A discussion of the representation of the alphabet used to write Assamese was discussed at this meeting. The following points summarize the discussion.

- It is recognized that the Assamese language and the Bengali language pronounce many of the shared letters differently. It is also noted that the script is used for other languages: Bishnupriya Manipuri, Manipuri, Sylheti, Hajong, Rabha, and Deuri.
- It is recognized that UCS character names are immutable identifiers, and cannot be changed.
- It is recommended that Assamese character names be added to the names list as annotations, following this pattern:

  0987 BENGALI LETTER I
  = Assamese letter hraswa i
  0988 BENGALI LETTER II
  = Assamese letter dirgha i

- It may be possible to change the block header name, though the block property values cannot. The most neutral and least disruptive name would be “Bengali-Assamese”. This is an editorial, not a normative, matter.
- A preliminary examination was made of the characters in the Assamese proposal which are not encoded was made in order to facilitate further work. Broadly speaking, the following notes were made. Further study is required. The Bureau of Indian Standards has offered to help coordinate this study.
  - Several recommendations for character additions (KHYA, HRASWA U (2nd form), DIRGHA U (2nd form), RI (2nd form), YA KAAR, REF, and RA KAAR) appear to be normal font presentation forms. KA-KAAR/NA-KAAR may or may not be, and requires further study.
  - Comparison of URDHA BINDU and NIMNA BINDU with the existing BENGALI ABBREVIATION SIGN needs to be done. One of these is likely unifiable with it.
  - The shape of ISSHAR (svargiya) may be different in Assamese (swargadeo).
  - There is an Assamese om which differs from Devanagari om.
  - The historical AVAGRAHA may differ in use and shape for Assamese (LUPTA A KAAR).
  - There are at least 11 characters used to represent land areas and fractions of land areas.
  - Additional independent vowels and vowel signs may be required. Assamese [ɔ] and [o] can be distinguished as in কোলা [kola] (with the inherent vowel) ‘deaf’ and কোলা kola [kola] ‘black’. Some additional sources (at Wiktionary) have shown a distinction also with between [ɛ] and [e] as in চেক sek [sɛk] ‘Czech’ from чек sék [sek] ‘cheque’ where
U+0027 APOSTROPHE or U+2019 RIGHT SINGLE QUOTATION MARK may be used. This may not be advantageous to Assamese. If atomic encoding were chosen for this, four characters might be required.

অও (exists) — (the inherent vowel)

অ‘o (missing) 〇’ (missing)

এè (exists) े (exists)

এ‘e (missing) े’ (missing)

It is worth noting, however, that MODIFIER LETTER APOSTROPHE has been used for similar purposes in Devanagari for Dogri and some other languages. A solution that suits both Devanagari and Bengali-Assamese scripts should be considered, whether that is using MODIFIER LETTER APOSTROPHE or using script-specific characters.

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The Bengali script is also known as Bangla. In Assam, the name of the script is Asamiya or Assamese. The Assamese language has also been written historically using distinct regional scripts known as Kamrupi. The script is also used for Bishnupriya Manipuri, Meitei Manipuri, Sylheti, and Hajong.

**Various signs**

- **Bengali Anji**  
  - Assamese letter nia
- **Bengali Sign Candrabindu**  
  - Assamese sign sandrabindu
- **Bengali Sign Anusvara**  
  - Assamese sign anuswar
- **Bengali Sign Visarga**  
  - Assamese sign bixarga
- **Bengali Sign Nukta**  
  - Assamese sign nukta
- **Bengali Sign Avagraha**  
  - Assamese sign avagraha

**Independent vowels**

- **Bengali Letter A**  
  - Assamese letter a
- **Bengali Letter AA**  
  - Assamese letter aa
- **Bengali Letter I**  
  - Assamese letter hraswa i
- **Bengali Letter II**  
  - Assamese letter dirgha i
- **Bengali Letter U**  
  - Assamese letter hraswa u
- **Bengali Letter UU**  
  - Assamese letter dirgha u
- **Bengali Letter VOCALIC R**  
  - Assamese letter ri
- **Bengali Letter VOCALIC L**
- **Bengali Letter E**  
  - Assamese letter e
- **Bengali Letter AI**  
  - Assamese letter oi
- **Bengali Letter O**  
  - Assamese letter o
- **Bengali Letter AU**  
  - Assamese letter ou

**Consonants**

- **Bengali Letter KA**  
  - Assamese letter ka
- **Bengali Letter KHA**  
  - Assamese letter kha
- **Bengali Letter GA**  
  - Assamese letter ga
- **Bengali Letter GHA**  
  - Assamese letter gha
- **Bengali Letter NGA**  
  - Assamese letter nga
- **Bengali Letter CA**  
  - Assamese letter pratham sa
- **Bengali Letter CHA**  
  - Assamese letter dwitiya sa
- **Bengali Letter JA**  
  - Assamese letter bargiya za
- **Bengali Letter JHA**  
  - Assamese letter zha

**Various signs**

- **Bengali Sign Nukta**  
  - For extending the alphabet to new letters
- **Bengali Sign Avagraha**

**Dependent vowel signs**

- **Bengali Vowel Sign AA**  
  - Assamese vowel sign aa
- **Bengali Vowel Sign I**  
  - Assamese vowel sign hraswa i
- **Bengali Vowel Sign II**  
  - Assamese vowel sign dirgha i
Reserved

For viram punctuation, use the generic Indic 0964 and 0965. Note that these punctuation marks are referred to as dahri and double dahri in Bangla, and as daari, zati, and xiki, and as purnazati and aadhaa in Assamese.

Digits

09E4 <reserved> → 0964 I devanagari danda
09E5 <reserved> → 0965 II devanagari double danda

Currency signs

09F2 BENGALI RUPEE MARK = taka
• historic currency sign
09F3 BENGALI RUPEE SIGN = Bangladeshi taka

Historic symbols for fractional values

The use of these signs is not limited to currency, despite the character names.

09F4 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR ONE • not in current usage
09F5 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR TWO • not in current usage
09F6 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR THREE • not in current usage
09F7 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR FOUR
09F8 BENGALI CURRENCY NUMERATOR ONE LESS THAN THE DENOMINATOR
09F9 BENGALI CURRENCY DENOMINATOR SIXTEEN

Sign

09FA BENGALI ISSHAR
• represents the name of a deity
• svargiya
• written before the name of a deceased person
Historic currency sign
09FB  ❯ BENGALI GANDA MARK

Signs
09FC  ❯ BENGALI LETTER VEDIC ANUSVARA
09FD  = BENGALI ABBREVIATION SIGN