Proposing

Bharti Lipi

A Common Script and Electronic Code Set
for All Indian Languages

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भारति लिपि

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Author's Profile

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Education	B.Sc. (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry) - S.S. & N. College, Narasaraopet, AP M.Sc. (Mathematics and Computer Science) - University of Hyderabad, 1980 Gold Medalist	
Career	Software Engineer / Architect	○ 1981-1989: ECIL, Hyderabad ○ 1989-2018: Various Companies, USA ○ 1996-2000: Founded and ran a software consulting company
Passion	Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy Developed **Foaum**, a framework of psychology, sociology and philosophy; and conducted many workshops based on Foaum in the USA and India.	○ Personality Development workshops ○ Organizational management and team building workshops ○ Family management and parenting workshops ○ Parent-Teacher joint workshops
Writings	Human Diversity	Sapien Architecture: Understanding Human Nature & Diversity (WiP)
	Ramayana	Translated of Valmiki Ramayana from Sanskrit to English
	Philosophy	Why did Krishna Laugh?
Missions	Political Reforms	Bold Constitutional Changes to Transform Indian Politics from the Inside Out
	Educational Reforms	NEP-2030 A New Educational Paradigm to Transform Indian Education from the Inside Out
	Bharti Lipi	Common 'lipi' and 'code' for Indian languages

Overview

- Common Script
  - Many dream about a common script for all the Indian languages
  - Seen as a small but significant step towards national integration
- Common Varna Mala
  - Fortunately, the core alphabet (Varna Mala) of all Indian languages is the same with only a few variations
  - Makes it easy to develop a common script
- Earlier attempts
  - Earliest known attempt to create a common script was by Acharya Vinoba Bhave (Lok Nagari)*
  - Recent attempt by Prof. Srinivasa Chakravarthi, IIT-M
  - There could be other attempts that we are not aware
- Comprehensive attempt
  - This initiative is a comprehensive attempt, to build a consortium that would be responsible for creating a script for human reading/writing and a code for storing in computers

*https://www.mkgandhi.org/vinoba/bio.htm

Context

- Roman (English) script is serving as the defacto common script today
  - Even vegetable / grocery vendors and plumbers write their names and goods in Roman script
  - Not only movie song lyrics, but Bhadrachala Ramadasu Keerthana lyrics also in Roman script
- Roman Script is phonetically narrow
  - Loss of phonetic precision, distorted names of people, places and words
  - Google Maps, Aadhar Cards, Online lyrics of songs (film, classic), etc. use Roman script causing distortions in names of people, places, etc.
  - Milapur = मिलापूर or मैलापूर? Sarada Nagar = शारदा नगर or सरदा नगर?
  - Bharat: Is it भारत, the name of the country, or भरत, the name of a person?
  - Thakur and Tharuni - Is 'th' ठ or त
  - We have three ‘s’ variants: श, ष, and स—but the Roman script is limited to just ‘s’ and ‘sh’
  - Awkward spellings: ‘z’ to represent ழ in Tamil, ‘mein’ for मैं in Hindi
  - Bank - బ్యాంక్ (byank) or बैंक (baink)?

Bharati Lipi

- Bharati Lipi to be created from the ground up, considering the common letters and their variations in all Indian languages
  - Beautiful, pleasing, Easy to learn, easy to write
- A computer code (unicode) to be established which would be a superset of the unicodes of all Indian languages
- Benefits
  - All identity records—whether Aadhaar cards, ration cards, bank accounts, insurance accounts, postal accounts, or land registration forms—can use the Common Lipi across India, without the loss of phonetic precision
  - Indian Diaspora / Mixed language couples do not know which script to teach their children; they teach none
  - International organizations would love having one script for all the Indian languages
  - Sanskrit documents / books need not be printed in every Indian language script; A critical factor in connecting us to our heritage
  - One can travel across India and see sign boards, road signs, etc., in one familiar script

Road Map



Set up a Consortium

- Government Departments
- University linguistics Departments
- Technology Companies
- Media Houses
- Language Scholars
- Graphical Artists

Share & Discuss

- Research
- Publications
- Conferences

Finalize & Publish

- Phonetic Superset specification including equivalency mapping
- Unicode (or alternatives) for machine representation
- Finalize a script (shape of the letters) through a design contest

Promote & Adopt

- Promote the use of the superset in IT Systems (ex. Aadhar Cards, Voter Registration Systems, Google Maps, etc.)
- Create tools to transliterate from the superset to all Indian Languages and into English
- Teach the superset of phonetics in schools in addition to the local language and Roman scripts