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**RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU INTERACTED WITH  
STUDENTS AND FACULTIES OF UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW WHO  
ARE ON CULTURAL STUDY TOUR TO TAMILNADU, AT  
RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI, TODAY (31.07.2023)**

Hon'ble Governor interacted with student delegates and faculty members of Anthropology Department, University of Lucknow who have been in Tamil Nadu for the last fortnight on Tamil Nadu cultural studies tour. The Cultural Study tour of students of University of Lucknow is an initiative of Honble Governor of Tamil Nadu .Governor exchanged his views and thoughts on richness of Tamil literature and heritage of Tamil arts and culture.

The purpose of this visit is to introduce and appreciate the true identity of Bharat and provide an opportunity to imbibe it. The students of Lucknow University were on a 15-day tour of the state, where they visited various educational, spiritual, and cultural institutions and had firsthand experiences of Tamil Nadu's rich, diverse, and vibrant culture, cuisine, languages, dialects, costumes, cuisines, geography, and warm-hearted hospitality of its people. They also had exposure to elementary Tamil.

The Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru.R.N.Ravi, highlighted that the framers of the constitution introduced India as Bharat through Article 1 of the constitution. He said Bharat is a Rashtra and not just a geographical and political entity. Bharat is an age-old civilizational evolution based on principles defined during the period of the Vedas, which include believing in one creator who permeates every element of creation. Unfortunately, the politics became so overwhelming that it overshadowed the very basics of Bharat. The word "India" was given by the Europeans. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi's authored book "Hind Swaraj" the Governor elaborated on how the colonial powers, for their vested interests, made deliberate attempts to dilute and distort the true identity and spirit of Bharat and pushed their own narrative of India. Even after independence, we continued the colonial mindset. The nation progressed economically, but the civilizational, spiritual, and cultural parts of Bharat's identity were left unattended. As a result, our society continued to be divided and subdivided. New identities in the forms of caste, language, and region started emerging. Our diversity, which is one of our strengths, was projected as a weakness by calling it differences. It created division in our society.

Governor Ravi mentioned that the people of this great land used to move across this great nation unmindful of Kings and Kingdoms. He gave detailed accounts of great Rishis and Sages such as the great Pallava prince who went to Nalanda

for study and later went to China and introduced Buddhism; Acharya Bhadrabahu, who along with his fourteen thousand Shramanas settled in Shravanabelagola; and saint Mahapurush Sankardev of Kamrup (Assam), who came and studied at Rameshwaram and Kanchi. The great Rishi Patanjali and Siddhar Tirumoolar, who gave the eternal wisdom of Yoga to humanity, were from this great land. Kumbakonam was the centre of astrology, where accurate predictions of celestial activities such as lunar and solar eclipses were made.

The colonial powers, for their own interests, started evangelising Bharat through its proponents, such as Bishop Robert Caldwell, by creating false identities such as Dravida and Arya. They also did gross damage to our civilization by destroying our social institutions.

The governor highlighted the immense contributions of the tribal people, who, with their indigenous knowledge and eco-friendly practises, are doing remarkable work for society. He mentioned how the people of the Irula community are saving millions of lives by producing anti-venom medicines.

The Hon'ble Governor mentioned how the nation is going through an unprecedented phase of comprehensive transformation. We have to be conscious of our past and work together to reattain it with the advancements in Science and Technology. He further mentioned the dreams of Shri Aurobindo, according to which India is the only land on this

evolutionary planet where the consciousness of the oneness of creation originated. And called it a divine mandate that India spread this eternal wisdom to the rest of the world. To do so, India must develop spiritually, culturally, and economically and regain its position as Vishwa Guru. He urged the youth to be conscious of their national role and the fact that what they do and achieve is not mere gain for them but for the Nation.

In this interaction, student participants shared their views and experiences on cultural study tour. Governor presented copies of 'Tholkapiam' Books (Hindi version) to University of Lucknow for their library, 'Thirukkural Books' (Hindi version) and Kasi Tamil Sangamam – Book (Hindi Version ) to all the students and the faculty members.

Thiru. Anandrao V Patil, Principal Secretary to Governor, Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice-Chancellor and Tmt. Keya Pandey, Head of Department of Anthropology, University of Lucknow, representatives of tribal group, The Nilgiris District and officials were present during the interaction.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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