



Kerala State Information Technology Mission

Department of Information Technology
Government of Kerala.

ICT Campus, Vellayambalam Jn.,
Thiruvananthapuram 695 033, Kerala, India.

Tel. ++91-471-272 6881, 231 4307.

Telefax. ++91-471-231 4284. Email: itmission@vsnl.com

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Dear Mark Davis,

Sub: Malayalam Language –Inclusion of Chillu characters

We have come to know that the acceptance of the proposal for providing separate code points for six Malayalam Chillu characters in the Unicode during the May 2005 meeting of the Unicode Consortium was rescinded during the August 2005 meeting. We understand that the reason for this decision of the Consortium was some documents received from Rachana Akshara Vedi.

We know that the above proposal was accepted after a long public discussion in the Unicode mailing list, and the UTC was finally convinced of the need to encode the Chillus. A number of people from different parts of the world have put in their time and energy to sort out this issue, when it was open to discussion. Some members of the above Rachana Akshara Vedi group were also present with counter arguments, but they were not able to convince the authorities at that time. We understand that the Unicode Consortium is providing enough time for people to respond on issues by way of mailing list discussions and facilities for feedback on public review issues. It is irresponsible on the part of any individual/organisation not to make use of these facilities appropriately.

Government of Kerala has taken an official stand regarding inclusion of Chillaksharams in Unicode . This is based on extensive research and studies made by various linguistic and technical experts in Malayalam language. Hence, we request that UTC may consider the official statement of Government of Kerala which has been constantly informed through Ministry of IT, Government of India. It is unfortunate that the Consortium have rescinded an approval based on such a document when there was enough time for any body to defend their arguments.

The Kerala State IT Mission, who (on behalf of Govt. of Kerala) have taken initiatives for the standardisation of Malayalam Character encoding, based on which the proposal for encoding Chillus were prepared, hereby express our concern on this action of the Unicode Consortium and request them to encode the Chillu characters in the next version of the Unicode.

Director
Kerala State IT Mission