

Alluri Sitarama Raju

April 21, 2022

In news— Recently, the Vice-President of India has visited the birthplace of revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju at Pandrangi, Andhra Pradesh.

A brief note on Alluri Sitarama Raju-

- He was an **Indian revolutionary who waged an armed campaign against British colonial rule in India.**
- Born in present-day Andhra Pradesh, 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.
- Rising discontent towards the British **led to the Rampa Rebellion (known as the Manyam Rebellion) of 1922**, in which he played a major part as a leader.
- Mustering a force combined of Adivasis, farmers and sympathizers to their cause, **he engaged in guerilla campaigns against the British colonial authorities** in the border regions of the Madras Presidency
- **He was nicknamed “Manyam Veerudu”** (Hero of the Jungle) by local villagers for his heroic exploits.
- Harnessing widespread discontent towards British colonial rule **in the backdrop of the non-cooperation movement**, he led his forces against the British, aiming to expel them from the Eastern Ghats region through his guerilla campaigns.
- During this period, he led numerous raids on local police stations to acquire firearms for his under-equipped forces.
- **After each raid, he would leave behind a letter written by him, informing the police about the details of his raids, including about the weaponry he parted away with, daring them to stop him if they could.**

- **In response to these raids**, and in order to quench the rebellion, the **British colonial authorities undertook a nearly two-year long manhunt for him**, resulting in expenditures reaching over ₹40 Lakh rupees then.
- Eventually, **in 1924, he was trapped by the British at the village of Koyyuru in the Chintapalle forests.**
- There, he was captured, tied to a tree and summarily executed by a firing squad.
- His resting place currently lies in the village of Krishnadevipeta.
- His **125th birth anniversary was observed on January 2, 2022.**

Komaram Bheem –

- He was a revolutionary leader in Hyderabad State of British India from the Gond tribes.
- Bheem in association with other Gond leaders and communist revolutionaries led a protracted low intensity **rebellion against the feudal Nizams of Hyderabad and the British Raj** in the eastern part of the princely state during the 1930s which **contributed to the culmination of the Telangana Rebellion of 1946.**
- **He was killed by armed policemen in 1940**, subsequently lionised as a symbol of rebellion and eulogised in Adivasi and Telugu folklore.
- **Bheem is deified as a pen in Gond culture and is credited for coining the slogan Jal, Jangal, Zameen** (Water, Forest, Land) which symbolising a sentiment against encroachment and exploitation, has been adopted by Adivasi movements as a call to action.
- He was also closely associated with the movement for Telangana statehood.