

GOI inputs on Representation of Malayalam Dot Reph

The matter of representation of Malayalam DoT Reph was discussed with experts. They opined that:

The option C in the document L2-09/056 in will be better. The introduction of a spacing character (ZWS) to form the dot reph (as mentioned in document L2-08-411, E.2.1) has the disadvantage of introducing one more character to the already crowded Malayalam Keyboard layout. This will result in pushing some of the characters to the 3rd layer on the keyboard, which is not advisable. Also the ZWS is a code point outside Malayalam code space (0D00-0D7F).

It may be noted that one reason to encode chillus atomically was to avoid/reduce the usage of ZWJ. Introduction of one more control character to form a conjunct is not advantageous, even though it is an alternate representation.

Hence it is requested that the option C (Chillu-RR, VIRAMA, Consonant) as in the document L2-09/056 should be adopted for representation of Dot Reph in question.

If required, the mater may be further discussed with experts in India and a decision about it may be taken in the next UTC meeting. It is likely that a representative of GOI may attend the May UTC meeting.

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