

UNSUNG HEROES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE - SHRI ALLURI SITA RAMA RAJU

The month of August takes pride as a month of celebration and various festivals starting with Independence Day, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Rakshabandhan etc., We all know that August 15 every year is celebrated as the Independence Day. More than the why of this celebration it is time we focus on the how of it. Let us ask ourselves the following questions.

- Are all the educational institutions and organizations making it a point to celebrate the Independence Day?
- If yes, is the attendance 100%?
- Is the chief guest who has been invited a person with a difference whom the gathering can look upto?
- Is the objective of the Celebration well defined?
- Whom are we remembering on this Day?

There is no doubt in accepting the fact that all our efforts are directed to inculcate patriotism in young minds through speeches, songs, dances, skits etc., which centre around the contribution of great leaders such as Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh etc., in making India free from the clutches of the British Rule. But how well are we equipped to bring our students closer to many unsung or forgotten heroes at the regional level who laid their lives in the Freedom Movement. I take this opportunity to introduce to the readers one such hero from Andhra Pradesh – Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju called as Manyam Veerudu (Hero of the Jungles).

Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju was a brave son of India who laid down his life to free mother India from the oppression of the British. He was born on 4th July 1897. While pursuing his studies at Kakinada, Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju came in contact with a notable freedom fighter, Sri Madduri Annapurnayya, and Rallapalli Atchuta Ramayya, a scholar of high repute. For his further studies he went to Visakhapatnam at the age of 15. Though he didn't have much interest in studies, he was very keen to know more about the political condition of India at that time.

In 1857 during the first war of independence thousands of tribals of Gond land laid their life for their country. Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju went deep into the forests of Gond land to meet the tribals and inspire them to fight for India's independence.

In the tribal areas, the poor and illiterate tribal people were exploited and oppressed blatantly by the Britishers. Since the tribals were not united against the Britishers they took advantage of it and deprived the tribals of their rights. Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju inspired and united the different tribes of the area, trained them in skills of guerrilla warfare and proved to be a terror for the Britishers. Soon he was ready to attack the enemy with his army. On 22nd August 1922, his tribal army initiated their struggle by raiding three police stations Chintapalli Police Station, Krishnadevipeta Police Station, and Rajavommangi on three consecutive days. After the raids they captured a huge number of guns, bayonets, cartridges and swords. They even freed Veerayya Dora from jail who was a revolutionary.

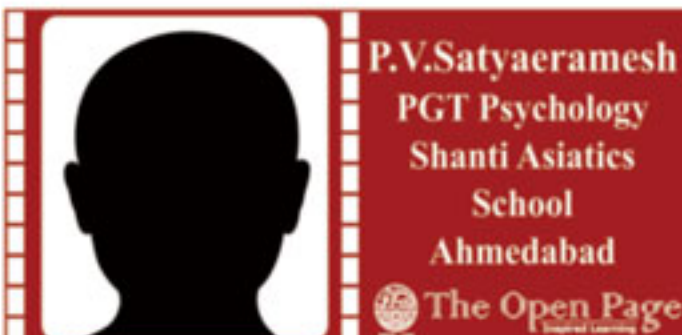
The British Army was alerted by his actions and platoons of Police and Army were ordered to arrest Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju. He again attacked the British Army at Peddavalasa and defeated them as a result of which they had to bear heavy casualties and finally retreated. From that day onwards there was a regular warfare between Raju and the Britishers and Raju came out triumphant in all. Nearly for two years (1922 to 1924) he terrorized the British Army and was the ruler of the vast area. Later Britishers were keen to kill him and deployed battalions of Assam Rifles and others. He was killed by the British on one fateful day.

Legacy:

- In his honour, two statues of Raju have been erected, one at Seethammadhara Junction and the other one on the beach road near The Park Hotel in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- In 1986 a commemorative stamp featuring Raju in the series 'India's struggle for freedom' was issued by the Indian Postal Department.

Reference:

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/whoiswho/history/alluriseetarama-raju.html>



Alluri Sita Rama Raju



Aggi Pidugu Alluri

Born	4-July-1897 Pandurangi village, [Visakhapatnam]
Died	7 May 1924 (aged 26) Mampa village in the Visakhapatnam District
Cause of death	Shooting
Resting place	K.D Peta village, Visakhapatnam district
Ethnicity	Kshatriya
Known for	Freedom fighting
Title	Manyam Veerudu
Religion	Hinduism
Parent(s)	Venkata Ramaraju, Suryanarayanamma

FESTIVALS OF INDIA SOME CUSTOMS SOME TRADITION

CONTINUED FROM P-5

the Christian festivals are celebrated such as Goa as most of the oldest and beautiful churches. They do feast, prayers and processions while celebrating their festivals.

Festivals celebrated by Christian Brethren and Sisters include: Good Friday, Easter, Christmas, Feast of the saints, etc.

Buddhist Festivals: People from Buddhist religion celebrate their festivals well connected to their Lord Buddha and the Bodhisattvas. It is considered that the Buddhist festivals were first started by lord Buddha and he advised his followers to be in touch with each other to strengthen their bond. Buddhist has their own beliefs and rituals of celebrating historical festivals. The do worship of the historical objects while celebrating their festivals.

Their festivals become more religious, spiritual and intellectual which are not restricted to any service of the community.

Buddhist celebrate the following festivals: Losar, Buddha Purnima, Hemis Gompa, Ullambana, etc. Thus one can say that India is a land of festivals and Indians are always in joyous mood to celebrate all the festivals that they come across being a secular country.

Source: Excerpts from indiacelebrating.com

INSPIRING JOURNEY ON A CYCLE



65 years old senior citizen, known as Indian Uncle is spreading benefits of Cycle riding for National building. Talking with the Open Page. Uncle told, students are the future of nation and when our students excel the Country will automatically become power full. OIU told that students will be involved in this service of Nation and would be provided proper guidance. He narrated the benefits of Cycle to school students and spread the message of Environmental Protection which will help fuel saving as well as health improvment. A Native of Junagadh and retired Govt.Officer, said that a name like "Indian" will help to motivate and unite us as a big family. Co - operation is the best way for happy relations. He started his journey Since 26th January 2012 and visited 22 schools of Junagadh, 7 schools of Ahmedabad.6 schools from Dhoraji and educated students about the benefits of Cycling and patriotism.

He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery. ~ Harold Wilson