



**GOVERNANCE
AWARDS
2019**
12-12-2019

EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Dr. Renu Raj, IAS

(Staff Officer to Chief Secretary of Kerala)

For her outstanding work in protecting the State's assets, maintaining ecological balance and providing support to the elderly

A 2015-batch Kerala cadre IAS officer, Dr. Renu Raj is a young and dynamic bureaucrat. She is known for her courage in discharging her duties as a civil services officer. A doctor by qualification, she cleared the UPSC entrance exam with an all-India rank of 2. Now in just her fourth year in service, she has made headlines as a courageous, bold and upright officer. She took on the mining mafia in Devikulam district. The first woman officer in the area, she stood up to the powerful and wealthy even after receiving many threats for shutting down quarries that had been reopened illegally.

During her tenure, she acted against 80 illegal construction projects and cancelled the allocation of 20 acres of land, which was a part of the Kurinjimala Sanctuary famous for the Neela kurinji flower, that was owned by a sitting MP. Her no-nonsense attitude was evident in her approach in dealing with a situation where the elderly were abandoned by their children. When she received information that an unlicensed old-age home in Thrissur city was extorting money from the elderly, she took prompt action. She also created a group of conciliation officers, who volunteered to mediate between broken families, convincing the children to take their parents home. Heading forward, she has twin objectives of tackling encroachments and illegal construction in the area and dealing with social issues of tea plantation workers. She intends to clear the encroached upon land, which will be reclaimed by the government and given to the marginalised communities who need it the most. Her will power and integrity are an embodiment of New India.



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JURY

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