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### **A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO DR. J. JAYALALITHAA!**

#### **May The Departed Soul Rest In Peace**

I had met the iconic Dr. J. Jayalalithaa a number of times, most of them when she was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and I was Chief of SIT-CBI Investigating and Prosecuting Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case. – 1991 / 1992.



For the investigation, ensuring security of the arrested accused and more so preparing the high security prison complex and for the prosecution, I needed many things to be done by the State government of Tamil Nadu.

The only thing which worked immediately was when the Chief Minister gave a direction.

So I had to meet her many times always at short notice. Whenever I had asked for an appointment, I got the appointment the same day or the very next day.

She was always courteous, met me at the appointed time, always rose when I entered, returned my greetings with folded hands and a smile, offered juice during our long conversation.

She evinced keen interest in the investigation and preparation for the trial, security of the arrested persons.

She always noted down in a pad kept nearby, the points and my requirements. On all those basic official requirements for my investigation and trial,

the needed government orders were sent to me the very next day by the officers concerned.

After my subjects were over, she always raised her own personal/official/and even rarely party matters for discussions. She had obviously known my reputation for independence and integrity.

Once she asked me whether I had received government orders/action on the points raised by me at an earlier meeting. When I said on one matter I have not received the orders and perhaps the matter was being processed in the secretariat, she said I should not have hesitated to raise that matter again. Saying so, she called "Jawahar, Mr. Kaarthikeyan raised an issue at the previous meeting. Why the order has not been issued? I want that order to be on his table today itself".



At the CRPF function at Avadi, Chennai on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1992  
DRK with Dr. J. Jayalalithaa, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

That order did reach me the same evening. I am mentioning this to show how she was meticulous in her decisions and their implementation.

Because of my relationship with her and her faith in me, some of the misunderstandings that have been cropping up between the Centre and the State, did not go to the extent of Rajiv Gandhi Assassination trial being jeopardised. Such events do not form part of my book on Rajiv Gandhi Assassination as they are not required there.



Much later I called on her when she was no more Chief Minister – second week of May 1999.

That was when the Supreme Court of India upheld my investigation and praised me and my team for the remarkable investigation. I visited Chennai immediately and called on her at Poes Garden. There was a long conversation. She gave me the liberty even to advice her to take care of her health and fitness and to be ready to shoulder her responsibilities again.



It was 24 years earlier, when I was Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force, Southern Sector with headquarters at Hyderabad, I had invited her as CM to be the Chief Guest at a Passing out Parade at the CRPF campus, Avadi, Tamil Nadu. She happily accepted the invitation telling me perhaps for the first time she has been invited for a function of a Central force.

It was on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1992. She happily attended the parade and spent nearly three hours at the CRPF campus. As always she made a brilliant speech in English. When I proposed my vote of thanks in English, Hindi and Tamil, she exclaimed she also could have spoken in Hindi. I told her that it may not have been politically correct for her in Tamil Nadu if she had addressed in Hindi. She seemed to agree with me.

In the visitors book she wrote the following words in her beautiful handwriting –

**“The CRPF is the most disciplined and professionally competent security Force in the**

**country. The CRPF has proved to be indispensable in fighting insurgency and in containing divisive and disruptive forces which pose a threat to the Nation. The men of the CRPF have made great sacrifices to safeguard the Unity and Integrity of the Nation, for which the country will be forever indebted to them”**

**“The demonstrations of the skills of the CRPF was most impressive. I congratulate the men of the CRPF on their professional competence and wish them continued success in all their activities”**

The CRPF personnel were very happy with her visit and her appreciative speech and comments in the visitors book.



I have always said all these years everywhere “she is the most efficient, capable and charismatic personality. There is no way anyone who meets her even for a few minutes, can come away without being impressed by her charisma, courtesy and efficiency. She is in perfect command of any conference as she comes fully prepared. With her sharp intellect, amazing memory and command over the languages, she was totally in-charge of any conversation, conference or meeting”.

I have said this even when she was not holding any office. I have said so even to her strong political opponents, whom I used to meet only in the flights or airport lounges.

I have not seen any other personality in public life who had more command and control on the party or the governmental apparatus.



DRK welcoming Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalithaa

Extract from DRKs NewsLetter 5 for October 2016

### **Rebuild India Initiative**

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

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. Jayalalithaa 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 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. Jayalalithaa 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. Jayalalithaa 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 (5<sup>th</sup> May 1999); the Hon'ble Supreme Court consisting 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. Jayalalithaa 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.

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....

**May The Departed Soul Rest In Peace!**