Letter No.1198401 / IT (B1) /2021, Dated 02.06.2021

From
Dr. V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government

To
All the Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries /
Secretaries to Government, Department of Secretariat,
Chennai-9.

Sir / Madam,

Sub: Information Technology Department — Tamil Virtual
Academy (TVA) - 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.5, Information Technology (e-Gov 1)
Department, dated 26.03.2013.
2. This Department Letter No.3973 / e.Gov.I / 2013 dated
20.11.2013.
3. This Department Letter No.8212 / e-Gov.I / 2017
dated 11.07.2017.

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In the Government Order first 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 (TVA), which
are free of cost. In the letter second 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. In the letter third cited, all the Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal
Secretaries / Secretaries to Government, Department of Secretariat, Chennai
were requested to make use of the Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and Tamil
Unicode Fonts, preferably Tamil Unicode Marutham Font 12 / 14 / 16 point which
is freely available in the Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) website and also to issue

.2

necessary instructions to the Heads of Departments / Corporations / Boards / Organizations / Agencies under their control for utilizing the same.

3. However, it is observed that many Government Departments and Heads of Departments are still using Proprietary Fonts like VAANAVIL-AVVAIYAR for day-to-day activities, since they prefer to use them because of lack of Conversion Tools available to convert their legacy documents to Unicode Format.

4. In this regard, I am to inform that the online **Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool** developed by TVA will ease conversion of Tamil text in non-unicode format, created in various proprietary fonts like VAANAVIL, to Unicode, without altering their content. The Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and **Tamil Unicode Fonts** developed by TVA can be downloaded free of cost from the TVA website **(http://www.tamilvu.org)**. In case of any difficulty in this regard, you may contact **Thiru.James, Co-ordinator, TVA** at his Mobile No.9710039249, e-mail : cdntacd.tva@tn.gov.in.

5. I am to inform you that providing Tamil Unicode Standard is one of the objectives of e-Governance Policy 2017 and all Government Departments have to adhere to Unicode Standard for all e-Governance Initiaitives across applications. I am therefore, to request you to make use of the Tamil Unicode Conversion Tool and Tamil Unicode Fonts developed and hosted in the TVA website instead of using Proprietary Fonts. I am also to request you to issue necessary instructions to the Heads of Departments / Corporations / Boards / Organizations / Agencies under your control for utilizing the same. The Departments cannot hereafter, spend any funds for purchase and renewal of any proprietary fonts.

Yours faithfully,

for Chief Secretary to Government