



Alluri Sitarama Raju

For Prelims: Modern History, Mahatma Gandhi, non-Cooperation Movement

For Mains: Alluri Sitarama Raju and his contribution in Freedom Movement

Why in News?

Prime Minister has unveiled a bronze statue of [Alluri Sitharama Raju](#) in Andhra Pradesh to celebrate 125th birth anniversary on 4th July 2022.

- As part of [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#), Government is giving due recognition **to the contribution of freedom fighters and making people across the country aware** of them.

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Who Was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

- **About:**
 - He was an Indian revolutionary involved in the Indian independence movement.

- He was born in **present-day Andhra Pradesh in 1897 or 1898.**
- He became a sanyasi at the age of 18, and gained a **mystical aura among the hill and tribal peoples with his austerity, knowledge of astrology and medicine,** and his ability to tame wild animals.
- **Freedom Movement:**
 - At a very young age, Raju channelled the **discontent of the hill people in Ganjam, Visakhapatnam, and Godavari into a highly effective guerrilla resistance** against the British.
 - **Guerrilla warfare** is a form of irregular warfare in which small groups of combatants use military tactics including **ambushes, sabotage, raids, petty warfare, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility, to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military.**
 - Colonial rule **threatened the tribals' traditional podu (shifting) cultivation,** as the government sought to secure forest lands.
 - He became involved in **anti-British activities in response to the 1882 Madras Forest Act,** which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu (shifting cultivation).
 - Rising discontent towards the British led to the **Rampa Rebellion/Manyam Rebellion of 1922,** in which he played a major part as a leader.
 - The Rampa Rebellion coincided with [Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement](#). He persuaded people to wear [khadi](#) and give up drinking.
 - But at the same time, he asserted that India could be liberated only by the use of force, not non-violence.
 - He was nicknamed "**Manyam Veerudu**" (**Hero of the Jungle**) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.
 - In 1924, Raju was taken into police custody, **tied to a tree, and shot by a public execution,** effectively ending the armed rebellion.

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