



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
LT. GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Meeting of Women Self Help Group at Raj Nivas**

*Bringing together women SHGs. To make them bond and help realise their own potential and also identify areas of collaboration.*

.... Tweet of Dr. Kiran Bedi

As part of empowerment of women during the Week of International Womens Day, an interaction meet was organized with the Self Group Members of various villages at Raj Nivas on March the 9<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Shri G. Theva Neethi Dhas, Secretary to Lt. Governor welcomed the gathering. He said that the purpose of meeting is to bring together the Self Help Groups for knowledge sharing and learning best practices. A two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed former Minister, Shri Chandrakasu. The Team of Doctors from Mahatma Gandhi Medical College gave a brief demonstration on life saving skills and Dental Hygiene and oral care.

Dr. C.K. Gariyali, Retd IAS Officer of Tamil Nadu Cadre and founder of the NGO Equitas Micro Finance Institution deputed Shri John Alex, Group Head of Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited. He addressed the gathering stating that Women Self Help Group has been a success story largely due to the self inculcated responsibility and discipline of the Indian women folk vis-à-vis the men. Thiru Devaraj, Dy. General Manager, Indian Bank and Mrs. Amirthavalli, Self Help Group Branch Manager of Indian Bank highlighted about the various banking facilities that could be availed by Self Help Group Members.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Dr. Kiran Bedi in her address gave them the mantra of "3 M – Mind, Mobility and Money" for empowerment. The Self Help Group members were encouraged to strengthen their "Mind" by either reading newspapers or listening to National News on TV so as to gain knowledge / Information on important policy initiatives of the Government which would benefit their endeavours. They were requested to become "Mobile" by stepping out of the four walls of their home to witness and learn about the changes / progress that have taken place beyond the boundaries of their villages. It was by gathering information / knowledge and by learning of the progress that has taken could they empower themselves to earn the third important factor of "Money" for living a contended and healthy life. Hon'ble Lt. Governor also stated that training of Trainers of the Self Help Group Members would be undertaken through Equitas Small Finance Bank Social initiatives to strengthen and empower the Self Help Groups. Concluding the interaction Hon'ble Lt. Governor said that during the weekend visits to Rural areas, Raj Nivas team will connect with the respective Self Help Group for interaction and for a game of handball along with them at their own village court.