

**A note on Grantha OM sign (Comment on L2/10-053)**  
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Grantha summary document (L2/10-053) on pg. 8, says:  
"The OM sign in the code chart does not match that in the figure on page 17."

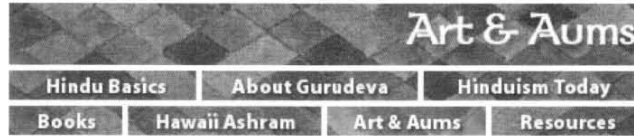
Sorry for the confusion because I did not make myself very clear.  
Please look at:

<http://www.himalayanacademy.com/art/aum/display.html>

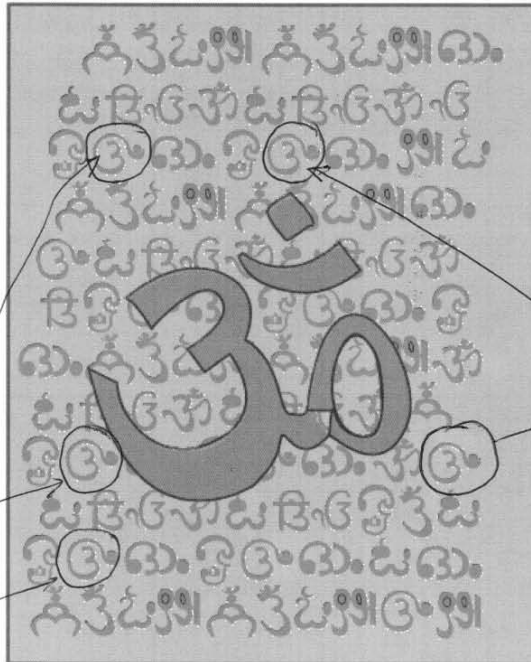
The Grantha script OM is next to Tamil script OM in the row just above the last row of OM signs. Even the 3rd row starts with Tamil OM immediately followed by Grantha OM sign. (There are total of 12 rows - Rows 3, 9 & 11 have Grantha OM sign (shown in Grantha Code Chart, pg. 10, L2/09-345) immediately following Tamil OM sign).

Himalayan Academy's Aum Display

<http://www.himalayanacademy.com/art/aum/display.html>



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Grantha OM

Grantha OM

Let me give another example:

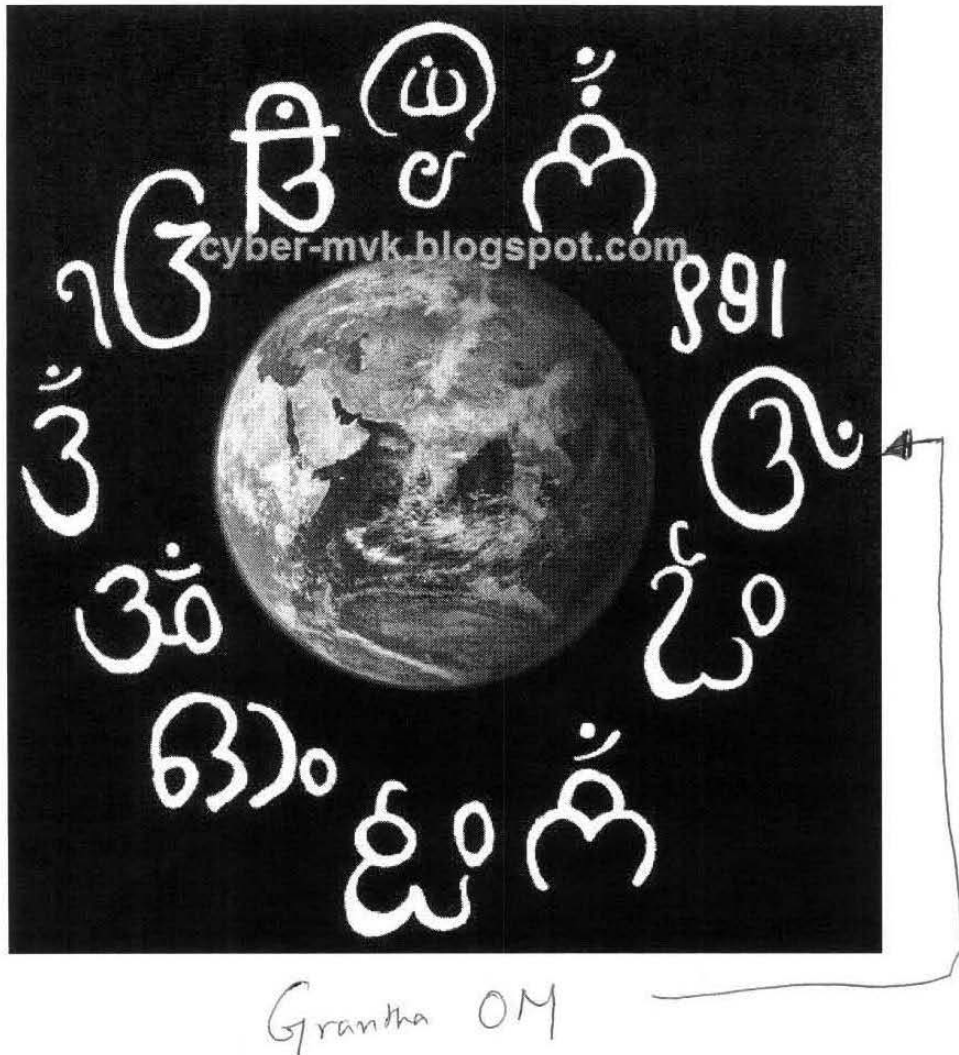
<http://cyber-mvk.blogspot.com/2009/11/omaum.html>

There are circle of Indian OM signs around the globe.

Look at the Grantha OM sign to your right side (in the middle).

worldaumsallblog.jpg (image)

<http://2.bp.blogspot.com>



Please note that the Grantha OM sign is approved by Dr. Ajay Kumar, Delhi.

Please refer to pg. 10 of total 10 pages of the PDF file in GoI document

<http://tdil.mit.gov.in/pdf/Grantha4.pdf>

## **Note 2 : Only two kinds of Viramas in Grantha Script:**

There are \*only\* two virama forms in Grantha script (one is the regular virama sign & the other is the chillu form of pure consonant). Rather than using ZWJ signs (Cf. problems in Malayalam script using ZWJ), it is simple and easy to use a Virama sign and Chillu marker sign separately. That will be very easy for developers & users of Grantha script to understand Grantha in Unicode. And, this easy and simple approach of encoding will be a boon to spread the Grantha script among Tamil people who will be the ultimate users of the script in Unicode.

Close genetic relationship between Malayalam and Grantha scripts is well known.

Isaac Taylor (**1829-1901**), The alphabet: an account of the origin and development of letters. Vol. 2, page 356,  
"From this lapidary alphabet two scripts were developed, a cursive and literary script. The first is represented by the Tamil, while the other has developed into the **Grantha** or 'book' alphabet used by the Tamil Brahmans for the Sanskrit transcriptions of their sacred books. **From it [i.e., Grantha script] are derived** two vernacular alphabets which are used on the Malabar coast; one is the Tulu Grantha (line 23), and **the other the Malayalam**, from which several characters were borrowed by the Christians of St. Thomas in order to supplement the Syriac (Karshuni) alphabet which they obtained from the Nestorian missionaries (see vol. i., p. 293.)"

Student's Britannica India, 5 volumes, Editors: Dale Hoiberg and Indu Ramchandani, (2000) pg. 349 has the entry on Malayalam language.  
"The earliest record of the language is an inscription dated to AD c. 830. An early extensive influx of Sanskrit words influenced the **Malayalam script (derived from the Grantha script**, itself derived from Brahmi): it has **letters** to represent all the Sanskrit sounds, besides the Dravidian sounds."

There are only two viramas in Malayalam and Grantha scripts. This fact is clear when we look at any book on Grantha script such as P. Visalakshy, R. Grunendahl, ... There is NO need to encode a third virama called "touching" virama. It is simply a glyph variation as the market was very, very small one or two presses did not take care to produce viramas uniformly in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Based on this glyph variation, there is no need to assign a new virama in literature on the Grantha script as "touching" virama.

My Grantha proposal (L2/09-345) only proposes two types of viramas (1) a regular virama as in all of India's scripts and (2) Chillu marker sign to produce prepausal-chillu consonants in Grantha script.