

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1907.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 12, 10th January 1907.

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12

University Regulations.

Recording, with remark, memorial from the President, Palghat Tamil Sangam, requesting that a second language, either the vernacular of the candidate or a Classical language, be made compulsory in the Intermediate and B.A. courses of the Madras University.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Telegram—from the President, Tamil Sangam, Palghat.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 28th December 1906.

Sangam requests Vernacular or Classical Language be made compulsory [in] Intermediate, [and] B.A. courses. Letter follows.

II

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur P. I. CHINNASWAMI PILLAI Avargal,
President, the Palghat Tamil Sangam.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 28th December 1906.

I have the honour to subjoin a Resolution of the Palghat Tamil Sangam adopted at a special meeting held on the 27th instant.

“Resolved that Government be requested that a second language, either the vernacular of the candidate or a Classical language, be made compulsory in the Intermediate and B.A. courses of the Madras University, and that the President be authorized to address the Government on “the subject.”

2. In continuation of my telegram of this date, communicating the substance of the above resolution, I beg to offer the following remarks for the favourable consideration of Government :—

(1) I beg to state that the change proposed by the Senate of the Madras University that a second or an Indian language should not be a compulsory subject of study for the Intermediate and B.A. examinations will produce most deplorable results, so far as the study of the Indian languages is concerned. Few Indian students value learning for its own sake, as they generally prefer to study such subjects as will qualify them for their future professions—Mathematics for Engineering, History for Law, Logic and Philosophy for Education, and Science for Medicine, Agriculture, etc. As no such advantages can be claimed for the vernaculars, the proposed change in the curriculum will practically result in the closure of all vernacular classes in colleges. The future Graduate and Undergraduate will know no more of an Indian language than what is known by a Matriculate, who too will, hereafter, be mainly confined to the study of some Prose works.

(2) I beg permission also to point out that it is inconceivable why the optional language group should have been made particularly difficult, by the vernacular being made subsidiary to a Classical language. The study of a Classical language along with a vernacular for the Intermediate and B.A. examinations will prove impracticable, for no student of the Matriculation class will, in addition to the compulsory languages and a number of other subjects, think of studying privately a third language not required for the examination. If the Regulations that have been adopted by the Senate are to be approved by Government, I venture respectfully to mention that it will be the deathblow to the study of the vernaculars in this Presidency.

(3) I need scarcely mention that Tamil has had an independent origin, and as a living language, it is of the highest importance that a student should prefer to study this language. Its grammar, *Tholkappium*, to say the least, is as ancient and

authoritative as that of Panini in Sanskrit, and there is no language in the whole of India, perhaps with the exception of Sanskrit, that has a greater and more valuable classical literature than that of Tamil. Mahamahopadhyaya V. Swaminatha Aiyar, the greatest Tamil scholar of the present day, has, after patient and careful researches of many years, published in the course of the last 20 years some classical works of very great importance, and will, doubtless, publish many more works of a similar nature if he is given sufficient inducement and pecuniary help for their publication. If Tamil, which has from time immemorial been known as *Thenmozhi* (Southern language) with a view to distinguish it from *Vatamozhi* (Northern or Sanskrit language), and which had instructed and delighted in the past ages the kings and peoples of the three Tamil kingdoms of the Chera, Chola, and Pandiya, is still to be a living force in Southern India, it should still be continued as a compulsory subject, and should not be made subsidiary to any other Classical language, as the study of Tamil itself is of as much difficulty as, if not more than, that of any other Classical language. It is not understood why Tamil language, which possesses works of acknowledged excellence and authority, should not be raised to the rank of a Classical language by the University of Madras.

(4) The study of other vernacular languages and their literature is also equally important, and it is desirable that each of them should also be continued as a compulsory subject, and should not be made subsidiary to a Classical language.

(5) It will not be out of place if I mention here that on the 4th instant Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister of England, received a deputation with reference to the organization of Oriental Studies in London, and, in the course of his reply to the deputation, he is reported to have said as follows :—

“What has been disclosed in these speeches and your memorial shows the distance which separates us from other nations who are less interested than we are in this matter and the immense inferiority of this nation, in proportion, for the due exercise of its duties, and the due attention to its interests in Asia, is really, as has been stated to-day, humiliating to us all. I need not go over ground which has been so well traversed by those who have spoken, which includes the Army and the Navy and the Civil Service in all its branches, and the men who carry British commerce into those fruitful regions . . . what has been said to-day points out the disadvantage to which any one is put, from the mere casual traveller seeking to enjoy himself to the public official, from ignorance of the language of those among whom he lives, and the damage that he very often may incur from the use of interpreters . . . I can conceive nothing more necessary before doing anything, but I trust it will be an enquiry which will lead to action, and prompt action in order that we may fill up this lamentable gap.”

If the study of oriental languages is deemed desirable in the case of English officials, merchants and travellers, it is, I beg to state, of the utmost importance that every candidate who appears for the Intermediate and B.A. examinations should study a vernacular as a compulsory subject.

3. In these circumstances, I beg to request that the Government will be pleased to issue orders that a second language, either the vernacular of the candidate or a Classical language, may be made compulsory in the Intermediate and B.A. courses of the Madras University.

Order—No. 12, Educational, dated 10th January 1907.

Recorded with the remark that the memorialist should address the University on the matters referred to in his memorial.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Memorialist.
Editors' Table.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 12, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
10TH JANUARY 1907.

[SUBJECT.—*Regarding the University Regulations.*]

Telegram from the President, Palghat Tamil Sangam, dated 28th December 1906.

Letter " " " " " 28th " "

A draft order on the lines of the Honourable Member's orders on page 2 of the notes with G.O., No. 13, Educational, dated 10th January 1907, is submitted for approval.

P.R.—7-1-07.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—7-1-07.

C. G. MACKAY—9-1-07.

[G.O., No. 12, Educational, dated 10th January 1907.]

CURRENT FILE.

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From	Number.	Date.	Pages.
[1]. President, Palghat Tamil Sangam	Tel.	28.12.06.	1.
[3]. SD - SD -	"	28.12.06.	2-5

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (=O.) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Despatcher to note the return of the papers to the departments concerned.

Code.
Class.

bp

INDIAN 

TELEGRAPHS.

Monthly
Number.

98

To
(Office)

Madras Teynampett

From
(Office)

Palghat

Words.

24

Day.

28

Hour.

13

Minute.

hrs

Official
Instructions.

bp

To
(Person)

Madras educational

From
(Person)

*President
Tamil Sangam*

*Sangam requests vernacular ~~and~~
or classical language be made
compulsory intermediate ~~B.A.~~ B.A.
Courses latter follows.*

32 Word Form.



Recd. from

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Sent to

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At

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At

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Telegraph Master.

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Recd Red 31-12-6
Lgd 1-1-07

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CURRENT NO. 3

2P

PALGHAT,

Dated 28th December 1906

From

M.R.Ry.

Rao Bahadur P. I. Chinnaswamy Pillay Avargal,

President,

The Palghat Tamil Sangam,

PALGHAT.

To

The Secretary to Government

of Madras,

Educational Department,

MADRAS.



Sir,

I have the honour to subjoin a Resolution of the Palghat Tamil Sangam, adopted at a special meeting held on the 27th Instant.

"Resolved that Government be requested that a "second language, either the vernacular of the candidate or "a classical language, be made compulsory in the Interme - "diate and B.A. courses of the Madras University, and that "the President be authorized to address the Government on "the subject."

2. In continuation of my telegram of this date, communicating the substance of the above resolution, I beg to offer the following remarks for the favourable consideration of Government :-

(i) I beg to state that the change proposed by the Senate of the Madras University, that a Second or an Indian language should not be a compulsory subject of study for the intermediate and B.A. examinations, will produce most deplorable results, so far as the study of the Indian languages is concerned. Few Indian students value learning for its own sake, as they generally prefer to study

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such subjects as will qualify them for their future professions ----- Mathematics for Engineering, History for Law, Logic and Philosophy for Education, and Science for medicine, Agriculture, &c. As no such advantages can be claimed for the vernaculars, the proposed change in the curriculum will practically result in the closure of all vernacular classes in colleges. The future graduate and undergraduate will know no more of an Indian language than what is known by a Matriculator, who too, will hereafter, be mainly confined to the study of some prose works.

(2) I beg permission also to point out that it is in-conceivable why the optional language group should have been made particularly difficult by the vernacular being made subsidiary to a classical language. The study of a classical language along with a vernacular for the Intermediate and B.A. examinations will prove impracticable, for no student of the Matriculation class will, in addition to the compulsory languages and a number of other subjects, think of studying privately a third language not required for the examination. If the regulations that have been adopted by the Senate, are to be approved by Government, I venture to respectfully mention that it will be the deathblow to the study of the vernaculars in this Presidency.

(3) I need scarcely mention that Tamil has had an independent origin, and as a living language, it is of the highest importance that a student should prefer to study this language. Its grammar, Tholkappiam, to say the least, is as ancient and authoritative as that of Panini in Sanskrit, and there is no language in the whole of India, perhaps with the exception of Sanskrit, that has a greater and more valuable classical literature than that of Tamil. Mahamahopadhyaya V. Swaminatha Aiyar, the greatest Tamil scholar of the present day, has, after patient and careful researches

Researches of many years, published in the course of the last 20 years, some classical works of very great importance, and will, doubtless, publish many more works of a similar nature, if he is given sufficient inducement, and pecuniary help, for their publication. If Tamil, which has from time immemorial been known as Thenmozhi (Southern language) with a view to distinguish it from Vatamezhi (Northern or *Sanskrit* language), and which had instructed and delighted, in the past ages, the kings and peoples of the three Tamil kingdoms of the Chera, Chola, and Pandya, is still to be a living force in Southern India, it should still be continued as a compulsory subject, and should not be made subsidiary to any other classical language, as the study of Tamil itself is of as much difficulty as, if not more than, that of any other classical language. It is not understood why Tamil language, which possesses works of acknowledged excellence and authority, should not be raised to the rank of a classical language by the University of Madras.

(4) The study of other vernacular languages and their literature is also equally important, and it is desirable that each of them should also be continued as a compulsory subject, and should not be made subsidiary to a classical language.

(5) It will not be out of place, if I mention here, that on the 4th Instant, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister of England, received a deputation, with reference to the organization of Oriental studies in London, and, in the course of ^{his} reply to the deputation, is reported to have said as follows :-

"What has been disclosed in these speeches and your memorial shows the distance which separates us from other nations who are less interested than we are in this matter and the immense inferiority of this nation, in proportion, for

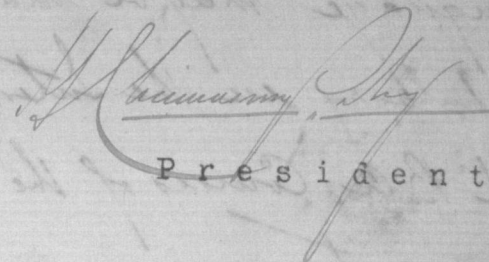
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Read
51 10-5P
"for the due exercise of its duties, and the due attention
"to its interests in Asia, is really, as has been stated to-
"day, humiliating to us all. I need not go over ground
"which has been so well traversed by those who have spoken,
"which includes the Army, and the Navy, and the Civil Ser-
"vice in all its branches, and the men who carry British
"commerce into those fruitful regions what has been
"said to-day points out the disadvantage to which any one
"is put, from the mere casual traveller seeking to enjoy
"himself to the public official, from ignorance of the lan-
"guage of those among whom he lives, and the damage that he
"very often may incur from the use of interpreters
"I can conceive nothing more necessary before doing any -
"thing, but I trust it will be an enquiry which will lead
"to action, and prompt action in order that we may fill up
"this lamentable gap." If the study of Oriental langu -
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Intermediate and B.A. examinations should study a vernacu -
lar as a compulsory subject.

3 In these circumstances, I beg to request that the
Government will be pleased to issue orders that a Second
language, either of the vernacular of the candidate or a
classical language, may be made compulsory in the Interme -
diate and B.A. courses of the Madras University.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,


President.

1906

From
The President
Palghat Tamil Sangam
Palghat

To
The Secretary to Government
Educational Department

Dated 28 December 1906

Subject

Requesting that, in the circumstances stated, a second language either the vernacular of the candidate or a classical language may be made compulsory in the Intermediate and B.A. Courses of the Madras University

NOTES.

9/1/07

12

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1. From the President, Palghat Tamil, No. 74, dated 28-12-1906.
Sugam

3. 10 - 10. 28.12.1906

190

ORDER.

P. S.

No. 12, dated 10-1-1907.

Recorded with the remark that
the memorialists should address the University.
2. ~~The University should be addressed~~
on the matters referred to in ~~the~~ memorial

$$\frac{100}{71107} \cdot \frac{100}{71107}$$

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The Memorialists (in brief)

" E. T.