

4, முதல் மாடி, இரகிசாக் கட்டடம், 68, அண்ணா சாலை, சென்னை 600002
தொலைப்பேசி: 044 2841 4505

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From:

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To:

Dr. Lisa Moore and the Unicode Technical Committee,
Unicode Consortium, P.O. Box 391476, Mountain View, CA 94039-1476, U.S.A.

Dear sir/madam,

Grantha script:

Transliteration of Tamil sacred text *Panniru thirumurai* in Grantha script in Unicode encoding

We are one of the leading publishers of Tamil books in India and Sri Lanka. We have been in this business since 1952 when my father Mr. Kanapathipillai started this concern in Jaffna. We concentrate on publishing Saiva Tamil texts. Over 300 such publications were brought out by my father in Jaffna. We started publishing from Chennai from 1986.

Dharmapuram Adhennam, Mayiladuthurai, Tamilnadu entrusted with us the mammoth task of print-producing the Saiva Tamil text, *Panniru thirumurai* in 1997. The text with 18,268 hymns, composed by 27 authors during a span 1300 years of beginning 2100 BCE, were printed with interpretation for each hymn in 16 volumes (19,600 pages).

Soon we digitized the above said text for uploading to the internet site www.thevaaram.org.

We engaged linguists to identify allophones of the 31 Tamil characters (12 vowels, 18 consonants and 1 *aitham*) with a view of transcribing Tamil in other scripts including Grantha script.

Recently we were asked by the Royal Priest of the King of Thailand to transliterate specified portions of the above said text in Tamil script to Grantha and Thai scripts. For this purpose, we need the Dravidian letters in Grantha block.

We were able carryout the request; however the absence of encoding of the Grantha Script in Unicode was a handicap, which we overcame by using special fonts.

We want to reproduce Tamil sacred texts in <http://thevaaram.org> web site transcribed into Grantha script, once Grantha is encoded in Unicode/ISO 10646.

Again, I congratulate the efforts taken by Unicode Consortium to rejuvenate the use of Grantha script in the modern era and in the web.

Thanking you

Yours sincerley,



Maravanpulavu K. Sachithananthan,
For Kaanthalakam, Chennai, India.