

Sequences with consecutive anusvaras in Indic scripts

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Background document

[L2/26-062](#) Text Rendering, Input, Search and Processing in Indian Languages - Karan Miśra
(Page 2 Text Rendering)

This document discusses the occurrence of repeated anusvaras in Sanskrit words and how such sequences can be supported in fonts and rendering engines.

Although repeated input sequences of vowel signs and other combining marks e.g., <U+0915, U+0942, U+0942> and <U+0905, U+0902, U+0902> are generally considered invalid or incorrect combinations in Indic scripts, two consecutive anusvaras may occur in valid Sanskrit words under specific grammatical rules and conditions, as described in traditional grammatical works such as *Siddhāntakaumudī*.

Examples are given below.

Out of the 108 valid forms of the word संस्कृता *saṃskartā*, 36 contain the syllable **saṃṃ**, e.g., *saṃṃsskartā*, *saṃṃskartā*.

Similarly, out of the 18 forms of the word संस्कृतम् *saṃskṛtam*, 6 contain the syllable **saṃṃ**, namely:

saṃṃsskṛtam, *saṃṃskṛtam*, *saṃṃssskṛtam*, *saṃṃsskkṛtam*, *saṃṃskkṛtam* and *saṃṃssskkṛtam*¹

An attempt to typeset the same in Devanagari is given below:

Vaiyākaraṇa Siddhāntakaumudī, with the commentaries *Bālaṃanoramā* and *Dīpikā*,
Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan, Varanasi, 1979, p. 165.

https://archive.org/details/hcXW_vaiyakarana-siddhanta-kowmudi-with-commentarys-of-balamanorama-by-vasudev-dikshi/page/%E0%A5%A7%E0%A5%AC%E0%A5%AB/mode/1up

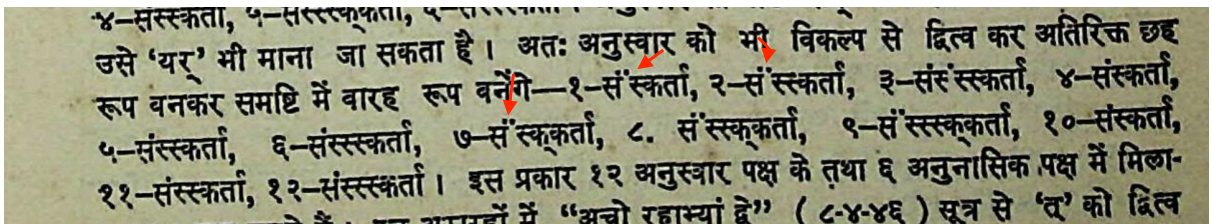


Fig. 1

¹ Reference: https://groups.google.com/g/bvparishat/c/T-PsF_xopIY/m/sRXOVCGA-Q0J
Comments by scholar Nityanand Misra 20 Jan 2014, 7:59:15 am

While the sequence <U+0938, U+0902, U+0902> is not supported in most fonts and browsers, it is typically rendered in one of the following ways:

- With a dotted circle for the second anusvara (e.g., Safari on macOS) संं
- Identically to सं <U+0938, U+0902> (e.g., Chrome on macOS)

For scripts with a spacing anusvara on the right, such as Kannada, Oriya, and Saurashtra, the rendering is supported properly. Similarly, two visargas at the end of syllables are rendered properly in most Indic scripts.

ꣳꣳ <U+0C95, U+0C82, U+0C82>

ꣳꣳ <U+0B38, U+0B02, U+0B02>

Some websites adopt workarounds due to the lack of support, for example:

<https://www.ashtadhyayi.com/sutraani/msk98>

हल्-वर्णः (सकारः) यत्र विद्यते तत्र अनुस्वारस्य अपि अनचि च ८.४.४७ इत्यनेन वैकल्पिकं द्वित्वं सम्भवति । एतादृशी स्थितिः अनुस्वारयुक्तेषु त्रिषु रूपेषु — संस्कर्ता / संस्कर्ता / संस्कर्ता — एतेषु विद्यते, अतः एतेषु विद्यमानस्य अनुस्वारस्य अनचि च ८.४.४७ इत्यनेन वैकल्पिकं द्वित्वं कृत्वा संंस्कर्ता / संंस्कर्ता / संंस्कर्ता इति त्रीणि नूतनानि रूपाणि सिद्ध्यन्ति । आहत्य ६ (पूर्वम् उक्तानि) + ३ (नूतनानि) = ९ रूपाणि । एतेषु त्रीणि रूपाणि अनुस्वारद्वययुक्तानि, त्रीणि रूपाणि अनुस्वारयुक्तानि, अवशिष्टानि त्रीणि च अनुनासिकस्वरयुक्तानि - इति भेदः ।
Note that the newly generated forms on this step have two anuswar each. They cannot be properly typed in Devanagari, hence the additional anuswar is shown in square-brackets.

Fig. 2

Some fonts, such as Noto Sans Tirhuta, attempt to support the sequence संं <U+114AE, U+114C0, U+114C0>, having stacked *anusvaras*.

In Devanagari, when two combining marks occur above a vowel or consonant, they are typically rendered side by side rather than stacked. Accordingly, the two anusvaras may be written next to each other above the base vowel or consonant.

सं

E.g. संसं<0938 0945 0902 0938 0902 0951>

This is a FYI document and does not necessarily require actions from UTC.

If required, the behavior described here may be noted in the Devanagari chapter of the Unicode Core Specification.