

Proposal to encode three new characters of Devanagari

Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)

August 22, 2026

1. Introduction

This is a proposal to encode a three new character in the Devanagari Extended-A block of the Unicode standard:

GLYPH	CODE	CHARACTER NAME	GC	CCC	BIDI	MIRRORED	LINEBREAK
ॐ	U+11B10	DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA	Po	0	L	N	AL
।	U+11B11	DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR	Po	0	L	N	AL
॥	U+11B12	DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN	Po	0	L	N	AL

2. Description

All these signs are found in numerous Sanskrit and Prakrit manuscripts belonging to Hindus, Buddhist and Jains. These signs play a particularly significant role, especially in Jain manuscript written in the 'Jain Nagari' style of Devanagari.

2.1 ॐ DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA it is used, particularly Jain manuscripts, to mark the conclusion of text or a section. In some manuscripts we have found a variant form ॐ.

‘स्थ’, ॐ, ह्रीं, श्रीं आदि का प्राचीन रूप बताया गया है। इसके बाद पुस्तकों के प्रारंभ में आने वाला ‘भले मींदु’ (मंगल का प्रतीक चिह्न) = ॥ॐ॥ और अंत में पूर्णता का सूचक ‘छ’ = ॐ है।

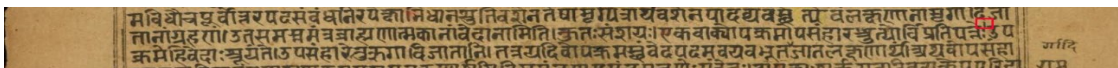
Translation: at the beginning, the ‘Bhale Mīṇḍu’ (an auspicious sign) appears as ॥ॐ॥, and at the end, the indicator of completeness is ॐ = ॐ.

31. ग्रंथ की समाप्ति या प्रकरण की समाप्ति पर “॥ॐ॥” इसप्रकार ‘छ’ का चिह्न लिखा जाता है जो कि ग्रंथ या प्रकरण की समाप्ति का सूचक है।

Translation: at the conclusion of text or a section, a symbol such as ॐ or ॐ is inscribed to indicate that the text or section has ended.

In the Jain style, the letter CHA छ is written as ॐ, but we have also found evidence where both forms have been used in distinct ways. (Fig.2)

2.2 । DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR When multiple words are combined to form a single word, DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR is used to distinguish the individual words. ‘प्रतिपत्तेः उपक्रमे’, in this method, a vertical line appears above the last letter of the term (word). This vertical line (।) indicates that each term is distinct.



मिलते हैं :-

- (i) ‘तेन/जानन्ति’ इस विधि से पद के अंतिम अक्षर के ऊपर खड़ी रेखा मिलती है। यह खड़ी रेखा (।) इस ओर संकेत करती है कि ‘तेन’ और ‘जानन्ति’ – ये दोनों पद अलग हैं।

(ii) ‘ज’ ‘क’ ‘ख’ ‘ग’ ‘घ’ ‘ङ’ ‘च’ ‘ज’ ‘झ’ ‘ञ’ – इन अक्षरों में

Translation: ‘तेन/जानन्ति’, with this method, a vertical line appears above the last character of the term. This vertical line indicates that the two terms- ‘तेन’ and ‘जानन्ति’ – are distinct.

2.3 𑂔 DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN It is used when a word is split across two separate lines, or when a sentence —while being written continuously—breaks across two lines (one above the other); in such cases, this sign indicates continuation. There is no fixed way to indicate the separation between words, nor 𑂔 is always used in the same manner. This sign is used when the writer wishes to clearly indicate the separation between words. It has some variants like 𑂔, 𑂕 and 𑂖.

छूटे हुए अक्षर : छूटे हुए अक्षर, मात्राएँ आदि हाशिए में दाएँ-बाएँ लिखी जाती हैं। यदि अक्षर आधे से अधिक में छूट गया है तो दाएँ और आधे से पूर्व में छूटा है तो बाएँ ओर लिखा जाता है इसके लिए '𑂕' अथवा 'L' चिह्न का प्रयोग किया जाता है। इसी प्रकार यदि आधी या पूरी पंक्ति छूट गई है तो वह

Translation: when a letters or vowel signs left out at the right margin, the signs 𑂕 or 𑂖 is used to indicate the omission, and the missing letter is written in the left margin.

Only the sign 𑂔 has been proposed in this proposal because its variant, 𑂕, bears a strong resemblance to similar gap filler 𑂗, which causes confusion among readers; 𑂗 could be proposed in the future. (see fig.21)

3. Name

The proposed names may be modified based on SEW's suggestions.

4. Glyph Shape

The proposed glyph shape is based upon from various *Jain MSS*.

5. Character Data

'Confusable' Data The proposed character resembles the following characters encoded in the UCS:

U+11B10	DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA ;	U+092C	DEVANAGARI LETTER BA
U+11B11	DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR ;	U+02C8	MODIFIER LETTER VERTICAL LINE

Annotation to the Names list The following annotations are to be added to the names list for Devanagari:

11B10	DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA
	• Used as a placeholder or “filler”
	• Often flanked by double dandas
11B11	DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN
	• Indicates a breaking opportunity within a word

5.1 Character Properties: UnicodeData.txt

```
11B10;DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11B11;DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11B12;DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
```

5.2 Linebreaking Properties: LineBreak.txt

```
11B10..11B12;AL # Po [03] DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA.. DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN
```

6. References

- [1] Dr. Śarmā, Mahāvīraprasāda. 2003. *Sāmānya Pāṇḍulipivijñāna*. Apabharamsha Sahitya Academy, Jainvidya Sansthan, Digambar Jain Atishay Kshetra Shrimahavirji, Rajasthan.
- [2] Dr. Bhāṭī, Vikramśimha. 2019. *Pāṇḍulipi Paṭhan evaṃ Bhāṣā Vijñāna*. Rajasthani Shodh Sansthan, Chopasni.
- [3] 1609. *Meghanādarājamadanamañjarīkath*. MS Or.871. Cambridge University Library.
- [4] *Vaṃśāvalī*. MS Or.821. Cambridge University Library.
- [5] Mahimāsimhagaṇi. 18th -19th century. *Sukhabodhikā*. Cambridge University Library.
- [6] Gayadāsa. 17th century. *Nyāyacandrikā*. Cambridge University Library.
- [7] Bhānudatta. 1675-1618. *Rasataraṅgiṇī*. Cambridge University Library.
- [8] Mānatunga. 18th -19th century. *Bhaktāmara-Stotra*. Folio: 2 rectos. The British Library Board.

ॐ ॐ	त त	क क क	ॐ ॐ
ॐ ॐ	त्य त	छ छ	ॐ
कै कै	छ छ	३ ३ ३	॥१११॥
कै कै	न न	३ ३	॥३॥
को को	व व	क क क	क क क
को को	अ अ	क क क	

38

सामान्य पाण्डुलिपिविज्ञान

Fig. 1: A table shows that ॐ DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA is a unique character of Jain Mss. (Śarmā, 38:2003)

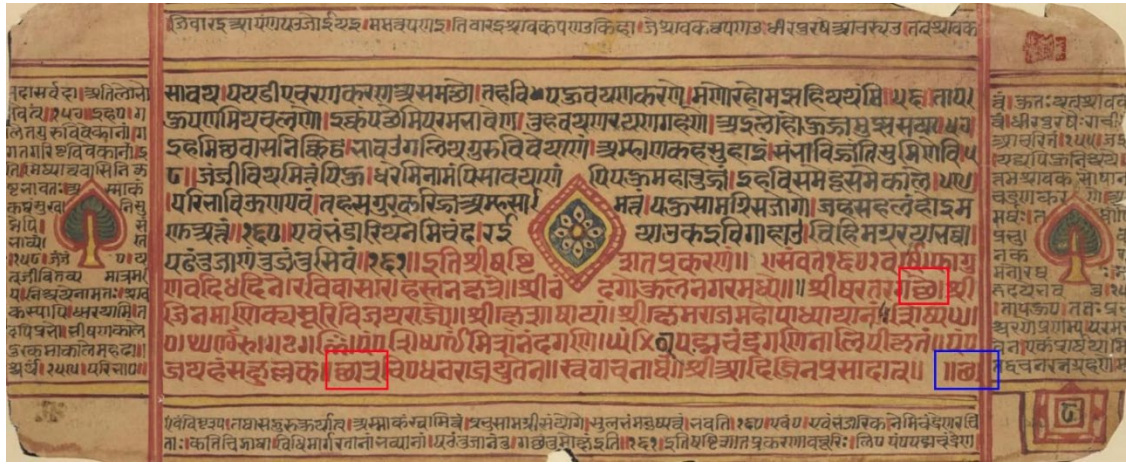


Fig. 2: shows the used of letter छ CHA and ॐ DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA.

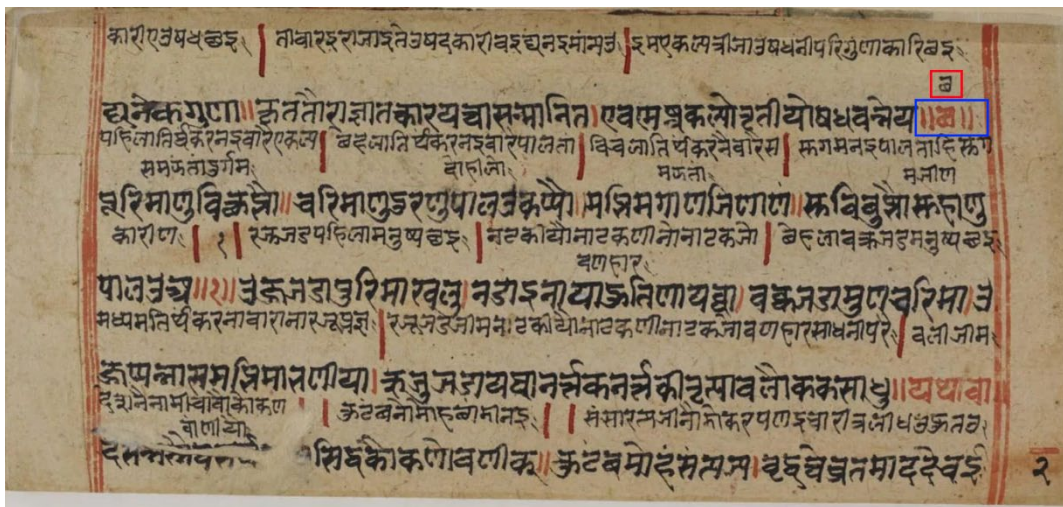


Fig.3: shows that ॐ DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA used in both Jain Style and non-Jain style of Devanagari.

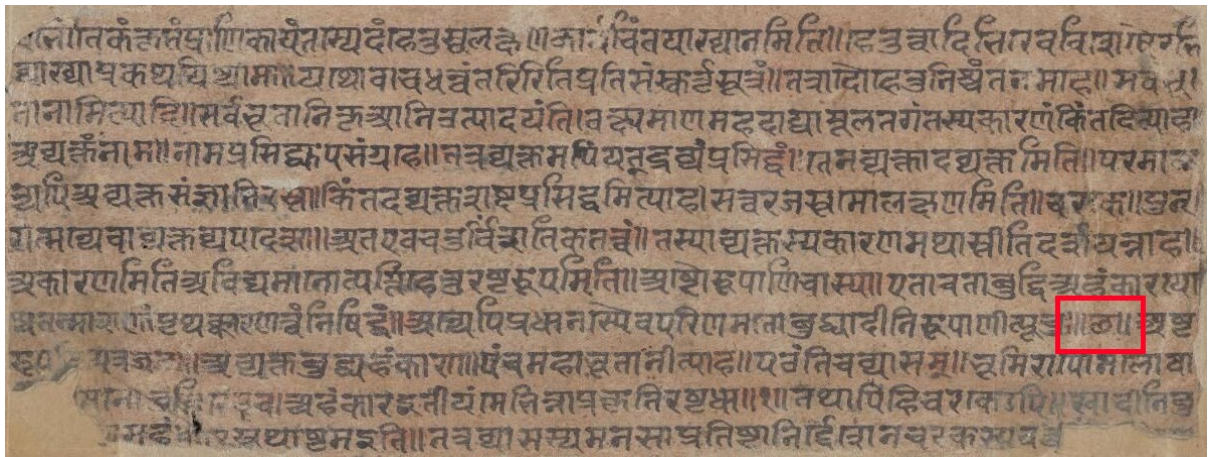


Fig. 4: variant of DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA ॐ. (from Nyāyacandrikā)

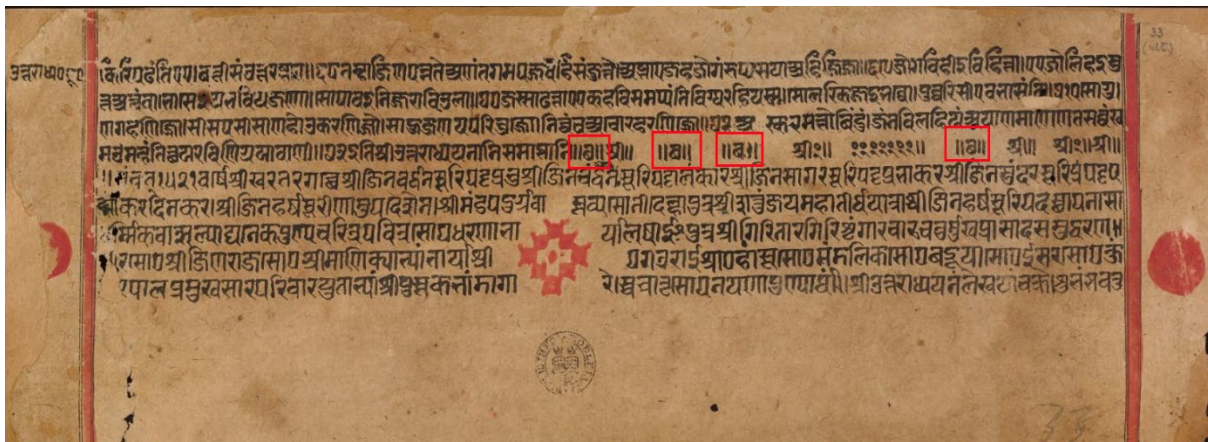


Fig. 5: Sign ॐ used as gap filler with double danda ॥ॐ॥.



Fig. 6: Usage of ¹ DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR. (from Kalpasutra : Samavarsarana of Mahāvīra)

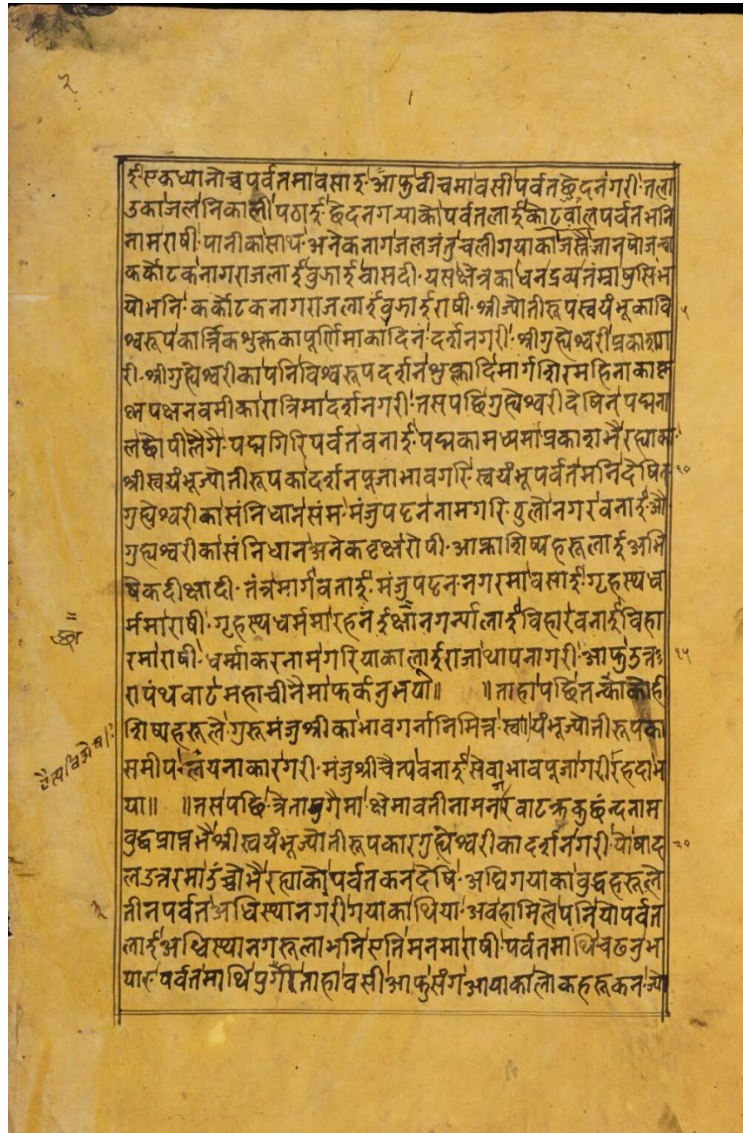


Fig. 7: Usage of ' DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR. (from Buddhist text *Vaṃśāvalī*)

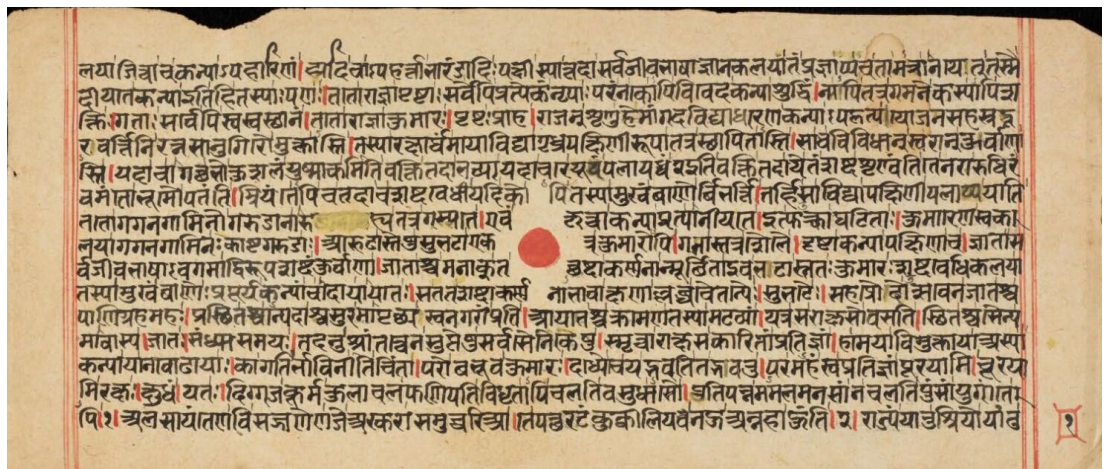


Fig. 8: Usage of ' DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR. (from *Meghanādarājamañjarīkathā*).

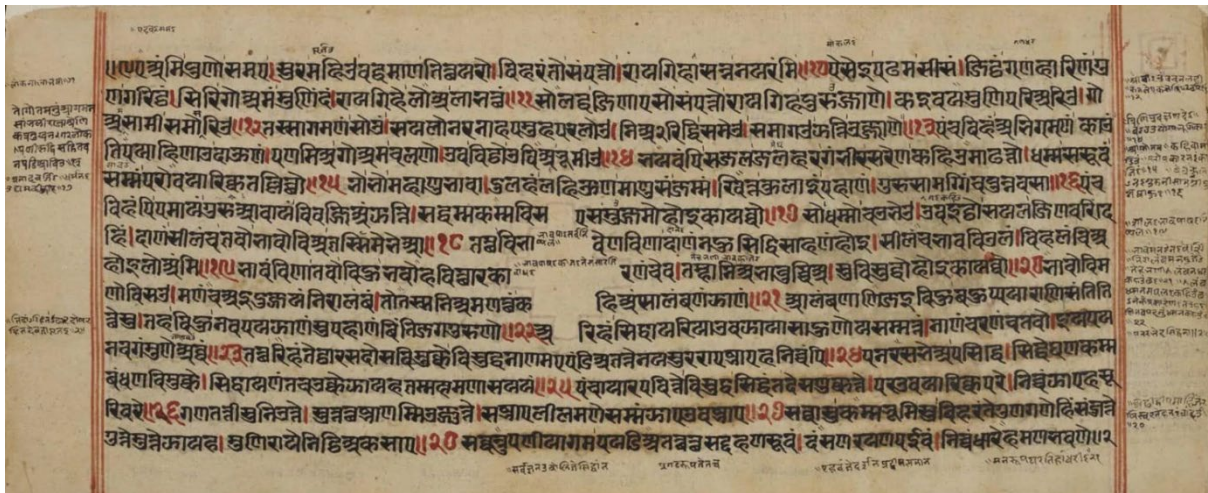


Fig. 9: Usage of ¹ DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR.



Fig.10. Usage of ¹ DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR.

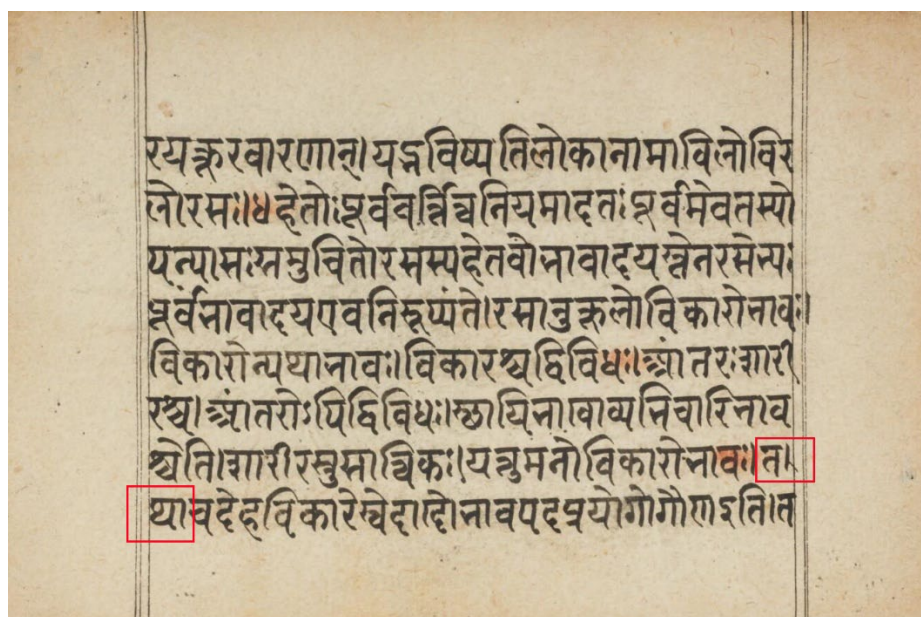


Fig. 11: use of variant ¹ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN used in splitted words *tathā*. (from *Rasataranginī*)

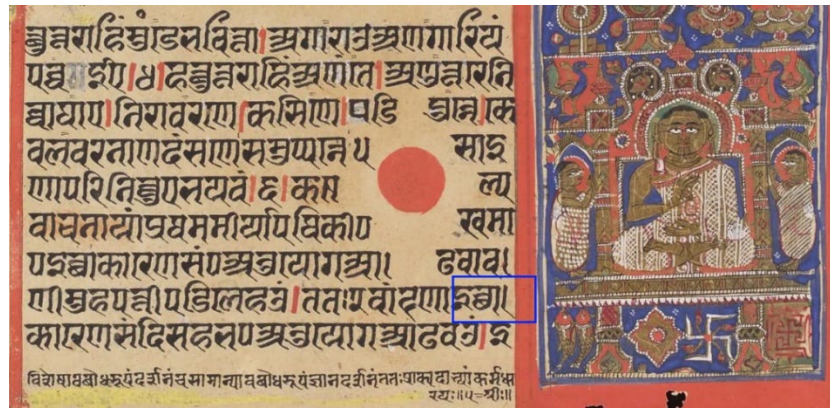


Fig. 12: used of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN. (from *Jnātadharma Kathā*)

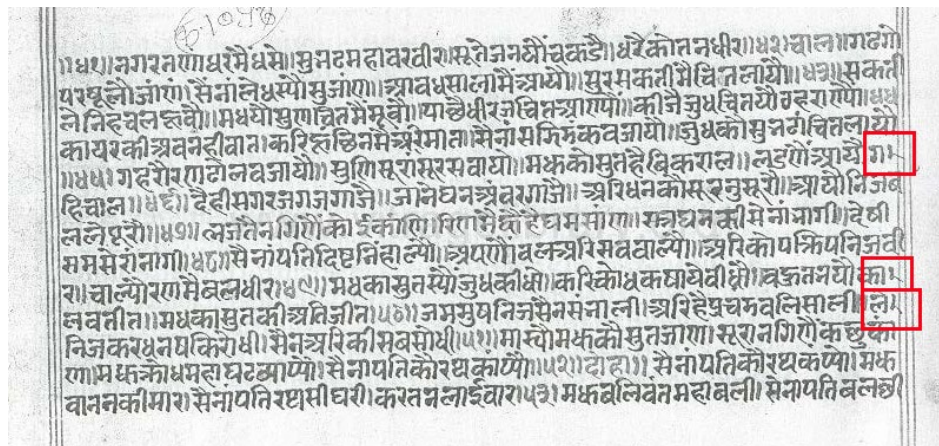


Fig. 13: used variant of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN.

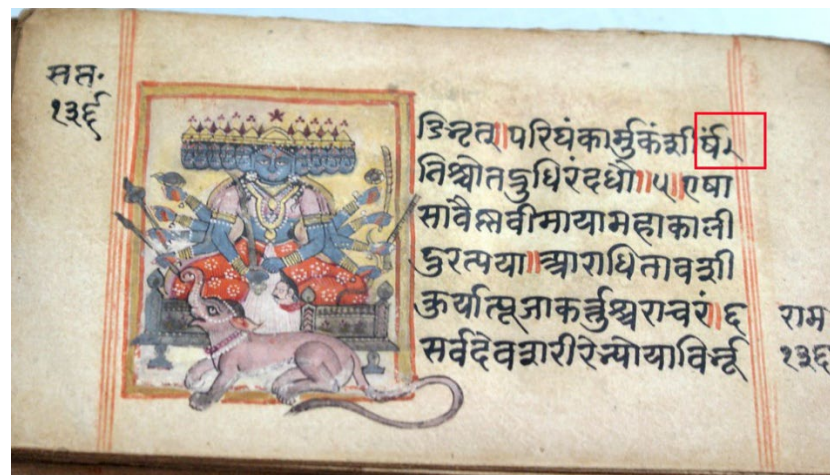


Fig. 14: used variant of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN. (from *Devi Mahatmya* manuscript)



Fig. 15: used of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN in namo'ariyānamam (from Bhaktāmara-Stotra)

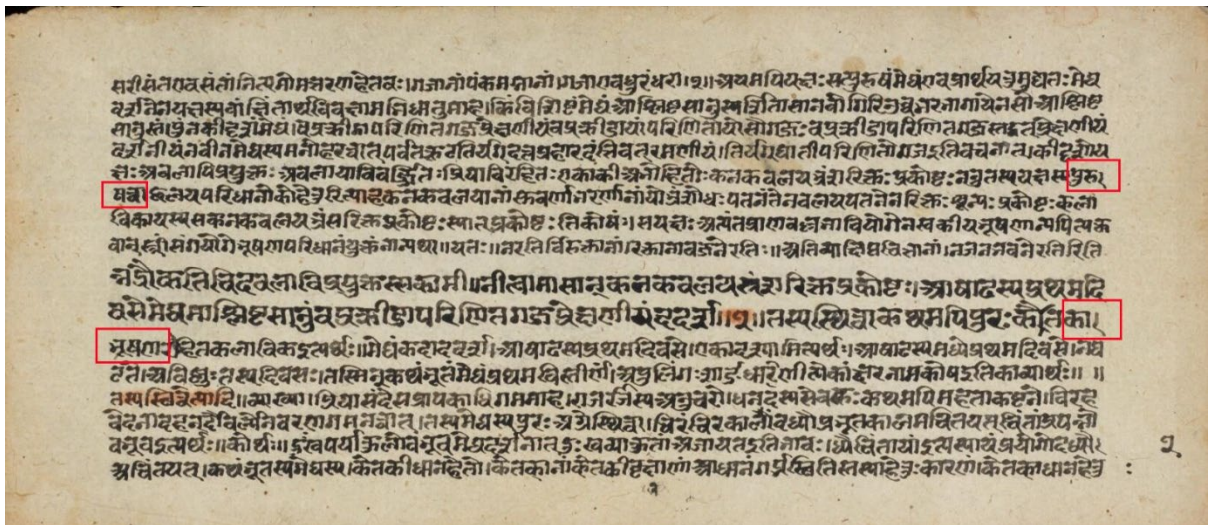


Fig. 16: Words: puruṣatvā and kābhūṣaṇarūpa used of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN. (from Sukhabodhikā)

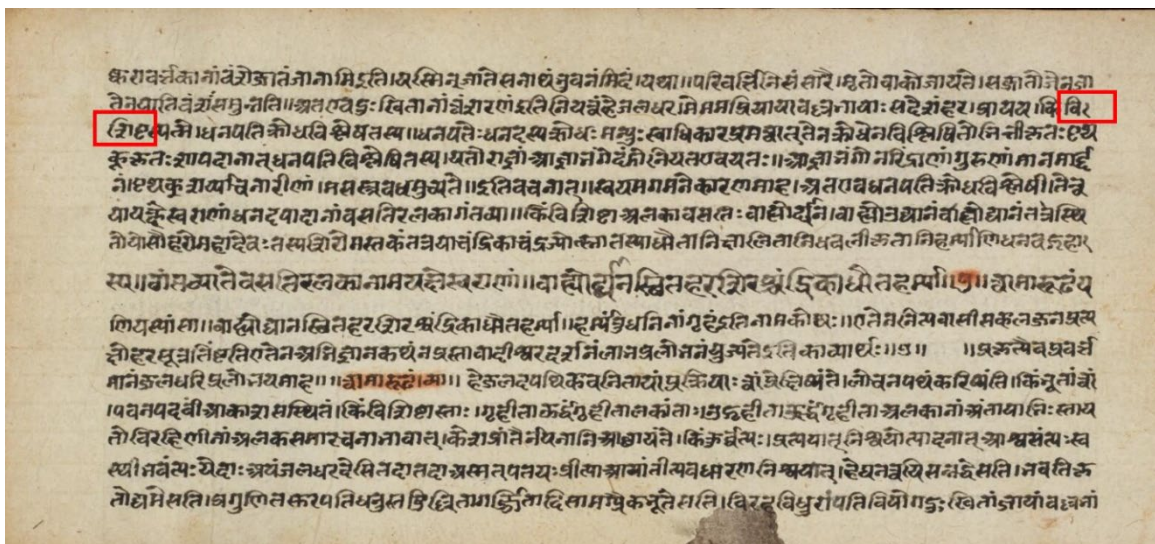


Fig. 17: Words: viśiṣṭa used variant of ॥ DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN but the glyph is bit curvy. (from Sukhabodhikā)



Fig. 18: 𑂔 (red) is a gap filler and 𑂓 (blue) is continuation sign.

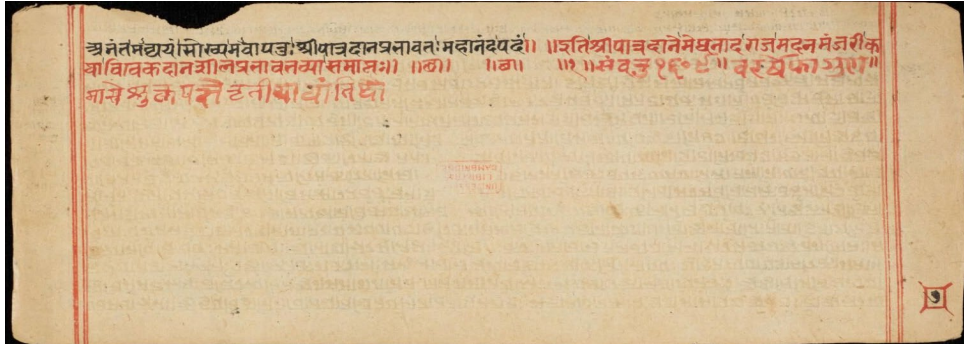


Fig. 19: Usage of 𑂔 DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR and usage of both forms of DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA (𑂓 and 𑂔). (from Meghanādarājamadanaṃaṃjārīkathā)

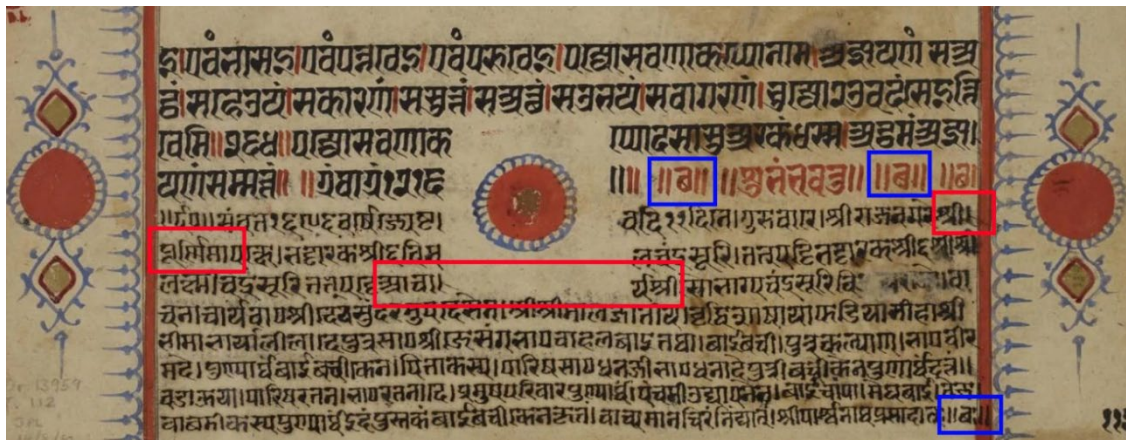


Fig. 20: Usage of variant 𑂓 DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN and 𑂔 DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA.

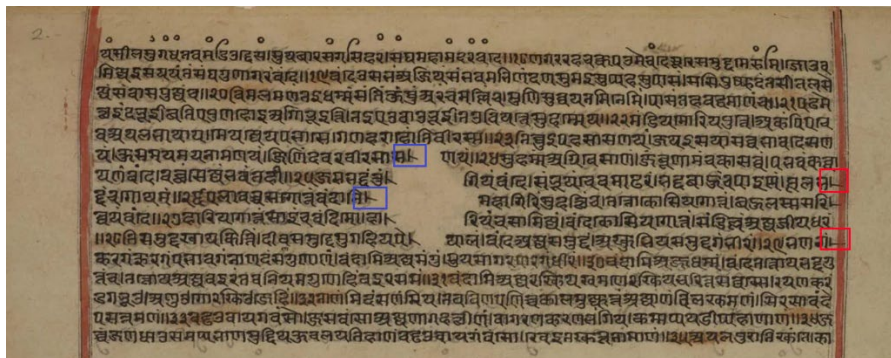


Fig. 21: Usage of variant 𑂓 DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN (in red) and gap filler (in blue).

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

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 three New Characters of Devanagari		
2. Requester's name:	Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)		
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	Individual Member		
4. Submission date:	22/08/2026		
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):			
6. Choose one of the following:			
This is a complete proposal:			Yes
(or) More information will be provided later:			No

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:			
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):			Yes
Proposed name of script:	Devanagari		
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:			
Name of the existing block:			
2. Number of characters in proposal:			3
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):			
A-Contemporary	B.1-Specialized (small collection)	B.2-Specialized (large collection)	X
C-Major extinct	D-Attested extinct	E-Minor extinct	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols		
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?			Yes
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?			Yes
5. Fonts related:			
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)		
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	Biswajit Mandal (biswajitmandal.bm90@gmail.com)		
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
See proposal for additional details			
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.)?	Yes
If YES, with whom?	
Jain, Buddhist and Hindu MSS of India	
If YES, available relevant documents:	
See citations in text proposal	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	Yes
Reference:	
See text of proposal	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	Rare
Reference:	
See text of proposal	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Yes
If YES, where? Reference:	
See text of proposal	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	No
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference:	
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?	
If YES, reference:	
See text of proposal	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	No
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
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:	

UnicodeData.txt

```
1 11B10;DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
2 11B11;DEVANAGARI SEPARATOR;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
3 11B12;DEVANAGARI CONTINUATION SIGN;Po;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
```

+3

LineBreak.txt

```
1 11B10..11B12;AL # Po [03] DEVANAGARI SIGN JAIN PUSHPIKA.. DEVANAGARI
CONTINUATION SIGN
```