

# Rani Gaidinliu

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**In news**– Recently, the Union Home Minister virtually laid the foundation stone for the ‘Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum’.

## **About the museum project-**

- It was **sanctioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India in 2019** at an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore.
- The museum would **help preserve and exhibit artefacts related to the tribal freedom fighters, involved in different stages of the fight against the British colonial rule like Anglo-Manipuri War, Kuki-Rebellion, Naga-Raj movements, among others.**
- The proposed museum will be **set up in Rani Gaidinliu’s birthplace, Luangkao Village in Tamenglong district.**

## **About Rani Gaidinliu-**

- She was a **Naga spiritual and political leader of the Zeliangrong Nagas who led a revolt against British rule in India.**
- She was **born on 26 January 1915 in Manipur.**
- She was from the **Rongmei Naga tribe (also known as Kabui).**
- At 13, she became **associated with freedom fighter and religious leader, Haipou Jadonang,** and became his lieutenant in his social, religious and political movement.
- **Jadonang, who was also a Rongmei, started the ‘Heraka movement’, based on ancestral Naga religion, and envisioned an independent Naga kingdom (or Naga-Raja).**
- The **movement later turned into a political movement** seeking to drive out the British from Manipur and the surrounding Naga areas.

- **After the execution of Jadonang, she took up the leadership of the movement,** which slowly turned political from religious.
- Rani started a serious revolt against the British and was eventually imprisoned for life and was released after 14 years, in 1947.
- An advocate of the ancestral Naga religious practices, **she staunchly resisted the conversion of Nagas to Christianity.**
- Within the Heraka faith, she came to be **considered an incarnation of the Goddess Cherachamdinliu.**
- Acknowledging her role in the struggle against the British, **Jawaharlal Nehru called her the “Daughter of the Hills” and gave her the title “Rani” or queen.**
- She passed away on February 17, 1993.
- She was bestowed a **number of honours including the Tamrapatra in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1982, Vivekananda Sewa Summan in 1983, and Stree Shakti Puraskar in 1991.**
- She **posthumously was awarded the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Puraskar in 1996.**
- The Government of India also issued a commemorative stamp, coins in her honour.
- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned a Fast Patrol Vessel “ICGS Rani Gaidinliu” in 2016.