



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Dr. Kiran Bedi inaugurated the First National Shramdaan Conference in Varanasi on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

A first of its kind, the National Shramdaan Conference was organized by the Sakaar Sewa Samiti, a movement led by Ms. Temsutula Imsong, and brought Shramdanees from different cities of India together to strengthen each other.

Ms. Temsutula Imsong, a native of Nagaland has adopted Varanasi as her home and is persevering to clean the several ghats of decades of excreta and has worked to restore the spiritual heritage synonymous with the city, particularly **Prabhu Ghat**, which was personally applauded by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a meeting with her and recognized in his speeches.

Addressing the gathering the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor said that there is an inextricable relationship between poverty, disease, excreta and putrefying garbage strewn around. She further said that in order to reduce poverty, we need to first ensure that our country is clean and to do that we need to begin by cleaning our homes, schools, offices, institutions and neighbourhoods. Dr. Bedi also released the Shramdaan Anthem, which has been proposed to be translated into different Indian languages, beginning with Tamil.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has extended an invitation to Ms. Imsong to visit Puducherry with her team of shramdanees to connect this Shramdaan movement of the North with Puducherry. This form of movement to involve over 50,000 students of Pondicherry University with all its affiliated colleges spread throughout the four regions has been recently discussed by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor in her meeting with the Vice Chancellor and Heads of Departments at Pondicherry University.

The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Thiru R Kamalakannan has been personally requested by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor to spearhead this movement as he is already leading by example in Karaikal, supported by Collector-Karaikal Thiru P. Parthiban.