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Ministry of Culture/Sanskriti Mantralaya

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110115
Dated 31st October, 2008

NOTIFICATION

Government of India created a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages' vide Notification No. IV-14014/7/2004-NI-II dated 12th October, 2004 read with the Corrigendum Notification of even number dated 29th October, 2004 and Notification of even number dated 25th November, 2005 and laid down the following criteria 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 period of 1500 – 2000 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. It is hereby notified that the 'Telugu Language' and the 'Kannada Language' satisfy the above criteria and will henceforth be classified as 'Classical Languages'.

3. This Notification is subject to the decision in Writ Petition No. 18810 of 2008 in the High Court of Judicature at Madras.



(V.T. Joseph)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
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To
The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad.

Dated the 31st October, 2008

No. 2-15/2004-Akademies

Copy to: -

1. Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The Chief Secretaries of all the States/Union Territories.