

## **Children should be mischievous : Ravi Shankar**

“Do you play pranks ? Children should play pranks, otherwise they remain no more kids, but become adults. You need to be mischievous.”

When spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar made this observation from a group of young children gathered on the lush green lawns of the Vishwashanti Gurukul complex at Rajbaug, Loni Kalbhor, on the outskirts of the city on Thursday.

The noted humanitarian was on a visit to the Gurukul, a project of the Maharashtra Academy of Engineering Education and Research (MAEER) group that aims at blending the ancient *guru-shishya* tradition with modern techniques of learning

During a brief interaction with children, Sri Sri said “Life should be like a tree. The roots ought to be old and the shoots new.” The message was for an apt co-existence of ancient values and tradition and modern science.

Sri Sri himself has pioneered several institutions of learning in the urban as well as rural areas of the country to

foster value integrated education and make the learning process easier and stress free.

Accompanied by his younger sister, Bhanudidi, Sri Sri was conducted on a tour across the campus by MAEER founder Vishwanath Karad and Gurukul executive director Sunil Karad.

He visited the Raj Kapoor memorial (The Gurukul land has been donated by the family of the late thespian), besides visiting the site for a proposed meditation center on the banks of river Mula-Mutha behind the Gurukul complex. Later, he planted a tree on the campus.

“It’s so beautiful here. I feel like joining the school,” he remarked while acknowledging the beautiful campus. He also blessed the students and directed them towards academic pursuits.

Sri Sri was welcomed by Gurukul director parimal Subramaniam, and was felicitated by Sunil Karad. In a brief speech, Vishwanath Karad said that the institution feels truly blessed by the presence of a world renowned personally like Sri Sri.