

ABS ACADEMY

NCTE

MONTHLY ACTIVITY

(MARCH)

ESSAY ON

TRIBAL FREEDOM

FIGHTERS'

ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU - THE TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTER

" Restore the rights of our tribal brethren .

We are not just seeking grievance redressal .

We will continue the fight against the

British Raj to eject

British Raj itself "

- ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

It is after the names of Gandhi, Nehru, Bhagat Singh, Sardar Patel, Sarojini Naidu and Bose, that are foremost in the list of freedom fighters and therefore comes in our minds. These names are etched in our memories. It is also important to talk about lesser known figures who have contributed to the freedom struggle of India and helped in its eventual nation building. The Indian history and the history of the Indian Independence movements, can not be delved into without the role and contributions of these figures.

Some of the lesser known freedom fighters who have struggled against the Britishers and colonialism are -

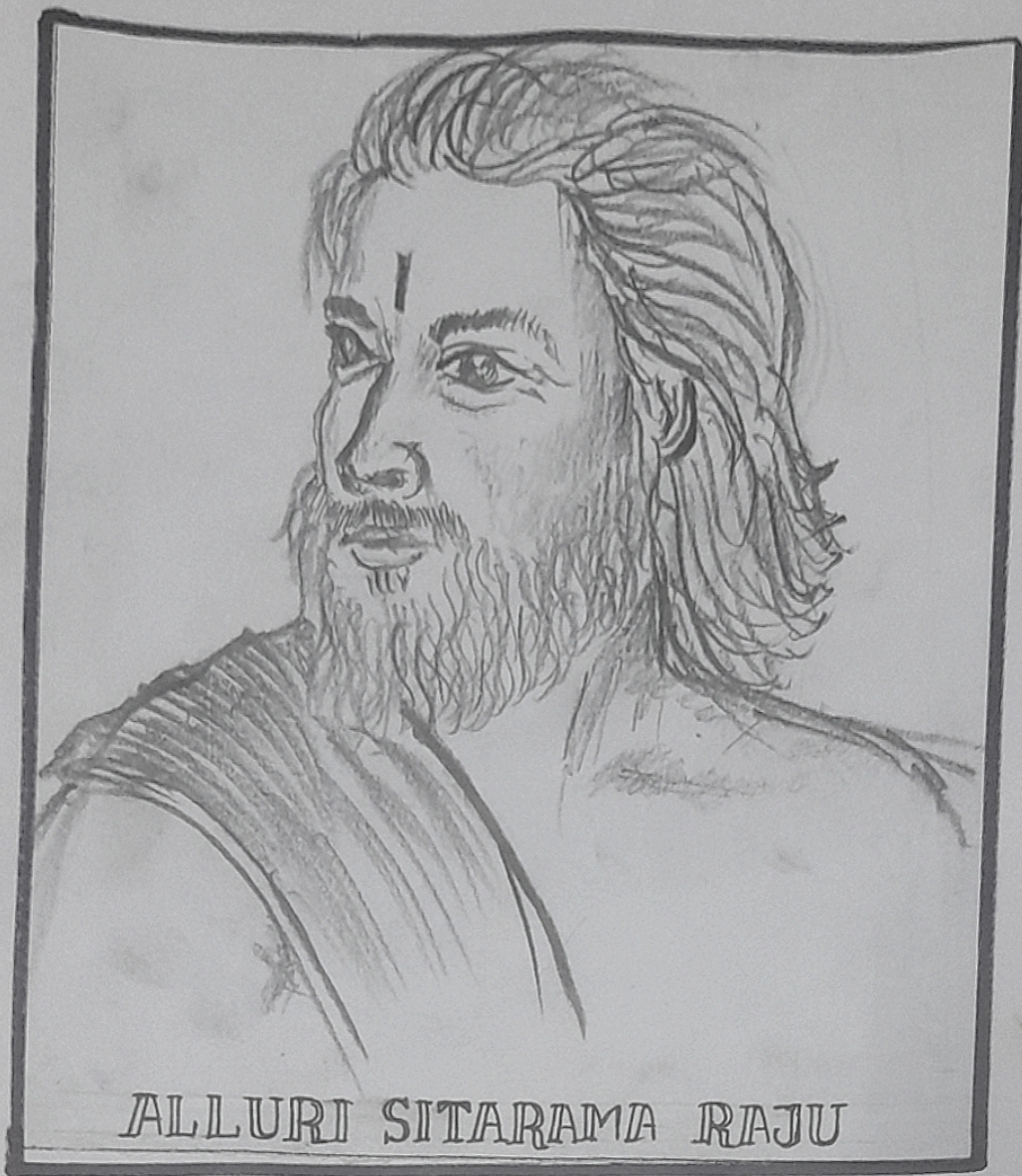
(i) Alluri Sita Rama Raju ,

(ii) Birsa Munda .

(iii) Tilka Majhi .

(iv) Sidhu-Kanhu Murmu .

Alluri Sita Rama Raju, the great warrior and leader of Indian freedom fight. Rama Raju popularly known as "Aggi Pidugu Alluri" was born on July 4, 1897 in Andhra Pradesh. He was an Indian revolutionary who waged an armed campaign against the British colonial rule in India.



Raju believed that the tribals needed to fight against the British in their own way and in their own language.

Raju's first act of rebellion against the British came when he was just 18 years old. He participated in a protest against the British government's decision to impose taxes on the local farmers. This protest was brutally suppressed by the British authorities, and many protesters, including Alluri Sitarama Raju, were arrested and jailed.

After his release, Alluri Raju became more determined to fight against the British. He organised the tribals of the region into a guerrilla force and began a campaign of sabotage against the British. He and his followers attacked police stations,

destroyed railway lines, and disrupted British communication networks.

Raju's tactics were highly effective and he soon became a thorn in the side of British authorities. The British responded by launching a massive manhunt for him. However, Alluri was master of guerrilla warfare, and he was able to evade the British for a long time.

His great achievement came in 1922 when he led massive tribal uprising, which is now known as the Rampa Rebellion, was one of the largest and most significant rebellions against British rule in India. Rebellion spread to other parts of the country.

The Rebellion was eventually suppressed by the British authorities, and Alluri Sitarama Raju was killed in a battle with British troops on May 7, 1924. His death was a great loss to the Indian freedom movement, and he is remembered to this day as a great patriot and a hero of the tribals.

In conclusion, Alluri Sitarama Raju was a tribal freedom fighter who played a significant role in the Indian Independence movement. He was a brave and determined leader who fought for the rights of the tribals and against the British colonial rule.

His legacy continues to inspire generations of Indians to fight for their freedom and to stand up against injustices.

TILKA MAJHI (1750 - 1785)

- THE TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTER

“ये भूमि धरती माता है, हमारी
माता है, इस पर हम किसी को
लसान नहीं देंगे ॥”

- क्रांतिकारी तिलका मांझी

Indian tribal freedom fighter struggle is filled with stories of brave hearts and valour, the role of tribal leaders has often been overlooked. The freedom struggle was strengthened by several movements by tribal communities such as Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis and Mizos. Here are some of the prominent tribal figures who fought for their people and their Motherland.

- (i) Rani Gaidinliu
- (ii) Veer Narayan Singh
- (iii) Tinot Singh
- (iv) Laxman Nayak.

The Revolt of 1857 may have cost the British East India Company its biggest cash cow - India, eventually its leading to its closure - but there were many rebellions before this one that resisted the British oppression in the subcontinent. Many of these were tribal revolts, the first of which was the one led by Tilka Majhi, a revolutionary leader from the hills of what is present-day Bihar. The Maras rebellion he mobilised, on the Majhi Revolt, in the late 18th century, set the tone for other tribal rebellions that followed.



To honour Tilka Manjhi's legacy a statue of him was erected at the Bhagalpur court, the very spot where he was hanged.

Tilka Manjhi was born 'Jabra Pahadia' on what is believed to be 11th February 1750, in a village called Tilka Pur in Sultangunj, Bihar. Historians are not sure whether Manjhi was a Pahadia or a Santal tribal but he is known as 'Jabra Pahadia' as this is how he is mentioned in the British records of that time. But it was his fiery nature that earned him the nickname 'Tilka', which in the Pahadia language means a 'person with angry red eyes'. He earned the moniker for his rage against the British East India Company, whose officials started addressing him by that name. Jabra later became the head of his village and it was customary in his tribe to address the village head as 'Manjhi'.

Tilka Manjhi, in his youthful years, had witnessed this transition. Around 1770 CE, Tilka was already addressing and mobilising people in small gatherings in Bhagalpur, urging them to oppose Company rule and to rise above the divisions of caste and tribe to reclaim what was theirs.

In 1778 CE, the advisors united under a 28-year-old Tilka Manjhi and they attacked the Punjab Regiment of the Company stationed in the Ramgarh Cantonment (in present-day Jharkhand). The tribal force was so fired up that their traditional weapons outdid the rifles of the Company's soldiers. As a result, the British fled the Cantonment.

What followed next was horrific. Tilka was tied to horses and dragged for miles, all the way to Bhagalpur. It is said that he was still alive when he was unried from the horses, on reaching Bhagalpur. As people watched, Jabra Pahadia's short yet well-lived life was brought to an end on 13th January 1785 CE by hanging. He was only 35 when he died.

Tilka Manjhi's heroic stand against the British. Tilka Manjhi's story has fallen through the pages of our history books. In 1991, though, the brave tribal leader's supreme sacrifice received some recognition when the Bihar Government renamed Bhagalpur University the 'TILKA MANJHI UNIVERSITY' and a memorial dedicated to him was erected at the site of his hanging.