

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU INAUGURATED THE
29TH SESSION OF ANNUAL INDIAN ART HISTORY CONGRESS
ORGANISED BY C.P.RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION, CHENNAI,
AT THE C.P.RAMASWAMI AIYAR FOUNDATION, ALWARPET,
CHENNAI ON 04/04/2022**

Hon'ble Governor, Thiru. R.N. Ravi inaugurated the 29th Session of the Annual Indian Art History Congress (IAHC) on "Indian Iconography with Special Emphasis on Regional Developments" jointly organised by the Indian Art History Congress, Guwahati & C.P.Ramaswami Aiyar Institute of Indological Research (CPRIR) at the C.P.Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Alwarpet, Chennai today (04.04.2022).

In his address, Hon'ble Governor extended his greetings and best wishes for the three days session. He said that Thiru.C.P.Ramawami, a visionary Nationalist who dedicated his life for the development of country and its citizens particularly removing barriers and reforming education. Hailing the distinguished gathering of art historians, Governor quoted a Tamil proverb that மீனுக்கு நீச்சல் கற்றுக் கொடுக்கன்னும்மா ? that Does fish need to be taught to swim? Meaning, they did'not need anyone to tell them about their discipline. However, he urged them to be ever cognizant and sensitise to the contemporary context of India's resurgence.

He emphasised that India's resurgence needed resurgence in culture and spirituality as well. In the resurgence of India our glorious timeless civilization background has a great role to play. This country went through a traumatic phase of foreign invasion and colonisation, conscious deliberate attempts to distort, and mischievously destroy its age-old institutions.

Hon'ble Governor recalled how under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, on 26th January 1930, Indian National Congress passed the landmark resolution that the British must leave the soil of India because their rule had ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. He lamented that while there had been some emphasis on economic growth, little was done for the restorations of cultural and spiritual glory of India.

Hon'ble Governor recalled how the British Government, as advised by Prof. Adam Ferguson of Edinburg University and an adviser to the Government on Colonial affairs had adopted this colonial policy of transfer of as much wealth as speedily as possible from India to U.K and destroyed the cultural and spiritual institutions of India besides its economy. They had fabricated India's past in such a way as to make Indians ashamed of their past. The British had marshalled their intellectual resources in this regard and justified the colonisation of India.

Karl Marx, through a series of essays, in the New York daily Tribune in August 1852 had justified British colonisation of India as a necessary evil. He had outlined two tasks for the British in India, one, a total annihilation of the Indian social order and second, laying the material foundation for a Western material civilization.

Hon'ble Governor highlighted how in recent years under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi. India is surging forward. He urged the art historians to interpret our glorious past in ways that helps India's resurgence. He emphasised that India's culture has been rooted in spirituality and it is necessary to interpret our cultural heritage not merely in terms of its architectural and sculptural beauty but also its spirituality which runs across the century and manifests with regional variations.

On this occasion, Prof.B.R.Mani, Director General (Retd), National Museum, New Delhi, Prof.S.K.Chakravarti, Chairman, IAHC, Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPRIIR, Dr.Darielle Mason, Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA, Dr.Choodamani Nandagopal, Vice-President, IAHC, dignitaries, distinguished invitees and officials were in presence.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai – 22

Sd/-

Date : 04.04. 2022

Addl. Director (PR)