

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU INTERACTED WITH THE
TAMIL LANGUAGE LEARNING STUDENTS OF BANARAS HINDU
UNIVERSITY (BHU) ON "TAMIL NADU DARSHAN" ON 13.04.2023
AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu met with non-Tamil students pursuing various Tamil language courses at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, at Raj Bhavan, Chennai, and had a delightful interaction. During the Kashi Tamil Sangamam organised in the months of November and December 2022, the Hon'ble Governor met the students studying various courses in Tamil at Banaras Hindu University and invited them on 'Tamil Nadu Darshan'. The visit is organised to provide an opportunity to the non-Tamil students learning Tamil to have a first-hand experience of Tamil culture, traditions, cuisine, and artefacts and to understand the unique role Tamil plays in shaping India's incredible cultural, spiritual, and economic heritage.

The students, along with their faculty members, Assistant Professors, Department of Tamil Indian Languages, BHU, Dr. Jagadesan and Dr. Vignesh Ananth, started the 9-day long 'Tamil Nadu Darshan' on April 4, 2023. They visited Sri Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram, Dhanushkodi, Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial, Pamban Bridge, Tiruchendur

Murugan Temple, Thoothukudi V.O.C.Port, Aathichanallur Archaeological Excavation Site(ASI), Tirunelveli Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Sri Nellaiappar Temple, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Tiruvalluvar Statue, Madurai Kallalagar Temple, Sri Rangam Temple, Sastra Deemed University, Tamil University, Thanjavur Big Temple, Chidambaram Natarajar Temple, Annamalai University, Puducherry Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville Foundation, Mahabalipuram Shore temple, Five Rathas, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Anna University and Chennai Marina Beach.

Hon'ble Governor mentioned Tamil Nadu as the spiritual and cultural capital. He elaborated on the historical accounts of the oneness of the spiritual, cultural, and civilizational evolution of Bharat, where people from different parts of our country moved across this great land, unmindful of kings and kingdoms as the people and society were united. The colonial power made deliberate attempts to fragment this Nation, disconnecting people, making them strangers. Governor Ravi mentioned the Great Pallava Prince of Mammallapuram, who went to Nalanda for studies and later introduced Buddhism to China.

While citing the richness of Tamil language and literature, the Hon'ble Governor mentioned that, out of ignorance, Hindi was imposed in 1960. Tamil is the oldest language, and Sanskrit language in antiquity is close to

Tamil. He mentioned that epics such as Thirukkural are so deeply enlightening that they must be kept by side.

Hon'ble Governor emphasised the need for the spread of the Tamil language and the wisdom of Tamil literature across the country. We must have a galaxy of Tamil scholars coming from non-Tamil parts. He encouraged non-Tamil students to learn Tamil and immerse themselves in the age-old wisdom of Tamil literature. He emphasised learning Tamil, picking out its idiosyncrasies and nuances in its natural and native forms. He assured full scholarships for the non-Tamil students who are willing to pursue higher studies in Tamil. He also assured that Raj Bhavan will organise "Tamil Nadu Darshan" regularly.

The students shared their soulful, vivid, and enriching experiences of 'Tamil Nadu Darshan' as a lifetime experience of witnessing the living, age-old history, connecting every Indian with its roots, reflecting "Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat". They called with excitement about having a memorable visit to cultural capital, Tamil Nadu, to experience enriched Tamil literature and culture. Hon'ble Governor distributed copies of "Thirukkural" with the students and faculty members.

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Raj Bhavan Chennai-22

Released by:-

Date : 13.04.2023

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