From:	Jan Kučera, Liang Hai, Roozbeh Pournader
To:	Script Encoding Working Group / UTC
Subject:	Indic Categories for Zanabazar and Soyombo RAs
Date:	2025-04-04

This is a proposal to change Indic_Syllabic_Category values for two RA characters and Indic_Positional_Category for one them.

Given the updated descriptions of Indic syllabic categories recommended in section 5.3 of L2/24-228 (assigned in 181-A119), the category values for the following characters came into question:

U+11A3A ZANABAZAR SQUARE CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA,
      currently **Consonant_Prefixed**

U+11A86 SOYOMBO CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA,
      currently **Consonant_Prefixed**

Zanabazar

As for the Zanabazar character, this had already been suggested through public feedback PRI #389 and assigned for investigation in 158-A106:

Date/Time:	Sun Nov 25 15:53:00 CST 2018
Name:	David Corbett
Report Type:	Public Review Issue
Opt Subject:	PRI #389: Indic_Syllabic_Category of U+11A3A ZANABAZAR SQUARE CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA

"The CLUSTER INITIAL RA is positioned at the normal head height, not above it" (L2/15-337 p. 23) so its Indic_Syllabic_Category should be **Consonant_With_Stacker** instead of **Consonant_Prefixed**.

In L2/15-337 p. 16, the behaviour of conjuncts with CLUSTER-INITIAL RA is such that the following glyph is pushed down, like in Tibetan orthography, rather than the RA being added on top, like in Devanagari orthography:

ऊ *rka* <⊤ CLUSTER INITIAL RA, ꫝ KA>

This corresponds behavior corresponds to the property **Consonant_With_Stacker**, rather than **Consonant_Prefixed** which causes the CLUSTER-INITIAL RA to be treated as a non-spacing mark and reordered to be after the next character. It is also noted that USE has overridden the category of CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA to **Consonant_With_Stacker**.

Consequently, since **Consonant_With_Stacker** characters are treated as base glyphs rather than marks, the character should not have Indic_Positional_Category assigned.

*We therefore propose to change the Indic_Syllabic_Category of U+11A3A ZANABAZAR SQUARE CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA to **Consonant_With_Stacker** to match its behavior in the script, and to change its Indic_Positional_Category to not applicable.*

Related issues of interest:

notofonts/zanabazar-square #8	U+11A3A ZANABAZAR SQUARE CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA reorders
MicrosoftDocs/typography-issues #981	[USE] Double MBlw in Zanabazar Square
microsoft/font-tools #48	Zanabazar Square needs override to permit multiple medial vowels

Soyombo

In the case of the Soyombo character the question is more theoretical, as **Consonant_Prefixed** is a generalization of **Consonant_Preceding_Repha** for consonants other than /r/. Given this category characterization is being clarified in Unicode 17.0, it is desirable to uphold this rule consistently with other similar characters.

*We therefore propose to change the Indic_Syllabic_Category of U+11A86 SOYOMBO CLUSTER-INITIAL LETTER RA to **Consonant_Preceding_Repha** for consistency with the documentation and all other similar characters.*