Introduction: The Bengali script is used for a number of languages, in particular Assamese. This proposal addresses a number of concerns that have come from the Assamese regarding the Unicode encoding of Bengali and Assamese. In particular this document incorporates the concerns as expressed in private communication from Jyotiprakash Tamuli.

Block Name: There seems to be some sensitivity towards the block name not mentioning Assamese. Given that the block name, once set, cannot change, it is proposed that a block header paragraph may be used to address the issue of the close relation between the Bengali and Assamese scripts. No text is proposed here for such a paragraph and those interested in crafting such a paragraph should propose some wording. It should be noted, that since such text is editorial, and not actually part of the standard, the editors do have the freedom to change such text should they see the need. In addition, such text should be considered appropriate by all readers of the standard, including speakers of Bengali and users in India who are not Assamese.

Ksha: Assamese has one conjunct that is specifically referenced in their alphabet. They want to be able to type this using one keystroke, and to give it its own sort position. There is no rendering difference between this individual character and the sequence U+0995 BENGALI LETTER KA U+09CD BENGALI SIGN VIRAMA U+09B7 BENGALI LETTER SSA.

1. Ex: Dictionary showing head letter ksha

2. Ex: Consonant chart showing ksha in the alphabet sequence
The proposed solution to this issue is not to encode a new character but to add a formal named sequence to cover the letter ksha:

BENGALI LETTER ASSAMESE KSSA;\texttt{0995 09CD 09B7}

Adding this named sequence will help implementers to be aware that in Assamese, such a sequence needs special handling. The issue of where such a sequence sorts should be addressed using sort tailoring. This is a mechanism that allows for language specific adjustments to the default sorting sequence. As to allowing such a sequence to be typed as a single keystroke, that is an implementation issue and should be raised with keyboard implementers.

**Ra with diagonals:** The two characters \texttt{U+09F0 BENGALI LETTER RA WITH MIDDLE DIAGONAL} and \texttt{U+09F1 BENGALI LETTER RA WITH LOWER DIAGONAL} are considered particularly inappropriately named. The characters are Assamese characters and so should be named based on their Assamese use. Since a character name cannot change, once set, there is no way to change the names. Instead we propose the addition of two character aliases in the names list:

\begin{itemize}
  \item 09F0 = Assamese Ra
  \item 09F1 = Assamese Wa
\end{itemize}

**Ru and Ruu:** An expressed problem with rendering for Assamese regards the sequences \texttt{U+09F0 BENGALI LETTER RA WITH MIDDLE DIAGONAL U+09C1 BENGALI VOWEL SIGN U}, and \texttt{U+09F0 BENGALI LETTER RA WITH MIDDLE DIAGONAL U+09C2 BENGALI VOWEL SIGN UU}.

Since the two base characters are used only for Assamese, implementers need to understand that for their solutions to adequately support Assamese, they must render the sequences as presented above. This is not an encoding issue, but one of educating font developers. It is assumed that newer versions of common fonts will address this issue if they have not already done so.

**Conclusion:** While there are concerns from the Assamese community regarding how Assamese is represented in Unicode, there are no technical problems that require any changes to the encoding itself. The above proposals are merely using mechanisms the UCS has for allowing communities to understand that the UCS does meet their technical needs in appropriate ways.