


Proposal to encode Candrabindu in Khmer script

Srinidhi A and Sridatta A
srinidhi.tumakuru@gmail.com, sridatta.jamadagni@gmail.com

January 10, 2026

1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode Candrabindu in Khmer script. Candrabindu is attested in many Khmer inscriptions and books on Sanskrit grammar; it is used to indicate the nasality of a vowel or a semi-vowel. The variant with a circle is chosen as the representative glyph, as it aligns with the current forms of Nikahit (Anusvara) and Reahmuk (Visarga) and also reflects the glyph shape used in inscriptions and manuscripts. A variation featuring an ornament above is attested in some inscriptions (Figures 4 and 5). It can be regarded as a stylistic variant.

Glyph	Code point	Name
	17DE	KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

2 Character Data

Unicode character data:

17DE; KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU; Mn; 0; NSM; ; ; ; ; N; ; ; ;

Linebreak data:

17DE; CM # KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

Indic syllabic categories:

Indic_Syllabic_Category=Bindu

17DE; Bindu # Mn KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

Indic positional categories:

Indic_Positional_Category=Top

17DE; Top # Mn KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

3 Attestations from modern printed books.

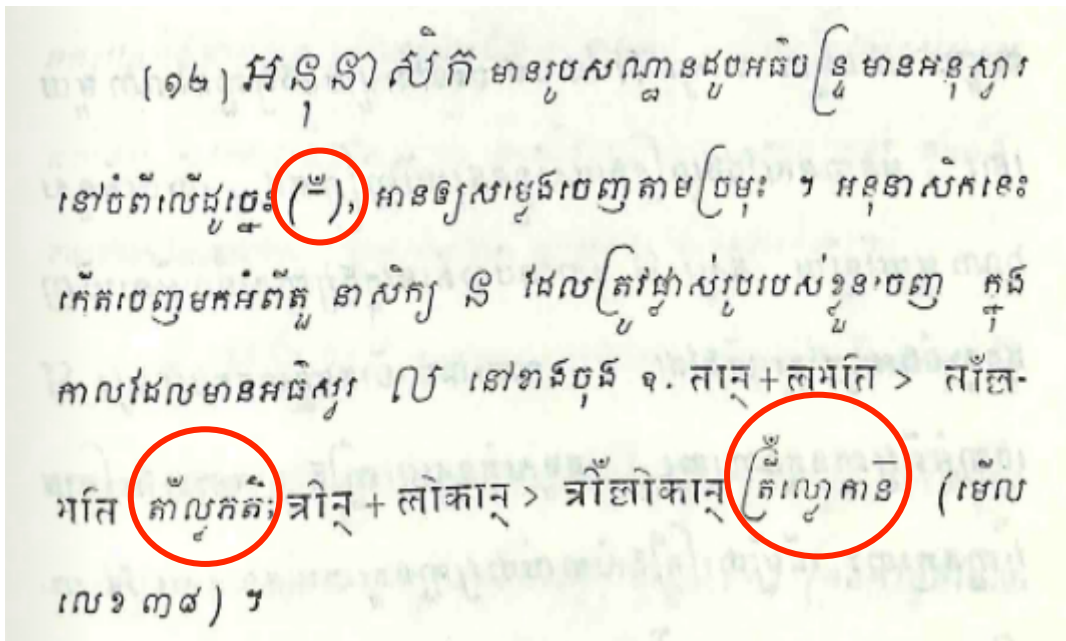
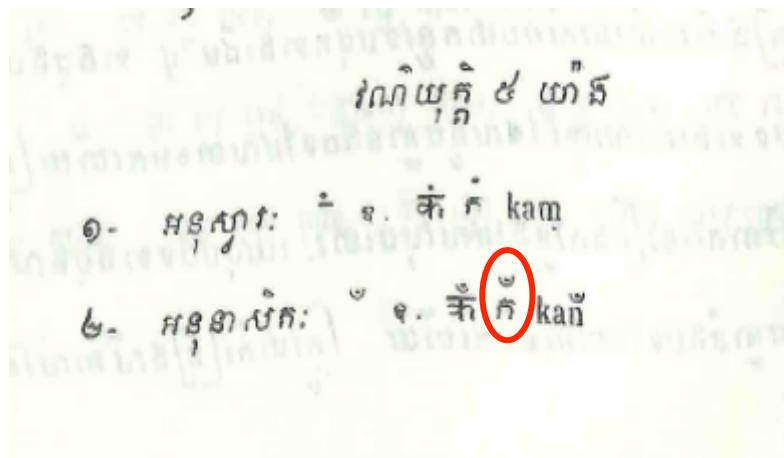


Figure 1. From the book វណ្ណយុត្តិសំស្ក្រឹត (Sanskrit grammar). Published in 1995 CE. <https://www.elibraryofcambodia.org/ebook/veyeakor-sam-skert-ebook/>

		វណ្ណយុត្តិ ៥ យ៉ាង	
១- អនុស្សាវៈ	០	a. កំ	= kam - កំ
២- អនុនាសិក	១	a. កំ	= kañ - កំ
៣- វិសត៌ៈ	:	a. កៈ	= kah - កៈ
៤- វិរាម	ˆ	a. ក្ក	= k - ក្ក
៥- អវត្រហ	5	a. សោបិ	= so'pi - សោ បិ

Figure 2. From the book មេរៀនភាសាសំស្ក្រឹត ប្រែលោកប្រយោគ និងសំរួលវេយ្យាករណ៍បន្ថែម
A Sanskrit primer for children. Published in 2005 CE.

<https://www.elibraryofcambodia.org/ebook/mereang-pheasa-somskrert-prer-lout-proyouk-ning-somroul-veyeakor-banthen-ebook/>

4 Attestations from Inscriptions and manuscripts

Candrabindu appears in numerous older Khmer inscriptions to represent OM. Therefore, its encoding is necessary to transcribe in modern writing.

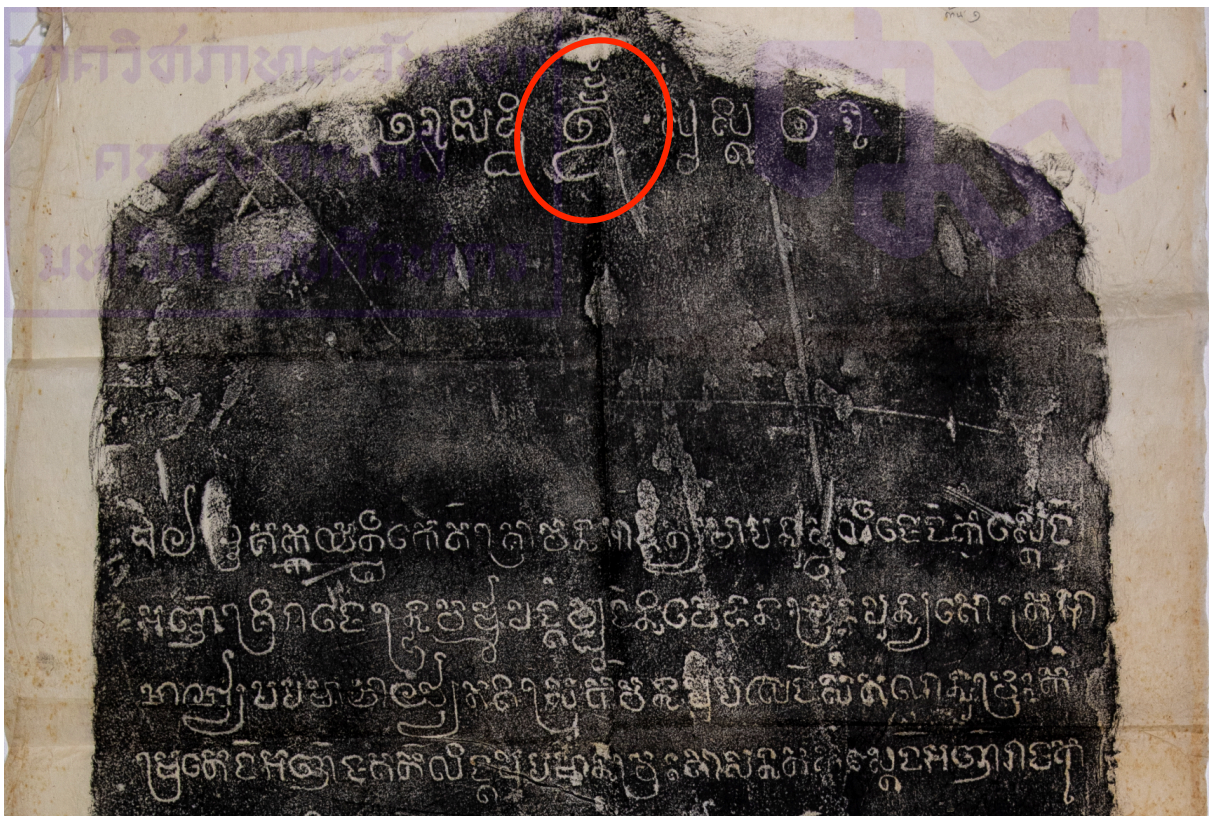


Figure 3. Nong P'ang P'uey inscription. No. K.957. Saka year 863.

- <https://db.sac.or.th/inscriptions/inscribe/detail/316>
- <https://dharmalekha.info/texts/INSCIK00957>



Figure 4. Inscription at the back of a Bodhisattva sculpture. Dated 10th century. No. K.1154.

- <https://art.thewalters.org/object/25.194>
- https://www.persee.fr/doc/asean_0859-9009_2003_num_11_1_1770#:~:text=ninth%20or%20the%20tenth%20century,because%20the%20record%20is%20incomplete
- <https://dharmalekha.info/texts/INSCIK01154>



Figure 7. Phnom Chisor inscription. No. K.32. Saka Year 1038.

- <https://dharmalekha.info/texts/INSCIK00032>
- <https://khmerkhom.wordpress.com/khmer-inscription/inscriptions-images/k32/>

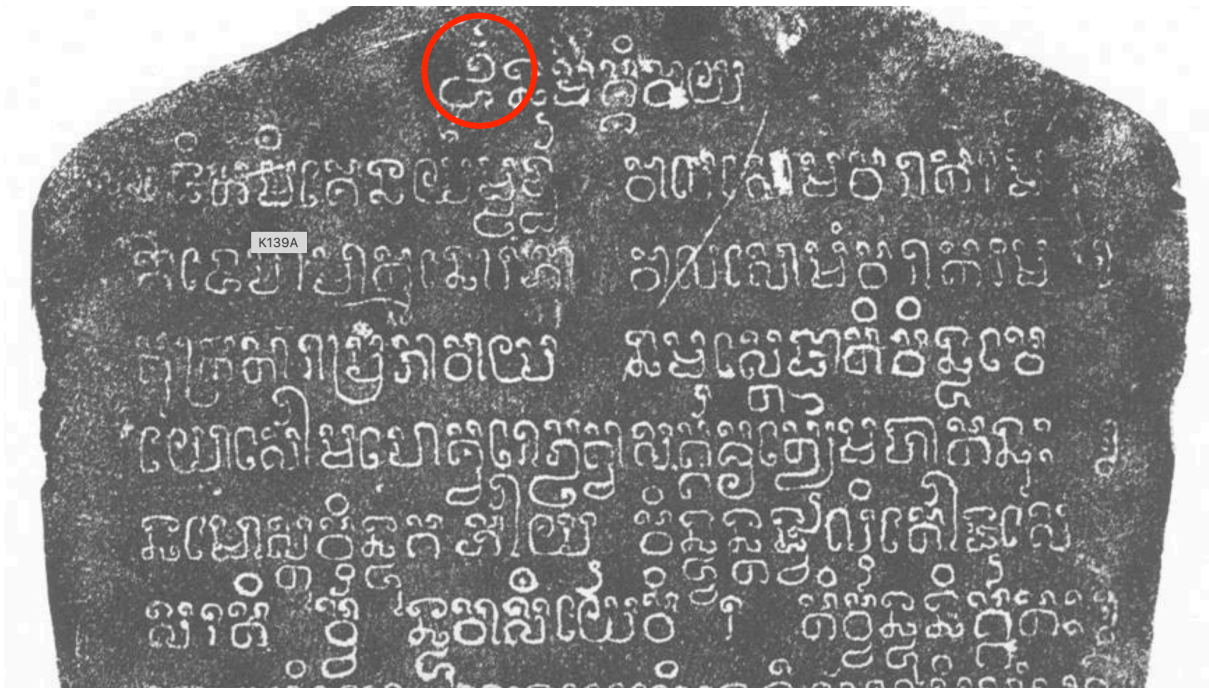
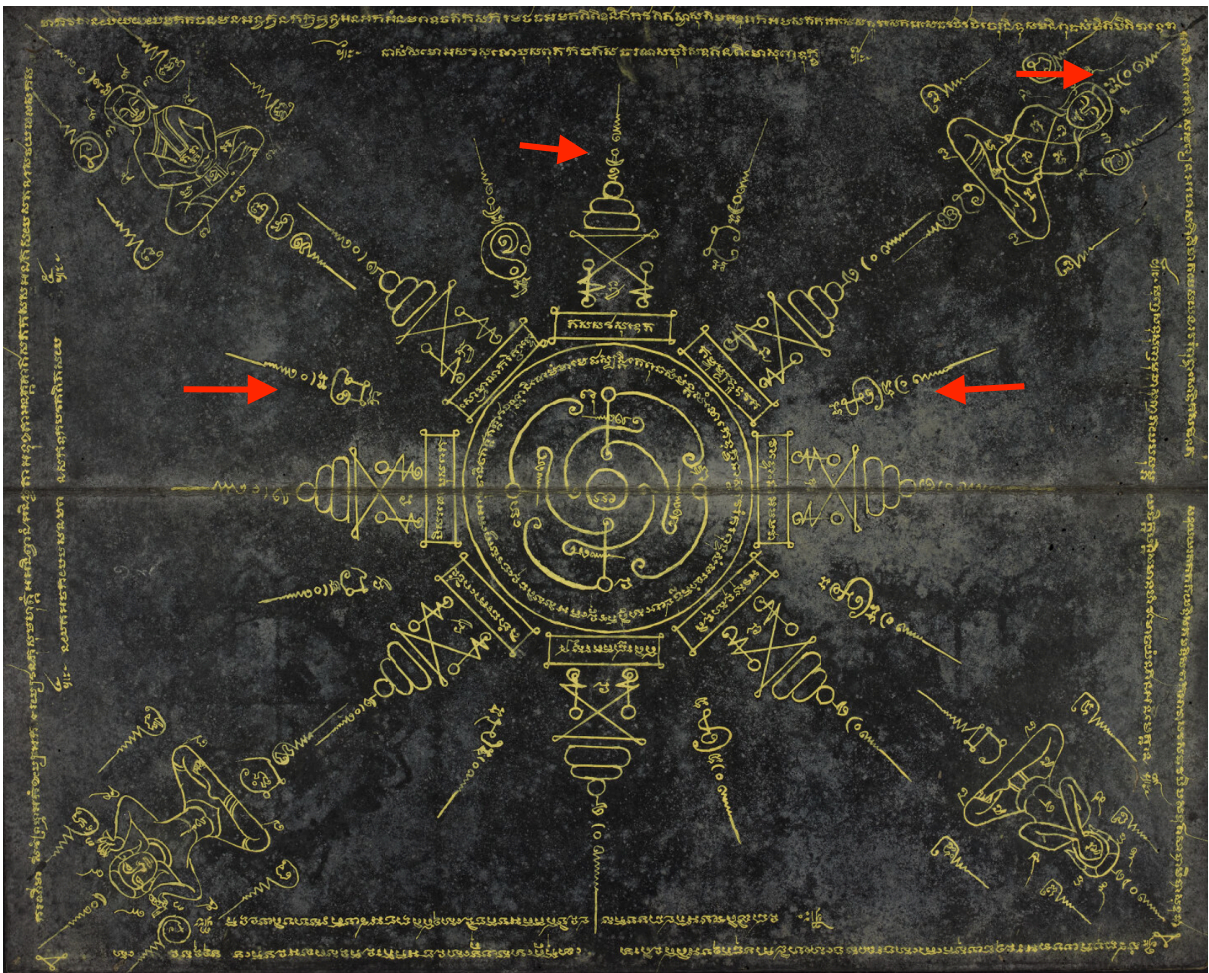
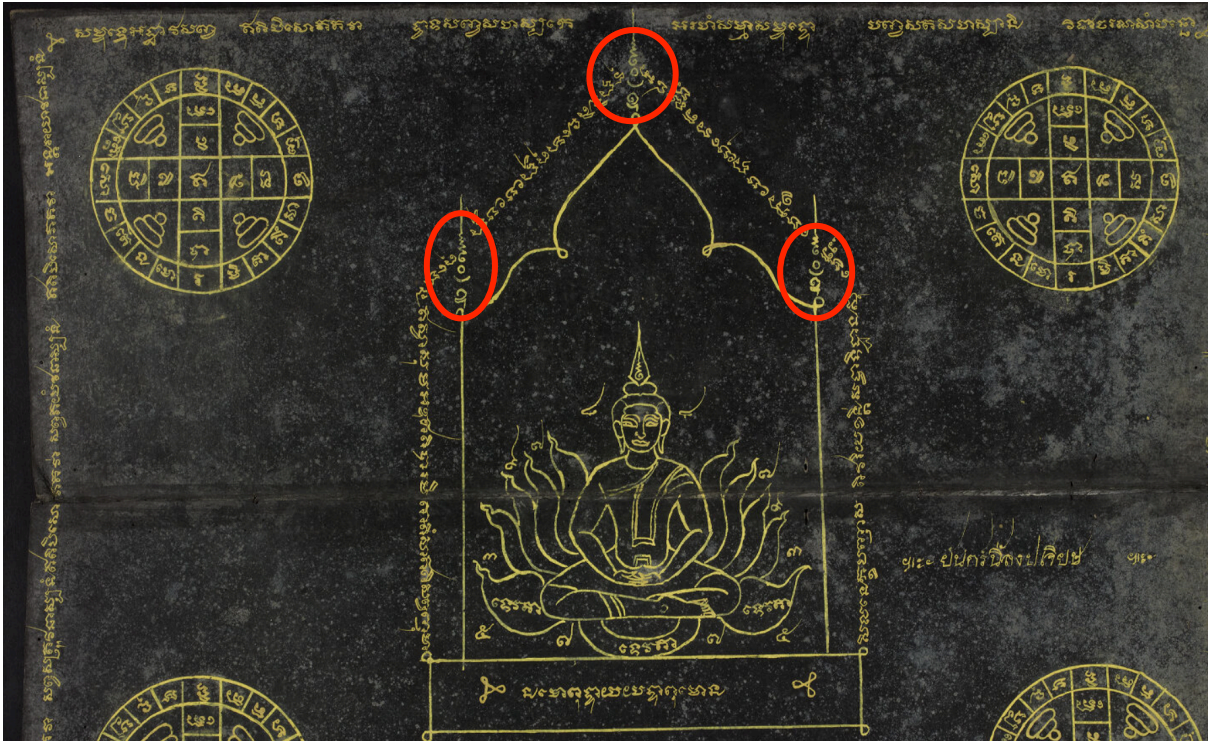
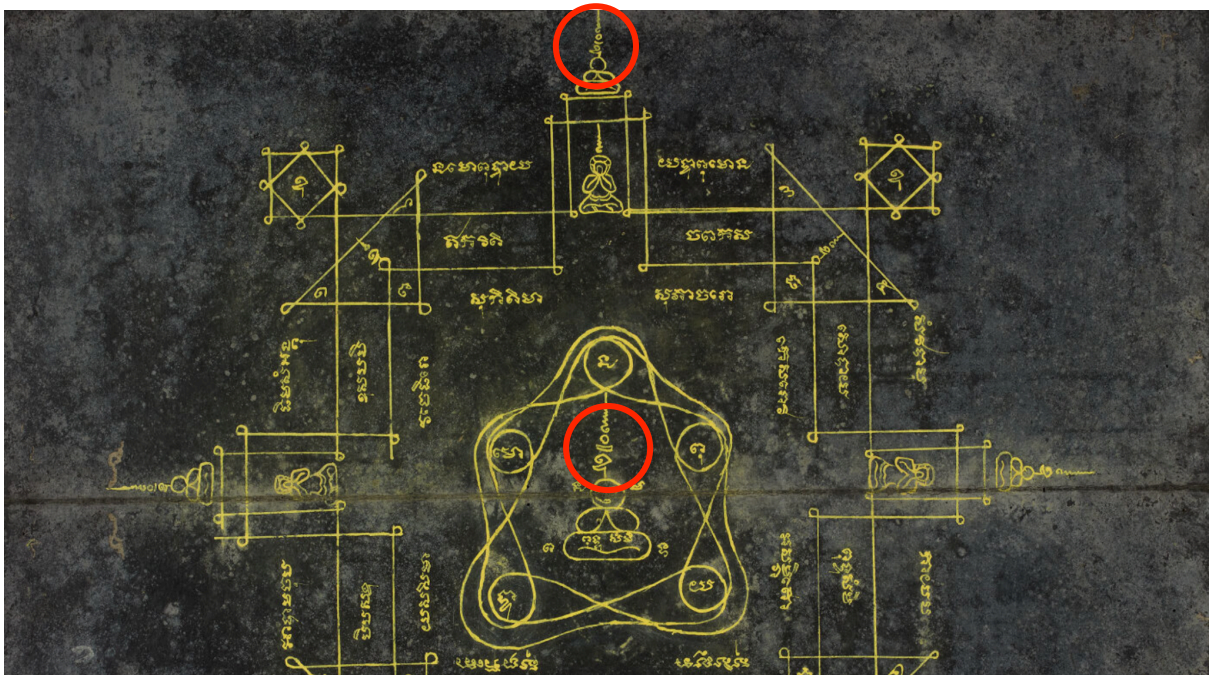


Figure 8. Tuol Neak Ta Nonol Inscription. No. K.139. Saka year 976.

- <https://dharmalekha.info/texts/INSCIK00139>
- <https://khmerkhom.wordpress.com/khmer-inscription/inscriptions-images/k139a/>





Figures 9-12. Use of Candrabindu in a Yantra written in Khom script for OM and on other letters from the 19th century CE. Khom script is a variant of Khmer script used in Thailand. From British Library collections.

<https://searcharchives.bl.uk/catalog/032-001608364>

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646 ^[1]**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title:	Proposal to encode Candrabindu in Khmer script
2. Requester's name:	<i>Srinidhi A and Sridatta A</i>
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>Individual contribution</i>
4. Submission date:	<i>January 10, 2026</i>
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):	
6. Choose one of the following:	
This is a complete proposal:	<i>Yes</i>
(or) More information will be provided later:	

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:	
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	
Proposed name of script:	
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<i>Yes</i>
Name of the existing block:	<i>Khmer</i>
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<i>1</i>
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):	
A-Contemporary <input type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? <i>Yes</i>	
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes	
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? <i>Yes</i>	
5. Fonts related:	
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	
<i>The glyph shape can be borrowed from open source Noto Fonts or existing chart fonts (ex. Zanabazar Square). If required font will be provided</i>	
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>Srinidhi A</i>
6. References:	

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	Yes
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	Yes
7. Special encoding issues: Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	Yes
<i>See the text of proposal</i>	
8. Additional Information: Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.	

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	No
If YES explain	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	No
If YES, with whom?	
If YES, available relevant documents:	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	
Reference:	<i>Used by Sanskrit scholars and students in Cambodia</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	
Reference:	<i>rare</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	
If YES, where? Reference:	<i>Yes</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale provided?	Yes
If YES, reference:	<i>Khmer block is in BMP</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	N/A
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	No
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	No

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	-----
If YES, reference:	-----
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	Yes
If YES, reference:	<i>Similar to Candrabindu in other scripts</i>
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	Yes
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	Yes
If YES, reference:	<i>Candrabindu is a combining character</i>
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	N/A
If YES, reference:	-----
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	No
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	No
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	-----
If YES, reference:	-----

[1] Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

UnicodeData.txt

1 17DE;KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;

IndicPositionalCategory.txt

17DE; Top # Mn KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

17DE; Bindu # Mn KHMER SIGN CANDRABINDU

LineBreak.txt

1 17DE ; CM