



Alluri Sitarama Raju

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India attended the **closing ceremony** of the [125th Birth Anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju](#) in Hyderabad.

- The 125th ceremony of Alluri Sitha Rama Raju was a **year-long celebration of the birth anniversary** of the legendary freedom fighter. The ceremony was launched by the Prime Minister on July 4, 2022.

Who was Alluri Sitarama Raju?

▪ About:

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was an Indian revolutionary who fought against the **British colonial rule in India**.
- He led a **guerrilla campaign in the Eastern Ghats region** of present-day Andhra Pradesh, mobilizing the tribal people against the oppressive forest laws and policies of the British government.
- He is widely regarded as a **hero of the jungle or Manyam Veerudu** by the local people for his **bravery and sacrifice**.

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▪ Early Life and Background:

- He was born on **4 July 1897 or 1898** in Pandrangi village, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh.
- He belonged to a **Telugu-speaking Kshatriya family**.

▪ Rampa Rebellion (or Manyam Rebellion) of 1922-1924:

- Alluri Sitarama Raju joined the [Non-cooperation movement](#) led by [Mahatma Gandhi](#)

and witnessed the **exploitation of tribal people** in the Eastern Ghats region by British authorities.

- The tribal people practiced **podu or shifting cultivation**, which involved **clearing patches of forest land for agriculture and moving to another area after a few years**. This was their traditional and sustainable way of life, which also ensured their food security and cultural identity.
- The **Madras Forest Act of 1882** imposed restrictions on the tribal people's movement and prohibited their collection of minor forest produce, forcing them into **low-wage labor for the forest department or contractors**.
- Alluri Sitarama Raju **formed a guerrilla army and used Guerrilla warfare** to launch attacks on British police stations and outposts.
 - 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**.
- He aimed to liberate the tribal people and drive the British out of the Eastern Ghats.
- **Death and Legacy:**
 - Alluri Sitarama Raju was captured and killed by British forces in Koyyuru village on 7 May 1924, marking the end of the Rampa Rebellion.
 - Alluri Sitarama Raju's life exemplified the **unity of society without discrimination based on caste and class**.
 - A **postal stamp** issued by the Government of India in 1986 featuring Alluri Sitarama Raju.
 - A biographical film titled **Alluri Seetharama Raju** was released in 1974.

[Source: PIB](#)

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