Proposal to encode chakra symbols in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following seven symbols in the ‘Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs’ (U+1F300) block in Unicode.

- SAHASRARA CHAKRA
- AJNA CHAKRA
- VISHUDDHA CHAKRA
- ANAHATA CHAKRA
- MANIPURA CHAKRA
- SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA
- MULADHARA CHAKRA
2 Description

The proposed ‘chakra’ symbols represent the seven major points of energy in the human body, as perceived by Indian and other Asian philosophical traditions. The chakra symbols are well-known and widely-used in yoga culture in the western world. They are used in print and digital publications.

The Sanskrit word चुँक्रa means “wheel” and symbolizes a rotation of energy in philosophical teachings. Each chakra symbol is associated with a particular part of the body and a bija or mantra, or “seed-syllable”. Each symbol is also associated with a specific color and shape. The representation of the symbol may differ according to artistic preference. For instance, the bija is often written in Devanagari, but a symbol may also be portrayed without the syllable. Symbols may be either in color or black-and-white. The identity of each symbol is preserved on account of the shape of the symbol.

2.1 SAHASRARA CHAKRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>representative glyph</th>
<th>variants</th>
<th>character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Sahasrara Glyph" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Sahasrara Variants" /></td>
<td>SAHASRARA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The सहुँरa “thousand-petaled” or crown chakra is the state of pure consciousness. It is symbolized as a lotus consisting of a thousand petals in either white or purplish hues. It is represented by the seed syllable ऋ om.

2.2 AJNA CHAKRA

<table>
<thead>
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<th>representative glyph</th>
<th>variants</th>
<th>character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Ajna Glyph" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Ajna Variants" /></td>
<td>AJNA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The आँजनa “command” or third-eye chakra is symbolised by a lotus with two petals, and corresponds to the colours violet, indigo or deep blue, though it is traditionally described as white. The seed syllable for this chakra is उँ um.

2.3 VISHUDDHA CHAKRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>variants</th>
<th>character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Vishuddha Glyph" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Vishuddha Variants" /></td>
<td>VISHUDDHA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The विशूढ्दha “purest” or throat chakra is depicted as a silver crescent within a white circle, with 16 light or pale blue, or turquoise petals. The seed mantra is हँ ham.
### 2.4 ANAHATA CHAKRA

<table>
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<th>representative glyph</th>
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<th>character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>नाग्न नाग्न</td>
<td></td>
<td>ANAHATA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The अनाहत anāhata “unstruck” or heart chakra is symbolised by a circular flower with twelve green petals. Within it is a yantra of two intersecting triangles, forming a hexagram. The seed mantra is यँ yam.

### 2.5 MANIPURA CHAKRA

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>मणि मणि</td>
<td></td>
<td>MANIPURA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The मणिपुर maṇipūra “jewel city” or solar plexus / navel chakra is symbolised by a downward pointing triangle with ten petals, along with the color yellow. The seed syllable is रँ ram.

### 2.6 SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA

<table>
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<td></td>
<td>SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The स्वाधिश्वासन svādhiṣṭhāna “one’s own base” or sacral chakra is symbolized by a white lotus within which is a crescent moon, with six vermilion, or orange petals. The seed mantra is वँ vam.

### 2.7 MULADHARA CHAKRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>variants</th>
<th>character name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>मुलाधारा मुलाधारा</td>
<td></td>
<td>MULADHARA CHAKRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The मुलाधार mūlādhāra “root support” or root chakra is symbolized by a lotus with four petals and the color red. The seed syllable is लँ lam.
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3 Acknowledgments

Some of the information presented here is sourced from Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra). The variant forms of chakra symbols shown in section 2 are sourced from the following: First set (left) were produced by Sacred Centers and Anodea Judith (www.SacredCenters.com) and sourced from Wikimedia. The second set (right) were sourced from Ananda Sangha Worldwide (http://www.ananda.org/the-yogis-say/chakras/). The images shown in the accompanying figures were sourced from various websites and may be the copyright of their original creators.
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Figure 1: Chakra symbols with Devanagari bija-s and their visualizations within the human body.

Figure 2: Explanations of the meanings of each chakra and their symbols.
Figure 3: The chakra symbols with bija-s in Devanagari.

Figure 4: The chakra symbols with bija-s in Devanagari.
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Figure 5: Variant representations of chakra symbols. The symbol for each chakra has a distinctive graphical element and color that is retained across variants.

Figure 6: Color and black-and-white renderings of chakra symbols
Figure 7: Color and black-and-white renderings of chakra symbols
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Figure 8: The use of chakra symbols in *Om Yoga Magazine*, a periodical printed by Prime Impact Events & Media Ltd, United Kingdom. Source: http://www.ommagazine.com/