

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Dr. Rabin Deka
Re: Additions to Deva-Nagari Script & Bengali Script
Date: January 25, 2010 San Jose, California

Abstract – This manuscript proposes five characters be added to Unicode, two for Hindi language in Deva-Nagari script and three for Assamese language in Bengali-script.

Background

Initially the author of this manuscript has written a letter to a Senior Administrative Director of Unicode Consortium on 17 September 2009 (see last two pages of the manuscript) with Improvement Ideas to Unicode. And the letter led to preparation of this manuscript within very short time. Author owes thanks to Deborah W. Anderson, Researcher, Dept. of Linguistics, UC Berkeley, Script Encoding Initiative and her team for comment/review as well as discussion on the manuscript.

In brief, Hindi is National language of India and spoken by over a billion populations, while Assamese is State language of the State of Assam India and spoken by over twenty million populations – the characters presented are for these two languages. Currently Hindi language uses Deva-Nagari script and Assamese language uses Bengali script.

In this manuscript, proposed five characters are described from Sections 1 through Section 5 and a list of examples is included in Section 6. Then following Examples section include two proposal summary forms – one for Hindi language and the other for Assamese language. The last two pages are said letters with improvement ideas.

The author of this manuscript may be contacted via E-Mail: deka.rbin@gmail.com

1. ₹. XXX0 DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN

The Government of India (GOI) uses three symbols for its currency in the form of legal-tender. These are (a) INR (b) Rs. and (c) ₹. INR is for international and Rs. & ₹ are domestic purposes. At present, GOI uses the DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN in Hindi documents, court documents, other administrative documents, etc. In addition, all major banks and or financial institutes in India use it (see Examples).

The GOI originally proposed this character in 2004 (L2/04-236). The response from the Unicode Technical Committee Indic ad hoc group in 2005 was (L2/05-070):

Devanagari currency sign [rupee sign] is already representable by ‘Ra + U-sign + abbreviation sign’. Many currency signs are simple combinations of letters, e.g. sFr for Swiss Franc. Would need to establish that the proposal has a unique shape. Can add as named sequence.

However, Gujarati has a currency symbol quite similar to that for Devanagari U+ 0AF1 ૠ GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN); it is a currency symbol that appears to be made up of U+0AB0 GUJARATI LETTER RA + U+0AC1 GUJARATI VOWEL SIGN U + (as yet unencoded) abbreviation sign (but cf. L2/09-330).

Other Indic scripts have characters for the rupee: U+0BF9 TAMIL RUPEE SIGN and U+09F3 BENGALI RUPEE SIGN. Since other Indic scripts have rupee signs, it would be consistent to include one in Unicode for the Devanagari script also.

The DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN users use it as a separate symbol. The head-bar of this symbol never touches neighbouring character(s). And the head-bur is shorter than traditionally produced “Ra + U-sign” or “ru” symbol.

Observe that GOI never use U+20A8 RUPEE SIGN, instead it simply types “Rs”. This approach does not apply for DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN because of its head-bar positioning. Since U+20A8 is redundant and INR too does not have a code, this U+20A8 can be assigned to DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN too.

Properties: The general category for this character is *Sc*.

2. XXX1 DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN

The DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN is used to write persons’ names in Hindi language for those possessing earned doctorate degrees.

This symbol is found to be used in printed books, journals, souvenir etc, as well as present vernacular Hindi language daily newspapers (see Examples).

At first glance, this symbol appears to be U+0921 DEVANAGARI LETTER DDA with U+0970 DEVANAGARI ABBREVIATION SIGN. However, DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN acts as a special symbol unto itself and does not get attached to any word or letter that comes before or afterwards.

Properties: The general category for this character is *So*.

3. XXX2 ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN

The ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN is used to write persons’ names in Assamese language for those possessing earned doctorate degrees.

This frequently used sign is used only for “doctor” in Assamese language and is unique to Assamese language only. In Bengali language exactly this symbol is currently not used.

At present, vernacular Assamese language daily newspapers use this symbol. In addition, this symbol is found frequently in printed books, journals, souvenir etc (see Examples).

At first glance, this symbol appears to be U+09A1 BENGALI LETTER DDA with U+0970 DEVANAGARI ABBREVIATION SIGN. However, ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN acts as a special symbol unto itself and does not get attached to any word or letter that comes before or afterwards.

Properties: The general category for this character is *So*.

4. XXX3 ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN

The ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN shown above is used to write persons’ names in Assamese language for those who are no more but believed to have left for heavenly abode. They do not use it for god/goddess name. Assamese name for this symbol is SWARGA NIWAS.

This symbol is found in Assamese newspapers, printed books, journals, souvenirs etc. (see Examples).



Currently UNICODE will produce *incorrect* character using U+09FA BENGALI ISSHAR.

Bengali ISSHAR is spelled *Ishwar* in both in Assamese & Devanagari with meaning God.

But, ISSHAR in Bengali is used to write God name and name of a person who is no more. This is where the problem with Assamese usage of the same symbol, i.e., differences of religious/spiritual practice, because Assamese speaker never use HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN for god/goddess name. They use it only to write names of those who are no more and believed to be in heavenly abode.

Especially those practicing Vaidika style of Vaishnava faith or Kamrupi Vaishnava, do not matter whether they speak Assamese Bengali Hindi or Manipuri, they believe God is somewhere outside this Universe what they call “Baikuntha” but they believe Heaven is in this Universe. They also believe that a soul does not die and it hovers in the field of sounds in this Universe with “vasana”. For them heavenly abode does not mean being met with God. In

fact, those Vaishnava believers don't give the status to a soul being met with God. And, their HEAVENLY ABODE symbol holds a directional imagination towards "dhruwa" star.

In Assamese HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN is a stand-alone symbol and it does not touch any character(s). It sits almost above the head-bar but below U+0981 CANDRABINDU . So this requirement, spiritual requirement, as well as required shape for HEAVENLY ABODE, is not found in BENGALI ISSHAR .

Bengali designers use ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN (see Examples).



Thus, a probable solution may be to substitute U+09FA BENGALI ISSHAR SIGN with ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN and replace "ISSHAR" with "ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE".

Properties: The general category for this character is *So*.

5. XXX4 ASSAMESE OM

This symbol, used in Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri, is encoded as a separate character in Devanagari, Gujarati, and Tamil.

A request for a Bengali script OM was requested by Prof. Chaudhuri of the Society for Natural Language Technology Research, Kolkata, in 2009 (L2/09-294).

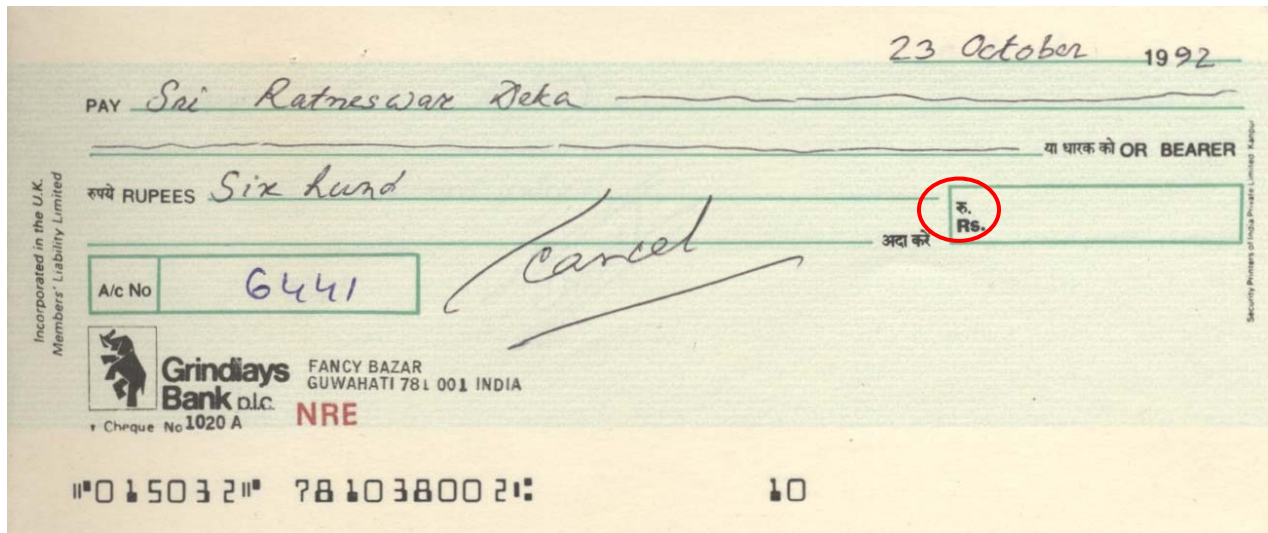
The Devanagari OM symbol, , is similar but it has a distinctive shape: .

The style of this symbol comes from yesteryear *Kamrupi* scriptures. The symbol is popular among Assamese and Manipuri; it is also popular among Bengalese especially of Kamrupi origin and or Vaisnava background. However, they do not consider Deva-Nagari OM incorrect either. Some OM symbols may have modern look that traditional users do not prefer.

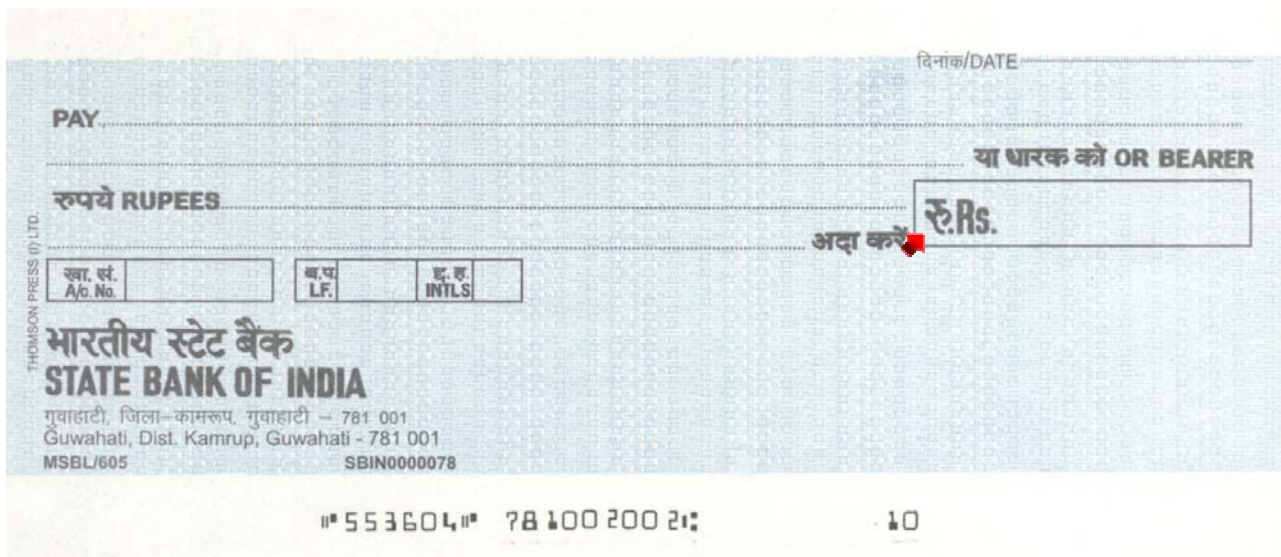
Properties: The general category for this character is *So*.

6. EXAMPLES

6.1. ₹ XXXO DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN



Check printed by Grindlays Bank Australia (Guwahati Branch Assam India), on or before 1990



Check printed by State Bank of India, 2000

6.2. ॐ XXX1 DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN

5 सितंबर को प्रतिवर्ष देश-भर में शिक्षक दिवस मनाया जाता है। क्या आप जानते हैं कि शिक्षक दिवस का आयोजन किस उपलक्ष्य में किया जाता है? शिक्षक दिवस का आयोजन देश के महान दार्शनिक और उच्च कोटि के शिक्षाविद् ॐ सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन के जन्मदिन की स्मृति के रूप में मनाया जाता है।

ॐ सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन न केवल उच्च कोटि के शिक्षाविद् ही थे, बल्कि वे महान राजनेता भी थे। वे स्वतंत्र भारत के प्रथम उपराष्ट्रपति बनाए गए। ॐ राजद्र प्रसाद के बाद 1962 में उन्हें देश का द्वितीय राष्ट्रपति होने का गौरव मिला।

5 सितंबर, 1888 को चेन्नई से लगभग 200 किलोमीटर उत्तर-पश्चिम में स्थित एक छोटे से कस्बे तिरुताणी में ॐ राधाकृष्णन का जन्म हुआ था। उनके पिता का नाम सर्वपल्ली वी. रामास्वामी और माता का नाम श्रीमती सीता झा था। रामास्वामी एक गरीब ब्राह्मण थे और तिरुताणी कस्बे के जमींदार के यहाँ एक साधारण कर्मचारी के समान कार्य करते थे।

From introductory page of the book entitled, "Sarvapalli Dr Radhakrishnan" by M.I Rajsvi, Publisher Manoj Publications, 1986 Delhi India.

6.3. ॐ XXX2 ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN

Mahāpuruṣa Mādhavadeva Bākyaṃṛita, edited by a Board of Editors and published by Sri Mukhyeswar Saikia, General Secretary, for and on behalf of Srimanta Sankardev Sangha, with its Head Office at Kalangpār, Nagaon, Assam : First Edition, 1994.
Compiler- Editor : Dr. Dharmeswar Chutia

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५८५ शङ्खवार, १९९४ ख्रिष्टाब्द

सम्पादकमण्डली :

श्रीसोणाराम चूतिया

श्रीमधु ओजा

ॐ पर्मानन्द शङ्कीया

श्रीभिर प्रसाद चलिश

श्रीभरेन्द्रनाथ डेका

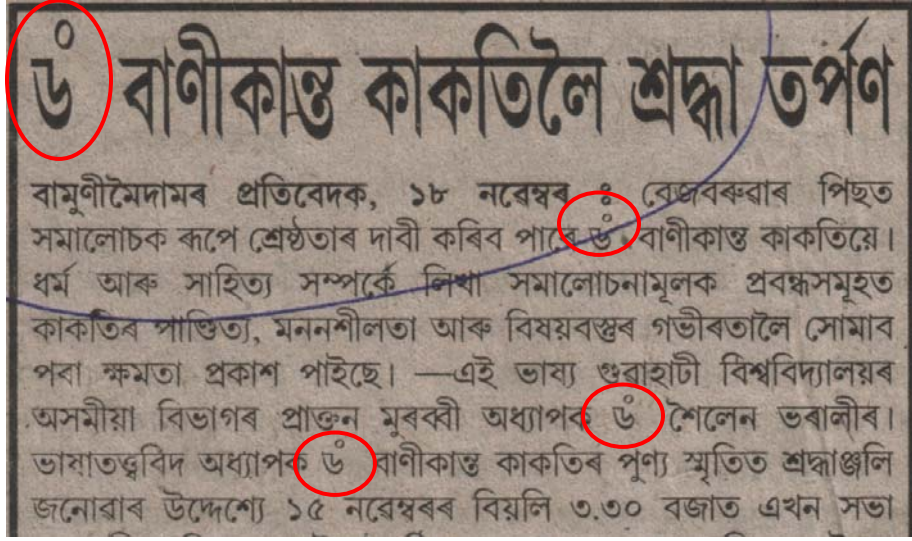
श्रीदेवेश्वर कलिता

श्रीशिवेश्वर दलै

श्रीगोलाप महन्त

ॐ धर्मेश्वर चूतिया

Book:- "Mahapurusa Madhavadeva Bakyamrit" (Vaishnav faith spiritual scripture composed by Saint Madhavadeva) Page 2 (nine editors in editorial board two of them with doctorate degree) published by Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha, Head Office Nagaon Assam, First Edition 1994.



Newspaper:- A portion of the article entitled "Dr Banikanta Kakatilo's Sradha Tarpan (A Tribute to Dr Banikanta Kakati)" published by vernacular Assamese language daily newspaper Asamiya Pratidin, 11/18/2009, Guwahati ASSAM.

6.4. XXX3 ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SYMBOL

- (a) Bengali designers also use ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN, e.g., see font file "AdorshoLipi_20-07-2007.ttf" designed by Partha Sarathi Pal from Calcutta, West Bengal, India, 2007. Download link - <http://www.mediafire.com/?bydbzug9njj>
- (b)

১৯১৭ চনৰ পৰা অসম সাহিত্য সভাৰ সভাপতি আৰু অধিবেশনথলী।
জন্মলগ্নৰ সাহিত্য সভাৰ কাৰ্যালয়, চন্দ্ৰকান্ত সন্দিকৈ ভৱন, যোৰহাট, অসম

বৰ্ষ	সভাপতিৰ নাম	অধিবেশনথলী
১৯১৭	পদ্মনাথ গোহাঁঞি বৰুৱা	শিৱসাগৰ
১৯১৮	চন্দ্ৰধৰ বৰুৱা	গোৱালপাৰা
১৯১৯	কালিবাম মেধি	বৰপেটা
১৯২০	হেমচন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী	তেজপুৰ
১৯২২	অমৃত ভূষণ দেব-অধিকাৰী	যোৰহাট
১৯২৩	কনকলাল বৰুৱা	ডিব্ৰুগড়
১৯২৪	লক্ষ্মীনাথ বেজবৰুৱা	গুৱাহাটী
১৯২৫	বজ্জনীকান্ত বৰদলৈ	নগাওঁ



Assam Literary Society Year Book 19**, Chandrakanta Sandhikoi Bhawan, Jorhat Assam.
A list of Presidents' & annual convention towns' names since 1917. All heavenly abode Presidents' names since 1917 were written using Assamese Heavenly Abode Symbol sponsored by the society.

6.5. XXX4 ASSAMESE OM

The style of this symbol comes from yesteryear *Kamrupi* scriptures. The symbol is popular among Assamese and Manipuri; it is also popular among Bengalese especially of Kamrupi origin and or Vaisnava background. However, they do not consider Deva-Nagari OM incorrect either. Some OM symbols may have modern look that traditional users do not prefer.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: **Commonly used Hindi Language Symbols**

2. Requester's name: *Dr. Rabin Deka*

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Individual Contributor*

4. Submission date: *November 17, 2009*

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal:

(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):

Proposed name of script:

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Name of the existing block: *Hindi Language, Deva-Nagari Script*

2. Number of characters in proposal: *(1) ₹ Devanagari Rupee Sign (2) ॐ Devanagari Doctor Sign*

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized (large collection)

C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct E-Minor extinct

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? *Dr. Rabin Deka*

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): *Dr. Rabin Deka, 1324 S Winchester BL Unit 177, San Jose, CA 95128 Email: deka.rabin@gmail.com*

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b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

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6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? No

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ Form number: N3702-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	Yes
	<i>Aadarsha Ratne script users group; assamonline group</i>
	(a) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ratne (b) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/assamonline
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	
	<i>Hindi is National language of India</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Common
	<i>Can be found in vernacular Hindi language daily newspapers</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes
	[1] Any vernacular Hindi Language daily newspaper (for doctorate symbol) [2] Any check-book printed by State Bank of India; Bank of India (for Rupee symbol)
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	No
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
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4. Submission date: *November 17, 2009*

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6. Choose one of the following:

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(or) More information will be provided later:

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Proposed name of script:

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Name of the existing block: *Assamese Language*

2. Number of characters in proposal: *(1) ୧ Doctor (2) ୨ Heavenly Abode (3) ୩ "om"*

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized (large collection)

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	(a) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ratne (b) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/assamonline
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	
	<i>Assamese is State language of Assam, India 20 million population</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Common
	<i>Can be found in vernacular Assamese language daily newspapers</i>
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7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No

December 18, 2009

To: Mr. Magda Danish
Sr. Administrative Director
The Unicode Consortium
Phone: 650-693-3921

Copy: Aadarsha Ratne script users group – Ratne@yahoogroups.com

Re: *Deva-Nagari UNICODE improvement idea*

Dear Mr Magda,

Further to my letter of 11/17/2009 appended herewith and your response, I would like to thank you & the team behind again for this tremendous effort in order to systematically represent all languages.

Based on my experiences with users of my own developed Deva-Nagari script since 1989, I prefer that UNICODE replaces any *modern style Deva-Nagari letter/symbol* with *traditional one* from their standards' chart.

An Example:

Name	Traditional	Modern
1 DEVANAGARI LETTER KHA	ख	ख

Also, for *Sanskrit* I prefer the following be allocated independent glyph/mapping encoding:

Name	Symbol
1 DEVANAGARI SIGN SWARITA CANDRABINDU VIRAMA VAIDIKA SWARITA ANUSWARA CANDRA TRIYAKA	खँ
2 DEVANAGARI SIGN DWI-SWARITA CANDRABINDU VIRAMA VAIDIKA DWI-SWARITA ANUSWARA CANDRA TRIYAKA	खं
3 DEVANAGARI SIGN CANDRABINDU VIRAMA ANUDATTA VAIDIKA ANUSWARA CANDRA TRIYAKA ANUDATTA	खं

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Deka, Rabin. Ph.D.
San Jose, California

November 17, 2009

To: Mr. Magda Danish
Sr. Administrative Director
The Unicode Consortium
Phone: 650-693-3921

Copy: Aadarsha Ratne script users group – Ratne@yahoogroups.com

Re: *UNICODE improvement ideas*

Dear Mr Magda,

I have developed both Deva-Nagari and Assamese/Bengali/Manipurt scripts during 1998-99 under project name *aadarsha ratne* literary meaning *ideal treasure* as a part of charity and since then working on scripts during my free times have been a part of my hobby creating *Aadarsha Ratne family* of scripts.

I have converted my designs to UNICODE in year 2004 and I had explored all possible combinations of design specification on open type features that Microsoft had published in their web.

I prefer for the following be allocated independent glyphs with independent mapping encodings:

Name	Correct	Incorrect
1. <i>DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN</i>	₹	₠
2. <i>DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN</i>	₹	₠
3. <i>ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN</i>	₹	₠
4. <i>ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN</i>	৳	৳
5. <i>ASSAMESE OM SIGN – (from <u>Prag- script</u>)</i>	ॐ	

Thank you for you efforts through UNICODE, and looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,



Deka, Rabin. Ph.D.
San Jose, California