



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

Dry rural ponds, Dry temple ponds. Rural people think some else will work for them. The keys to transformation are the BDO and team work.

....Tweet of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi as part of the weekend rounds to visit Temples of the U.T. of Puducherry for revival of the Temple Ponds and to propogate the rich heritage of the temples today visited Sri Drowpathiamman Temple in Katterikuppam village. This was the 71st Morning Round.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi was received at the temple with a ceremonial welcome in traditional manner by the Hindu Religious Institution Commissioner, Shri Tillaivel and the Temple Trustees. Noting that the Gopuram of the Temple that had reportedly become dilapidated has been brought down and in its place a new Gopuram is being constructed, Hon'ble Lt. Governor said that efforts should be have been made to preserve and maintain the temple structures to retain its cultural heritage and the architecture splendor of our ancient times.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor visited the Temple Pond that had been desilted by the Village People led by an NGO viz., Dhan Foundation. Addressing the village people at the spot, Hon'ble Lt. Governor said that the purpose of the visit was to revive the water bodies, in particular the temple ponds and village ponds. The ground water was rapidly sinking and therefore called for active participation of the local people to safeguard the water bodies who own these assets and who will reap the rewards of maintaining these assets.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor said that to de-silt the near 599 ponds in Puducherry, people and the various Government agencies such as DRDA, Local Bodies and the Public Works Department will have to forge partnership and work as a team involving also Temple Trustees, NGOs and Corporates under CSR. Also employment to Rural Poor under MNREGA could be provided to revive these water bodies and create assets.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor while return visited the Boat House at Ousteri Lake to have a look at the damaged jetty reported in the Newspaper. It came to light that the damaged Jetty was the first jetty constructed and has been retained for archival value, while the present jetty used for boarding the boats is in good shape. Hon'ble Lt. Governor, suggested that the "heritage jetty" could be repaired and an information board kept to mention that it is for heritage value and not for use, so that public and media are not misled to believe that it's a damaged jetty

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, was accompanied by Team Raj Nivas comprising of Shri R. Sridharan, Private Secretary to LG, Dr. Amirta Bahl, OSD to LG, Mr. Karthikeyan, Additional ADC .