



DRK's News Letter

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WITH THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Meeting with gracious President of India

When he was a Minister, Hon'ble Shri. Pranab Mukherjee has always been gracious to give me appointments even at short notice - my meetings were never to promote any personal benefit. When he was the Minister for External Affairs, one day I had requested for an appointment in the morning, in my capacity as the Honorary Representative of the City of Melbourne in India, for clearance of the MEA to promote the sister-city relationship between the great cities of Melbourne and Delhi. I was surprised when I was called to meet him the same evening at his official residence at 9 PM.

When I thanked him for his generosity to agree to receive me at such a short notice,

he was courteous enough to say that I could meet him anytime I wanted to.

After he assumed the highest constitutional office as President of India, in functions at Rashtrapathi Bhawan and elsewhere he always greeted me with a smile recognizing me by name and with a warm hand shake.

I called on him on 6th of September at Rashtrapathi Bhawan.

He stood up and received me warmly with a big smile. I found him hale, hearty and vibrant in his conversation. He remembered meeting me at the Supreme Court Judges Retreat at the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, which he inaugurated and where I was invited by the

Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as a Resource Person.



I am happy to learn that Age-Care India is celebrating its Anniversary and Elder's Day on October 12, 2016.

Many senior citizens lead active and productive lives. The nation salutes their contribution to the development of our country. Age-Care India has since inception been involved in supporting disadvantaged, aged and needy senior citizens through its humanitarian activities. It has contributed to making our senior citizens feel happy, secure and comfortable. It has enabled them share their joys and sorrows with each other.

On this occasion, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all the staff and office bearers of Age-Care India. I wish the Anniversary celebrations and Elder's Day every success.


(Pranab Mukherjee)

New Delhi
September 19, 2016



Poem and hand over to him.

He particularly recalled an occasion when former President Dr. Abdul Kalam handed over to him a moving poem paying tribute to a young army officer who insisted on going ahead of the

soldiers in a theatre of operation and made supreme sacrifice. He said he will try to get those papers and hand them over to me.

He evinced keen interest in my functioning as President of Age Care India and as President of the Foundation for Peace, Harmony and Good Governance. He was generous enough to say that I am always

At the First Anniversary functions of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at Rameswaram and Delhi, I had complemented him at his large heartedness in paying tributes to Dr. Kalam as "People's President forever". I mentioned this to him again as it is not easy for an incumbent President to make such a generous tribute to one of his predecessors as President.

He recalled his several meetings with Dr. Kalam as Defence Minister and later as President. On a number of occasions Dr. Kalam made it a point to write a

welcome to meet him and told his personal secretary Mr. Rajneesh also the same.

The appointment went much beyond the allotted time.

Later I received a beautiful message signed by himself for the Elders Day and Anniversary Celebrations of Age Care India.

ICTACT Youth Leadership Summit 2016

I was invited as Chief Guest, to address the ICTACT Youth Summit 2016, in which 200



academic leaders and over 3000 young graduating students from many universities participated.

It is an initiative of the Government of India, NITI Aayog, State Governments and Industries to train the higher education teachers and students to be the next generation leaders, teachers, and industry ready students. It is part of the Skill India Vision project of the Government of India.





With Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan and Mr. Sivakumar at the ICTACT Summit

In my address I highlighted the fact "The Indian higher education system is the second largest in the world in terms of enrolment, consisting of nearly 30 million students enrolled in 48,500 institutions. the quality of teachers and faculty members will decide the quality of the students and thereby the next generation manpower.

Each one of us is responsible for everything to everybody. That is the true talisman of true leadership.

Our first duty is to be healthy – physically, mentally and spiritually. Only when we are healthy we can be lively. We can achieve anything only with good health. When we are healthy we become an asset to the family, the society and the world."

I added, "There are certain basic imperatives – values – attitudes

for becoming a good person, let alone a leader.

A leader has to maintain discipline, decorum and dignity at all times.

Each one of us have to do something meaningful in our lives."

I also emphasized on imbibing many good values and right attitudes including integrity, hardwork, dedication, compassion, teamwork, character, energy, enthusiasm, harmony, humility, simplicity, charity, patriotism and good governance.

I concluded my speech with the following quotations-

The great British historian Arnold Toynbee said, "Civilization is on trial - the greater our material power, the greater is our need for spiritual insight and virtue. Freedom can be a curse if it is misused. Technology can be a curse if it is misused. The human heart has to change if you are going to have peace".

Socrates said, "You should become the kind of person that you would like other people think that you are".



The moving force of ICTACT is its dynamic Chairman Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, who is Vice Chairman and soul of Cognizant – ably supported by its CEO Mr. Sivakumar and his dynamic team of youngsters.

contribute towards a humane, just and pluralistic society.

ISHA Home School was selected to be the host institution this year. 36 schools comprising 630 athletes participated.

I participated in this event along with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Central Minister for Environment, Forests & Climate Change and hockey legend Dhanraj Pillai.

In my address I emphasized the importance of physical fitness and mental alertness by healthy lifestyle, yoga, physical exercise, hard work, determination and healthy food.

“Excellence in sports is regarded as a means for students to develop their discipline, perseverance, sportsmanship, confidence, endurance and resilience.”

Pramukh Swami Maharaj - Akshardham

The 96 year old Pramukh Swami Maharaj attained Samadhi on 13th August 2016 at Sarangpur, Gujarat.

I participated in the solemn Shradhdhanjali function at Akshardham Delhi. Tributes were paid by Masters from various religions, traditions and personalities like Shri. LK Advani.

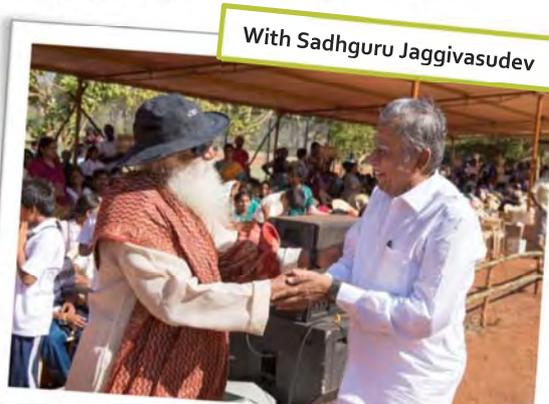


With Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Shri Anil Madhav Dave and Dhanraj Pillai

Athletic Meet at ISHA Home School

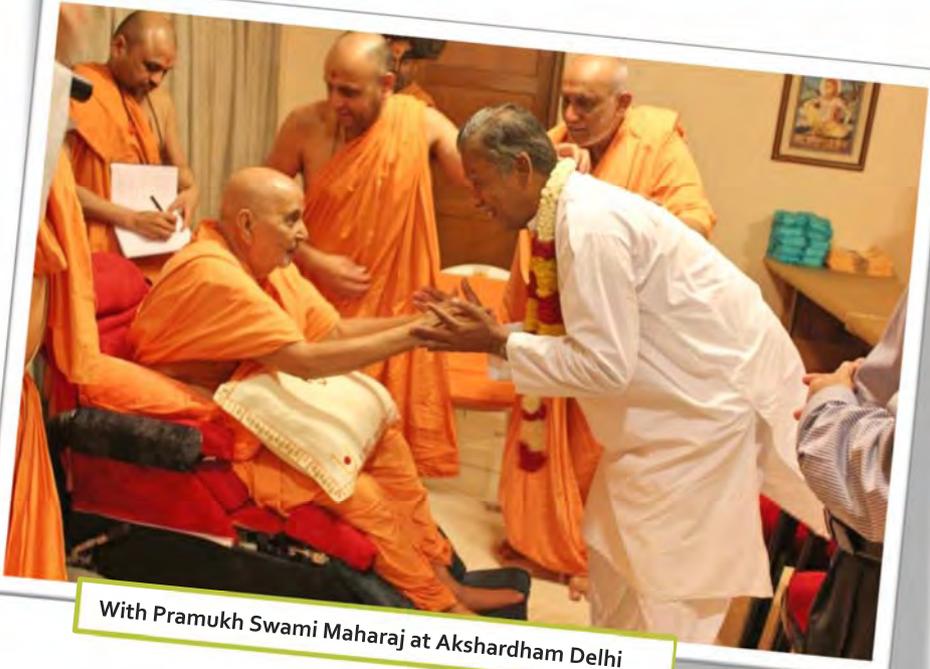
I participated in the concluding ceremony of the regional Athletic Meet of ASISC (The Association of Schools for the Indian School Certificate). This was established to support high quality educational endeavours, empowering students to

ISHA Home School is a unique school with bold initiatives by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. The best aspects of 'home' and 'school' seamlessly blend to provide a nourishing space for learning.



With Sadhguru Jaggivasudev





With Pramukh Swami Maharaj at Akshardham Delhi

He was a great builder of monumental institutions – Akshardhams both in India and abroad including USA and UK.

Among the millions of admirers, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was one, even when he was President of India.

He was the Chief of the world-wide BAPS Swaminarayan Movement.

I had the good fortune of meeting the great Master and blessed by him number of times. When I was invited to meet him even before the Inauguration of the iconic Akshardham at Delhi, he blessed me and asked me to be a Patron of Akshardham Delhi. Since then, I have been there a number of times. I have been sending hundreds of visitors from India and abroad, to Delhi Akshardham to experience the greatness of Indian culture, history,

sculpture, architecture and spirituality. All those visitors were taken special care of by highly educated and dedicated volunteers speaking various languages, both Indian and foreign.

The monks in the Swaminarayan Movement are very highly educated and have held very high positions in the

corporate world in India and abroad before choosing to join the great Social and Spiritual Movement as monks.

Rebuild India Initiative

I participated in the Rebuild India Initiative at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

It was organized by the ISOL (Integrating Spirituality and Organizational Leadership Foundation - India) commemorating 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago Lecture.

Personalities from universities, many walks of life and monks of Sri Ramakrishna Mission participated.

In my speech I quoted Swami Vivekananda "Whatever you think, that you will be. If you think yourselves weak, weak you will be; if you think yourselves strong, strong you will be."





With Swami Sarvasthananda at IIPA, Delhi

He also said, "See for the highest, aim at that highest, and you shall reach the highest."

"The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion – is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own legs." For him, education meant secular learning that built character and instilled human values in students."

In my address I also recalled that the monks of Sri Ramakrishna Mission were not just concerned about their own spiritual advancement and moksha, but about the society and the nation as a whole.

When Swami Raganathananda was head of the Mission in

Hyderabad, Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam used to visit him and stay at the Ashram. I was at that time Inspector General of the Central Reserve Police Force, Southern Sector with headquarters at Hyderabad.

Whenever I happened to be in Hyderabad during his visit, CS used to come home for Dinner. Along with him my family and myself used to meet Swami Ranganathananda very often. Thereafter we always attended his popular Sunday Satsang. Either before or after Satsang he expected us to spend sometime with him. He used to be so concerned about the disturbing events in the society.

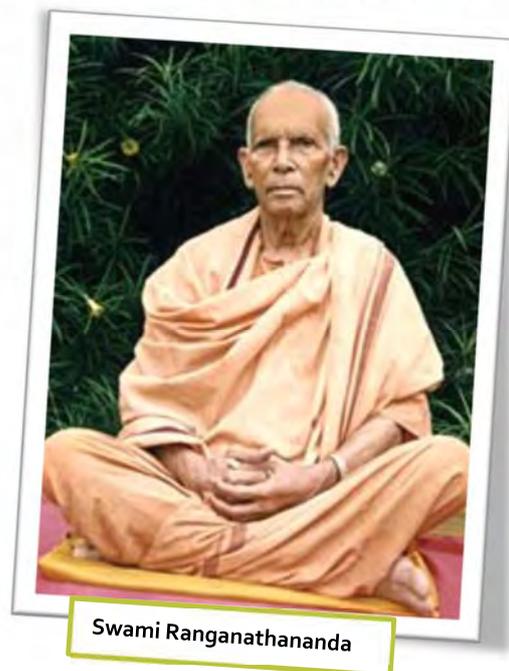
Soon after Selvi Dr. Jayalalitha lost power in Tamil Nadu, Swamiji asked me, "Karthikeyan, all the news reports say she has lost power for ever. Do you think she will be written off from public life for ever?"

I replied, "Swamiji, she lost power as all sections of society became unhappy with her for many reasons. During my investigation and prosecution of Rajiv Gandhi Assassination case I had met her number of times and have had long conversations. She has charisma, capacity and many leadership qualities. Though the media has written her off from public life forever, I am sure she will return to power one day".

On hearing this Swami said, "If in your assessment she will come back to power, I want her to be a better leader. I will give you three books. Will you arrange to send them to her for her to read?"

I promised to do so and Swami sent three books. I was at that time functioning also as Chief of the SIT CBI investigating Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case.

The ACB Branch of the CBI was investigating her in a case. Mr. Mukerjee was the then Joint



Swami Raganathananda



As I.G. CRPF at Chennai campus with Dr Jayalalitha as C.M.

Director CBI, Chennai in charge of ACB Cases (later he became the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu).

One morning Mukerjee called me to say that he was going with his team to examine the former Chief Minister Dr. Jayalalitha in the three-million-dollar case.

I asked him to come to my office first. He came and met me in my SIT office at Malligai, Chennai. I gave him those three books and told him to hand it over to Dr. Jayalalitha after his examination is over and after other members of his team leave the venue. He confirmed later that he did so.

Almost two years later; the Hon'ble Supreme Court of three Senior Judges upheld my entire investigation of Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case and placed on record their appreciation of my work as leader of the SIT, CBI.

At that time, I was Director General of the National Human Rights Commission on the invitation of the then Chairman Chief Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah.

Immediately after the Supreme Court verdict, I went to Chennai. I had asked for an appointment with the former Chief Minister Dr. Jayalalitha and the then Chief Minister Dr. Karunanidhi.

From the airport I went to Poes Garden, as I was told I can meet her at any time.

When I called on her, she received me courteously as always, offered me juice and congratulated me on my investigation being upheld and appreciated by the Apex Court Judgement. I told her that I had come there only to thank her for her cooperation and support during the investigation and trial when she was Chief Minister.

We had a long conversation, during which she recalled the three books sent to her through me by Swami Ranganathananda. She said someone had taken those books and she wanted me to get them again.

By then Swami had become President Maharaj of the Sri Ramakrishna Mission at Belur. I contacted him. He was gracious enough to send those books again, which reached her later.



Swami Ranganathananda with DRK family

I want to narrate another instance to show the dedication of the Sri Ramakrishna Mission monks to the welfare of the society and the nation.

Swami Ranganathananda attained Samadhi on 25th April 2005.

A few weeks earlier to this, I visited Belur, Kolkata only to see Swami. I was told that due to his serious illness, visitors are not permitted. I had sent him an email earlier about my visit and I was sure Swamiji would like to meet me.

So I told the junior Swami just to convey the message that I am already at the Mutt and wanted to convey my regards. Meanwhile I was taken round the museum, recently created by him. Swamiji was a great builder of institutions wherever he happened to do service.

When I was going round the museum, the junior Swami came running to tell me that Swami was keen to meet me. The doctor and the junior swami requested me not to take more than 10 minutes, as Swami was seriously ill and needed complete rest.

I was ushered into Swami's presence. Though looking feeble, he welcomed me warmly and enquired about the welfare of the family. Thereafter he expressed his concern at the worsening situation in many parts of the country in several spheres.

Brushing aside the advice of the doctor and junior swami, he insisted on expressing his anguish. Finally he asked me, "If I prepare and give a long letter addressed to the Prime Minister and all members of Parliament with my own diagnosis of the problems of the nation and my own remedies to salvage the situation, will you ensure that letter reaches the Prime Minister, important leaders of political parties and all Members of Parliament? I will also send some booklets along with over 600 copies of my letter." I promised to do so. Swami said that the letters with the books would reach me within the next couple of weeks.

He insisted that I should have lunch there before I leave and told the junior Swami to ensure this.

Those letters and books never came, as the time had come for that great Master to leave the planet meanwhile.

That is the concern of the monks of Sri Ramakrishna Mission who followed the path of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda.

Some things in life are out of our control, despite all our best efforts. We can make it a party and happy as a blessing; or suffer treating it a tragedy.

- Nora Roberts

Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible.

- Frank L. Gaines

I always felt that my greatest asset was not my physical ability, it was my mental ability.

- Bruce Jenner

It is not the size of a man but the size of his heart that matters.

- Evander Holyfield

Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will.

- Jawaharlal Nehru

