

SRI. GOUTHU LATCHANNA, who became a Sardar during India's Freedom Struggle, was born on the Sixteenth day of August, Nineteen Hundred and Nine at Baruva, a coastal village of Srikakulam District, to poor tapper parents Smt. Rajamma and Sri.Chittaiah. Sri. Latchanna whose name is a household word today jumped into the Freedom Struggle even while he was a student. He could not complete his school final examination, as he was heart and soul involved in the struggle and was arrested for his involvement there in.

The story of his life is a legend in his own lifetime and is an unending source of inspiration for the present generation. The events in the life of Sri. Latchanna have become history and will help younger generations to emulate the qualities of dedicated and selfless sacrifices of a great leader and the events of his life from historical India to living India help the future historians to make their studies. The following are the important events in his life.

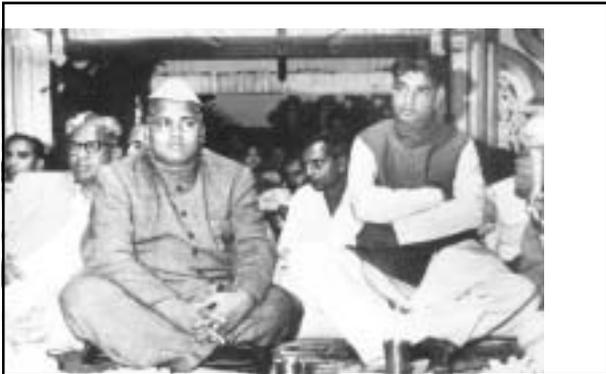
- At the age of 21, Sri. Latchanna was arrested in connection with the salt-cotours raid at Naupada on April, 1930. He was imprisoned for two months and a half at Tekkali and Narasannapeta sub-jails in Srikakulam District as an undertrial and was finally convicted to undergo rigorous imprisonment for one month under "C class" and was sent to Berhampur jail in Ganjam District.
- Consequent on the 1931 Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Sri Latchanna organized the Congress Satyagraha camp at Baruva and conducted picketings on the sale of toddy, liquor and foreign cloth shops in the then three revenue taluks of Ichchapuram, Sompeta and Tekkali in the present Srikakulam District.
- He underwent Congress Sevadal Sainik training at Berhampur organised by the Ganjam District Andhra Congress Committee in 1931 and also underwent the Congress Sevadal officers' training at Kakinada organized by the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee in 1932.
- He was lathi-charged during the 1932 civil disobedience movement for hoisting the Congress flag at Baruva, violating the Prohibitory Orders and was sentenced 6 months' rigorous imprisonment with "C class" and was sent to the Rajahmundry central jail.
- He was lodged in the same block where Sri. Vijaya Kumar Sinha and Sri. Siva Varma, life prisoners in the Bhagat Singh Case, (Lahore Conspiracy Case) were transferred from the Andamans to Rajahmundry after the death of Jitendradas Dutt. Sri. Jitendradas Dutt died during his fast-unto-death, demanding separate classification for political prisoners. Sri Latchanna and some of his Andhra Colleagues like Sri. Anne Anjayya and Sri. Alluri Satyanarayana Raju and others had long discussions in the evenings about the organization of Indian republican revolutionary party and came to an understanding to organize such revolutionary party in Andhra.

On the release of Sri. Latchanna the above prisoners, who were convicted for one year promised Sri. Latchanna to have a meeting after their own release, to form the said revolutionary Party.

- He was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's fast-unto-death at Yeravada Central jail on the issue of untouchability practiced by Caste-Hindus. Sri Latchanna organised a Harijan Seva Sangam at Baruva and after his release from the Rajahmundry jail, started a night school in the harijan-cheri and started agitation at the district level for the removal of untouchability. He took the harijans to a drinking water well at Baruva for which he and his colleagues had to suffer social boycott in 1932.



- After the events connected with the Madras and Kakinada bomb cases, Sri Latchanna to fulfill his promise given to the late Sri. Vijaya Kumar Sinha and Sri Siva Varma in the Rajahmundry central jail, left home without the knowledge of his family and went to Cuttack (Orissa), Kharagpur and Calcutta (Bengal) and Tatanagar (Bihar) to contact the then Indian Republic Revolutionary Party leaders for joining their movement. But he could not meet anyone as most of them had been arrested or went underground. It was a tense movement as the European Collector of Midnapur was shot dead by revolutionaries at that time. Sri Latchanna fell ill at Tatanagar in his relative's house. After learning about his illness at Tatanagar, his brother went to Tatanagar got him back home.
- Soon after his return to Baruva on a call given by Prof. N. G. Ranga at the national level, Sri Latchanna participated in the foot-march of Rythu-Rakshana Yatra from Varanasi of Parlakimidi estate to Chatrapur, the headquarters of the then Ganjam district in the Madras state.
- Sri Latchanna organised estate wise Zamindari Rythu associations in the district and organised indirect no-tax campaign in the district on the plea that Zamindari Kisans were unable to pay the heavy land revenue levied by the Zamindars and started agitations for the abolition of the Zamindari system.
- He studied politics at the summer political school run by Prof. N.G. Ranga at Nidubrolu, Guntur District for two months in every year during 1935 to 1937.
- He was elected as the President of the then Ganjam district Congress Committee. He became a member of Andhra Rashtra Congress Committee and the All India Congress Committee from 1934-1951. He was elected as the joint secretary, Andhra Rashtra congress committee from 1946-51.
- As Secretary of the Andhra Congress Committee he organised a reception at Eluru to the soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauz founded by Netaji Subash Chandra Bose.
- Sri Latchanna conducted Congress Seval Officer's Training Camp for two months at Palasa in Srikakulam district both for men and for women as the secretary of the Andhra Congress Seval.
- He organised an All India Kissan Sabha at Palasa in 1940 as the Secretary of the reception committee which was headed by Sri Pullela Syama Sundara Rao. It was presided over by Swamy Sahajananda Saraswati (Bihar) and was inaugurated by Indulal Yagnik (Maharashtra) and was addressed by Prof. N.G. Ranga and others.
- The reception committee took a long procession with tens and thousands of hill tribals and kissans with an effigy of the Zamindari system and got it burnt publicly, It was followed by a public meeting of the All Indian Kissan Sabha violating the prohibitory orders of the then composite Madras Government, Mr. Chakravarthi, I.C.S., the then sub collector remained a spectator with his reserve police force to avoid bloodshed.
- On the conclusion of the conference, sarvasri Sahajananda Saraswati, Indulal yagnik, and Prof. Ranga were arrested while they were returning to their respective places.
- The famous revolution of Mandasa Ryots led by Smt. Veeragunnamma of Gudari Rajamanipuram, a kisan lady took place in 1940. Immediately after the conference of the All India Kissan Sabha at Palasa, the Mandasa Ryots took out a procession with their bullock carts into the forest of the Mandasa Zamindari, cut trees and took them to their villages openly by driving away the estate forest guards.



- On the telegraphic complaint of the Mandasa estate, the sub collector of Srikakulam visited the villages with police force and got the kisans arrested when the sub collector tried to take them to Mandasa fort, the villagers, under the leadership of Smt. Veeragunnamma surrounded the sub-collector and demanded the release of the arrested kisans. This resulted in police firing killing Smt. Veeragunnamma, four kisans and one police constable.
- On receipt of the information, Sri Latchanna along with Sri. Syama Sundara Rao rushed to Mandasa from Srikakulam. The sub collector refused to give them interview. While Sri Syama Sundara Rao left for his native place Ichchapuram where he was interned by the then Madras Government. Sri Latchanna visited the villages the next morning to prevent the high-handed harassment of the police against kisans. He opened a defense camp at Haripuram.
- When the police were finding it difficult to prepare a charge sheet against the kisans, Sri Latchanna was also interned at his native village Baruva. In spite of intensive vigilance Sri Latchanna toured the villages during nights and exhorted the public not to assist the police by providing witness.
- Knowing this, the District, Collector telegraphically recommended to the Madras Government for the detention of Sri Latchanna. Sri Latchanna learnt this in advance and went underground. He conducted the defense successfully from underground by engaging a senior criminal lawyer late-Sri Human Sastry and got the murder case struck down by the sessions court, Visakhapatnam convicting 12 persons only out of 48 accused for one year's imprisonment for unlawful Assembly.
- In 1941, Sri Latchanna organised "Burma refugee's conference" at Narasannapeta. At that time Rangoon was bombarded during the Second World War. The Indian Labour in Burma fled to their mother land India. Sri Latchanna who was underground at that time, organised a conference of Burma refugees at Narasannapeta. It was presided over by Prof. N.G. Ranga. As a result, the Madras government was obliged to provide relief to the evacuees by constituting "Burma evacuees relief committee" after the conference.
- The Quit India Movement of 1942 : Immediately after the launching of the Quit India movement by the All India Congress Committee at Bombay, Sri Latchanna with his colleague Sri Silla Rajula Reddy got the Kalingapatnam Post office raided and burnt out. Later at his native village Baruva, he got an armoury train derailed for which the Madras government issued orders to shoot-at-sight in addition to the prior announcement of a prize of Rs. 10,000/- to give information about Sri Latchanna's whereabouts. In spite of it Sri. Latchanna organised a widespread no-tax campaign in the district and conducted a workers' meeting on a hill near Kommusariapalli to raid the sub collector's office, Srikakulam.
- On invitation to a meeting of underground South Indian Congress leaders' at Madras, Sri Latchanna and his colleague the late Sri Killi Appala Naidu started proceeding to Madras. A message about this was sent by Andhra Congress dictator Sri. Sampath Kumar through Sri Jayanthi Dharma Teja. Sri Latchanna was arrested at Rajahmundry in 1943 on his way to Madras and was convicted for one year's rigorous "C class" imprisonment for possessing seditious literature and was sent to Alipuram Camp jail while his colleague Sri Killi Appala Naidu was sent as a detenu to the Tanjavur Central jail.



- After his release from Alipuram Camp jail, Sri Latchanna was arrested at the gate itself and was sent to Cannanore Central jail and later to Tanjavur Central jail. Finally he was released from Rayavellore jail after the declaration of the Indian Independence in October, 1945.
- In 1946, Sri Latchanna was elected as the joint secretary of Andhra Congress Committee with Prof. Ranga as its president.
- During the 1946 Madras Assembly elections, Sri Latchanna was refused congress ticket, against the wishes of thousands of congress workers on the pretext that he was violent during his underground period. It was so alleged by Sri Kala Venkata Rao who was then the secretary of All India Congress Committee. Yet Sri Latchanna signed the nomination papers of Sri. Rokkam Rammurthy Naidu and played a decisive role in getting Sri Rammurthy Naidu elected.

Sri Latchanna was the joint secretary of the Andhra Congress Committee and toured the Orissa, Bihar and Bengal states in 1947 and submitted a report to the Andhra Congress Committee about the steps to be taken for the redressal of the difficulties being experienced by Andhras living in other states on behalf of the Andhra Congress goodwill mission.

- Sri Latchanna in charge of Labour, as secretary of the PCC. He became the founder-president of the Andhra State Unit of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, in which position he continued as president till 1955. In the newly formed Andhra State at Kurnool, he became a minister in the united congress government of the Andhra State.
- He became the President of the then Scindia Shipyard Labour Union at Visakhapatnam and organised a strike successfully and got pay scales and service grades introduced for the first time to the workers.
- At the office of the Scindia Steam Ship Navigation Company at Bombay, the agreement was signed on the same day when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated at a prayer meeting at the Birla Bhavan at Delhi. Next morning Sri. Latchanna proceeded to New Delhi by air from Bombay to attend the cremation of the Mahatma at Rajghat.
- Sri Latchanna as secretary of the Andhra Congress Sevadal, made security arrangements to Pandit Nehru, the then Prime Minister who visited Visakhapatnam in 1948 to launch the first Indian built ship “Jala Usha” by the Scindia Steamship Navigation Company.
- Sri Latchanna married Smt. Yasoda Devi in 1948 after India attained independence.
- On the third day after his marriage he was obliged to proceed to Rangoon to get the release of thousands of Indian labour who were then in concentration camps. Consequent on the communist revolution in which Gen. Aung San, the then Prime Minister of Burma and his Cabinet colleagues were assassinated.
- While Sri Latchanna was in Rangoon he received a telegram from the Late Sri Babu Rajendra Prasad, the then Congress President to proceed to Visakhapatnam immediately to file nomination for the Visakhapatnam by-election to the labour seat as congress candidate in 1948. He was elected to the Madras Assembly, defeating the communist and socialist candidates.
- He presided over the first Andhra State Backward classes’ conference at Guntur in 1949. The conference decided to achieve their legitimate rights and privileges embodied



in the Constitution, like reservations and directives for their social, economic and educational development. Sri Latchanna undertook a statewide tour and organised District Backward Classes' Associations.

- In 1951, Sri Latchanna resigned from the Congress Party along with Andhra Kesari Prakasam and Prof. N.G. Ranga who organised Praja party and Krishikar lok party respectively to save parliamentary democracy.
- In the same year Sri Latchanna was elected as secretary of the Krishikar Lok-party.
- In 1952 the first General elections of independent India took place, Sri Latchanna got elected to the Madras Assembly with 11 more members in the composite Visakhapatnam district on KLP ticket by defeating the Congress Candidate. He was elected as a leader of Krishkar Lok Legislature party in the then Madras Assembly.
- In 1953, Sri Latchanna took active part in the agitation demanding separate Andhra State which was finally achieved by the supreme sacrifice of Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu.
- The Government of India constituted a partition committee to form a separate Andhra State from the composite Madras state under the presidency of Sri. C.M.Trivedi, I.C.S., and nominated Sri Latchanna as member on behalf of KLP along with Sri Sanjeeva Reddy (Congress) and Sri. T. Viswanadham (Praja party).
- On the first October 1953, a separate Andhra State Government was inaugurated by Pandit Nehru with Andhra Kesari Prakasam Pantulu as Chief Minister who resigned from the Praja Party and rejoined the congress.
- Though Sri Latchanna was not taken into the Cabinet in the first instance. Sri Prakasam had to take Sri Latchanna subsequently into the cabinet on 07.11.1953 to get a working majority in the Andhra Assembly at Kurnool, after taking the permission of the K.L.P. President Acharya Ranga.
- Sri Latchanna resigned his ministership in January 1954 as directed by the Krishikar Lok-Party on the issue of the State Capital.
- In 1954, consequent on the enactment of the Prohibition Act the Excise department harassed lakhs of poor toddy tappers who were thrown out of employment Sri Latchanna organised and led the Tappers Satyagraha to secure rehabilitation for the unemployed Tappers. More than 6,000 Tappers courted arrest and were sent to jail.
- Smt. Yasodadevi, wife of Sri. Latchanna offered Satyagraha at Guntur and courted arrest, when more than 25,000 tappers attended the Public meeting addressed by Sri. Latchanna. To give a final touch to the Tappers Satyagraha. Sri Latchanna moved a no-confidence motion against the Prakasam Congress Government which was passed by only one-vote majority and paved the way for mid-term elections. However, to avoid mid term poll. Sri Latchanna was offered again a ministership with all special powers. This offer was categorically rejected by him.
- Prime minister Pandit Nehru and the Congress President, managed to get the consent of Prof. Ranga to merge Krishikar Lok party into the Congress to fight the mid-term elections against the then combined communist party. But Sri Latchanna opposed the merger and requested Prof. Ranga to permit him to retire from active politics.
- As Prof. Ranga withdrew from the promise of the proposed merger Pandit Nehru alternatively agreed to form a United Congress front with the KLP and the Praja Party.



The demand of Sri Latchanna to rehabilitate tapers with their conventional profession of tapping on co-operative basis was acceded to. He was also permitted to oppose the Congress in Visakhapatnam district alone as per the prior written agreement with Sri. P.V.G. Raju, leader of Andhra Socialist Party.

- The United Congress front fought the election successfully, defeating the Communist Front. Sri B. Gopala Reddy was elected as the leader of the United Congress Legislature Party. He formed the Cabinet with Sri Latchanna and the Late Sri Neerukonda Rama Rao as ministers from the KLP.
- As minister of former Andhra State Sardar Gouthu Latchanna is a signatory of the “Gentlemen Agreement” along with Late Sri Bejawada Gopala Reddy the then chief minister of former Andhra state Sri N. Sanjeeva Reddy, former minister of Andhra state and Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju, president of Andhra congress committee and also Sri. B. Ramakrishna Rao the then chief minister of Hyderabad state Sri. K.V. Ranga Reddy and Sri. M. Chenna Reddy both ministers of Hyderabad state and Sri. J.V. Narasinga Rao president of the Hyderabad state congress committee at a meeting convened by the then congress high command at New Delhi on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956 for paying the way for the formation of Andhra Pradesh held on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.1956.
- After the sudden demise of Sri Neerukonda Rama Rao, Sri K.Obul Reddy was inducted as minister into the Cabinet as Sri Latchanna offered to resign from the cabinet in case Sri K.Obul Reddy was not made Minister.
- After the formation of the Andhra Pradesh Government with Telangana as part of it in 1956, the newly elected Chief Minister Sri. N. Sanjeeva Reddy refused to take Sri Latchanna into the Cabinet due to political vendetta against him.
- Sri Latchanna served as a minister in the Andhra state at Kurnool for nearly one year and eight months, without having a house of his own. He took shelter in the Ranga Bhavan at Hyderabad for a few days. Prof. Ranga took objection for his stay with family in the Ranga Bhavan on the plea that the Ranga Bhavan was a trust property.
- Sri Rangajee’s objection was taken seriously by the Late Sri Adusumilli Subba Rao, a leading mill proprietor of Krishna District who shifted Sri Latchanna’s family to his own house at Hyderabad. He, along with the co-operation of Sri Pavuluri China Basava Punnaiah of Govada in Guntur District and of Sri Lingaiah Chowdary, a leading High-Court advocate collected donations and purchased a house in the name of Smt. Yasoda Devi W/o. Sri Latchanna and presented it as a gift at a public meeting which was presided over by Dr. M. Chenna Reddy.
- The political group consisting of Sri Sanjeeva Reddy and Sri Kala Venkata Rao had managed to send a complaint signed by the late Sri Mantena Venkata Raju to the All India Congress High-command at Delhi, stating that Sri Latchanna took bribes as minister at Kurnool, built an upstairs building at Baruva purchased land in Krishna District and that he built a house at Hyderabad. He demanded disciplinary action against him. This was because they had political animosity against Sri Latchanna as he was a staunch follower of Prof. Ranga.
- Sri Latchanna went to Delhi to meet Pandit Nehru and demanded an open enquiry on the complaint Pandit Nehru appointed Sardar Humkum Sing, the then speaker of the Lok-sabha as enquiry officer to conduct enquiry at Hyderabad. Sri. Mantena Venkata Raju openly admitted during the enquiry that he had no personal knowledge of his



allegations made in the complaint but that he had based them on information from third persons whose names, he said, he had forgotten.

- The Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High court Justice Sri Jagan Mohan Reddy has struck down the list of other Backward Classes approved by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on a writ filled by a private person managed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1957 headed by Sri. N. Sanjeeva Reddy. Sri Latchanna started a State Level agitation for the restoration of the list of other Backward Classes, a statutory obligation under the Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Indian Constitution, but Sri. Sanjeeva Reddy vehemently opposed the reservations for Backward classes.
- When Sri Sanjeevaiah became the Chief Minister, he restores the list of Backward classes. However, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh again struck down the list for including kapus in the list of Backward classes. Sri Latchanna again started agitation and demanded the government of Andhra Pradesh to renew the publication of Backward classes' list by omitting "Kapus" from the list.
- When Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy became the Chief Minister, he agreed to file a writ appeal in the Supreme Court against the Judgement of the A.P. High Court. Sri. P. Siva Sankar, then a senior advocate of the High-court, argued the case successfully in the Supreme Court and got a favourable judgement stating that the government of Andhra Pradesh could publish the list of Backward classes caste wise establishing their social and educational backwardness. On behalf of the A.P.B.C. Association. Sri Latchanna also appointed an advocate to argue the case. In consequence, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed the Ananta Raman Commission which recommended the list of Backward Classes by dividing them into 4 groups as A, B, C & D.
- Sri Latchanna took an active part for a separate Telangana State for which intensive vigilance of the CID was kept on him. When the agitation took a serious turn Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister visited Hyderabad at midnight by air and called all the agitators together. She has the managed Dr. Chenna Reddy and got the agitation called off.
- Later, Sri Latchanna took active part in the formation of the Andhra Pradesh democratic party along with the socialist party leaders led by Sri. P.V.G.Raju and the Congress dissidents led by Dr. Chenna Reddy.
- Sri Rajagopalachari, the founder of the Swatantra Party visited Hyderabad in 1958. The A.P.Democratic Party was dissolved. Sri Latchanna and Dr. Chenna Reddy joined the Swatantra Party and Sri. P.V.G.Raju. rejoined the Congress. Sri Latchanna was taken into the Executive Committee and Paliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party. He was later elected as the President of the Andhra Pradesh Swatantra Party.
- In 1962, Sri Latchanna started state wise agitation against the high-handed enactment of 100 percent enhancement of land revenue and filed a writ petition in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh against the enactment which was declared null and void by the High Court.
- In the General Election of 1967, Sri Latchanna was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and also to the Lok-Sabha from Srikakulam on the Swatantra Party Ticket.
- Because of the defeat of Prof. Ranga in the Lok-sabha elections, from the Chittoor Parliamentary constituency, Sri Latchanna resigned his Lok-sabha seat and got Prof.



N.G. Ranga, his political guru, elected to the Lok-Sabha from the Srikakulam Parliamentary Constituency.

- Sri Latchanna played an important role in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly as Leader of the Swatantra Legislative party.
- In 1972, Sri Latchanna took a leading role in the Jai-Andhra movement launched by the students of the Andhra University, demanding division of the Andhra Pradesh state into the old Andhra and Telangana States on the issue of “Mulki”.
- Because of his popular effective agitation, he was taken as a detenu to Mushirabad Central Jail at Hyderabad and was released in 1973.
- In 1975, consequent on the declaration of “State Emergency” by the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, Sri Latchanna was arrested on the same night at Srikalahasti where he had gone to attend at relative’s marriage and was sent to the Visakhapatnam central jail. He was released in 1977 after the withdrawal of the Emergency.
- Immediately after his release, he proceeded to Delhi without even going home to attend an all-opposition Party leaders’ conference convened and presided over by “Loknayak” Jaya Prakash Narayan, the founder of the Janata Party.
- In the General elections held in 1977, Sri Latchanna was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on the Janata Party Ticket and was recognized officially as the opposition leader because the Janata Legislature Party was the main opposition party in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.
- After the demise of Pujya Rajaji, the then Swatantra Party merged into the Lok-Dal headed by Chowdari charan Singh. Sri Latchanna was elected as the President of Andhra Pradesh Branch of the Lok-Dal.
- In 1983, The late Sri. N.T.Rama Rao, after forming the Telugu Desam Party at Hyderabad came to Sri Latchanna’s residence at Chintalabasti, Hyderabad on the same night and requested him for support to his Telugu Desam party.
- In the A.P.Assembly-Elections of 1983, Sri Latchanna withdrew the Lok-Dal candidates wherever they were weak. But Sri. N.T.Rama Rao silently managed to set up a lady candidate from a landlord’s family from Sri Latchanna’s village Baruva against Sri. Latchanna knowing full well that the TDP would certainly be defeated and thus paved the way for the success of congress candidate defeating Sri. Latchanna. The Telugu Desam lady candidate could, however, manage to get her deposit.
- Sri. N.T.Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, going against his election assurance, cut down the B.C.s’ Scholarship grants of poor B.C.Students, also cancelled the licences of the Tappers Co-operative societies and ordered public auctions.
- Sri Latchanna took serious objection and started Satyagraha on behalf of the B.C. Students and Toddy tappers demanding the enhancement of B.C.’s Scholarship grants and restoration of licenses to toddy tapper co-operative societies by canceling public auctions.
- During his statewide agitation Sri Latchanna was arrested 14 times during Sri. N.T.Rama Raos’ regime by observing Dharnas at the offices of District Collectors along with thousands of B.C. and S.C. satyagrahis including women who were also arrested.



- Sri Latchanna undertook fast-unto-death for the achievement of his demands mentioned above.
- Sri. N. Bhaskara Rao, who suddenly became the Chief Minister of the Telugu Desam Government by overthrowing Sri. N.T.Rama Rao, when the later had been abroad, accepted the demands of Sri. Latchanna. Sri. N.T.Rama Rao, on return from abroad was reinstated as Chief Minister by the Governor. He declared mid term elections.
- In 1985, Chy. G.S.S.Sivaji, S/o. Sri Latchanna was given Telugu Desam Ticket for Sompeta Assembly seat to prevent the entry of Sri. Latchanna into the Assembly from that Constituency, which Sri Latchanna held since 1952 till 1983 with only one-term break. During the break Sri. Latchanna was elected to the Legislative Council.
- Sri Latchanna filed his nomination as independent candidate inspite of the Telugu Desam Ticket being given to his son for the Sompeta Assembly Constituency. But he was obliged to withdraw because of the Dharna for 3 days observed by hundreds of workers for 3 days who had been his followers all along. So much so, his son G.S.S.Sivaji was elected to the Assembly on Telugu Desam Ticket. But Sri Latchanna sent his son Sivaji out of his residence at Hyderabad and vacated his house at Hyderabad for effecting sale to clear debts incurred while running his paper 'Bahujana'. He shifted to Visakhapatnam by keeping his son Sivaji away from him for nearly 1 year.
- The specialist doctors of the K.G.H. after treating his son Sivaji for 20 days gave an alarming report that the kidneys got damaged and Sri Sivaji must be taken to Delhi's Super Speciality Hospital for treatment. Only after the medical report of the doctors, Sri Latchanna surrendered to his only son and took him to Madras Appolo Hospital for treatment, where the specialist of the Appolo Hospital treated his Sivai successfully without any operation and all returned to Vizag after 4 weeks.
- As Sri Sivaji, M.L.A. on his way to Hyderabad and back to Sompeta used to visit his father Sri Latchanna regularly, Sri N.T.Rama Rao refused Telugu Desam Ticket to Sivaji for the 1989 Assembly Elections. Sri Latchanna then got his son to contest independently from the Sompeta Assembly Constituency and Sri Sivaji was elected to the A.P.Assembly by defeating the Congress and the Telugu Desam Candidates.
- Disgusted with the opportunist politics being played by all political parties, Sri Latchanna kept aloof from active party politics by concentrating his activities for social, educational and economic uplift of all depressed and oppressed classes only, since 1984.
- In 1991, Sri Latchanna's 84<sup>th</sup> Birth Day was celebrated as "Sahasra Chandra Darsanam" at Gurajada Kala Kshetram, Visakhapatnam with thousands of well-wishers and admirers from Uttara Andhra Districts of Srikakulam Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. Prominent Public Leaders from all over the state, Sri Rajesh Pilot, the then Union Minister of the Government of India, and Sri N. Janardhan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh attended as Chief Guests. The function was presided over by Jnanapeetha Awardee Dr. C. Narayana Reddy.
- Sri Latchanna took active interest in the uplift of SC, ST and BC unity in the North under the Leadership of Sri Kanshiram of the Bahujan Samaj Party. He decided to join the BSP in December 1993. Sri Latchanna declared that the joined BSP at a public meeting at Hyderabad in 1994. But soon he was disillusioned with it having found Sri Kanshiram trying to exploit BC support to further his ambition on behalf of SC's to get into power.



- In 1997, The Andhra University, Visakhapatnam honoured him with a Doctorate Degree of law for his long and consistent selfless services to the downtrodden people of Andhra.
- In 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1999, the Nagarjuna University, Guntur honoured him with a Doctorate Degree of letters for his Long & consistent self less services to the downtrodden people of Andhra Pradesh
- On 26<sup>th</sup> March 1996, Sri Latchanna's wife Smt. Yasoda Devi passed away. In January, 1998, Sri Latchanna suffered a massive heart-attack but happily for all, he survived. He is now able to attend his day-to-day activities.
- He was a legislator for 35 years continuously from 1948-1983. Two times he was a minister in Andhra Kesari Prakasam Pantulu's Cabinet and in Sri Bejawada Gopala Reddy's Cabinet in 1954 and 1955 respectively.
- Sri Latchanna completed his 75 years of political life and a grand celebration is performed in midst of his followers in Visakhapatnam. Sri S. Jaipal Reddy union cabinet minister, Sri. N. Janardhan Reddy EX C.M & MP along with many other dignitaries graced the occasion. A play is written and performed before the audience on the glimpses of Dr. Sardar Gouthu Latchanna.
- This untired soul rest in peace on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2006. Andhra Pradesh State Government made all arrangements and the funeral was attended with all government rituals and police salute.
- A memorial meeting is conducted in Jubilee hall Hyderabad Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Sri. Y.S.Rajasekhar Reddy & all party leaders along with many social and voluntary organizations attended the condolence meeting.
- State Government announced a memorial building on Sri Latchanna's name in Hyderabad city and the foundation stone is laid on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2007 commemorating his 1<sup>st</sup> death Anniversary by Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Sri. Y.S.Rajasekhar Reddy.
- State Government named Thotapalli regulator a 600 Crores irrigation projection in Vizianagaram district on the bellowed leaders name.
- Statues were already erected one at Baruva - his native village and followed at Srikakulam town - District. Head Quarters and at Visakhapatnam. Further more statues work is under progress at Guntur, Machilipatnam, Mahaboob Nagar and Hyderabad.
- Sardar Dr. Gouthu Latchanna, the man of the masses struggled throughout for the liberation of the country and after its independence, for the freedom of the weaker sections from the tyranny of caste and from economic oppression. Sri Latchanna shall remain as a symbol of revolt and fight and as a crusader for democratic values. Every inch a sturdy Sardar, in his own right with the fighter in him still as it was of old, he is hale and healthy to continue his fight against oppression of the poor and the lowly.
- Sri Latchanna is revered by the common people of A.P., as an uncommon commoner and his career is the triumph of the Common Man.





