

## **Jury's Special Recognition Award**

A pall of gloom descended on Arivanipalem area of Kancharapalem in Visakhapatnam as the grief-stricken family members of Indian Army jawan Bhoota Venkata Ramana were weeping inconsolably. The 38-year-old Naik of the Indian Army was martyred in a pre-dawn fidayeen attack on an Army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara on 27th of April 2017.

Hailing from Kancharapalem, Venkata Ramana had been serving the Indian Army since the last 18 years. His elder brother B Appala Raju is also a soldier with Indian Army and younger brother B Koteswara Rao is an auto-rickshaw driver.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Anitha, two children, daughter Chinmayi (9) and son Ganesh (5),

Citing that his retirement was due after three years, Venkata had said he would spend his entire time with the family members and his two children. But, the fate had other plans for him.

Ramana was one of the three soldiers killed when guerrillas believed to be foreigners sneaked into an army camp in Kupwara district. Two militants were also killed.

The body of the 38-year-old Ramana is expected to be flown in here later in the day. The last rites will be performed with full military honours, officials said. Anita was waiting for her husband, who had telephoned her on Wednesday that he will return home on May 10.

Their children, daughter Chinmayi (9) and son Ganesh (5), too were eagerly waiting to see their father.

Also waiting for Ramana were his aged parents and younger brother Koteswara Rao, an autorickshaw driver. Elder brother B. Appala Raju is also serving in the army.

According to family members, Ramana had promised Anita that he would be home for their 12th marriage anniversary on May 18.

Ramana joined the Indian Army 18 years ago and belonged to the Madras Regiment. He was keen to serve in the army for few more years by applying for an extension.