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North K'taka will miss friendly, disciplined MP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Minister of state for Railways Suresh Angadi was a towering politician of North Karnataka.

Four-time MP Angadi, 65, had tested positive for coronavirus on September 11 and was being treated at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi.

The minister, who was initially asymptomatic, developed respiratory illness after he flew to the capital to attend

SURESH ANGADI 1955-2020

the Parliament session and was immediately admitted to hospital. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Angadi hailed from Kanavi Karavinakoppa village in Belagavi and graduated in law from Raja Lakhmagouda College in the district. According to former journalist and political analyst Sarju Katkar, Angadi came to the district headquarters from his village to study BCom and stayed with



A file photo of Suresh Angadi at Mysuru railway station. As minister of state of railways, he introduced many train services in Karnataka

Amiable & sincere

Hard to believe minister Suresh Angadi is no more. Pains taking at work, amiable and sincere, he was a valued colleague who shall be greatly missed

Nirmala Sitharaman | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

his uncle Lingaraju Patil who was active in politics. This ignited his interest in politics. After completing commerce course, he studied law but then

took to business.

He was a successful businessman and main agent in the state for trading of ACC cement. He also set up the Suresh Angadi Education Institute in the district. Throughout his political career, he remained non-controversial because of his friendly nature and discipline, experts said.

Angadi started his political career in 1996 with the BJP making him district unit vice-president. This stint lasted till 1999 and in 2001, he was nominated to the post of district unit president. He relinquished power in 2004 when he was made party candidate for Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency and he won the elections. There was no looking back after that. He won the next three parliamentary elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

Angadi was seen as a potential chief minister as he hailed from the politically dominant Lingayat community. His name had done the rounds in political circles whenever questions of leadership change were raised.

His death is a loss for state rail infra: Activists

Bengaluru: Suresh Angadi's sudden demise has come as shock for railway officials in Karnataka.

After taking over as Union minister of state of railways in May 2019, he introduced over 20 train services as well as extension of existing ones from Karnataka. He got the railway board to sanction the long-pending line between Belagavi and Dharwad via Kittur. He was also instrumental in introducing the roll-on roll-off (RORO) train from Nelamangala to

Solapur and Kisan rail from Bengaluru to Hazrat Nizamuddin station in Delhi.

Sanjeev Dyamannavar, a commuter rail activist, said: "It's a big loss for Karnataka's railway development especially when several new projects are taking shape. He was personally monitoring the Bengaluru suburban rail project and also took officials to task for not completing the delayed third coaching terminal at Byappanahalli. He helped introduce new trains from Bengaluru

to Shivamogga, Belagavi and Mysuru."

"After former railway minister CK Jaffer Sharief, Angadi was able to do many things for the rail development of Karnataka..." said Karnataka Railway Vedic member KN Krishna Prasad.

"SWR fraternity is deeply pained by his sudden demise. During his tenure, he strived to improve safety standards in Indian Railways in general and SWR in particular..." said E Vijaya, chief public relations officer, SWR. TNN