



## Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

**For Prelims:** Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, Khasis, Bhils, Mizos, Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu,Birsa Munda, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh

**For Mains:** Tribal Leaders and Freedom Movements

### Why in News?

Recently, the [President of India](#) on the occasion of the **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** (15<sup>th</sup> November 2022) paid tribute to the **freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary**.

### Why do we Celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Divas?

- The Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is **celebrated every year to recognize the efforts of the tribals in the preservation of cultural heritage** and promotion of Indian values of national pride, valour, and hospitality.
- **Tribals held several tribal movements** across different regions of India against the British colonial rule. These tribal communities include Tamars, Santhals, [Khasis](#), [Bhils](#), [Mizos](#), and Kols to name a few.

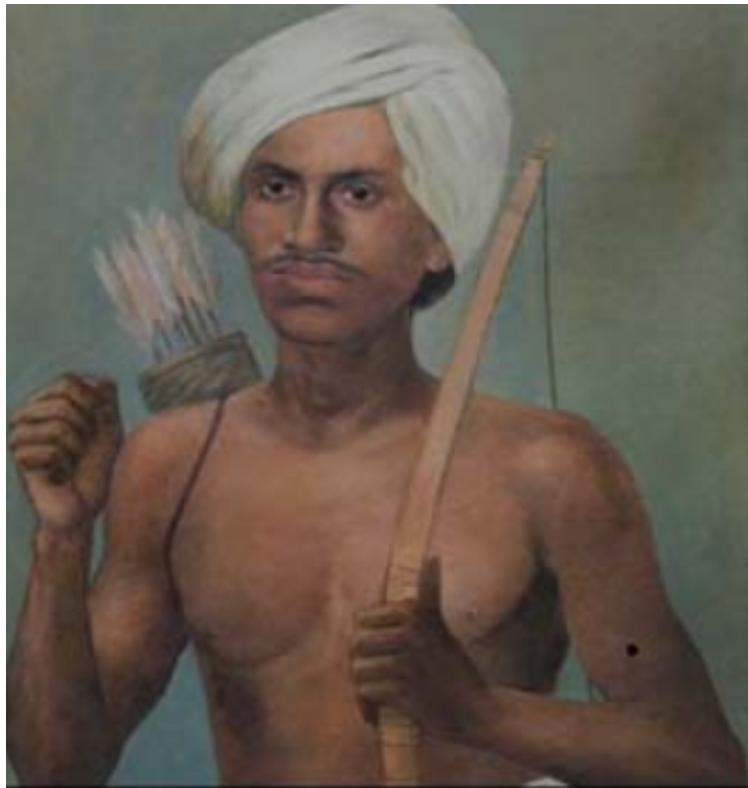
### Who were the Tribal Freedom Fighters?

#### ▪ Birsa Munda:

- Birsa Munda born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1875 was a **member of the Munda Tribe of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau**.
- He was an **Indian freedom fighter, religious leader**, and folk hero.
- He **spearheaded an Indian tribal religious Millenarian movement during British rule in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century** across the tribal belt of modern-day Jharkhand and Bihar.
  - Birsa was a **close observer of the Sardari Larai movement** in the region in the 1880s, which sought to restore tribal rights through nonviolent means such as petitioning the British government. These demands, however, were ignored by the harsh colonial authority.
- The tribals were **quickly demoted from landowners to labourers** under the zamindari system, which resulted in Birsa taking up the cause of the Adivasis.
- **Birsa Munda went on to form Birsait**, a new religion.
  - The **religion preached the belief in a single God** and urged people to return to their old religious convictions. People began to refer to him as a cost-effective religious healer, a miracle worker, and a preacher.
- People from Oraon and Munda became convinced Birsaites, and many began calling him '**Dharti Abba, meaning Father of the Earth.**' He brought a fresh perspective to the religious realm.
- Birsa Munda **led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion** against the British government-imposed feudal state system.
- He awakened the masses and sowed the seeds of revolt in them against the landlords as

well as the Britishers.

- His **struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908** which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.



- **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh:**

- He is **considered the Pride of Sonakhan in Chhattisgarh**, he looted trader's grain stock and distributed them amongst the poor after the 1856 famine.
- The sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh made him a tribal leader and he became the first martyr from Chhattisgarh in the independence struggle of 1857.



- **Shri Alluri Seetha Ram Raju:**

- He was born on **4<sup>th</sup> July, 1897** in a village called Mogallu near Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.
- Alluri is **best remembered for leading the Rampa Rebellion** against the British in which he organised the tribal people of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts to revolt against the foreigners.
- He was **inspired by the revolutionaries of Bengal** to fight against the British government.



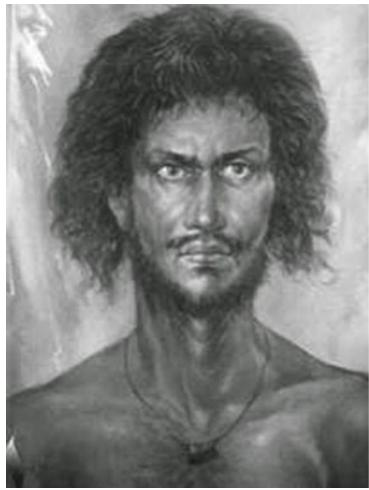
▪ **Rani Gaidinliu:**

- She was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang.
- For her, the Naga people's journey to freedom was part of India's wider movement for freedom. She also spread the message of Gandhi ji in Manipur region.



▪ **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu:**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1855, two years before the Great Revolt of 1857, two Santhal brothers Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu organised 10,000 Santhals and proclaimed a rebellion against the British.
- The tribals took an oath to drive away from the British from their homeland. The Murmu brothers' sisters Phulo and Jhano also played an active part in the rebellion.



### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

**Q. With reference to the history of India, “Ulgulan” or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events? (2020)**

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
- (d) Birsa Munda’s Revolt of 1899-1900

**Ans: (d)**

**Source: PIB**

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