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TAMIL (தமிழ்) CHARACTER CODE FOR INFORMATION INTERCHANGE
PART 1 : COLLATION SEQUENCE

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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Gr. 14

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This standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

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FOREWORD

This standard was developed and recommended by the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) on 2008 ---

This part of the standard should be read in conjunction with **SLS 1326:** Sri Lanka Standard Tamil Character Code for Information Interchange.

Tamil collation has similarities with other Indic languages which follow the Sanskrit collation order. From the 16th century to the early 20th century most Tamil dictionaries followed the Sanskrit collation sequence which includes the Grantha letters (especially ஜ - JA) in between the Tamil letters. However most dictionaries and scholars follow the unique collation sequence which collates the Grantha letters after all Tamil letters and which has been mostly accepted as the de facto standard among Tamil communities.

A Tamil collation sequence is needed to set up databases and other collections of information in Tamil. The assistance provided by the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka and the University of Moratuwa in the preparation of this standard is gratefully acknowledged.

1   SCOPE

This standard prescribes the collation sequence for arranging a list of words or phrases in the Tamil language.

2   DEFINITIONS

2.1   collation: Collation is the process of arranging a list of words or phrases in a standard order.

3   COLLATION SEQUENCE

This standard defines the collation sequence for use in compiling dictionaries, other scholarly works, use in data processing and other activities on lists of personal and other names. The contemporary Tamil script contains following elements in its systems, which needed to be collated.

  i) vowel, e.g. அ, ஔ,
  ii) Tamil pure-consonant, e.g. க், ங்,
  iii) Grantha pure-consonant, e.g. ஸ், ஷ், ஜ்,
  iv) Tamil and Grantha vowel-consonant syllables, e.g. க, செ, ஸ, ஸே, ஊ,
  v) ஃப (F) and vowel-consonant syllables of ஃப
  vi) Special letter – āytam – ஃ,
  vii) Conjunct syllable - (Sri) – ஸ்ரீ,
  viii) Tamil Symbiols, e.g. ௳, ௴. ௵,
  ix) Tamil numerals, e.g. ௲, �, ௰, ௨, ௳,

This collation is the canonical collation order, and collated in the following order:

அ, ஆ, இ, ஈ, உ, ஊ எ, ஏ, ஐ, ஒ, ஓ, ஔ

∴

 க், க, கா, கி, கீ, கு. கூ. கெ. கே, கை, கொ, கோ, கௌ

ங், ங, ஙா, ஙி, ஙீ, ஙு, ஙூ, ஙெ, ஙே, ஙை, ஙொ, ஙோ, ஙௌ

ச், ச, சா, சி, சீ, சு, சூ, செ, சே, சை, சொ, சோ, சௌ

ஞ், ஞ, ஞா, ஞி, ஞீ, ஞு, ஞூ, ஞெ, ஞே, ஞை, ஞொ, ஞோ, ஞௌ

ட், ட, டா, டி, டீ, டு, டூ, டெ, டே, டை, டொ, டோ, டௌ

ண், ண, ணா, ணி, ணீ, ணு, ணூ, ணெ, ணே, ணை, ணொ, ணோ, ணௌ

த், த, தா, தி, தீ, து, தூ, தெ, தே, தை, தொ, தோ, தௌ

ந், ந, நா, நி, நீ, நு, நூ, நெ, நே, நை, நொ, நோ, நௌ

ப், ப, பா, பி, பீ, பு, பூ, பெ, பே, பை, பொ, போ, பௌ

ம், ம, மா, மி, மீ, மு, மூ, மெ, மே, மை, மொ, மோ, மௌ

ய், ய, யா, யி, யீ, யு, யூ, யெ, யே, யை, யொ, யோ, யௌ

ர், ர, ரா, ரி, ரீ, ரு, ரூ, ரெ, ரே, ரை, ரொ, ரோ, ரௌ

ல், ல, லா, லி, லீ, லு, லூ, லெ, லே, லை, லொ, லோ, லௌ

வ், வ, வா, வி, வீ, வு, வூ, வெ, வே, வை, வொ, வோ, ழௌ

ழ், ழ, ழா, ழி, ழீ, ழு, ழூ, ழெ, ழே, ழை, ழொ, ழோ, ழௌ

ள், ள, ளா, ளி, ளீ, ளு, ளூ, ளெ, ளே, ளை, ளொ, ளோ, ளௌ

ற், ற, றா, றி, றீ, று, றூ, றெ, றே, றை, றொ, றோ, றௌ

ன், ன, னா, னி, னீ, னு ,னூ, னெ, னே, னை, னொ, னோ, னௌ

ஜ், ஜ, ஜா, ஜி, ஜீ, ஜு. ஜூ, ஜெ, ஜே, ஜை, ஜொ, ஜோ, ஜௌ

ஶ், ஶ, ஶா, ஶி, ஶீ, ஶு, ஶூ, ஶெ, ஶே, ஶை, ஶொ, ஶோ, ஶௌ

ஷ், ஷ, ஷா, ஷி, ஷீ, ஷு, ஷூ, ஷெ, ஷே, ஷை, ஷொ, ஷோ, ஷௌ

ஸ், ஸ, ஸா, ஸி, ஸீ, ஸு, ஸூ, ஸெ, ஸே, ஸை, ஸொ, ஸோ, ஸௌ

ஹ், ஹ, ஹா, ஹி, ஹீ, ஹு, ஹூ, ஹெ, ஹே, ஹை, ஹொ, ஹோ, ஹௌ

க்ஷ், க்ஷ, க்ஷா, க்ஷி, க்ஷீ, க்ஷு, க்ஷூ, க்ஷெ, க்ஷே, க்ஷை, க்ஷொ, க்ஷோ, க்ஷௌ

ஃப், ஃப, ஃபா, ஃபி, ஃபீ, ஃபு, ஃபூ, ஃபெ, ஃபே, ஃபை, ஃபொ, ஃபோ, ஃபௌ

௦, ௧, ௨, ௩, ௪, ௫, ௬, ௭, ௮, ௯, ௰, ௱, ௲

NOTES:

1. *The vowel ஔ may represent using an AU length mark (ௗ) as ஒ (0B92) + ௗ (0BD7). This form of sequence is not used according to SLS 1326. If this form appears it should be collated with 0B94 (ஔ).*

2. *The representation of a syllable such as கௌ by a consonant character (க) followed by more than one vowel sign (ெ + ௗ) is permitted in Unicode, but is not allowed in SLS 1326 standard. If this form appears it should collated with relevant one vowel sign formation.*
e.g. க + ோ = க + ே + ா

       க + ொ = க + ெ + ா

       க + ௌ = க + ெ + ௗ

3. *The Anusvara (ஂ) is encoded (0B82) in the Unicode standard to map along with the other Indic scripts. However, the Anusvara is not used in contemporary Tamil and is not included in the collation algorithm, but can be collated after all the letters.*

4. *ஸ்ரீ does not get a separate place in the collation order. It will be collated after words beginning with ஶ்ரி and before words beginning with ஶ்ரு s.*
If ஸ்ரீ formed from the ஸ் letter (permitted in old Unicode versions) as follows
    ஸ்ரீ   =   0BB8 0BCD 0BB0 0BC0 (ஸ ் ர ீ Not allowed)
It will be also collated after words beginning with ஶ்ரி and before words beginning with ஶ்ரு.

5. *Two systems were used to write the Tamil numerals. While one system does not have the Tamil digit 0 the other does have it. Both systems are acceptable.*

0, க, உ, ங, ச, ரு, சா, எ, அ, கூ, ௰, க0, ௰க, கக ,...., உ௰, உ0,..., ௱, க00 ,...., ௲, க000,....,
If both systems represent the same value, it will be getting equal position in the collation

e.g. **10**   = ௰   = க0

      100   = ௱   = க00

      1000   = ௲   = க000

      201   = உ௱க= உ0க

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SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is the National Standards Organization of Sri Lanka established under the Sri Lanka Standards Institution Act No. 6 of 1984 which repealed and replaced the Bureau of Ceylon Standards Act No. 38 of 1964. The Institution functions under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

In the International field the Institution represents Sri Lanka in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and participates in such fields of standardization as are of special interest to Sri Lanka.