

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

New Delhi-110003, the 25th November 2005

**NOTIFICATION**

No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II.—

Government of India created a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages' vide Notification No.IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 read with the Corrigendum Notification dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2004 and the following criteria was laid down to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as a 'Classical Language' :-

- (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years.
- (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- (iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

2. Tamil Language was notified as a 'Classical Language' vide para 3 of the aforesaid Notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004.

3. The Government of India has now decided to amend para 2(i) of the Notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 so to read as under :-

“High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years”.

4. It is also notified that ‘Sanskrit Language’ satisfies the above criteria and will be classified as a ‘Classical Language’.

5. All other provisions of the Notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 will remain unchanged.

6. The Ministry of Culture will ~~take all further steps required to follow up~~ and implement the above decisions.

JAGRAM  
Dy. Secy.