Comments of the Grantha Proposal L2/10-426

I am a Tamil speaking individual living in the US for more than 10 years. I have worked for companies like IBM and Thomson Reuters. I have studied Tamil Literature as part of my curriculum up to my undergraduate level from the University of Madras, Chennai. I have a sound knowledge of Tamil and Tamil Siva Siddhaantham. I oppose strongly the Government of India Grantha Proposals L2/10-426 for the following reasons

(a) As per the http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grantha_script, the five letters எ, ஒ, ற, ன, ழ and the two vowel signs for எ and ஒ are not defined in the Grantha script.

(b) In their earlier proposal, the Govt. of India, after consulting with the Grantha experts across India, did not include these five letters எ, ஒ, ற, ன, ழ and the vowel signs to the Grantha proposal.

(c) All the Grantha experts who have responded to the Governement of India proposal, have not said that these five letters எ, ஒ, ற, ன, ழ and the two vowel signs are part of Grantha alphabet

(d) This proposal L2/10-426 is based on the false assertion and fabricated evidence of Naga Ganesan's proposal L2/09-141 UTC should have thoroughly checked the veracity of Naga Ganesan's claims. All the experts who have gone through his claims have come to unanimous conclusion that his evidence is spurious and hollow. It istime that UTC does an independant verification of Naga Ganesan's claims.

(e) Including 7 Tamil characters into the Grantha block enables security exploits, namely,
   - using alternate representations to slip illicit text strings past filter software not only in Tamil, but also in Malayalam which is very close to Grantha.
   - using visual similarity to slip bogus text past human eyes(spoofing), for example writing எழஎழ.வணி with Grantha to phish for users' பழனி account information.

(f) The Goverment of India proposal is seriously flawed because it leads to homograph attack of the Internationalized domain name (IDN), not only in Tamil, but also in Malayalam. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IDN_homograph_attack

(g) Everyone is aware that the Unicode encoding is useful to the internet commerce. The Government of India proposal does not take into consideration the requirements of internet commerce security namely Confidentiality, Authenticity (we are who we say we are), Message integrity (i.e. the message sent is actually the message received), Non-repudiation, Options for spontaneous secure transactions, Options for anonymous transaction, etc. Generating adigital certificate is also at stake with எ, ஒ, ழ,ற,ன and the two vowel signs for both Tamil and the proposed Grantha block

(h) Indian Govt say that these seven characters are needed to represent "Dravidian" sounds in "Grantha" and they give the example of "Devanagari" script which got these characters for the "Dravidian" sounds (Those Devenagari characters were not part of the original Devanagari Script).

   - First of all we should not compare "Devanagari" with "Grantha", since "Grantha" is not a living script while "Devanagari" is a living script. Grantha is a heritage script. For more than 99.99% of the Grantha user Community, Tamil is the primary script for communication and they use grantha only for studying old

Sanskrit documents. Grantha is not a primary script to anyone in India. Any claim one transcription/transliteration is vaccuous. Transcription/transliteration argument is valid only for two living scripts and not between a living script and a heritage script.. By including the seven characters, people are creating a neo-Grantha by mixing the heritage Grantha with Tamil Characters. UTC has to understand that this is against Unicode principles.

- Secondly,"Devanagari" does not borrow characters for these "Dravidian" sounds from any other script like "Tamil". It had created entirely new characters for these sounds by changing some of the existing "Devanagari" characters themselves.

The proposal even does not take into considerations of the very basic technical requirements of Unicode namely that
- Unicode standard encodes characters, but not the visual presentation of those characters.
- Unicode does not encode characters by language

Hence, I strongly oppose the Government of India proposal.

References:
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4. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIal4-Zplfo
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