



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

170  
L2/07-012

Abstract

Information Technology Department – Recommendations of the Committee on Malayalam Character Encoding and Key Board Lay out Standardisation Accepted -Orders issued.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms) No: 24/2001/ITD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 22.11.2001.

Read: -(1) G.O (Rt) No: 93/2001/ITD, dated: 02.06.2001.

ORDER

As per the Government Order read above, Government had constituted an Expert Committee on Standardisation of Software Packages in Malayalam to formulate Standards for Malayalam Key Board Layout and Character encoding of Malayalam Script and to suggest strategies for popularising and promoting local language content, its application in Malayalam etc.

(2) Standardisation of Malayalam software is essential for the widespread use of IT and Computers and also for creation of content on the Internet in the local languages. Standardisation would make it possible to easily transfer applications from English, besides other languages, to Malayalam.

(3) The Committee has submitted a comprehensive report containing the following important recommendations:

1. To accept in script layout as the base for Malayalam Keyboard
2. In respect of Malayalam character encoding a Unicode standard with necessary modification.
3. Lexico graphic ordering of Malayalam words.
4. To set-up a Malayalam Research Centre with the objective of
  - To be a repository of Malayalam Language tools.
  - To develop tools and technologies in Malayalam.
  - To exploit the emerging technologies for use in Malayalam Computing.
  - To assist Government in technology dissemination.
5. Publication of an Official Malayalam Dictionary for the use of linguists and software developers and common man.
6. Government initiatives on the following :-
  - Official declaration of the standard to be published.
  - A committee to be formed to evaluate feedback and amend the standard, if required
  - Approach BIS to amend the keyboard and character encoding standards in Malayalam



- Approach Unicode consortium through MIT, to modify Unicode specification for Malayalam
- CDAC to be approached to make amendments in the applications developed by them
- Take initiative for the development of at least one Malayalam font, which will work in all major platforms, especially Windows, Unix, Linux and Mac systems and distribute it freely on Internet.
- All software developers in Malayalam to be intimated about the new standard.
- Make it mandatory for all the Malayalam software to conform to the standard within six months.
- Any training in Malayalam software (DTP) to be recognised only if the package conforms to the standard.
- Government to procure only those Malayalam software packages, which conforms to be standard.

Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee in detail. It is found that the recommendations are broadly in line with international coding and Government of India coding standards. In the circumstances, Government are pleased to accept the report submitted by the Committee on Standardisation of Malayalam Key Board Layout and Character encoding. The standards will be published officially and action shall be taken on each recommendation separately.

By order of the Governor

ARUNA SUNDARARAJAN  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

The Members of the Committee.  
The Accountant General, (A&E), (Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.  
The Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department.  
The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister.  
The General Administration (SC) Department (Vide item No. 487,  
dated 13.11.2001 of the Proceedings of the Council of Ministers.)  
The Stock File/Office Copy.


Copy to:

Private Secretary to Minister (Industries & Social Welfare)  
C.A. to Secretary (IT)  
C.A. to Additional Secretary (IT)

FORWARDED/BY ORDER



SECTION OFFICER.

  
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