



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT,  
SECRETARIAT,  
Chennai- 600 009.

**Letter No.8212/e-Gov.I/2017, dated 11.07.2017**

From

Dr.Girija Vaidyanathan, IAS.,  
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

All Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretary /  
Secretaries to Government,  
Department of Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

All District Collectors.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: Tamil Unicode - Information Technology Department – Free Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and 10 Tamil Unicode Fonts developed by Tamil Virtual Academy – Usage in all Government Departments – Regarding.

Ref: 1. G.O.(Ms.) No 29, IT(B1) Department dated 23.06.2010  
2. G.O.(Ms.)No. No 5, IT(e.Gov.1) Department dated 26.03.2013.  
3. Government Letter No.3973/eGov.I/2013-1, dated 20.11.2013.

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In the Government Order first cited, the Government declared Unicode as the standard for Tamil encoding. In the Government Order second cited, the Government have approved and launched the Tamil Unicode Tamil All Character Encoding (TACE 16) based fonts and keyboard drivers, developed by Tamil Virtual Academy, for use by all Government Departments and general public. In the letter third cited, the Government have reiterated that all Departments of Secretariat and Heads of Departments should use Tamil Unicode Fonts instead of using proprietary fonts like VAANAVIL-AVVAIYAR etc.

2. It has come to the notice of the Government that many Government Departments and Heads of Departments are still using proprietary fonts like Vaanavil-Avvaiyar for day-to-day activities and for preparing Policy Notes, Announcements, Citizen Charter, etc. and that the Departments perhaps prefer to use their existing proprietary fonts because of lack of conversion tools available to convert their legacy documents to Unicode format. Considerable amount of funds being spent for purchase and renewal of such proprietary fonts.

3. In this regard, I am directed to state that Tamil Virtual Academy has developed a Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and 10 Tamil Unicode Fonts. The online **Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool** will ease conversion of Tamil text, tables and statistics created in various fonts like Vanavil, etc. to Unicode, without altering their formats. The Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and Tamil Unicode Fonts can be accessed / downloaded freely from the Tamil Virtual Academy website (<http://www.tamilvu.org/tkbd/index.htm>), thus reducing the cost for purchase and renewal of such third party proprietary fonts.

4. Hence, I am directed to request you to make use of the Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and Tamil Unicode Fonts, preferably **Tamil Unicode Marutham Font 12 / 14 / 16 point**, freely available in the Tamil Virtual Academy website and also to issue necessary instructions to the Heads of Departments / Corporations / Boards / Organizations / Agencies under your control for utilizing the same.

Yours faithfully,



for Chief Secretary to Government.

UP-4  
11/7/2014