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25-12-2006

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P‰î, êñò~F™ ðóôFÝÁ°, Aò~¶õ< ðFÈ‰î å½ à ð ñ-nò iFj ðF¾ aðFÈò «ðF' <. ðóôFÁ aî fì fAò èFô~FL½‰¶, ° , AòñFù Pò, èfèœ- ÜóCò™ Pò, èñFJ Á<, Y j eè Pò, èñFJ Á<-òi , AL½‰¶i fj aî Y° «i f, A ð‰F¼, Aj øù. êFj øFè ñèFj ó~,

1^î ~ «ðFj øO~èœ ðöfèFô~F™, ñèF~ñF èF‰F «ðFj øO~èœ Üf -ñ, èFô~F™ êFj Áèœ Y° <. Y ùF™, å½ ¶-øJ™ nñt' < «î Cò Ü÷M™ î I öe^o ° PŠðFè, aëj -ù ° ; Gj P¼, Aø¶. P‰Fò~ ¶-ñí , èFt i~F™ êF è cFJ j HøSHì < î I öe^o î fj . Üî j -ñò< aëj -ù î fj .

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Esteemed Shri Arjun Singh Ji

This meeting now being conducted within the four walls of this hall, which is overflowing, has a historic significance. From the beginning of history, all movements in India, whether spiritual or political, have originated in the North and moved down to the South. The leadership

hailed from the North of India. Lord Mahavira, Lord Buddha in the past, and Mahatma Gandhi in the recent years are examples of this phenomenon. **But there is one area of importance in which Tamil Nadu, in general and Chennai in particular, has been the centre of a great movement and that is the movement for social justice.** It is the land of Social Justice i.e., Tamil Nadu and the centre of the movement i.e., Chennai is congratulating you and expressing its gratitude for the National initiative you have taken to support and uncompromisingly uphold the principle and philosophy of reservation for the disadvantaged. While the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Kalainger is present here to felicitate you. I may I use the language orthodoxy and say that the souls of T.M. Nayar Sir. P. Thiagarayar and Periyar Ramasamy will certainly join Dr. Kalainger in blessing you on this occasion.

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Sir, It is held by some that the policy of reservation is anti-merit: it is considered by some as opposed to providing opportunities for the meritorious. A calm, dispassionate and unbiased contemplation would show that, in principle, the policy of reservation is pro-merit and is a device by which the meritorious candidates distributed all over the country are identified, selected and given an opportunity to serve the nation. This ancient nation has 3000 years of cultural and social evolution. Merit is distributed through out the length and breath of the country. Because of uneven and unjust distribution of opportunities, a large section remains neglected and we continue to draw a talent from a limited section of the vast

population. Reservation is a means of sampling the entire length and breadth of the country for talent, providing legitimate compensation for the initial disadvantage imposed on them artificially by social and economic inequalities.

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Hon'ble Shri Arjunsingh ji

Pandit Jawharlal Nehru in his book “*Glimpses of World History*” has recorded an important fact referring to the 5 great civilizations namely the Greek, the Egyption, the Mesopotamian, the Chinese and the Indian civilizations. He says that some of them have totally vanished in his own words “Egypt”, of splendid history lasting for thousands of years vanished and left no trace behind it except the great pyramids. For ages past the world civilization of Egypt, Knosses, representing the Greek Babylon have ceased to exist. He records “no where else apart from India and China has been the real continuity of civilization. In spite of all the changes and battles and invasions the thread of the ancient civilization has continued to run off in China and India”. These two great civilization are represented by 3 great languages- Chinese, Sanskrit and Tamil. Even among them Sanskrit has ceased to be a spoken language and therefore if you take a world view of all the glorious and ancient civilizations and the languages developed by them, only two languages have unbroken continuity and serve as spoken languages even to day. They are 1. Chinese 2. Tamil. Tamil therefore sir is not nearly the language of the Tamils but is also one of the ancient languages of the world representing the great Indian civilization and culture. This fact of History has

been realized by the scholars of the world. But it has not been sufficiently realized and acknowledged by even the enlightened members in India and for that matter it has not been realized adequately even by some of the members of the Tamil society. By acknowledging its classical status, the Govt. of India have given Tamil its due place and we are able to see the cultural heritage of country, now with both the eyes that is Sanskrit and Tamil.

The Tamils living in India and those living in 60 countries in the world out side India are today solemnly and silently thanking you and are expressing their gratitude for your liberal and unreserved help in creating necessary infrastructure for education and research and for the development of studies in classical Tamil. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is only conveying the sentiments of the Global Tamil Family on this occasion.

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Hon'ble Shri Arjunsingh ji

As mentioned earlier the Govt. of India have in 2004 and 2005, declared Tamil and Sanskrit are the Classical Languages of India. It implies that the literature in all the disciplines in these two languages constitute the basis for the heritage of this country. In order to promote education and research in Sanskrit Govt. India have established 5 institutions: 3 of them are autonomous institutions and 2 of them are Deemed to be Universities offering programs up to doctoral level. The Financial Assistance to these institutions during the financial year 2002, 2003 was around Rs. 1200 crores. We do realise that the spread of Sanskrit is from Kanniyakumari to Himalayas and as a language or religion and restitutes it plays a part in

the life of many Indians from the cradle to the grave. It is this spread and this importance that has been responsible for the large allocation. We hope and trust that the Govt. of India would recognize in appropriate measure, the need for fostering Tamil which is one of the two great pillars of Indian civilization and culture.

The institution that is proposed to be established in Chennai, would be the first major institution under the auspicious of the Government of India for the promotion of education and Research in Classical Tamil. The historians who will record the history of Tamil and its development will certainly emphasizes adequately your unreserved support to this effort and your spontaneous co-operation in the establishment of the Institution.

Hon'ble Shri Arjun Singh ji !

On behalf of all the scholars who are really interested in an objective study of the languages that go to make the cultural heritage of India. I express our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Thank you.