



**V. S. ACHUTHANANDAN**  
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**L2/07-031**

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**Dr. Mark Davis**  
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Sir,

Government of Kerala has constituted an expert committee to study the issues in Malayalam encoding, primarily on encoding of atomic chillu characters. The Committee after its detailed study has made its expert recommendations to Government as follows.

1. Decision of the Committee for encoding chillu characters were taken during 2001 based on various debates, seminars and workshops and after collecting expert opinion from various groups including Rachana.
2. More than five years have elapsed since the submission of the report by the committee and proposing to DIT for encoding chillu characters in Unicode. During this period discussions were held in forums regarding the issues. Committee discussed in detail the arguments for and against the inclusion of chillu characters. Committee noted that there has not been any substantive reason provided for not including chillu characters in the basic characters set of Malayalam.
3. The Committee is of the opinion that the delay in finalizing the decision on the inclusion of chillu characters in the basic character set in Malayalam has derailed the localization efforts of many of the E-Governance projects and also the efforts for enhancing the presence of Malayalam in the web space. This has proved to be very costly for the language. So, the committee felt that it is high time we finalise on the decision, without dragging it further.
4. Based on the above, the committee unanimously decided to recommend for inclusion of chillu characters in the basic Malayalam character set, as recommended earlier ( and accepted by Government)

Hence, I confirm on behalf of the Government of Kerala that the State Government after considering all arguments for and against chillu encoding, reaffirm its stand in favour of encoding chillu characters. I also request you to continue with the balloting formalities and include the chillu characters in the next version of the Unicode standard.

Thanking You,

V.S. Achuthanandan