**TO: Unicode Technical Committee** 

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**SUBJECT: Two Technical problems Concerning Assamese** 

Below are two technical problems found in Assamese that need addressing.

## 1. Combining Assamese Ra (described as Bengali letter RA with middle diagonal) and the vowels U and UU

There appear to be problems with the combination the Assamese Ra (described as Bengali letter RA with middle diagonal) and the vowels U and UU, which combine differently in Assamese and Bengali. This can presumably be dealt with by different fonts, but it would be good to have it separately encoded so you don't have to change font each time you switch from Assamese to Bengali.

The tables below demonstrate a problem we are having for Assamese.

ASSAMESE				
		Currently rendered as	Correct conjunct form	
1.	ৰ+উ	ৰু	ৰু	
2.	ৰ+ঊ	ৰূ	ৰূ	

BENGALI				
		Correct conjunct form		
1.	র+উ	রু		
2.	র+ঊ	র		

I should mention in this context, that I used Gautam Sengupta's ISIS Bangla with Keyman. In that system, pressing the 'r' key once gives the Bengali 'r' and pressing it twice gives the Assamese 'r'. It is possible, of course, that the problem is more at the level of rendering, and is thus specific to way ISIS handles this.

## 2. Assamese KSA

In the Assamese alphabet the letter that was HISTORICALLY the combination of ka and Bengali letter ssa (U+09B7) is now a full unitary letter in the alphabet - and it has its own place in the Assamese alphabetical order. It comes after the three HISTORICAL s sounds - in other words after Bengali Letter SA, (u+09B8). In Bengali it is a conjoint consonant and appears in a completely different place in

alphabetical order (in other words with ka), but in Assamese it is a separate letter and needs to be encoding as such - people here are upset about the implications of it not being separately listed.

I've attached shots of an Assamese consonant chart (fig. 1) and a page from an Assamese dictionary (the *Chandrakanta Abhidhan*) (fig.2).

I'm afraid I do not understand the technical issues involved, but as a user I would certainly welcome the facility of accessing this letter with a single keystroke, rather than having to type the 'k' key, the 'joiner' key and then the 's' key; not to mention the 'm' or 'n' or 'b' that can follow ksa.

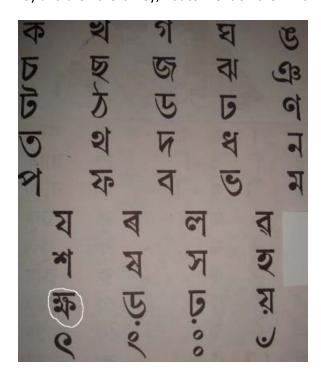


Figure 1. Assamese consonant chart

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हीहक अक. या. ज्ञानाखांबाड रू; शास्ट्रेल या ; नक. या.
                                                         ही (व. लाल : लच्छ) : shame.
                                                         (इम ( शू. च. ) [ मर. (हमा ] ति. (दीवाव किताव ना माक : neigh.
  (हीइका।
                                                         হ্লাদ বি. আজাৰ: আনন। joy; বিণ. হ্লাদিত, আনন্দিত।
इम [ मर. ] ति. देन ता मांगदव माक्य त शहे ता पुनि ; the
 deepest part of a river or sea. 21 bifaemice cafe
                                                          श्री. स्नापिनी धानलनाविनी।
কৰ্মালাৰ শেষ আগৰ: মূল সংস্কৃতত ক আৰু ব এই ছুই
আগৰৰ সংযোগত এই আগৰ হৈছে; অসমীয়াত ইয়াৰ
                                                        क्रभनेक वि. व्योक मन्नामी-विद्रमय।
                                                         क्य [ शर. ] शक. वा क्या करु; त्याच प्रविधन करु; नाव अरू;
                                                           to forgive; to pardon. ২ ৷ সমৰ্গ ৷ কোনো কাম কৰিবলৈ
    डेक्टाइन 'बा'द सदद ; originally a combination of
                                                           শক্তি ধকা।
 k and s sounds and pronouned as khya.
                                                         कमठा [गर.] वि. भवाक्रम : भावशंछा ; नक्षि : power ;
क्ष [मर.] वि. অভি অলপ সময়; श्रास्क ; a moment.
                                                           ability, বিণ, ক্মতাপর ক্মতা পোরা। ক্মতারান।
 কণভত্তৰ [সং.] বিণ, খণ্ডেকীয়া; অচিবছায়ী; ভতালিকে
                                                           প্রতাপী , having power , valorous.
  ভগা বা নট ছোৱা; transitory , perishable. ক্ৰিক
                                                         कमा [ गर. ] वि. शांत अवा कार्या ; गहन ; (शांत्रमर्थन । pardon ;
 [गर.] विन. अल्ल त्रमा थका; श्रासकीया; momentary.
                                                           forgiveness. कमा कर, कमा मि। कमावस, कमावान,
   कर्षक [ क्षर+ अक ] वि. अध्यक । अक मुद्र । ध्रायक ।
                                                           कमानील विन. महत्क कमा कना छन बका ; forgiving.
  ভিলেক : a moment.
                                                         क्य [ शर. ] ति. नाम : हानि : हेडेन , कमि (यांवा ; destruc-
क्नक्या दिन. छा पुरुक्ति क्य अहन करा : छाशाबान ।
                                                           tion ; decrease. [44. Wfas |
 क्ष्याची दिन, कल्ल समयद कादान स्का: श्रावक हा।
                                                         क्यातांग वि. नवीव कीनाहे त्यावा त्याव: वह त्यात: यथा
कड [श्र.] वि. अनिश्वा पा; a slight wound. विष. पा
                                                           (बार्ग ; consumption. क्यादानी क्या (बार्ग दवा ; त्यह-
  লগা : আবাত পোৱা : slightly wounded.
                                                            will consumptive: suffering from consump.
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Figure 2. From an Assamese dictionary (the Chandrakanta Abhidhan