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Mata Amritanandamayi echoes Gandhi's village development idea on birthday

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KOLLAM: On her 60th birthday, [Mata Amritanandamayi](#) took an implicit swipe at 'not in my backyard syndrome' as she recalled events from her childhood. While delivering her birthday message at Vallikavu on Friday, she described how people used to share a fire for cooking purposes and clean the others' premise in return.

"Those days matchboxes were uncommon. My mother would tell me that if we took fire from our neighbour, we should clean their premises in return. It was never a forced obligation but something that came out of the purity of village life, something we miss badly these days," said Amma.

Amma had a bundle of anecdotes, short tales and quotes that stressed on the need to have a calm mind and why it is necessary to use words wisely. "Unless your mind is not calm, you are never able to think properly. This results in distress among people," she said.

The math also echoed Gandhi's principle of developing villages by launching 101 self-reliant model villages across the country as part of Amma's birthday celebrations. These villages will be developed with stress on nine core areas. The 101-village adoption programme was launched by Union minister for transport Oscar Fernandes and the Rs 50-crore [Uttarakhand](#) relief and rehabilitation scheme was launched by Union minister of state for labour Kodikunnil Suresh.

The revolutionary e-learning project - Amrita RITE-rural India Tablet Education - was launched by Amma by handing over a tablet to Union minister of state for human resource development Shashi Tharoor. Amritakeerti Puraskar national award was presented to writer and literary critic Manoj Das and Amritakeerti Puraskar state award was conferred on Prof Thuravoor Viswambharan at the event.

Earlier lakhs of devotees congregated at Amritapuri ashram to wish Amritanandamayi. The celebrations began at 5am with Ganapathy homam and Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, who is the vice-chairman of Mata Amritanandamayi Matt, performed 'padapooja' of Amma. Maharashtra governor K Sankaranarayanan, Union ministers Oscar Fernandes, K V Thomas, [Shashi Tharoor](#), [K C Venugopal](#) and Kodikunnil Suresh garlanded Amma on her birthday.

Kollam: On her 60th birthday, Mata Amritanandamayi took an implicit swipe at not in my backyard syndrome [NIMBY] as she invoked memories from her childhood to describe how people used to clean each other's house premises. While delivering her birthday message at Vallikavu here on Friday, she said how people used to share fire for cooking with each other and in return how they performed cleaning.

"Those days match-boxes were not common. My mother would tell me that if we took fire from our neighbour, we should in return clean their premises. It was never a forced obligation but something that came out of the purity of village life, something we miss badly these days," said Amma.

Amma undid her bundle of anecdotes, short tales and quotes to stress the need to have a calm mind and to use words with a sense of measure. " Unless your mind is not calm, you are never able to think properly. This results in distress among people," she said.

The math also echoed Gandhiji's principle of development of villages by launching the development of 101 self-reliant model villages across the country as part of birthday celebrations. These villages will be developed with stress on nine core areas. The 101-village adoption programme, was launched by Union Minister for Transport Oscar Fernandes and the Rs 50-crore [Uttarakhand](#) relief and rehabilitation scheme was launched by Union Minister of state for Labour Kodikunnil Suresh.

The revolutionary e-learning project "Amrita RITE-rural India Tablet Education" was launched by Amma by handing over a tablet to Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development

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Shashi Tharoor. Amritakeerti Puraskar National Award was presented to writer and literary critic Prof Manoj Das and Amritakeerti Puraskar State Award was given away to Prof Thuravoor Viswambharan on the occasion.

Earlier lakhs of devouts congregated at Amritapuri ashram to pay their birthday wishes to Amritanandamayi. The celebrations began at 5am with ganapathy homam, which was followed by lalitha sahrasanamarchana. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, who is the vice-Chairman of Mata Amritanandamayi Matt performed 'padapooja' of Amma.

Maharashtra Governor K.Sankara narayanan, Union minister of State for Road Transports and High ways, Oscar fernandez , Union ministers of state for Consumer Affairs K.V.Thomas, Union minister of state for HRD Shashi Tharoor, Union Minister of state for Civil Aviation KC Venugopal and Union minister of state for labour Kodikunnil Suresh garlanded Amma and wished Amma on her 60th birthday.

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