

Proposal to encode the INVERTED CANDRABINDU for Sharada

Anshuman Pandey
pandey@umich.edu




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








1 Introduction


This is a proposal to encode the following character in the ‘Sharada’ block in the SMP:

Glyph	Code	Character name
	111CF	SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

2 Description

The *candrabindu* has the conventional form  in Sharada. The shape is unique among signs for *candrabindu* in northern Brahmi scripts as it is an inversion of the predominant shape , as used in Devanagari, Bengali, etc., ie.  U+0901 DEVANAGARI SIGN CANDRABINDU.

An inverted  form of the  U+11180 SHARADA SIGN CANDRABINDU occurs concurrently with the conventional form in several texts on Kashmiri Shaivism (see figures) and other manuscripts. The two forms of *candrabindu* are used for writing the sacred syllable *om̐* in invocatory phrases at the beginning of texts, eg.  and . The inversed form is used for writing syllables in *mantra* texts, eg.  *tham̐* contrasted with  *ram̐* in the *Śiva Patrika* (fig. 7). The two forms are used in a manuscript of the *Yoga Vāsīṣṭha* for the characters  and , combined with a base that likely represents the auspicious terms *siddham* or *svasti*, which resembles the  U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE (fig. 8).

These two forms of *candrabindu* are not glyphic variants, but alternate pairs whose concurrent usage is intentional. It is necessary to represent both forms of *candrabindu* in order to encode such texts accurately and completely. The addition of  SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU to the Sharada repertoire will meet this need.

3 Character Data

Unicode character data: UnicodeData.txt

```
111CF;SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
```

Linebreak data: LineBreak.txt

```
111CF;CM # SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU
```

Indic syllabic categories: IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

```
# Indic_Syllabic_Category=Bindu
```

```
111CF ; Bindu # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU
```

Indic positional categories: IndicPositionalCategory.txt

```
# Indic_Positional_Category=Top
```

```
111CF ; Top # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU
```

4 References

Lokesh Chandra. 1982. *Sanskrit Texts from Kashmir*. Vol. 8. Śata-Piṭaka Series: Indo-Asian Literatures. New Delhi: Sharada Rani.

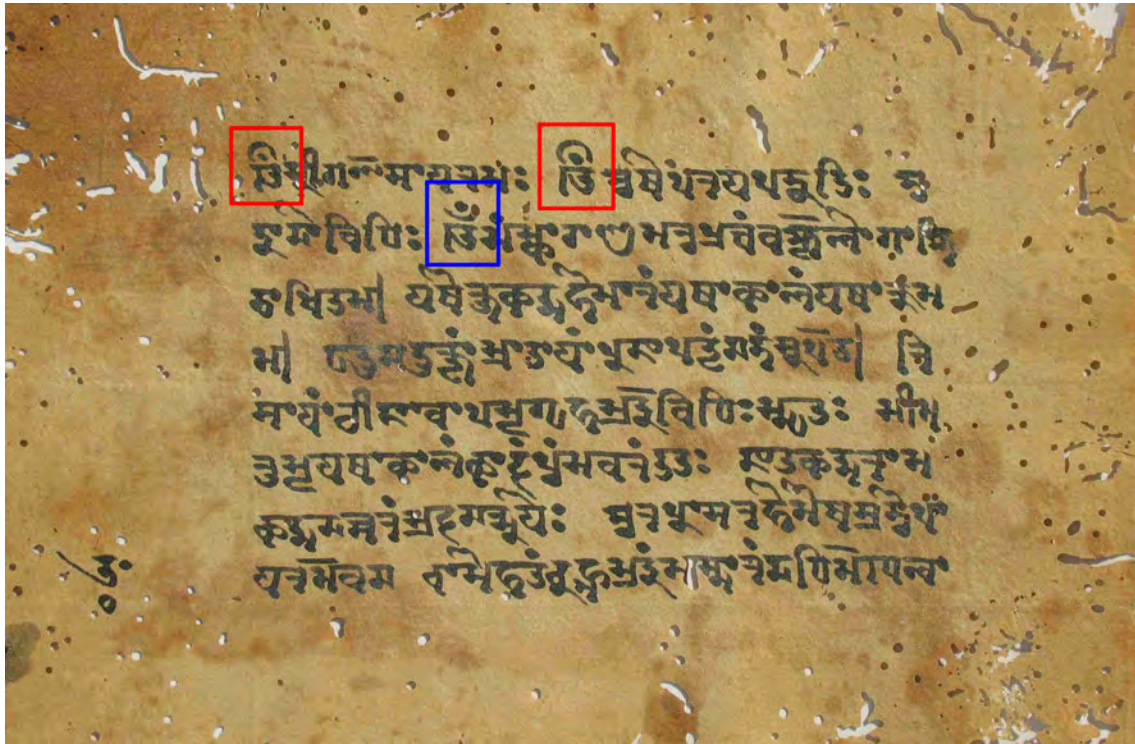


Figure 1: The syllable *om̐* written as ॐ (blue) using the inverted *candrabindu* and as ॐ (red) using the regular form in *Upanayana Tantra*, f8.

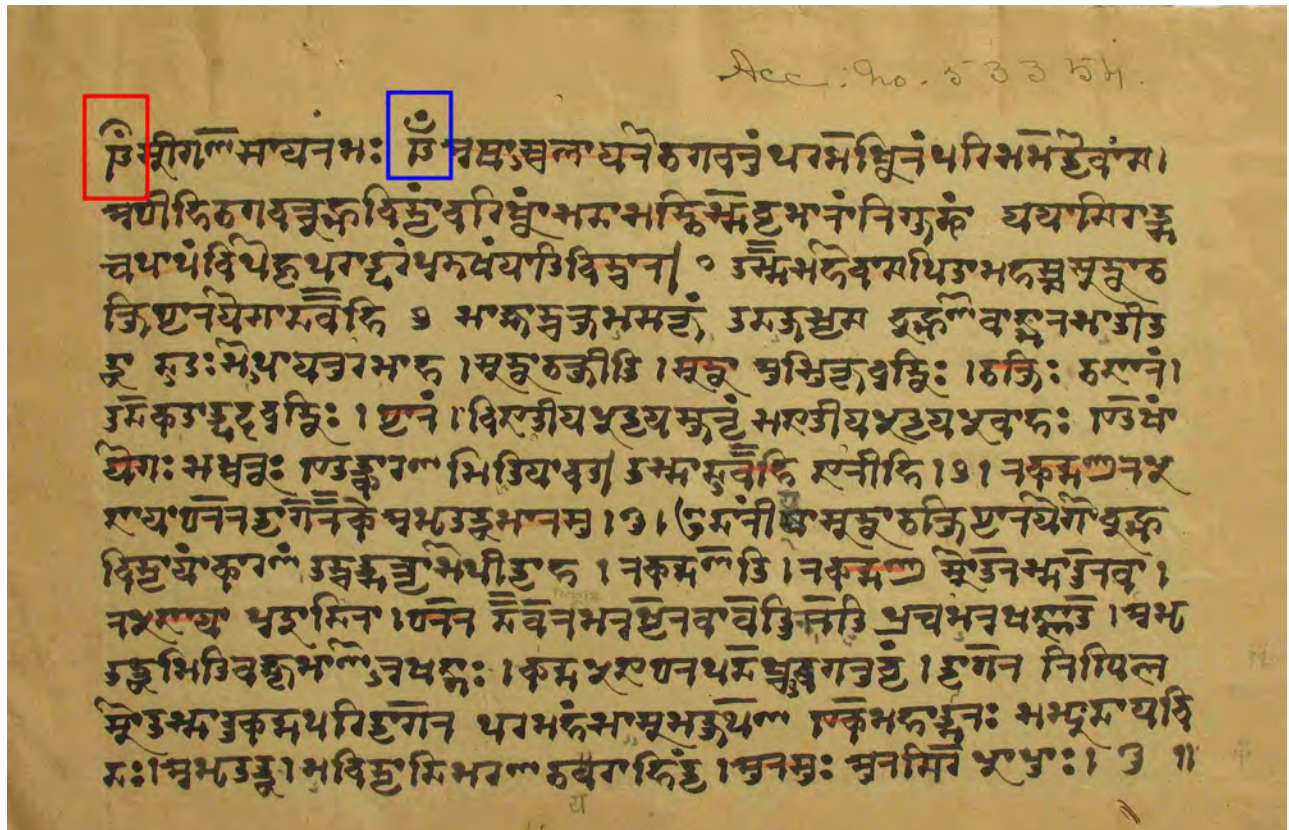


Figure 2: The syllable om̐ written as ॐ (blue) using the inverted *candrabindu* and as ॐ (red) using the regular form in *Kaivalyopaniṣad Dīpikā*, fl.

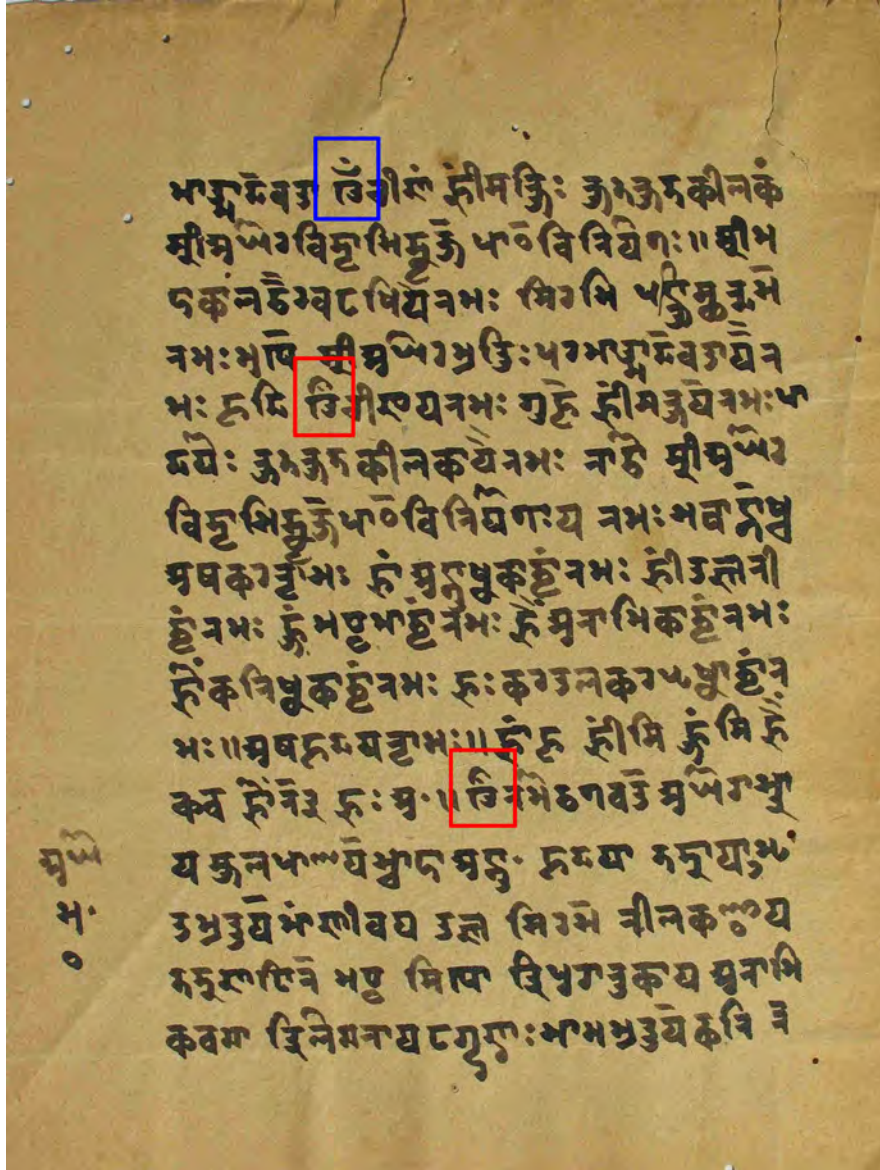


Figure 3: The syllable *om̐* written as ॐ (blue) using the inverted *candrabindu* and as ॐ (red) using the regular form in *Bhairava Sahasranāma*, f2.

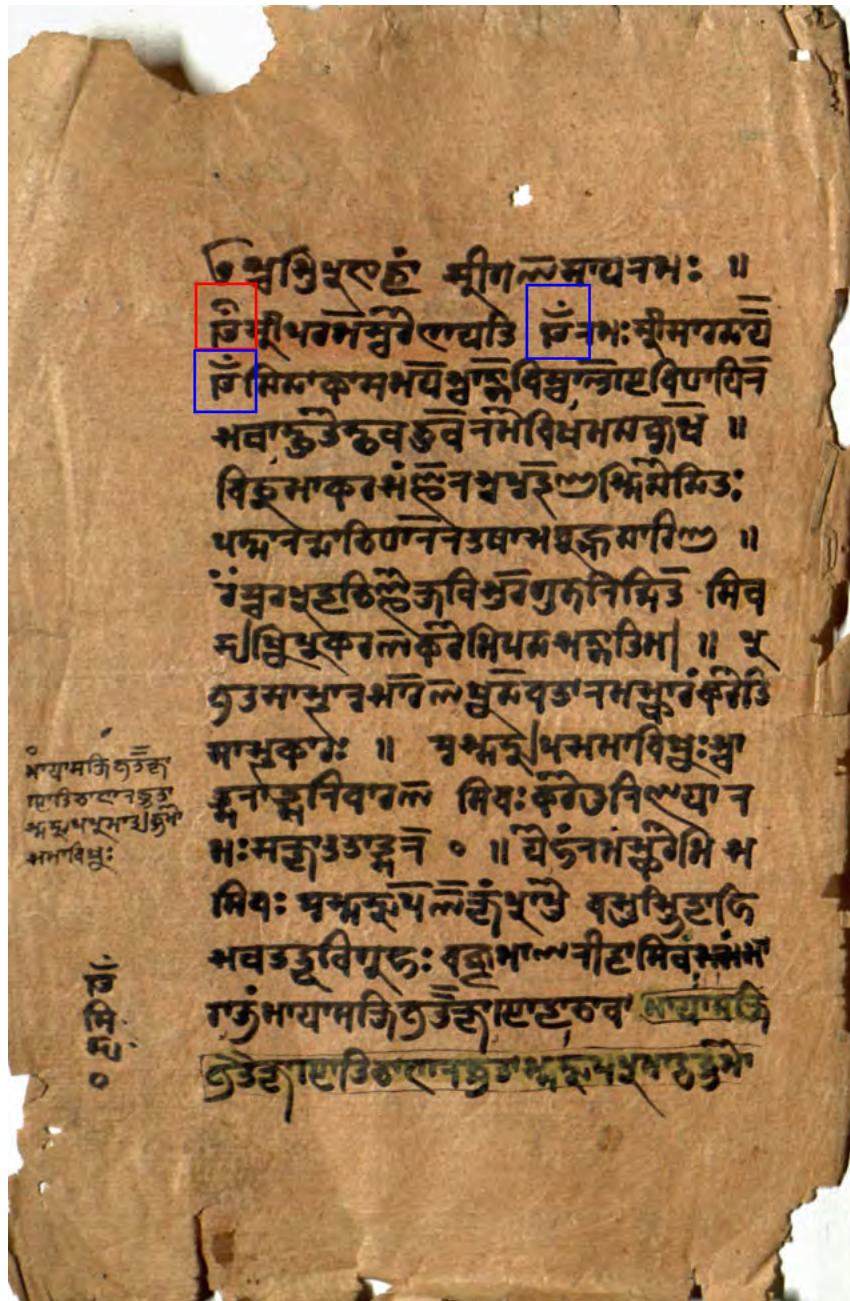


Figure 4: The syllable *om̐* written as *ॐ* (blue) using the inverted *candrabindu* and as *ॐ* (red) using the regular form in *Śiva Dṛṣṭi* of Somānanda with the commentary of Utpaladeva, fl.

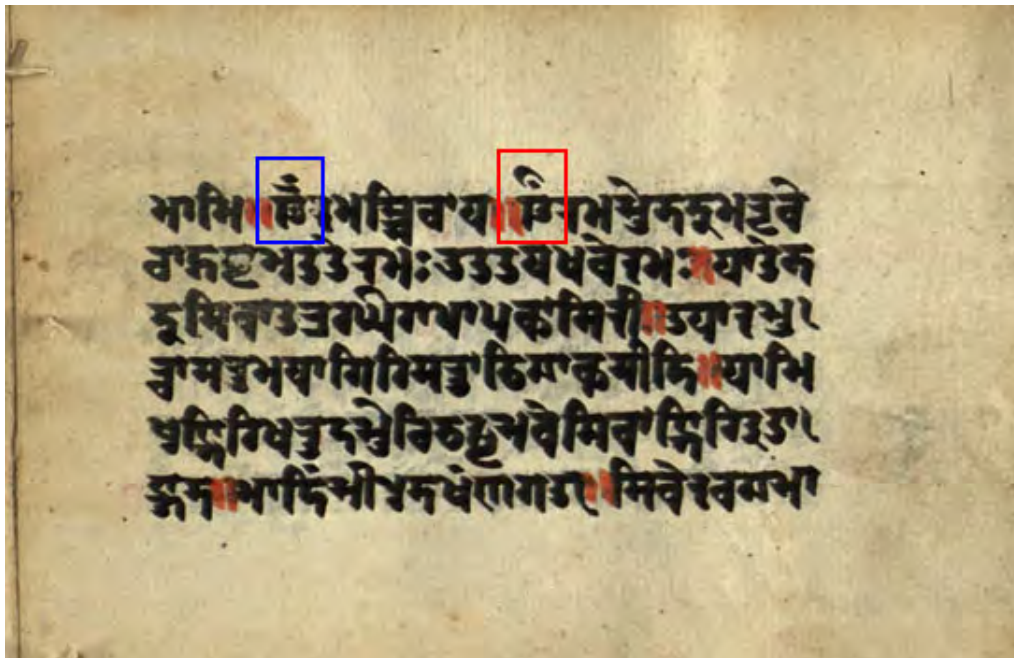
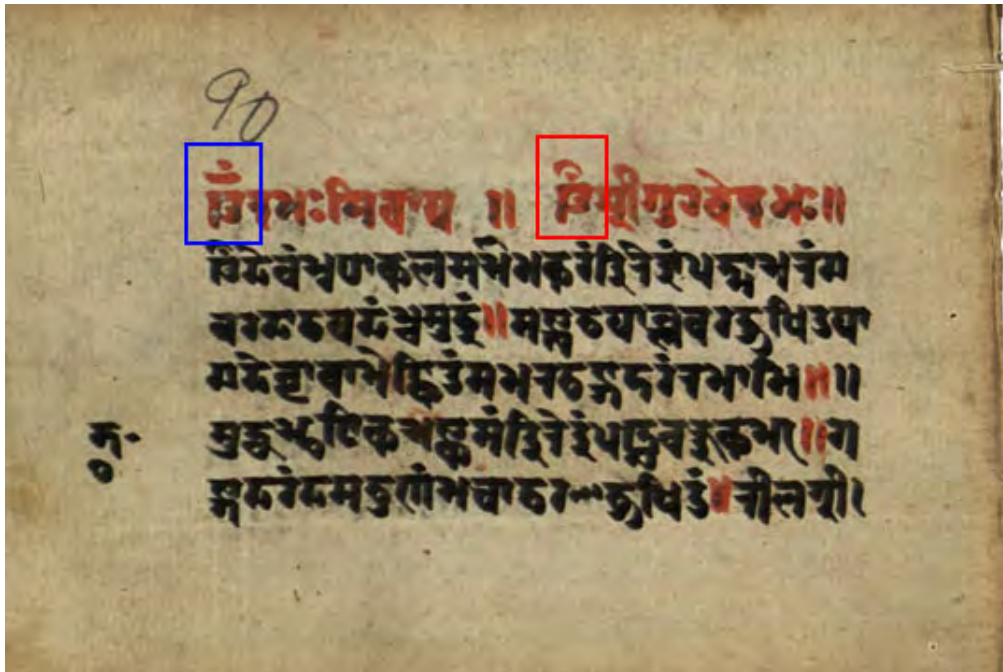


Figure 5: The syllable *om̐* written as ॐ (blue) using the inverted *candrabindu* and as ॐ (red) using the regular form in *Mukunda Mālā*, f1, f8.

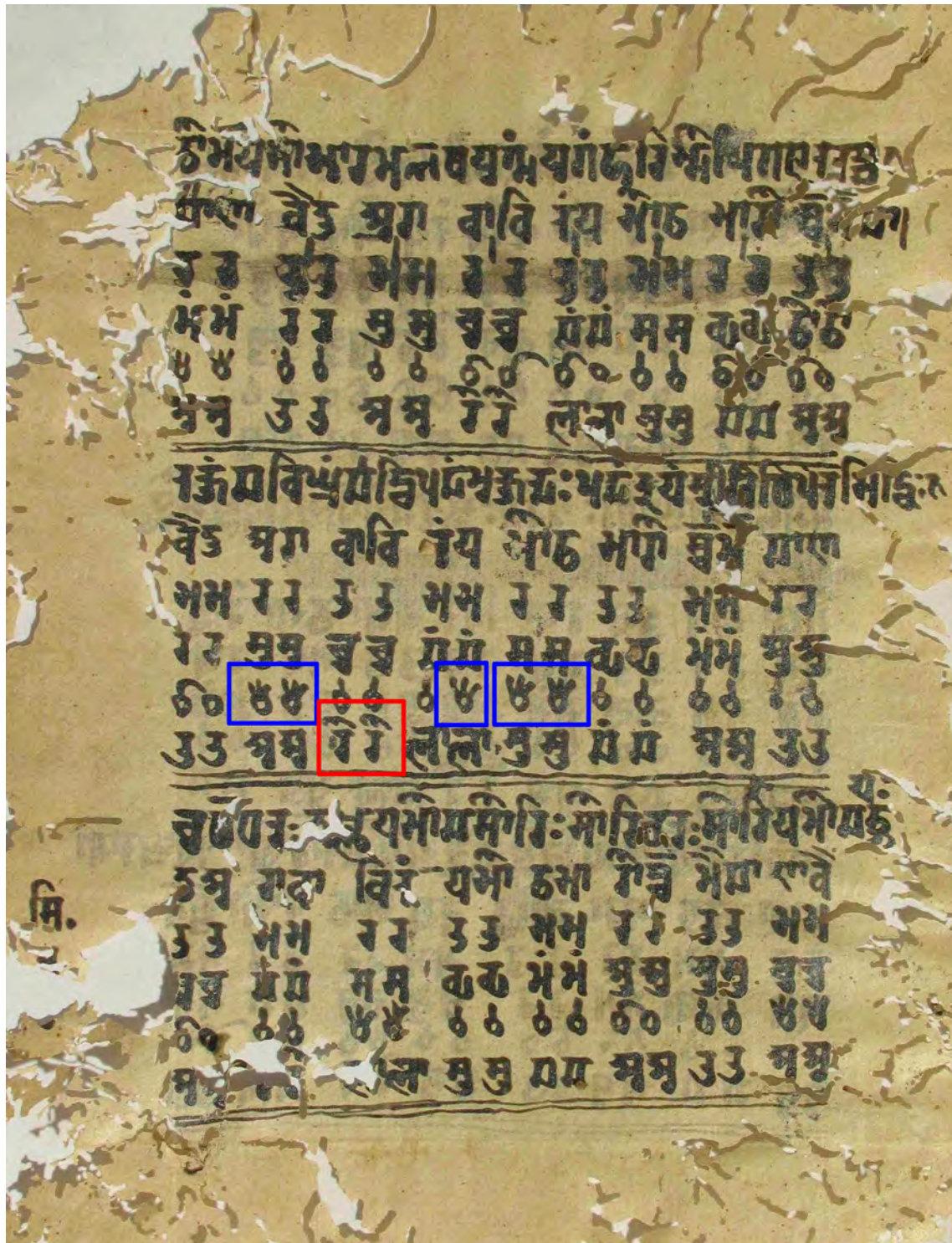


Figure 7: Inverted candrabindu in the syllable \ddot{o} *tham̐* (blue) and the regular form in the syllable \ddot{r} *ram̐* (red) in *Śiva Patrika*, f6.

Figure 8: Usage of both forms of *candrabindu* in the *Yoga Vāsiṣṭha* for writing the signs ॐ and ॐ, which likely represent the auspicious terms *siddham* or *svasti* (from Lokesh Chandra 1982: 366–367). The base for the *candrabindu*-s resembles the 9 U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE, but could be a similar sign for a Sharada form of *siddham* or *svasti*, which are not yet encoded.