



Government of Puducherry
Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat

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PRESS RELEASE

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor marked the milestone of 100th Weekend Round, today 26th August, 2017, participating in a tree plantation programme along the bund of Velrampet Lake.

The objective of the morning round, is primarily to have a Swachh, Healthy and Prosperous Puducherry. The journey of 100 rounds began with the first weekend round on 5th June, 2016 to Grand Canal. The first visit to Velrampet Lake was on 26th June, 2016 following a report in the Media, calling attention of the Government to revive the lake, that had become an open place for defecation and garbage dumping.

Consequent to the visit of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor on 26th June, 2016, all the Government Agencies i.e., PWD, Municipality and Forest Departments along with civil society organizations and other stakeholders, with active participation of the locals have started mass cleaning and desilting campaign of the Lake. Thereafter the perimeter of the lake was fenced to prevent garbage dumping and open defecation.

During the 99th Weekend Round, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor visited Velrampet Lake to see the status of maintenance of the Lake. During which it was decided that, a massive tree plantation programme to be organized during the ensuing 100th weekend round, with active collaboration from various stakeholders viz., Schools, Colleges, Commercial Establishments, Hospitals, NCC, NSS etc. Consequently the preparatory activities have begun during the preceding week, with the Government departments and stakeholders. The entire stretch of the bund of Velrampet lake has been divided into parts and allocated to the following participants i.e. Saradha Gangadharan College, Aravind Eye Hospital, Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Naturals', Pondicherry Heritage Round Table 167 and most importantly local Self-Help Group of Velrampet for planting the saplings and watering regularly. Creepers have been planted along with the fenced portion of the lake. The Forest Department and Agriculture Department have provided the saplings and Puducherry Municipality, PWD officials and Police Department have extended support for the Tree Plantation Programme.

Today, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor along with Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and other Raj Nivas Team Members cycled to Velrampet Lake along with representatives from participating organizations / institutions. There were 225 participants in the Tree Plantation Programme and 475 saplings have been planted along the bund of the Lake. The voluntary organizations have enthusiastically participated and assured to maintain the saplings in their respective allotted stretch of the bund.

Thereafter Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor visited the Thulakkanathamman Temple ground which was also revived along with the Velrampet Lake and offered prayers at the Temple.

The feedback from the participating agencies and locals has clearly brought out the aspect that the fund deficit for carrying out such activities can be bridged by active participation of the civil society to supplement the efforts of the Government agencies.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor takes this opportunity to thank the civil society organizations, students, doctors, traders, self help groups and all other stakeholders for their support and dedication in supplementing the efforts of the Government Departments in this journey of 100 rounds, to transform Puducherry into "Swachh, Healthy and Prosperous Puducherry".
