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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

RESERVED ON: 21-07-2025

PRONOUNCED ON: 25-07-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.KUMARAPPAN

WP No. 19920 of 2025

AND

WMP NO. 22464, 22466 & 22465 OF 2025

1. S.Arivuselvan

S/o. D. Santhanam, No.34, Mela Street,

Periyavalaiyam,

Ariyalur District-621 802.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. State Of Tamil Nadu

Rep. By Its Principal Secretary To The

Government,

Department Of Higher Education,

Secretariat, Chennai-9.

2.Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher

Education

Rep. By Its Vice -Chairman,

Lady Willingdon Campus,

Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005.

3.The Principal Secretary/

Commissioner Of Archaeology,

Department Of Archeology,

Tamil Valarchi Valagam, Tamizh Salai,

Egmore, Chennai-8



4.The Director Of Museums,
Office Of The Director,
Government Museum, Egmore,
Chennai-600 008.

5.Tamil Nadu Public Service
Commission
Rep. By Its Secretary,
Frazer Bridge Road, V.O.C. Nagar,
Part Town, Chennai-600 003.

Respondent(s)

PRAYER

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, praying to call for the records pertaining to the Impugned List of candidates provisionally admitted for physical certificate verification and counseling (Phase III) dated 29.05.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.5 and quash the same as illegal in so far as not admitting the Petitioner for Physical Certificate Verification relating to the post of Curator Is concerned and consequently for a direction, directing the Respondent No.4 and 5 to admit the Petitioner for Physical certificate verification and counselling relating to the post of Curator and select and appoint the Petitioner in the post of Curator in the light of the clarification issued by the Respondent No.3 in Ref. Lr.No.A1/2787/2025 dated 15.04.2025 and the Clarification issued by Respondent No.4 in Lr. No.E2/1113/2025 dated 16.04.2025 and the Letter issued by Respondent No.2 in Rc.No.1278/2025 A dated 02.05.2025 within the time period stipulated by this Honourable Court.



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For Petitioner(s): K.Thilageswaran

For Respondent(s): M/s. C. Jayaprakash

Govt Advocate

(Higher Education)

For R1 To R4.

Mr.I.Abrar Md. Abdullah

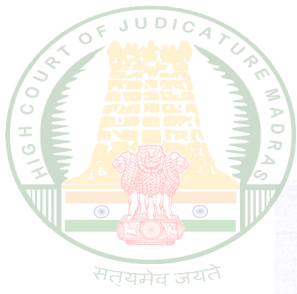
Standing Counsel (TNPSC)

For R5.

ORDER

According to the petitioner, he graduated in MA. Ancient History and Archeology. As per the Notification dated 26.07.2024, he has applied for the post of Curator. The required qualification is, Masters or Honours degree in any one of the following subjects: Zoology, Botony, Geology, Anthropology, Indian Archaeology, Sanskrit, History, Chemistry. However, though he secured first rank in the selection process, the petitioner's name does not find a place for Physical Certificate Verification list. However, vide order of the Court dated 04.06.2025, he participated in the Physical Certificate Verification.

2. Now the issue to be resolved in the present writ petition is that, Whether M.A Ancient History and Archeology, which degree the petitioner posses, is equivalent to the required qualification qua M.A Indian Archeology. In this connection, the petitioner had produced the Government Order in G.O.Ms.135 dated 26.02.2025 and the scanned image is depicted hereinbelow:-



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ABSTRACT

Public Services – Equivalence of Degrees – Equivalence of Degrees offered by various Universities / Educational Institutions to the similar Degrees – Recommendations of 33rd Equivalence Committee – Approved – Orders – Issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (J1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No. 135

Dated: 26.06.2025

ஸ்ரீ விசுவாசு வருடம், ஆனி - 12

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு, 2056

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms).No.93, Higher Education (K2) Department, Dated 30.05.2019.
2. G.O.(Ms).No.111, Higher Education (K1) Department, Dated 24.06.2024.
3. From the Member-Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, Letter No. Rc.No.1725/2025 A, Dated 18.06.2025.

ORDER:-

In the letter third read above, the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, has forwarded the resolutions passed in the 33rd Equivalence Committee meeting held on 16.06.2025 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, on the Equivalence of Degrees offered by various Universities / Educational Institutions to the similar Degrees for the purpose of employment in Public Services.

2. The Government, after careful consideration, approve the following resolutions passed in the 33rd Equivalence Committee meeting held on 16.06.2025, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department and direct that the following degrees offered by various Universities / Educational Institutions be equivalent to the similar degrees mentioned therein from the date of issuance of such degrees:-

Sl. No.	Item No.	Subjects	Equivalence Committee Recommendations
1.	3.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.A., (Post Afzal-UI-Ulama) awarded by University of Calicut as equivalent to M.A. Arabic for the purpose of employment in public services.	Equivalent



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2.	4.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.B.A. Information Systems awarded by P.S.G. College of Arts & Science affiliated to Bharathiar University to B.B.A., for the purpose of employment in public services and for Higher Studies.	Equivalent
3.	5.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.B.A. Retail Management awarded by P.S.G. College of Arts & Science affiliated to Bharathiar University to B.B.A., for the purpose of employment in public services and for Higher Studies.	Equivalent
4.	8.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Bachelor of Arts (Special) English awarded by Gujarat University whether as equivalent to B.A. English for the purpose of employment in public services.	Equivalent
5.	9.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.A., English Literature offered by Kongunadu Arts and Science College affiliated to Bharathiar University whether as equivalent to B.A. English for the purpose of employment in public services.	Equivalent
6.	10.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.A. Ancient History and Archaeology awarded by University of Madras whether as equivalent to M.A. Indian Archaeology for the purpose of employment in public services.	Equivalent
7.	11.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Master of Science Mathematics (5 Year Integrated) (2012-2022) awarded by Central University of Tamil Nadu as equivalent to B.Sc., Mathematics for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent (2012) (2016) (2018)
8.	12.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Master of Science Mathematics (5 Year Integrated) (2023) awarded by Central University of Tamil Nadu as equivalent to B.Sc., Mathematics for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent
9.	13.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Master of Science Mathematics (5 Year Integrated) (2012-2021 & 2023) awarded by Central University of Tamil Nadu as equivalent to M.Sc., Mathematics for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent (2012) (2016) (2023)
10.	14.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Master of Science Mathematics (5 Year Integrated) (2022) awarded by Central University of Tamil Nadu as equivalent to M.Sc., Mathematics for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent



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11.	17.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of 1) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. J. Thanga Praveena, bearing roll no.11USM38 for the year 2011-2014. 2) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. M. Kowsalya, bearing roll no. 12USM016 for the year 2012-2015. 3) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. R. Lalitha, bearing roll no. 12USM017 for the year 2012-2015. 4) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. K. Aathika Salma, bearing roll no. 13USM001 for the year 2013-2016. 5) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. J. Belsia Rajakumari, bearing roll no. 13USM004 for the year 2013-2016. 6) B.Sc., Special Education and Mathematics awarded by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women (Deemed to be University) to Ms. R. Mohana, bearing roll no. 13USM018 for the year 2013-2016. as equivalent to B.Sc., Mathematics for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent (2011-2014) (2012-2015) (2013-2016)
12.	18.	Higher Studies – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Sc., Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics offered by St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) affiliated to Bengaluru City University to Ms. P. Amala Darathy, bearing roll no. 20CMS27 for the year 2020-2023 as equivalent to B.Sc., Mathematics for pursuing Higher Studies.	Equivalent

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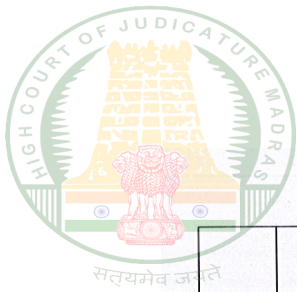


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13.	20.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.Sc., Mathematics awarded by Periyar University as equivalent to M.Sc., Mathematics (Computer Applications) for the purpose of employment.	Equivalent
14.	21.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Voc., Hospitality Management offered by PSG College of Arts & Science (Autonomous) affiliated to Bharathiar University as equivalent to B.Sc., Catering Science and Hotel Management for the purpose of employment in Public Services and for pursuing higher studies.	Equivalent
15.	22.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Sc., Maritime Hospitality Studies offered by Subbalakshmi Lakshmipathy College of Science, Madurai affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University as equivalent to B.Sc., Hotel Management and Catering Science for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent
16.	24.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.Sc., Sub-Aqua Marine Ecology and Toxicogenomics awarded by Madurai Kamaraj University as equivalent to M.Sc., Marine Biology and Oceanography for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent
17.	25.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Sc., (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry) awarded by Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati to Mr. K. Dayakamalini, bearing register no. 98317007 for the year 1997-2000 as equivalent to B.Sc., Botany for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent
18.	28.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Sc., Botany (Core), Plant Biotechnology (Vocational), Biochemistry (Complementary) awarded by Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala as equivalent to B.Sc., Botany for the purpose of employment in Public Services	Equivalent
19.	30.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of B.Sc., Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology offered by Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women (Autonomous) Periyakulam affiliated to Mother Teresa Women's University as equivalent to B.Sc., Zoology for the purpose of employment in Public Services and to pursue Higher Studies.	Equivalent
20.	32.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.Sc., Zoology (Gene Technology) offered by Periyar EVR College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli affiliated to Bharathidasan University as equivalent to M.Sc., Zoology for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent

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21.	33.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.E., Power Electronics and Industrial Drives awarded by Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed University) as to whether equivalent to M.E., Power Electronics and Drives for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent
22.	37.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of Diploma in Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering awarded by State Board of Technical Education and Training as to whether equivalent to Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent
23.	39.	Public Services – Educational Qualification – Consideration of M.D. (Community and Family Medicine) awarded by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur, Chhattisgarh as to whether equivalent to M.D. (Community Medicine) awarded by Colleges under National Medical Commission (NMC) and The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University (TNMGRMU) for the purpose of employment in Public Services.	Equivalent

3. The Government also direct that no person shall be eligible for appointment to any service, class, category or grade or any post borne on the cadre thereof, unless he possesses such special qualifications and has passed such special tests as may be prescribed in that behalf in the special rules; **or** possesses such other qualifications as have been declared to be higher than or equivalent to the said special qualifications or special tests, by the Government in consultation with the Committee constituted in the Government Order first read above and by the Government or by the appointing authority with the approval of the Government in other cases.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

P. SANKAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

3. In Serial No.6 of the above G.O., M.A Ancient History and Archeology awarded by University of Madras is recommended to be equivalent to M.A. Indian Archeology for the purpose of employment in public services.

4. However, the learned Standing Counsel by referring Clause 4.3.3. of the original Notification dated 26.07.2024 and would contend that the



equivalent certificate issued after the date of Notification will not be considered for the present recruitment. In support of his contention, he relied upon the judgment of the learned Single Judge in WP.No.20723 of 2024 dated 30.08.2024. Besides, the learned Standing Counsel would also rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***State of Tamil Nadu and others Vs. G.Hemalathaa and another*** reported in (2020) 19 SCC 430 and would contend that the High Court, while exercising the power of judicial review cannot give any concession to the candidates beyond the Rules.

5. At this juncture, the learned counsel for the petitioner would invite the attention of this Court by referring about the Full Bench decision of this Court in ***Nadar Thanga Shubha Laxman.A Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu and another*** reported in 2014 (3) CTC 433, wherein, the Full Bench has held that the recommendation of equivalence of degree Certificate will come into effect with effect from the date of issuance of the Degree. He would also invite the attention of this Court about the Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.135 dated 26.06.2025 which also has explained to that effect.

6. No doubt, as contended by the learned Standing Counsel, this Court cannot go into Whether a Degree is equivalent or not with other degree, which comes under expert domain. However, in the peculiar circumstances of this case, it is the submission of the petitioner that his degree is equivalent to the one which is required for the post. In pursuance thereof, he was also permitted to write the examination, and by way of interim order, he participated in the Physical Certificate Verification. Here, it is not in dispute that the petitioner



stood first rank in the selection process. However, his only defect or unfortunate coincidence is that, his equivalence certificate is subsequent to the Notification. Dated 26.07.2024.

7. At this juncture, it is pertinent to mention here that, while giving the qualification for a post, the user department generally following the past outdated nomenclature of qualification which they have been maintaining for a decade together without updating the same in accordance with new evolving trend in education landscape. In the case in hand, the required degree is M.A Indian Archeology, whereas the petitioner possess degree of M.A. History and Archeology.

8. It is pertinent to mention here that, in the case in hand, the possession of required qualification as on the date of Notification is not in dispute. But, it's proof whether the qualification possessed by the petitioner is equivalent to the required qualification for the post called for. At this juncture, this Court would like to rely upon the judgment of the learned Single Judge in ***B.Shelshia Vs. Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission and others [WP.No.16941 of 2024]***, wherein it has been held as follows:-

“11. The Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission cannot be permitted to take a stand that in spite of the Government order that has now been issued, the same will not be acted upon since the Government Order has been produced after the notification. This prohibition prescribed in the notification cannot stand in the way of an order passed by this Court. This Court was aware of such a prohibition available in the Government Order. In spite of the same, a direction was issued to the equivalence committee to consider the UG degree obtained by the petitioner and the same was considered



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by the committee and G.O.Ms.No.130, dated 24.07.2024 has been issued. Hence, this Government Order has to be necessarily acted upon and it cannot be disregarded by Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission by pointing out to the notification.”

9. When a Writ Appeal filed against the said order in ***WA.No.3410 of 2024 [Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission Vs. B.Shelshia and others]***, vide order dated 29.04.2025 the above finding of the learned Single Judge was confirmed. Therefore, it is amply clear that the mere delay in submission of the equivalence certificate/Government Order will in no way take away the rights already accrued upon the petitioner, as he possess a degree on the date of notification, which is latter found to be equivalent to the required qualification.

10. Thus, The sum and substance of the above discussion is that, the delay in production of the equivalent Government Order, will in no way affect the eligibility criteria of the petitioner. Further what is essential in a public employment is the selection of more meritorious candidates. In the case in hand, the petitioner stood first in over all ranking. Therefore, this Court is of the indubitable opinion that the petitioner's participation in the further proceedings of the recruitment process would only further the quality and standard of the selection. Hence, this Court is of the firm view that the claim of the petitioner deserves to be considered.

11. In the result, this writ petition stands allowed and the impugned order dated 29.05.2025 insofar as this petitioner concerned is hereby quashed. The respondents are directed to proceed with the recruitment and admit the



petitioner for further selection process if he is otherwise eligible based upon the equivalence G.O.Ms.No.135 dated 26.02.2025. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, connected WMPs are also closed.

25-07-2025

kmi

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

1.State Of Tamil Nadu

Rep. By Its Principal Secretary To The
Government, Department Of Higher
Education, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

2.Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher
Education,

Rep. By Its Vice -chairman,
Lady Willingdon Campus,
Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005.

3.The Principal Secretary/
Commissioner Of Archaeology,
Department Of Archeology, Tamil
Valarchi Valagam, Tamizh Salai,
Egmore, Chennai-8

4.The Director Of Museums,
Office Of The Director, Government
Museum, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.

5.Tamil Nadu Public Service
Commission

Rep. By Its Secretary, Frazer Bridge
Road, V.O.C. Nagar, Part Town,
Chennai-600 003.



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AND WMP NOS. 22464
22465 & 22466 OF 2025**

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