

S.S. NAGANAND, SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST SPEAKS WITH TERRY REIS KENNEDY ABOUT MUDDENAHALLI

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TERRY REIS KENNEDY (TRK)

Namaskaram. Very happy to be here this evening with Mr. S.S. Naganand, who is senior advocate and devotee of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Puttaparthi, India and who is the member of the Central Trust of Sai Baba and who has agreed to speak with us this evening about the lawsuit that the Central Trust has put in the court.

We want to know the position now, as where it is in the court regarding the lawsuit against the Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Trust, Muddennahalli. I have asked sir, if he would be so kind as to put this story in a chronological order for the person who doesn't understand all of this points in the complaint which is out in the public now.

What is the story that happened after Bhagawan Sri Sathya Baba on the April 24th, 2011, left his body, began a very strange drama of a person who had been very close to Swami trying to hijack the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Swami's legacy and of course the main goal of money as I understand.

So with his help maybe we will get more clarity, thank you sir.

S.S. NAGANAND (SSN)

I think I need to give a background before I come to the events post the Mahasamadhi. Sometime in the 70s there was a gentleman called Madiyala Narayan Bhatt. He was a householder but lived a very pious life. He used live in a place called Alikeh. And he had gathered with him a band of young people who were willing to sacrifice the comfort of their family life. They lived a life of bachelorhood and for the purpose of education. This was because education was his first love. So he and his family gave the land to set up the school in Alikeh. Alikeh is in a very small and remote place in the district of south kannada in the western part of Karnataka state in southern India. He then set up a school there and it was running in a very small way.

And some of his followers were living in Muddenahalli. Muddennahalli as you know is a very ancient place where one of India's foremost engineer was born, Sir M. Vishveshwarayya. There were some educational activities that were taking place, so the school was built by them in Muddennahalli. The school just about managed to make two ends meet. They didn't have enough money. They had to borrow money and they were finding it difficult to make two ends meet. But Narayan Bhatt and his followers, who were all devotees of Bhagawan Baba, had faith in him.

Unfortunately, and suddenly, Mr. Narayan Bhatt passed died in a road accident. And all his followers in a state of remorse and sorrow and they did not know how exactly they would go about after that. So they came to Baba and placed this at his lotus feet and said

“Swami see this is what has happened, so you have to, now take charge of these children and the schools.”

Swami took his time and after he had had enough confabulations with whomever he wanted to talk to. The entity which was then running the schools was a society called Loka Seva Vrnda. Swami asked them whether the society would agree to what he would say, apparently they agreed.

It was at that time point of time when, which I came to know much later, Bhagawan asked Mr. Narasimha Murthy and a few other people from Alikeh, to go and see my father, Late Mr. Sri Sundar Swami who was a former senior advocate general of our state and more than anything else he was an ardent devotee of Bhagawan and was also a member of the Sathya Sai Trust of Karnataka, and requested my father to draft a document. So apparently my father drafted this deed and Baba approved of it, and the document was registered in Chikbalapur.

The document provided that Bhagawan Baba will be the sole trustee, all the properties which belonged to the Loka Seva Vrnda, they were all enumerated in the document itself. It said that all of them would belong henceforth to the Sathya Sai Loka Seva Vrnda.

Bhagawan constituted two committees of management, one for Alikeh and one for Muddenhalli. And he designated a chairman and a secretary for each of the committees. These two committees were working to look after the school. And Swami found resources and saw to it that all the liabilities were completely discharged. The schools became completely free of liabilities. He somehow continued to help this institution. And he managed it as a sole trustee.

Several years later, suddenly, my father passed away in 1996. I gave in a case in court. In those years, swami used to come to Bangalore very often. Swami also once came to our house once in the year 1976. The association and the love and the blessings of Swami continued.

It was sometime in 1998 or 1999 that Swami asked me to be a trustee in the Sathya Sai Medical Trust. So ever since then the close connection continued and Swami for some reason bestowed a great deal of love and affection and blessings on our family. I was later associated in many capacities and Swami used to love and interact with me and my family. Many of the trust affairs were entrusted to me for guidance and advice. Many times Swami would ask me

“Naganand, please think as to what should happen in future.”

So many discussions were held and I placed many suggestions in front of Bhagawan. But it was only in the year 2008 that Baba actually said to prepare a document. So I explained to Baba what the document is. And the suggestion was that after Baba, the trustees of the Lok Seva Trust should be appointed by the Sathya Sai Central Trust. Swami immediately accepted that idea. I prepared a deed of amendment and showed it to Bhagawan. He took his time, approved it and said

“Yes I`ll give you a power of an attorney, you please go and get the document registered in Chikbalapur.”

So Swami signed the power to attorney and signed the deed of amendment. The deed of amendment was a very short and small amendment that said that after Bhagawan, the trustees of the Central Trust would appoint the trustees of the Lok Seva Trust. Ironically this deed of amendment, which I went register with Mr. Narayan Rao, was one of the witnesses to the document, and I signed the document and got it registered.

So from 2008 till 2011, Swami continued as sole trustee, and only on his Mahasamadhi, it became necessary for appointment of trustees. So a few days after Mahasamadhi, the trustees of the Central Trust. As you are all aware, about 6 or 8 months prior to

Mahasamadhi, during Guru Pournima of 2010, Bhagawan appointed 4 persons to be trustees of the Sathya Sai Central Trust. He also appointed a few of us as the members of the council of management, of which I was one them.

After the Mahasamadhi, the board of trustees met, and they decided on my advice that they must appoint at least three people. So there were some discussions held with Mr. Gangadhar Bhatt and others, And they suggested that they wanted me to be one of the trustees. They also said that they wanted Mr. V. R. Vasuki to be one of the trustees, because Vasuki by then had then become a very big benefactor for the Lok Seva Trust. He had contributed lot of money, manpower and resources. He had built a new building, must have been for the children there. He was constant visitor and was a great source of support to these institutions. So they had suggested his name. The third name was of course that of Gangadhar Bhatt. So this appointment was made, we were only three trustees. For some time there was no difficulty. Everything was going on smoothly.

And then Mr. Narasimha Murthy came forward and met Mr. Giri, who was then the member secretary, and pleaded him to say that he (Mr. Narasimha Murthy) had been associated with Bhagawan for so long, and that he must be made a trustee. He put quite a bit of pressure and got other people to speak. He had met all the other trustees, including me. And finally it was decided that Mr. Narasimha Murthy would also become a trustee. There were also one or two more names that were decided and were made to be trustees. Even after that there were no difficulties.

He (Mr. Narasimha Murthy) was first appointed as the secretary of the Lok Seva Trust. He used to call the meetings. This went on for some time. Suddenly I don't know what happened, you see, there is a building in Muddannahalli. When the university campus was being planned there, the central trust appointed L&T to be the contractors and they constructed the building at a substantial cost. So this building was built.

And after the Mahasamadhi there were some movements over there to start some prayer and use it on a regular basis to allow public to go. It was at that point of time that the Central Trust felt that we should manage the property on our own. And there were some discussions that were held. Apparently this was not to the linking of Mr. Narasimha Murthy. And that is when I think that the first seed was planted in his mind that he should break away from Central Trust. Now when this thought came to him, he did not activate it immediately. But I think it was a very well planned strategy. There was one particular meeting that was held in my office in Bangalore. And a number of things were discussed there, about the code of conduct and other things. But they never brought up any issue relating to the amendment of the trustee because, apparently and obviously I would never agree for any such agreement.

TRK

Was this the point in time that Narasimha Murthy began to write his letter and send them around the world, his emails? Was that coincidentally happening, simultaneously happening or had it not started yet?

SSN

It had not started yet. Because the first step they wanted to take was to ensure that the control of the Central Trust over the Lok Seva Trust will get fractured. They wanted the Central Trust control to go.

TRK

How did they do that?

SSN

What they did was, without any discussions and consent of the trustees; the previous evening we had a meeting; the next day morning, three of them went to the sub-registrar's office in Chikbalapur, presented a document to amend what Swami had done and deleted the clause which vested the power of appointing the trustees in the Central Trust.

TRK

Are you saying that they changed Baba's actual words?

SSN

Absolutely

TRK

Who of those three changed the words?

SSN

The three people who signed the document are:

1. Mr. Narasimha Murthy
2. Mr. Gangadhar Bhatt
3. Mr. Narayan Rao

TRK

Did they compose this document themselves or did they have an attorney to help them?

SSN

I'm sure they had an attorney to help them. Because what happened was the previous night, there was a meeting and the meeting concluded at about 8 o'clock. I had to go out of station, so I took leave. The next morning at 10:30 there were all there in the sub-registrar's office in Chikbalapur and with a document and all prepared on a stamped paper and ready for registration. The sub-registrar was actually registering the document, without my knowledge, without the knowledge of Mr. Vasuki, who was another trustee. When this came to light, we got a copy of the document. Mr. Vasuki felt very upset and slighted. So in a huff he resigned. He said

"I don't want to be a party to this".

And that is the starting point. What they did with the amendment was, the power to appoint which was given to the Central Trust was taken away and that power vested in the board of trustees themselves. So they took the power to themselves.

TRK

And at the sub-registrar(office), how did they identify themselves when they came? Don't you have to have some procedures to say I am so and so?

SSN

They would have given their identity, the earlier document and the appointment of these gentlemen as trustees, was an action of the Central Trust. So there was documentary evidence to show that these people were trustees of the Lok Seva Trust. When they went to the sub-registrar, they presented to him a document which had only three signatures. They probably did not tell him that there were other trustees who voted for or against or whatever it is. The sub-registrar said that the trustees have to come and you are the trustees and so he registered it. When this came to light, that is when the rift started. When he got his position made clear, he stopped sending me any notices.

TRK

Can we have the dateline of that?

SSN

I think it was on the 12th of September 2012, if my recollection is right. Approximately for one year things were okay, and then this problem arose and that is when they started. Till now, till that time, Madhusudhan Naidu was a non-entity. Nobody had ever heard of him. I had never met him in my life. Though I had been going nearly every week to Puttaparthi.

TRK

So Madhusudhan Naidu is the person who says he is communicating messages that come to him directly from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. And we had not heard of him until then.

SSN

Exactly. Until then I had never heard of him. He was nowhere in the picture. And many years ago I understand that he was a student. And most students who play some role in the organization or in the ashram, I've met all of them, because of the frequency of my visit. I had never seen this gentleman. I had no interaction nor did I know anything about him. But what happened was, some months after this document was registered, Mr. Narasimha Murthy started getting extremely ambitious, and going around the world, writing mails everywhere, and propounding this gentleman (Madhusudhan Naidu) as a kind of medium to say that he is the person who is in touch with Bhagawan Baba. Just before this breakaway,

Mr. Narasimha Murthy came and met me one day, and he told me

"Sir, Baba is giving me instructions." I have been Baba's devotee for so long.

My whole life is Baba. And I am bound to implement the decisions and instructions given by Baba. He said that "I have been given instructions that I must set up schools. I've been given instructions to go to such and such a place and the land would be available. Somebody would come and give you money and you start a school there. You must not prevent me from doing it."

So I told him "Why should I prevent you, why should anybody prevent you if you're doing a good job, you can do it. But this thing about instructions given by Baba, after Mahasamadhi, you have to be a little circumspect about it. I'm not too sure how you can prove these things. What will the world think about you if go on and telling them that "I can just pick up the phone and speak to Baba."

At that time, Madhusudhan Naidu's name was not told to me. Madhusudhan Naidu surfaced much later. But he seems to be a person who is placed in the front by Mr. Narasimha Murthy. A person who is capable of this, I don't know what his powers are, he materializes chains like that you know and gives you gifts like Baba was giving. He is now also going around receiving letters, like how Swami used to receive. These are all things which give a great deal of anxiety and I would say distrust. But the most important thing is that I have heard directly, I'm not speaking something which someone told me.

They go to a particular person's house, contact his wife. And say Swami has sent a message, and here is a saree for you. The husband says "Baba has given us enough. I don't think he's going to send us any saree. And my wife is not in need of this saree. So please leave from here. And don't come up with these stories. I am not going to follow you." I met this gentleman personally; I met him in his house in Pune. And he has been a great devotee.

You see Mr. Sri Srinivas, and Narasimha Murthy, were two people who had a constant access to Bhagawan and physical proximity during Bhagawan's long stay in Brindavan. During those days Swami used to stay there for three months; four months, and wherever

Swami travelled, usually if he went to Kodaikanal or Ooty with students, Swami would always like to have the Warden along; to be a watch over the boys, and see how they conduct themselves. He used to be a disciplinarian. So Narasimha Murthy used to be with Baba on many of those trips. So it is at these times that they had a close knowledge about who was visiting Swami, who are the people who are giving money to Swami. Because during Swami's time, the information about donations and who was giving and how it was being given was all not shared with anyone. It completely under Baba's own personal knowledge. And a few people in the accounts used to know it. There was no occasion for even the trustees to know about it. Even I didn't know about it. But these two gentlemen were close to him, they sense that, they watched carefully, they kept notes. They kept a note of every single donor who came, who were devoted to Bhagawan and gave money. And they started tapping them, calling them, asking them, saying "swami has asked us to go to you, and to tell you that you are going to give a donation of 25 lacs.

TRK

So sir, you are talking post the Mahasamadhi. But in Kodaikanal, when Swami was very much alive and present they were already recording in the mind who has the money? So they were interested in money from that time also?

SSN

I would look at it like this. What I think has happened, is that these people had access to lot of information about the donors of the trust and the people who were devotees of Bhagawan. They have stored that information, and now they are misusing that information by going to those people to say "You are Swami's devotee? Swami has now sent word."

I don't want to name, there is a very big donor who donates money. He and his wife are devotees. I was told that he is an industrialist. I was told that they had gone to him. And he is now a benefactor and he has been donating money. He says "They are doing good work, they set up a school, so I think I need to give money for the school." Of course, if somebody wants to give money, and it's his or her money, Central Trust told me "We are not going to say anything about it". But the question is "Is this how they should misuse swami?"

And another great misuse, what they're doing, is that they are utilising and putting out all of Swami's institutions as their own institutions. You see they are claiming that the medical relief work that is going on that is being done by Swami

And they are not saying that you know this is Sri Srinivas has not held any position in the trust for a very long time, even before Mahasamaadhi. There were some issues which made Swami keep Srinivas at arm's length, at a distance; we all know it. After Mahasamaadhi, there's nobody to keep him at arm's length, so whatever he says In fact just a few days ago, I met a person from Bombay, from the film world. And she said, "You know Baba's secretary had come". So what's the names she couldn't recall it. She says on he used to be in Brindavan he used to be talking with us. And so the thing is he is now tapped all connections and going to those people and you know one of his donors I understand for the Raipur Hospital. Gentlemen called Kishore. Mr. Kishore is a donor to Swami's trust. There's one more gentleman called Kishore from Canada. Understand that he has also donated money.

Now every single substantial donor to the central trust is in their radar. They are zooming in there and telling them "Dear Swami, Madhusudhan Naidu is going to talk to you. And you tell us what you want to say. And he is giving you an answer he's just like Swami is physically there for you."

TRK

Ok. The central trust knows all of this. Why is it that it has taken this long for this

information to come from you sir, for public understanding? Why hasn't or if you know, the trust put out some announcements of their own or articulated the situation in the way that you are? Why are they hesitant? Is there a reason they have been hesitant?

Even when Mr. Isaac Tigrett who was residing in two full apartments which Baba gave him as residence and he was fully going to Muddannahalli, as I understand, they (Trust) did not ask him to leave, because he himself, Mr. Isaac Tigrett gave a big public announcement in front of the Ganesh Temple gate telling that it was of his own volition that he was leaving (Prashanthi Nilayam), that he is very good friends to the central Trust. This is confusing to many of us who are devotees, most of us are small people and outsiders.

SSN

You know what happened really is this: that shortly after this illegal amendment was made by them, they did another thing. Mr. Indulal Shah had become a feeble mind as you know. He was the senior most trustee in the central trust. He used to preside over all the meetings of the board of trustees. And they thought to take advantage of the situation.

TRK

Muddannahalli?

SSN

Yes. that is Narasimha Murthy and others. and I gather that through his daughter and son-in-law they were somehow able to persuade him to go to all their functions in muddannahalli. In fact, Mr. Indulal Shah stopped coming to Puttaparthi and started attending all the functions in Muddannahalli.

Now it was, that the decision that was taken was that instead of straight away going and fighting a case against them we should talk to them. We should make them realise that what they're doing is not correct. So over two years, I mean it now looks like a long period of time we had a number of meetings. We called all of them, we spoke to them individually, we spoke to them collectively, we spoke to them at a meeting where Indulal Shah himself was present and we told them that what they're doing is not correct. All that we told them was look and care it this trust is Swami's trust. Swami looked after it from 1978 till Maha Samadhi. How can you say you will not have anything to do with this?

And the answer they gave was no we need to discuss with other people they call themselves Tyaga Jivis I don't know what Tyaga they've done. Tyaga Jivis is one who has given up all his attachments. If you are attached to your position as trustee so much that you are willing to do an illegal document and present a fake minutes, what Tyaga have you done. no Tyaga. So the thing is we tried to convince them. Finally they would agree they'll go back, then we said we will amend the document, you could take it back and we told them, see these are institutions which Bhagwan has run, which Bhagwan has nurtured the central trust will do nothing to adversely affect them, if at all we can come to help you, if you need help, but otherwise we have no intention of harming the institutions.

They would not listen. So do you give a deed of amendment? They circulated something which is complete nonsense. So this discussion went on. Finally our trustees felt that we should write one more letter. So another long letter was written by Mr. Chakravarthi, to which there was no reaction or response. And finally, you know the statute of limitation says there are three years for us to file a suit so just before the three years expired, we decided that we are going to file a suit and we had a bit of a problem because Indulal Shah was one of the trustees at that time and obviously he didn't agree to join the suit so we had to make him a defendant in the suit, put him on the side of Narasimha Murthy and others. Mr. Giri had joined in the suit but he had become very enfeebled and due to his ailments he is not in

completely good health. So he joined; and the three year period that was only this. Nothing else.

On the other limb of your question, as to why this was not publicized. Now you see the greatest concern that all of us have is that how to protect and preserve Swami's name and sanctity. See it's easy for us to make allegations against anyone and put it out in the press. But you must look at it and how the media looks at things, what is media going to say about these allegations, and is that going to reflect on Bhagwan's name and glory? I mean this was the primary thing that was always working in the minds of the central trust.

Though as a lawyer I try to tell them said see if something wrong has happened it is our duty, it is our Dharma to tell people that this is wrong and I must say that I have shared these things on more than one occasion and some of it is available in public domain on many of my visits out of the country. I have spoken about it, I have explained as I am explaining to you now and I said this is what has happened.

Now unfortunately that case went through a bit of a, what shall I say, a rigmarole. The lokh seva trust filed an application to say, this is a very technical objection, that this case should have been filed before the district judge and not before the civil judge in a different jurisdiction because it relates to a trust. That was the objection they filed. Our legal advice and decisions of the Supreme Court show that this objection is completely untenable objection. Our senior counsel argued, pointed out the law, but unfortunately the judge has ruled against us and said the case should have been filed before the district judge, I cannot entertain it.

TRK

Do you know the name of the judge?

SSN

I forget the name, she is a lady judge sitting in chikballapur.

TRK

So, how long did it take for her to read the plaint? Was it something like one year and few months?

SSN:

How the litigation system works is that you file papers in court, the papers are just lying in the record, and when the matter is ready and it is heard, that is the time when the judge takes on the papers reads them, hears arguments and pronounces an order.

TRK

So the case was heard?

SSN

Yes. The application filed by them to dismiss the case was heard by this judge, by the one who wrote the order.

TRK

She actually heard the case.

SSN

Yea she actually heard the case, she heard the application, she heard our objections, she heard the lawyers on both sides and then she took some time and she passed an order to say that this case cannot continue here because it is filed in the wrong court.

TRK

Was she herself an advocate?

SSN

Most judges, before they become judges, they are advocates. So she would have. She's a junior judge maybe 5-10 years of experience. And we have been advised that the order is not in accordance with law and a decision has been taken that we are going to challenge that order in an appeal which we are going to launch very soon.

TRK

The appeal is asking for it to stay in the civil court of Chikbalapur?

SSN

Yes, correct. The jurisdiction, you see I can explain a bit, the application we made was a very simple one and our contention was that this amendment which was done in 2012 September 12, that amendment is illegal because all the trustees did not approve it and such an amendment you cannot make and take away the power which was given, a sacred power given by Bhagwan to central trust, you cannot take it away like that. That was our contention. So in our view and as advice to us by our senior counsel this was the right procedure that we followed. But you know in the hierarchy of courts, courts take views, and it has to be tested in an appellate court and that's exactly what we are about to do as of today there is no appeal lodged yet, but it is...

TRK

There must be a deadline for the appeal.

SSN

In the next few days it is going to be lodged is what I believe.

TRK

You speak of your advocates and advisors for the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Central Trust. I did not know that there were separate lawyers.

SSN

Actually yeah I should clarify that. You see, I have been, to the best of my knowledge been the only lawyer whom Swami used to consult, for the central trust matters. But when a matter goes to court and I as a trustee am a party in a case we need a person to represent all the trustees and being a trustee I cannot appear in those proceedings in my capacity as a lawyer. So we have to engage counsel, so we have engaged. There are two very senior lawyers, they have been devotees of Swami, in fact one of them Mr. K. G. Ragavan, his father was a judge in the high court and years ago he was a devotee of Baba, Justice K. R. Gopi Vallabhai(?). Ragavan is a senior advocate. Another is Mr. BM Shyam Prasad, he is also an eminent lawyer, a good civil lawyer. This gentleman's father is also a judge in the high court, Justice Malikarjun. So both these are the people whom the trust has engaged to represent it in this case.

TRK

Sir, for my own clarification, and I have read all those documents that I had access to, who are actually the trust members of the Central Trust in Puttaparthi now? Besides yourself.

SSN

We have now seven trustees. The oldest is Mr. T. K. K. Bhagwat, and then we have Mr. V. Srinivasan, Mr. K. Chakravarthi, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Justice AP Mishra, myself and Mr. Ratnakar. These are the seven trustees who are holding office.

TRK

Is it true or a rumour, in order for any thing to happen as a central trust act, all trustees must be in agreement?

SSN

Actually, ever since Mahasamadhi, all decisions have been taken unanimously by the board of trustees. So we have not had any occasion when one or more than one trustee says I do not agree or I dissent. There's a lot of discussion, debates, viewpoints are expressed, somebody may feel that something needs to be reconsidered so that process goes on and finally till now, many thanks to Bhagwan's grace, we have taken all decisions unanimously.

TRK

Do you think we will get updates coming directly from the Trust? Or Radio Sai or from within the ashram itself? We devotees from all over the world who are really struggling for bits and pieces of news, and only a few people are giving that news whereas Muddenahalli has hired bushels of journalists and incompetent writers and doing all kinds of things whereas, of course we have Baba's truth, but what is the reluctance to share things that are already over with? I can see the secretiveness of some things that is in process but we have a right, I think, the little people, we have the right to know what is happening to us. We want to know will we get news or do we have to rely on social media which is not reliable? We would like just a small statement. Such and such a date we went to court, such and such a date our appeal was accepted, and this is the place we are at right now. That's all. We don't want a big story.

SSN

I've always believed and I continue to believe that we should not hanker for publicity, but we should not withhold the news. This is my personal view. Even now I maintain that the more we don't disclose the more rumours are going to fly, and I believe that it is important for us to at least put it out in our website, put it out in Sanathan Sarathi And the process is started. I must tell you the process has started. I am fairly confident that you know with Swami's blessing we should be able to change the way we interact and communicate.

And I agree with you entirely that there is a big machinery which is operating you know the publicity media of Muddenahalli. You must also understand that, you see during Swami's time all communications were by Swami. You know so many years that I was going there, there was no occasion for me to go to the office of the central trust and say well you know I'm a trustee and I need some information can you give me? There was no occasion because Swami had that information and if Swami wanted that information to be with me he would give it to me. He'll have it sent to me. So this is how it was, it was all Swami centric. Now with that suddenly disappearing, see the people around, they were also very unsure as to what we should give to whom.

TRK

While I have this opportunity I want to thank also our Trust. I have great trust in our Trust. I feel that slowly the shyness or reluctance to just share, we only want to know what is happening. I don't quite understand why that link isn't made with Radio Sai, because that's the perfect venue, I just don't understand.

SSN

We'll see if we can, you know, start some kind of a news bulletin or release that we can give on a regular basis.

TRK

Sanathana Sarathi is a perfect venue for that too.

SSN

But you know I just want to end this on one positive note. And that positive note is that if you take stock of what has happened in the last five and a half years that have gone by, you will see the ashram is maintained well, there are people who are coming, of course, the type of visitors has changed a bit, we have a large number of first time visitors, second time visitors, as compared to repeat visitors in the past. We have seen many of them are coming for the first time. There are people who have been devotees for generations. So Swami is inviting them. Swami is attracting them. And we have a new breed of young people and others coming to the ashram.

The Ashram is spick and span as it used to be. The hospitals are running beautifully. We have a brand new general hospital building in Puttaparthi thanks to devotees who came forward with that from America. We have finished an excellent water supply augmentation project and given it to the government. We have finished a new campus which Swami had announced at Muddannahalli which is the University campus. A new research centre has commenced the work on. It is at fast pace. It's at the final stage. Equipment have all come hopefully in the next five to six months' time. The research centre will be a state of the art research centre, attached to our university which is going to do multidisciplinary research. It is going to take shape and start operating. All the equipment in both the super speciality hospitals have been upgraded the latest equipment have come.

And we continue to have the love and affection of the seva dals who come and do so many things in the ashram. The All India organisation is galvanised under the new All India President Mr. Nimish Pandya. He has taken a number of new initiatives and taking a cue from what you are saying. He has already set up a communication centre which is sending out information about things that are happening. They are interacting with the media and the media is carrying the Rishikesh Padukah program, which was carried widely across all the national media. It was a wonderful program, its attracted a lot of attention. Now they have taken up the Swacch Bharat Program which the Prime Minister has announced. So what I am saying is that everything is going on in a wonderful manner. Of course there is always room for improvement. You know, nothing is perfect. We are human. Swami is perfect. But we have to follow him. So I think everyone is working towards it.

You know, these are aberrations. Muddannahalli is an aberration. I think today, tomorrow, sometime in Swami's time people will realise that this kind of a distraction for the devotees is not something which is going to take the hordes of people there, I mean. Activities are going on well. Well, it's not that, you know, we need so many crores more or less, but the concern is only this: That you know devotees are being led to believe certain things which is you know difficult for us to sort of accept. Even as you know very very old and staunch devotees of Bhagawan, personally also I find it extremely difficult to believe that here is a gentleman you know even when Swami was with us in physical form, And many people many very senior people, judges, they came and told me I understand the situation. I don't expect anything I just want to go there for his Darshan I don't mind sitting anywhere. Now this was the level of interaction that we had with Bhagawan. When he was in his physical frame in front of us can you imagine that Swami will be available on the phone for somebody who could pick up the phone and speak to him anytime? It's difficult for me to believe it.

TRK

Sir you were so charming and so gracious and again thank you for seeing us on this long day that you had today. Thank you everybody for your blessings and for tuning in. Hopefully we will be back with more news another time. Jai Sai Ram