

# Freedom Fighter Ramakrishna Purushottam Ganapule

**Abstract:** Among the freedom fighters of Haveri district, there are only a handful of freedom fighters. Ramakrishna Purushottam Ganapule is one of them. It is a very difficult task to expand the initial phase of the movement in the district, and Ganapule is the most prominent among those who did that task. He played an important role in the people's liberation and forest satyagraha. The purpose of this article is to present his work.

**Note:** This article is for the purpose of giving information about Ramakrishna Purushottam Ganapule, a freedom fighter of Haveri district.

## Description:

**Motivation:** When Ramakrishna Purushottam Ganapule was 12 years old, an incident took place in Haveri. In 1924, when he was a student in a Kannada school, the District Political Council met. At that time, Purushottamacharya Raichur, a lawyer from Haveri, had left his legal profession and joined the Congress. Shankarappa Tandoor was the president of the Haveri taluk Congress and was doing Congress activities. Govindacharya Agnihotri was the secretary and the manager of the Khadi shop of the Khadi Sangh and worked as a volunteer in all the activities of the Congress. Manjappa Hardikar was made the president of the District Political Council. Dr. Hardikar came with the volunteers of the Seva Dal for the council and started a volunteer camp. Many students of Haveri's schools were getting their education as volunteers. At this time.. Ramakrishna Purushottam Ganapule joined as a volunteer.

The political council was attended by Diwakar Rangaraya, Karamaraka, Mudavidu Krishnaraya, Hukkerikar, Kalkur doctor, Kalkur lawyer, Anantrao Jalihal lawyer and many traders and activists from Guttal and Kanavalli villages. The political council was held in great splendor. The Congress was organized and casteism was abandoned and work was done in unison. It was decided to start. Channabasappa Halayagol, feeling inspired, published the newspaper 'Basavaraja' in his printing house and started the Congress campaign.

From 1924 to 1928, the Congress carried out its organizational work with great enthusiasm. Branch Congress offices were opened in important villages like Agadi, Devagiri, Guttal, Karjagi, Kanavalli, Havanur, Koradur etc. in Haveri taluk. Thus, the Congress started to spread at the village level.

Shakha Congress offices were opened in important villages like Agadi, Devagiri, Guttal, Karjagi, Kanavalli Havanur, Koradur in the taluk. Thus, Congress started spreading at the village level. Hosamani, Venkatesh Chavati, Kariappa Sanguru Venkatesh Magadi, Dattatreya Nadagera, Hanumanna Jangali and others travelled to the villages of Haveri area and created public awareness with their speeches. Also from Dharwad and Hubballi, Ranganath Diwaker, Karamaraka, Dr. Hardikar. Tippanna Shastri Kalli and others were called to the Haveri area and public awareness work was done through speeches.

There were 40 volunteers in the SevaDal and Govindacharya Agnihotri took full responsibility for them. Bindumadhav Burli was supervising the camp. The volunteers visited every village in the Haveri area and started their work with good discipline. Also, the workers of the Hosarathi Ashram were in touch with us. Thus, with the efforts of everyone, they succeeded in persuading people to wear khadi and to cultivate patriotism in more and more villages.

**Forest Satyagraha:** In 1930, it was decided to carry out a movement to destroy the forests in the Haveri area, and the specific day was announced in the village by means of a dangura sermon. As per the decision of the meeting, all the workers got busy in training for the Satyagraha.

It was decided to carry out the Forest Satyagraha in the Haveri area in the forest of Kalledevara village in Byadagi taluk. On Monday morning, October 27, 1930, Govindacharya Agnihotri, along with eight volunteers, reached Kalledevara at 2 pm and held a procession meeting there. After the speech, the villagers from many villages in the vicinity had also come from the same area carrying weapons for the Satyagraha. The Satyagraha was conducted in a disciplined manner, in which Ganapule was a participant. The forest guard and other officials wrote down the names of all the volunteers and made a "panchanama". No one came to break the fear here. Thus, the first forest satyagraha was successfully ended.

To participate in the second Monday's satyagraha, they left Haveri on Sunday evening with a group of eight Janma volunteers. Volunteers from villages around Suttam in Haveri area and on the way, a group of leaders from villages like Agadi, Kanavalli, Gutala, etc. Baburao Hejib, Gutala's Deshpande, Dinakar Watave etc. joined the forest satyagraha. They reached Kalledevara forest in the evening on Bhanwar. For this purpose, Dy.S.P. Kaujalagi had come to Kalledevara village with a hundred policemen. The police paraded in the village with guns was a surprise to the villagers because they had never seen the police in the whole village. It was natural for them. It was scary but not scary.

60 As we talked the next day, the people who were destroying forests outside Kalledevara village were  
61 different. The people who were marching in front of the police in Kalledevara village and going on a  
62 forest satyagraha were different. Thus, our elders who had made a good plan had started the forest  
63 destruction without the police knowing.

64 Meanwhile, while marching in Kalledevara village and shouting slogans to destroy the forest, the  
65 Dy.S.P. Inspector and the police personnel came together to stop us and say that we will arrest all of you,  
66 a police officer named Jadhav from Ranebennur came running and ran towards the Dy.S.P. He was  
67 shocked and said, "Sir, the real forest satyagraha is in the forest. Most of the forest has already been  
68 destroyed. When you asked the rest of our police personnel to come and stop the further forest  
69 destruction, the Dy.S.P. got very angry because he was annoyed that all the agitators were here. Angrily,  
70 he went to the forest with his staff.

71 The Dy.SP Inspector and the police personnel, seeing the people in the forest outside the village of  
72 Kalledevar, cleverly arrested hundreds of Janma activists and brought them to Kalledevar. After reaching  
73 Kalledevar, only about sixty of those arrested in the forest were brought to Haveri and put in the sub-jail.  
74 Saheb arranged food for the arrested. I was sentenced to 6 months and 15 days concurrent in this forest  
75 satyagraha. He was put in Belgaum jail on 29/11/1930. He was 17 years old at that time. Therefore, I was  
76 kept in Juvenile Dwarka. Later, I was sent to Dharwad jail.

77 **Celebration of January 26:** In 1932, the Satyagraha started in Haveri to protest against Gandhiji's  
78 arrest. Paramanna Hosamani Siddappa Hosamani Venkatesha Chavati and others were arrested. The  
79 government declared the Congress in Haveri Taluka illegal. The Congress office was also taken over.  
80 However, we all decided to celebrate Independence Day on January 26. But the police DySP  
81 Chinnamulagund took a tough decision. He also decided to wear white caps and hoist the national flag,  
82 which was banned. He, along with twelve of his companions, placed the flag in a large pit in the middle  
83 of Haveri so that the entire village could see it. When the procession started on January 26, many people  
84 were injured due to lathi charge. In this incident, he was sentenced to 6 months and a fine of Rs. 25. He  
85 continued in this manner for the rest of his life.

86 **Joined the Revolutionary Association:** After being released from prison, in 1934, when the  
87 movement calmed down, some young men in Haveri joined forces and established a Revolutionary  
88 Association under the leadership of Veerupakshappa Gu. Angadi. A group of disciplined young men who  
89 were working in the Congress were formed to be ready to carry out the revolution when the occasion  
90 arose. Angadi had connections with the revolutionaries in Uttar Pradesh and had received training in  
91 bomb making.

For secret propaganda, books on Russian language like 'Poyagi Faiz for Irish Freedom' and Marathi 'Rajaniyatik Karasthan' were translated into Kannada. A Hindi book called 'Balidanaki Chinagariya' was translated into Kannada and became famous in his name. Bhagat Singh's statements were translated into Kannada and distributed to school and college students. All these activities were done secretly.

Many people in Haveri learned how to make bombs from Veerupakshappa. And we were waiting for the movement. Veerupakshappa received an urgent call from North India for this crop, so he went to Allahabad. After he left, he took over the work of organizing the Haveri Kanti Dal, Jinnappa Kenchappa Halli.. Veerupakshappa Kadi, Narayanacharya Anavatti, Shantarana Avaghana etc. The bombs we made were not dangerous. The smoke of the sapal They were bombs, but we decided not to use them to cause any damage, but only to instill fear.

**Pune Jail:** On 15/9/1942, a secret meeting of Haveri activists was called by Ninganouda in Yellapur at his house. That day, Mailara Mahadevappa, Bindu Madhava Burli, Narayanacharya Anavatti... Govindacharya Agnihotri Thimmanagouda Menasinal etc. were present. But they were arrested on the way and presented before the magistrate and on 17/8/1942, they were considered as accused of rioting and sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment and sent to Belgaum Central Jail on 21/9/1942.

**Release:** When he was released on 31/5/1943 and came to Haveri, it was sad to hear that Mailara Mahadevappa and two members of his team had been martyred. Our activists were arrested. Our Kanti Dal leaders were arrested and various charges were framed against them.

The government's attention was focused on Ganapule because he tried to help the arrested during the framing of charges. While they were thinking of deporting him from Dharwad district to another place, he himself left Dharwad district and went into hiding. In this way, from 1928 to 1944, he spent most of his life for the independence of the country and later joined a private job in April 1944. Since he had decided not to get married until independence, Ganapathi got married in 1947. In 1973, he called me to Delhi and presented me with a marriage certificate.

He was sentenced to a total of two years in prison, 15 days of concurrent sentence. A fine of Rs. 25 and punishment from the district.

Thus, he played an important role in many movements in the Haveri area, including the forest satyagraha. He was imprisoned at the age of 17 and was imprisoned four times for his many subsequent movements. He decided not to marry until independence. He got married only

after independence. It cannot be overstated that the respect he gave to nationalism and independence is evident.

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