

PRESS RELEASE

Dakshinayan Goa has appealed to the President of India Mr Ram Nath Kovind to highlight the role played by India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with a firm hand to liberate Portuguese colonies of Goa, Daman & Diu in 1961.

President of India Mr Kovind, on 19th December 2020, is visiting Goa to launch the year-long celebration of 60 years of Goa's liberation. While welcoming the celebration organised by Government of Goa, Dakshinayan in a letter written to the President of India has brought to his notice a misinformation being spread indiscreetly and injudiciously that the 14-year long delay to liberate Goa, Daman and Diu was caused due to Pandit Nehru's faulty handling of the issue.

Dakshinayan has said that earlier union minister Mr Prakash Jawadekar and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Mr Shivraj Singh Chauhan had made these false allegations and recently Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant has also repeated it imprudently.

Dakshinayan has also brought to his notice that some politicians have also gone to the extent of spreading rumours that 'Operation Vijay' in 1961 was carried out by then Defence Minister V. K. Krishna Menon by keeping Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the dark as he (Nehru) was not in favour of military action.

The letter to the President of India also provides year-wise chronology of events since 1946 and the manner in which Pandit Nehru fought the relentless diplomatic battle for 14 long years in United Nations Organisation and win over the support of majority countries to get Goa, Daman and Diu decolonised.

At a press conference held in this regard, Dakshinayan Goa President and veteran writer Damodar Mauzo said that Goan freedom fighters and other nationalists, who knew how ruthless and forbidding the Salazar regime was, could very well understand and appreciate the peaceful, non-violent and diplomatic means adopted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tackle the all-powerful western block led by the USA. The Portuguese had left no stone unturned to retain its supremacy over Goa which they termed as the Overseas Province of Portugal and even involved NATO to save its 450-year old colony.

Being the highest Constitutional authority of our Nation and a fatherly figure for all of us, we make an earnest request to His Excellency to verify the facts and pre-empt such distorted and prejudiced proclamations and highlight Nehru's role in liberation of Goa, said Mr Mauzo.

Mr Datta Damodar Naik, another writer and thinker, said Goans will be deeply hurt if the yearlong celebrations are marked by such unfair and twisted political statements that can damage the image of our beloved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

He has also appealed to all the political parties as well as all nationalist organisations to counter this false propaganda by twisting the facts and demonising Pandit Nehru, who was also instrumental in maintaining Goa's unique identity.

Dakshinayan has also sent a book 'Liberation v/s Armed Struggle', written by Dr Nishtha Desai and published by the Government of Goa, during the Golden Jubilee year of Goa's liberation which highlights the facts with documentary evidence.

16 December 2020

Date: 14 th December 2020.

To,
Your Excellency,
President of India,
Hon. Shri Ram Nath Kovind-Ji
New Delhi

Sub: Visit of Your Excellency to Goa

Respected Sir,

Warm greetings and compliments of the season.

As the head of Dakshinayan Abhiyan Goa, I take this opportunity to write a few words to you for your favourable consideration.

Dakshinayan Abhiyan is an organisation started by the academic scholars, artists, writers, progressive minded intellectuals and Social Activists under the leadership of Dr. Ganesh Devy with the objective of promoting progressive ideas and human values among citizens in general and youth in particular. Dakshinayan Abhiyan Goa is its regional wing.

We are glad that Government of Goa is celebrating 60 th anniversary of Liberation of Goa. We are also delighted that your Excellency will visit Goa on 19 th December 2020 to launch the yearlong celebrations of the event. After 450 years of Colonial rule we were finally liberated in 1961. Goans shall always remain grateful to the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who fought the relentless diplomatic battle for 14 long years.

Goan freedom fighters and other Nationalists who knew how ruthless and forbidding the Salazar regime was, could very well understand and appreciate the peaceful, non-violent and diplomatic means adopted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tackle the all powerful western block. The Portuguese had left no stone unturned to retain its supremacy over Goa which they termed as the Overseas Province of Portugal. The nasty role then played by NATO cannot be overlooked.

The young independent India that believed in Gandhian approach played its cards very wisely and resultantly, through Operation Vijay, Goa was liberated. The peace-loving people of Goa are ever grateful to then prime minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru whose cautious efforts led to liberate Goa without bloodshed.

Dakshnayan Abhiyan Goa, with a heavy heart, would like to bring to your notice the spiteful and foul misinformation being spread indiscreetly and injudiciously that the Liberation of Goa was delayed because of the then Prime Minister, Pt. JawaharLal Nehru. Earlier, the Union Minister, Prakash Javadekar and the CM of MP, ShivraJ Singh Chouhan have gone on record and lately we heard the Chief Minister of Goa repeating the same imprudently.

Some Politicians have gone to the extent of spreading rumours that operation Vijay in 1961 was carried out by then Defence Minister V. K. Krishna Menon by keeping Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the dark as he (Nehru) was not in favour of military action.

Being the highest Constitutional authority of our Nation and a fatherly figure for all of us, we make an earnest request to your Excellency to verify the facts and pre-empt such distorted and prejudiced proclamations and highlight Nehru's role in liberation of Goa.

Goans will be deeply hurt if the yearlong celebrations are marked by such unfair and twisted political statements that can damage the image of our beloved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Before I conclude, may I humbly request Your Excellency to go through an unbiased account of the liberation of Goa in a book : 'Liberation v/s Armed Struggle', written by Dr Nishtha Desai and published by the Government of Goa, during the Golden Jubilee year of Goa's liberation. We are enclosing herewith Note giving chronological events of pre-liberation history of Goa.

On behalf of Dakshinayan Abhiyan Goa, I wish Your Excellency an enjoyable stay in Goa.

Yours Truly,

Damodar Mauzo

President

Dakshinayan Goa

NOTE

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF GOA'S PRE LIBERATION AND POST LIBERATION EVENTS

1946	18 th June- Dr Ram Manohar Lohia defies Portuguese order of banning public speeches and addresses hundreds of people at now named Lohia Maidan, Margao, thus rejuvenating Goa's freedom struggle.
1953	UNO accepts Nehru's proposal to France and Portugal to hold plebiscite in Puducherry & Goa.
1954	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru then Prime Minister of India appeals France and Portugal to leave Puducherry and Goa, Daman Diu , Dadra and Nagar Haveli, France accepts but Portugal refuses
1954	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plebiscite in Puducherry which favours Puducherry's territorial Integration with India.2. Portugal approaches NATO for Territorial Integrity.3. Nehru tells Rajya Sabha that Goa is not a concern of <i>NATO</i>.4. Portugal seeks USA support through NATO

1955	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic Blockade from 18th August 1955. 2. Indian Consulate in Goa withdrawn 3. Portuguese Consulates shut down. 4. Russian President Khrushchev visits India, supports India's claim over Goa 5. Portugal files case in International Court
1959	Transfer of power of Puducherry , Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam from France to India
1960	UN passes resolution, tabled by 43 Afro-Asian nations " <i>Grant independence to colonial countries</i> "
1961	Nehru informs the parliament that efforts to liberate Goa on basis of Gandhian principles of peace and non violence are exhausted and that army action is not ruled out.
27 th November 1961	Nehru asks defence Minister to convene meeting of 3 Chiefs.
December 1961	John Kanneth Galbraith, US Ambassador to India meets Nehru and Pleads to abandon military action. Nehru tells Kenndey that attack will take place
17 th Dec 1961	Prime Minister Nehru asks Defence Minister V. K. Menon to order Indian Army to liberate Goa.
18 th Dec 1961	Indian Army enters Goa.
19 th Dec 1961	Portuguese Governor surrenders. Goa Liberated from 451 years of Portuguese rule from 1510 to 1961