



**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

As part of 79<sup>th</sup> Weekend Morning Round, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi, bicycling from Raj Nivas, today visited Kamatchi Amman Temple and the temple land situated at Thangavel Garden and lakshmi Nagar extension.


At the Kamatchi Amman Temple, after rendering prayers and seeking the blessings of the God, Hon'ble Lt. Governor had a brief interaction with the Temple Trustees and the local community. Hon'ble Lt. Governor said that her purpose of visit was to seek the blessings for the prosperity of Puducherry. The Weekend visits to temple with ponds were to revive it and replenish the ground water source that has been depleting. God willing, when the monsoons strike, the desilted tanks and ponds will become good storehouse of rain water and serve as reservoirs of ground water for better agriculture and to provide nourishing drinking water. Hon'ble Lt. Governor further said that the visit to temples, when it made news, attracted the attention of tourists and promoted temple tourism.

When the representatives of the community wanted accountability of the Temple Trustees, Commissioner, HRI said that as per directions, the terms of appointment now stressed on the important facets of upkeep and maintenance of temple premises including ponds, if any, maintenance and audit of accounts, carrying out improvements through shramdhan / volunteerism, safeguard of properties etc., It was also said that Commissioner, HRI will release a Directory of Temples that would give a brief description of the heritage of all the temples in the U.T. to serve as a valuable guide for promotion of temple tourism. HRI would launch its website too along with the Directory which would be done by organising a conclave of all temple trustees. The Commissioner, HRI to explore the feasibility of obtaining GOI funds under Skill Development Training programme to commence a Temple Training Institution and impart Temple Training as is done in Tamil Nadu and also by Art of Life of Sri Sri Ravi Sankar.

The temple trustees, when sought for the intervention of Hon'ble Lt. Governor to remove encroachers from temple lands, were advised that they ought to act independently and seek for legal remedy through the Courts. It was said to that they ought to be aware of law and have to take recourse to law as temple trustees they have a responsibility and not wait for Government to act.

On the request made by Shri Ashok Anand, Hon'ble MLA, Hon'ble Lt. Governor thereafter visited the land belonging to Kamatchi amman Temple in residential area of Thangavel Garden. The Hon'ble MLA along with Commissioner, Oulgaret Municipality and the residents of the area received Hon'ble Lt. Governor at the site and gave a brief account on how the temple land that was once a farm land had transformed into a drain / sewerage sump covered by reeds and bushes.

On site action plan was drawn for cleaning and restoring the land to its original state. Under the action plan, the PWD would carry out house to house survey that were letting sewerage pipes into the land and after issuing notice, applications would be issued to such houses to connect to underground sewerage system. The entire work would be completed in six weeks time. In the meanwhile, the Commissioner, Oulgaret would clean the land of the reeds and bushes, the charges of which would be borne by HRI. A committee consisting of Hon'ble MLA, Commissioner, Oulgaret Municipality, Commissioner HRI and Temple Representatives to decide on the form in which the restoration of the land to be carried out viz., as catchment land or farm land etc.

 Hon'ble Lt. Governor, was accompanied by Shri Tillaivel, Commissioner, Hindu Religious Institution, Shri M. Ramesh, Commissioner, Oulgaret Municipality, The temple trustees of Kamatchi Amman Koil, and Team Raj Nivas comprising of Shri R. Sridharan, Private Secretary to Lt. Governor, Ms. Amrita Bahl, OSD to Lt. Governor and Mr. Karthikeyan, Addl. ADC .

