

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE "WHERE KINDNESS SPOKE" BOOK RELEASE
FUNCTION ORGANISED BY STERLING PUBLISHERS (P) LTD., AND SHIVANI
ARORA, AUTHOR AT CHINMAYA HERITAGE AUDITORIUM, CHETPET
ON 23.01.2020 AT 6.45 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

Dr. Kiran Bedi,
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry

Mr. Surinder Ghai,
Managing Director,
Sterling Publishers (P) Ltd.,

Shivani Arora,
Author

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure in being in your midst to release the book "**Where Kindness Spoke**" which documents the work of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Dr Kiran Bedi.

The unparalleled **Tiruvalluvar** gives the nature of the quality of good books in his seven hundred and eighty third verse, '**Navil thorum Nool Nayam**'. In this verse, he uses good books as a comparison to good men of character. He says that one's experience of such persons is like the reading of good books. As we keep associating with great men of substance, we learn greater dimensions of their nobility even as good works keep yielding newer and deeper thoughts with every reading!

In India, we have beautiful traditions connected with the writing of great works and the making of masterpieces. **Lord Ganapathi** takes upon himself the challenge of being the writer of the extensive **Mahabharatha** even as **Sage Vyasa** dictates it. And the **Valmiki Ramayana** is borne out of the compassion that flowers in **Sage Valmiki's** heart when he sees a bird of a pair of lovebirds being brought down by a hunter's arrow!

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, once said "**Books are the means by which we build bridges between cultures**".

When children develop love of reading at an early age, their language skills grow, their imagination is enriched, their world becomes a world of wonder and they later easily adapt to the reading-focussed learning environment of their classrooms.

For books are friends that open themselves to us at our will and convenience sharing all that they have! What would many of us be without the values and sense of adventure that books bequeathed us! Books give us the wisdom and strength to face the challenges of life!

Great men change the world, but it is books that change great men. Take **Gandhiji** for example. His life was profoundly changed after he read **John Ruskin's 'Unto This Last'** on a train ride from Johannesburg to Durban in South Africa on October First, 1904.

Influenced by the book, he established the Phoenix Ashram where he and his co-workers practised the ideals put forth by **'Unto this last'!**

I recall a few months ago when the author came and met me at my office and shared a copy of the book with me I was amazed at how closely she has followed the work of Dr Bedi and documented it in this style. She also shared with me her linguistic skills and how she helps Dr Bedi by translating her tweets into Hindi. It is indeed very rare to see someone who has such command over two languages and dabbling between the two effortlessly. I congratulate Dr Kiran Bedi for nurturing such talent and supporting the good work and the author Shivani for her efforts in writing this book.

The book, I noticed, is in two parts - the first gave me a glimpse of Dr Bedi's tenure starting with her oath taking where she gave the TEA (Trust, Empowerment and Accountability), her 10 AM meetings which set the tone for the day, weekend morning rounds which will be remembered in the annals of administration of Puducherry, the way she took on the medical admissions issue, the open house which stands out on top of the list of good practices, the integrity with which she works to ensure financial prudence, the historic dharna, her path breaking model of using Corporate Social Responsibility to make Puducherry water rich and not to forget her way of mentoring the officers whether it is through one on one meetings, department visits, review meetings or self-evaluation tests. I am really impressed to see how she leads by example, continues to work long hours a day undeterred by any form of opposition and has brought a marked change in the administration of Puducherry.

The second part of the book highlights all the good practices by Dr Bedi as Lieutenant Governor. I appreciate the way the author has taken time to speak to all

the officers at Raj Nivas, understand their view point and put forth the chapters with total objectivity. She has quoted Dr Bedi's nuggets, tweets and blogs in relevant places and these add value to the chapters. At the end of each chapter I also noticed management lessons being mentioned, which truly shows how each of these good practices is nothing but valuable management lessons which can be implemented not just by the Governments but also by organisations across the spectrum. The author has highlighted how kindness is the one factor that has been the driving force behind such governance. Truly whether it is being accessible, visible, reaching out to people, helping them it has all been possible due to the kindness exuded by Dr Kiran Bedi as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

An interesting section of photographs is added to the book which gave me a visual glimpse of all the good work being done in Puducherry.

The model of Water Rich Puducherry introduced by Dr Kiran Bedi where she has worked on bringing back a historic model of community involvement in desilting of water channels is absolutely commendable. The way she has encouraged companies and organizations to join hands through their CSR and desilted rural water channels and urban drains is awe inspiring and truly it is a model which can be easily replicated any where in the country.

I really hope a lot of people will read this book especially CEOs, heads of management schools, Civil Servants and various academies etc., so that this model of governance which as the author has said is driven by purposeful kindness will percolate down the hierarchies and we will have more effective management in our government offices and other organisations. A recent news said that one of the universities abroad is planning a course of kindness in leadership and now here is a book which can be an effective text book for them to gather examples from. They also have a film made by noted journalist Jennifer Arul which is literally like seeing the book.

I once again congratulate Dr Kiran Bedi for her efforts in leading this kindness driven model of governance and for supporting the author in putting together a book like this and the author for her efforts in penning the book **"Where Kindness Spoke."**

I must make a special reference to the time when Dr. Kiran Bedi addressed a large gathering of citizens in Nagpur, on the invitation of our English newspaper '**The Hitavada**' during the centenary year in 2011. Her presence inspired thousands of people who heard her lecture on fight against corruption.

I extend my best wishes and greetings to the organisers who have taken painstaking efforts to organise this function in a befitting manner. May success greet them in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind...

Jai Tamil Nadu...