

YSRCP pays tribute to Potti Sriramulu on 125th Jayanti

- Jagan hails Sriramulu as a symbol of Telugu self-respect and sacrifice for Andhra statehood
- Leaders recall his 58-day fast that paved the way for linguistic states in India
- Criticise the coalition govt for allegedly neglecting his legacy, including failure to fund a planned 58-foot statue



MLC Lella Appi Reddy, former minister Vellampalli Srinivas, Sake Sailajanath, former MLA Malladi Vishnu and others pay tributes to the portrait of Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary at YSRCP Central office at Tadepalli on Monday

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GUNTUR

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday said Potti Sriramulu symbolises the self-respect of Telugu people and that his supreme sacrifice for a separate state for Andhra continues to inspire generations. YSRCP leaders paid rich

tributes to the legendary freedom fighter on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary at the party's central office in Tadepalli. Floral tributes were offered as leaders recalled his historic sacrifice for the creation of a separate state for Telugu-speaking people.

Speaking on the occasion, party leaders said the name

of Potti Sriramulu would remain immortal as long as the Telugu community exists. They remembered his 58-day fast unto death demanding a separate state for Telugu people, which ultimately paved the way for the formation of linguistic states in India.

MLC Lella Appi Reddy said such a selfless sacrifice

for a linguistic state was unparalleled in world history. He added that the ideals of Potti Sriramulu are reflected in the leadership and governance approach of Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, who, he said, has upheld values of integrity, credibility and commitment towards the state and its people.

Former MLA Malladi

Vishnu recalled that inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Potti Sriramulu undertook several fasts in his life, including the historic fast that eventually led to the formation of linguistic states in the country.

Former minister Vellampalli Srinivas said the previous YSRCP government restored the celebration of Andhra Pradesh Formation Day on November 1 and honoured Potti Sriramulu's legacy.

He criticised the present coalition government for allegedly neglecting his memory, including failing to allocate funds for the construction of a 58-foot statue while spending heavily on other projects.

Former minister Sake Sailajanath said the life and dedication of Potti Sriramulu should inspire people to work with similar determination for the pride and unity of Telugu society.

3 contract workers attempt suicide at Nandyal govt hospital

- The outsourced workers allegedly consumed phenyl on the hospital premises, creating a tense situation before staff rushed them for emergency treatment
- The workers blamed alleged unfair treatment by the contracting agency after being removed from supervisor posts and reassigned as security guards
- Agency representatives say the changes followed MoU rules requiring a degree qualification for supervisor roles; police have registered a case and begun an investigation



Contract workers who attempted suicide undergoing treatment at Nandyal government hospital on Monday

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NANDYAL

A tense situation prevailed at the Government General Hospital here on Monday after three contract workers allegedly attempted suicide by consuming phenyl, triggering concern among hospital staff and authorities. The workers, identified as Naganna, Chennaiah and Adi, were employed under the Eagle Hunter agency and were reportedly serving as supervisors at the hospital. The incident

caused a brief commotion at the hospital premises before staff members intervened and rushed them for immediate medical treatment.

According to hospital sources, the three workers consumed phenyl within the hospital premises. Alert hospital staff quickly noticed their condition and shifted them to the emergency ward, where doctors administered timely treatment.

Medical officials later confirmed that the workers are currently out of danger. The incident created anxiety among other contract workers and visitors, drawing attention to ongoing issues faced by outsourced employees.

The affected workers alleged that the suicide attempt was driven by distress over what they described as unfair treatment by the agency. They claimed that after staging protests earlier demanding payment of salaries as per

the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the management allegedly took retaliatory action.

According to them, despite working at the hospital since 2014 without any complaints, they were removed from their supervisor roles and reassigned as security guards, which they described as humiliating.

However, representatives of the Eagle Hunter agency stated that the changes were made in accordance with the terms of the MoU. They explained that as per revised regulations, a degree qualification is mandatory for the post of supervisor and only candidates meeting the eligibility criteria are being continued in those positions.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the families of the workers have appealed to the authorities to conduct a fair inquiry and ensure justice.

DGP PAYS TRIBUTES

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AMARAVATI

ON the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of freedom fighter and proponent of linguistic state of Andhra Potti Sriramulu, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta paid rich



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta paying tributes to 'Amarajeevi' Potti Sriramulu by garlanding his portrait

floral tributes by garlanding his portrait at the Andhra Pradesh Police Headquarters on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said that Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu played a crucial role in India's freedom struggle by following the ideals and path of Mahatma Gandhi. He noted that Sriramulu's immense sacrifice for the formation of linguistic states remains a permanent chapter in the nation's history. Harish Kumar Gupta stated that Potti Sriramulu's historic fast unto death for the creation of a separate Andhra state stands as an extraordinary episode in India's history and symbolises the self-respect and aspirations of the Telugu people. His 58-day hunger strike ultimately led to the formation of Andhra State and became a turning point in the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines in the country.

High alert as tiger moves near Annavaram



Drone camera captured the tiger near Mandapam village in Sankhavaram mandal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

FOREST officials have intensified efforts to track and capture a tiger that has been moving near Annavaram hill and surrounding villages in Kakinada district, prompting authorities to alert devotees and residents in the area.

On Sunday evening, the tiger was spotted moving near Annavaram hill and close to the Pampa reservoir, raising concern among pilgrims visiting the temple. Following the sighting, temple authorities warned devotees staying in accommodation on the hill not to venture out at night. Staff attending duties on Monday were instructed to reach the hill only through temple buses from the toll gate. As a precautionary measure, devotees were

not allowed to use the footpath route to the hill. Forest officials confirmed that the tiger crossed the Sankhavaram-Kathipudi road and moved through agricultural fields towards Mandapam village.

Earlier, drone cameras deployed by the forest department detected the animal in an open field near the forest stretch between Sankhavaram and Annavaram. Though the tiger's presence was confirmed through VHF tracking equipment and officials attempted to surround the area, the animal unexpectedly changed its route and moved away. According to officials, the tiger has been creating concern among residents in Kakinada and Polavaram districts for the past 17 days. The animal had earlier caused panic in several villages in East Godavari district for nearly ten days before

it was finally trapped near Kurmapuram. It was later released into the Papikonda forest region by forest authorities, but it appears to have strayed out of the forest area again and returned to nearby habitations. Efforts are under way to capture the tiger and shift it safely back into the forest.

The operation is being carried out under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer N Ramachandra Rao. Nearly 100 personnel, including forest staff, rescue teams and tranquiliser dart specialists, have been deployed for the operation with the help of drone surveillance and VHF tracking systems. Chief Conservator of Forests Srikanta Nath Reddy is personally monitoring the operation as officials continue their search in the surrounding forest and agricultural areas.

'Statue of Sacrifice' puts Telugu pride on global stage: Lokesh

Minister says the 58-foot bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu unveiled in Amaravati symbolises the pride and self-respect of Telugu people and takes their legacy to the international stage

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MINISTER for education and IT Nara Lokesh said the installation of the 58-foot bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu in Amaravati has taken the greatness of the Telugu people from the state capital to the international stage. He said the "Statue of Sacrifice" symbolises the pride and self-respect of Andhra Pradesh and stands as a living reminder of Sriramulu unparalleled sacrifice. Lokesh participated in the unveiling ceremony of the 58-foot bronze statue of Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu in the people's capital Amaravati along with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion of Sriramulu's 125th birth anniversary. The statue was erected to commemorate his historic 58-day fast unto death demanding the formation of a separate Andhra State.

Paying tributes at the memorial, Lokesh said he felt proud to say that he is a Telugu citizen of Andhra Pradesh and that this sense of pride was given to the Telugu people by Potti Sriramulu. "He is not just an individual but a symbol of Telugu honour. His sacrifice gave us our state, and his birth anniversary is like a festival for every Telugu person," he said.

Lokesh recalled that during his Yuva Galam padayatra, he had promised members of the Arya Vaishya community that a grand statue of Amarajeevi would be installed in Amaravati. "It gives me immense satisfaction that we were able to fulfil that promise in a short time," he said.

He noted that the foundation for the statue



Minister Nara Lokesh addressing the gathering at the unveiling of Potti Sriramulu's statue in Amaravati on Monday

was laid on September 3, 2025, and the project was completed within 194 days, reflecting the commitment of the coalition government, the memorial trust, officials, workers and donors who contributed to the initiative.

Lokesh described Potti Sriramulu as a tireless freedom fighter and social reformer who fought selflessly for society without seeking power or political positions. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Sriramulu joined the Sabar-mati Ashram, participated in the freedom movement, and even went to jail during the Satyagraha struggle. He also led movements for Dalit temple entry in Nellore and fought against untouchability, undertaking several hunger strikes for social justice.

Lokesh explained that Sriramulu began his historic fast on October 19, 1952, at the residence of Bulusu Sambamurthy in Madras and continued it for 58 days, sacrificing his life for the cause of a separate Andhra State. His death stirred the nation and ultimately led to the formation of Andhra State with Kurnool as its capital on October 1, 1953.

He also referred to historian Ramachandra Guha, who wrote that Potti Sriramulu had a profound impact on India's history and geography, as his sacrifice paved the way for the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines.

Four get life imprisonment for gang rape, murder

- The case was investigated by South Zone DSP S Bhavya Kishore, who filed the charge sheet
- Court also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on each of the convicts



SP D Narasimha Kishore addressing the media in Rajamahendravaram on Monday

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

THE VIII Additional District Judge Court here has sentenced four accused to life imprisonment for the gang rape and murder of a woman, Routhu Kasturi, from Buri-lanka village in Kadiyampuram mandal. District Superintendent of Police D Narasimha Kishore disclosed the details of the case to the media on Monday. According to the police, Kasturi had left her house around 2 pm on October 15, 2024, to work at a nursery owned by Patamsetti Ramudu near the Buri-lanka bridge. When she did not return home

by evening, her husband tried calling her phone, but it was switched off. Family members and villagers searched the surrounding areas but could not find her. A complaint was lodged at Kadiyampuram police station on October 16, following which police registered a case of a missing woman under Crime No 314/2024 and began an investigation. On October 17, Kasturi's body was found in a canal near Choppella locks. The body was shifted to the Government General Hospital in Rajamahendravaram for post-mortem examination. During the investigation, police identified four suspects, Devara Yesu (26), Velubudi

Praveen (21), Lokina Jayapradev (19) and Dasari Suresh (22), all residents of Buri-lanka and nearby areas. They were arrested on October 30, 2024. Police investigation revealed that the accused were consuming alcohol among the nursery plantations around 5.30 pm on October 15. When Kasturi was returning home after completing her work, they allegedly dragged her into the nursery area, sexually assaulted her and later murdered her. The accused then dumped the body in a nearby canal to conceal the crime.

The case was investigated by South Zone DSP S Bhavya Kishore, who filed the charge

sheet against the accused under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 70(1), 103(1), 238 read with 3(5). After hearing the arguments from both sides, the VIII Additional District Judge Court at Rajamahendravaram delivered its verdict on March 16, 2026, sentencing all four accused to life imprisonment.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on each of the convicts, with an additional six months of imprisonment in case of default. The SP appreciated the efforts of Assistant Public Prosecutor K Radhakrishna Raju, investigating officer DSP S Bhavya Kishore, Kadiyampuram SI B Naga Durga Prasad, court constable K Srinivas and other police personnel who assisted in the investigation and ensured the presence of witnesses in court. SP announced rewards also for the officers and staff involved in successfully securing the conviction.

APCRDA wins 'Economic Times GovTech Award 2026'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA) has received national recognition for its innovative digital planning initiative for the development of the people's capital, Amaravati. The authority's "Amaravati Integrated Digital Urban Planning and Governance Platform" has been selected for the Gold Award at the Economic Times GovTech Awards 2026. The award has been announced by The Economic Times, which informed APCRDA Commissioner K. Kannababu about the honour and congratulated the authority for its achievement.

The digital platform, developed based on the Amaravati Master Plan, integrates advanced technologies such as Amaravati Digital Twin and ICT platforms to support effi-

cient urban planning and governance. The project has been selected for the Gold Award under the "Smart Cities & Urban Tech Leadership" category, recognizing its role in enabling technology-driven city development. The Economic Times GovTech Awards aim to identify and honour innovative technology projects implemented in the government sector across India. The winners were selected by a distinguished jury comprising experts and former senior government officials. The awards will be formally presented at a ceremony scheduled to be held Thursday at the Hyatt Regency in New Delhi.

Officials said the recognition highlights the growing emphasis on digital governance and smart urban planning in Amaravati and strengthens the state's efforts to build a modern, technology-driven capital city.