Rani Chennamma of Kittur (1778–1829) was a prominent freedom fighter from present-day Karnataka who led an armed resistance against the British East India Company in 1824. She opposed the Company’s attempt to annex Kittur after refusing to recognise her adopted son as the legitimate successor.

Despite limited resources, she led her forces in two major confrontations with the British. Although eventually captured and imprisoned at Bailhongal Fort, she remains remembered as one of the earliest women rulers to resist British colonial expansion in India.

APSC Relevance: Anti-Colonial Resistance, Women in History