

**RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU – PRESS RELEASE**

The Hon'ble Governor, as the Chancellor of Annamalai University, Chidambaram has constituted the Search Committee for identification of the candidate for appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University. The Search Committee includes nominees of the Chancellor, Government of Tamil Nadu, Syndicate of the University and UGC Chairman's nominee, as per provisions of Annamalai University Act and as per prevailing regulations of UGC, 2018 which is held to be mandatory by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor has directed the Government of Tamil Nadu, to notify the constitution of the Search Committee of Annamalai University vide letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024, consisting of the above four members, with the Chancellor's nominee as the Convener of the Committee.

The Higher Education Department has issued a Government Order G.O (D) No.270, Higher Education Department dated 9th December 2024, notifying the Search Committee of Annamalai University, Chidambaram and to be published in the Official Gazette. The said Notification purposefully excluded the UGC Chairman's nominee, in violation of the judgements of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has already held in the case of Prof. (Dr) Sreejith P.S. Vs. Dr.Rajasree M.S. & Others (Civil Appeal numbers 7634-7635 of 2022, SLP(c) Nos, 21108-21109 of 2021) that any appointment as a Vice Chancellor made on the recommendation of the

Search Committee, which is constituted contrary to the provisions of the UGC Regulations shall be *void ab initio*.

The said notification issued by the Government is in difference to the Search Committee constituted and is *void ab initio*; being contrary to the existing UGC regulations and prevailing orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Chancellor has called upon the Government of Tamil Nadu, to recall the said notification, which is in difference to the Search Committee constituted and sent for issuing notification and directed to notify the Search Committee for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University as constituted by the Chancellor, which includes the UGC Chairman's nominee.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai - 22.  
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