

Aluru Venkata Rao

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Aluru Venkata Raya (12 July 1880 – 25 February 1964) was an Indian historian, writer and journalist. He is revered as Karnataka Kulapurohita (*High priest of the Kannada family*) in the [Karnataka](#) region for his contribution towards the cause of a separate Karnataka state. He became famous for undertaking a [Karnataka Ekikarana](#) movement in support of the formation of a state for the [Kannada](#)-speaking population of [Mysore](#), [Bombay Presidency](#) and the [Nizam's Hyderabad](#).

Early life

- Venkata Rao was born on 12 July 1880 to Bhima Rao, a [sheristadar](#) in the revenue department. The family lived in [Bijapur, Karnataka](#). He studied for a B.A and L.L.B at [Fergusson College](#), where he came in contact with [Vinayak Damodar Savarkar](#), [Senapati Bapat](#) and [Bal Gangadhar Tilak](#). Rao was a close friend of Tilak and translated his [Gita Rahasya](#) into Kannada.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Role of Unification Movement in karnataka

- Although resentment and protest had started as early as in 1856 and the [Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha](#) had been established in 1890, the movement took a dramatic turn with the arrival of Aluru Venkata Rao on the scene. Speaking at a meeting of the Sangha in 1903, Alur Venkata Rao made a case for integrating all Kannada regions of Madras Province and north Karnataka with Mysore kingdom. Aluru himself was inspired by the protests that followed the British partitioning of Bengal.

- In 1907 and again in 1908, Rao organised the All-Karnataka Writers' Conference in [Dharwad](#). Inspired by the Vidyavardhaka Sangha and the efforts of Deshpande, Aluru helped found the [Kannada Sahitya Parishat](#) in [Bangalore](#) in 1915. This Parishat found a patron in the ruler of Mysore. The Parishat began holding annual literary conferences (that continue today) in different parts of the state. Intellectuals from across the Kannada speaking regions attended these conferences. During the [Home Rule Movement](#), Aluru floated the idea of a Karnataka 'Provincial' unit of the [Indian National Congress](#). This soon took shape and the Karnataka Pradesh Congress committee was formed.

Thank you