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Karnail Singh Isru

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Why is in news? Who was Karnail Singh Isru, the Punjabi leader who died during the Goa Liberation Movement?

He was born on September 9, 1930, in Chak 30 village (**now in Pakistan**), Isru lost his father at a young age and was raised by his mother. His upbringing was marked by a strong sense of justice and a longing for freedom.

He was inspired by national heroes like **Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh**, along with their dedication to the freedom movement, ignited a fire within him. Their struggle against colonial oppression left a deep impact on his young mind.

Joining the Goa Liberation Movement

Isru's involvement in student activism and his presidency of the student union highlighted his commitment to social justice. He **joined the Communist Party of India (CPI)** and embraced rationalist ideals.

Goa Liberation Movement: In the 1950s, despite India's independence, the territories of Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli remained under Portuguese rule.

CPI sent Satyagrahis, followers of Gandhian principles, to Goa to hoist the Indian flag on Independence Day.

Isru, alongside other Satyagrahis, embarked on the march towards Goa **under the leadership of Sahodrabai Rai**. They aimed to **challenge colonial rule and establish India's sovereignty** in the region.

As they entered the **Patradevi village in North Goa**, Portuguese forces opened fire on the Satyagrahis.

Isru's unwavering determination led him to the forefront, but tragically, he was struck by a bullet in his chest. His sacrifice was a significant moment in the fight for Goa's liberation.

Tributes in Punjab: Isru's memory is etched in the heart of Punjab, where the government and political parties organize annual functions to honor his sacrifice. A statue, library, park, and school bear his name, reflecting the respect he commands.

Recognition in Goa: In Goa, a bronze bust of Isru was installed in the primary school of Patradevi village, commemorating his sacrifice. His bravery and dedication are a source of inspiration for generations.

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