

Text of the D.O. letter dated 8.10.2020 of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"I would like to bring to your kind attention that Archaeological Survey of India, under Ministry of Culture, has recently brought out an advertisement for admission to the two-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology course for the session 2020-2022 in Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology. While it is a laudable initiative to create a suitable talent pool in a consistent manner which will unravel our glorious past in a professional way, some of the guidelines serve as entry barriers for the aspirants across the country especially for people from Tamil Nadu.

I would like to point out that the said advertisement has prescribed the minimum qualification criteria as Master's degree in, among other relevant subjects, Indian Classical Languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic or Persian. Unfortunately, among the listed languages, only Sanskrit has been declared as a classical language in 2005. Further more, Tamil, which was the first language in India officially recognized as a classical language in 2004, has been completely ignored.

In this regard, I gather that there are about 48,000 inscriptions in all the languages that have been published so far by various agencies in India, including the Archaeological Survey of India, of which more than 28,000 inscriptions (which is over half) are in Tamil language alone.

Keeping in view the above facts, and in order to make the admission process more inclusive, I strongly urge you to direct the Archaeological Survey of India to suitably amend its guidelines and advertisement to also include the Master's degree in Tamil language as one of the minimum qualifications for admission to the Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology at the above Institute

Your early intervention in this regard will be much appreciated."

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.