Request to change the Indic Shaping Property for U+11134

Andrew Glass and Bivuti Chakma

The Chakma character, Maayyaa (pronounced majje), has been given the Indic Syllabic Property pure killer (Indic_Syllabic_Category=Pure_Killer). Consequently, the Universal Shaping Engine does not permit it to combine with a vowel. However, this character is polyvalent. In many cases it does serve as a vowel killer, but in other cases, when combined with a vowel, it behaves as a gemination mark.

Examples of CHAKMA MAAYYAA as a vowel killer:

- [paat, lesson]; [raan, cook]; [maach, fish]; [raat, lack]; [jaar, go]; [igun amaar maach, this is our fish]; [jaadi bhat raan, cook hurry]; [te gharot jar, he goes to home].

Examples of CHAKMA MAAYYAA as a gemination mark:

- [kitte, why]; [jitte, winner]; [haamaakai, must, sure, of course]; [mrittika, a personal name]; [paatturuturu, welcome]; [kitte gharat jar, why go home?]; [muu haamaakai en, I must come]; [igun aamaar maachchya paat, it's our maachchya paat]; [huttun ejar tui, where do you come from?].

Specifying this sign is a vowel killer as its Indic Syllabic Property prevents clusters of the second type from forming because a vowel killer cannot follow a vowel. Instead, specifying this sign is a gemination mark will permit clusters of both types to form correctly (i.e., both CONSONANT + MAAYYAA, and CONSONANT + MAAYYAA + VOWEL would be permitted). Therefore, we request the following change:

Change from:

| 11134 | Pure_Killer # Mn | CHAKMA MAAYYAA |

To:

| 11134 | Gemination_Mark # Mn | CHAKMA MAAYYAA |

The file, NamesList.txt should also be annotated to reflect that the sign also represents a gemination mark:

| 11134 | CHAKMA MAAYYAA | * killer | * gemination mark |
|       |                | x (myanmar sign asat - 103A) |

We don’t recommend making other changes to Chakma properties (e.g., ccc) to reflect this dual functionality since the current properties reflect the valid status as a vowel killer status and gemination functionality is not otherwise impacted.
Figure 1: Usage of Chakma Dependent Vowel Signs with MAAYYAA (U+11134)
Source: Chandobi Baaro Mach manuscript, circa 100 years old