Proposal to encode the 'Diya' symbol in Unicode

Anshuman Pandey
Department of Linguistics
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
anshuman.pandey@berkeley.edu

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1   Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following symbol in the 'Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs' block (U+1F300) in Unicode:

glyph	character name
	DIYA

2   Description

The 🪔 DIYA is symbol associated with the Indian festival known as Divali or Dipavali. This five-day festival is centered upon the new moon that occurs in the month of Kartika, which corresponds to the period between mid-October and mid-November. Divali is alternately spelled 'Diwali' and is also known as 'Dipavali' or 'Deepavali', and outside of India as a 'festival of lights'.

A *dīya* (also known as *dīpa*, *dīpaka*, *dīpam*) is an oil lamp that is generally made of an earthen vessel filled with clarified butter or vegetable oil. A cotton wick is placed into the oil and lit. The representative glyph for DIYA consists of a rounded vessel out of which a flame rises. Other acceptable representations include:

There is currently no distinctive 'emoji' or other symbol in Unicode that people can use specifically for conveying 'Happy Diwali' wishes through electronic messaging. Understanding that its users want to express such sentiments, Twitter launched a 'Happy Diwali emoji' in honor of the festival for the year 2015, which occurs on Wednesday, November 11. When a user types the `#HappyDiwali` hashtag in a tweet, the symbol 🪔 is placed after it, as shown below:

This effort is commendable, but the symbol is bound to Twitter and cannot be used outside of the platform. For this reason, a separate DIYA character is required, which would enable usage of the symbol across all products and platforms that support Unicode.

3   Character Data

Character Properties   Properties in the format of `UnicodeData.txt`:

```
1F9xx;DIYA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

Linebreaking   Linebreaking properties in the format of `LineBreak.txt`:

```
1F9xx;ID    # So      DIYA
```

Names List   Names list information in the format of `NamesList.txt`:

```
1F9xx    DIYA
         = Diwali oil lamp
         * dipaka, dipam
```