism, and achievement Dr. Gomes made Goans feel proud and revered.

Earlier the dignitaries laid wreaths and offered floral tributes to this great freedom fighter of our nation.

Parish Priest, Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim, Fr. Gabriel Coutinho, Collector South Goa, MS.Egna Cleetus, IAS, President of Goa Freedom Fighters

Association Shri Rohidas Desai, Deputy Collector Salcete I, Shri Ganesh Barve, Deputy Collector Salcete II, Shri Shabbir Mohammad, Addl. Collector South II Shri Ramesh Gaonkar, SP South Shri Tikam Singh Verma IPS and others were present at the function.

Shri Avito Pires De Menezes compered the function.

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