Proposal to encode the INVERTED CANDRABINDU for Sharada

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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following character in the ‘Sharada’ block in the SMP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◌</td>
<td>111CF</td>
<td>SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Description

The candrabindu has the conventional form ◌ in Sharada. The shape is unique among signs for candrabindu in northern Brahmi scripts as it is an inversion of the predominant shape ◌, as used in Devanagari, Bengali, etc., i.e. ◌ U+0901 DEVANAGARI SIGN CANDRABINDU.

An inverted ◌ form of the ◌ U+11180 SHARADA SIGN CANDRABINDU occurs concurrently with the conventional form in several texts on Kashmiri Shaivism (see figures) and other manuscripts. The two forms of candrabindu are used for writing the sacred syllable om in invocatory phrases at the beginning of texts, eg. ◌ and ◌. The inverted form is used for writing syllables in mantra texts, eg. ◌ thaini contrasted with ◌ rani in the Šiva Patrika (fig. 7). The two forms are used in a manuscript of the Yoga Vāsiṣṭha for the characters ◌ and ◌, combined with a base that likely represents the auspicious terms siddha or svasti, which resembles the ◌ U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE (fig. 8).

These two forms of candrabindu are not glyphic variants, but alternate pairs whose concurrent usage is intentional. It is necessary to represent both forms of candrabindu in order to encode such texts accurately and completely. The addition of ◌ SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU to the Sharada repertoire will meet this need.
3 Character Data

Unicode character data: UnicodeData.txt

111CF;SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;

Linebreak data: LineBreak.txt

111CF;CM # SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

Indic syllabic categories: IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

# Indic_Syllabic_Category=Bindu

111CF ; Bindu # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

Indic positional categories: IndicPositionalCategory.txt

# Indic_Positional_Category=Top

111CF ; Top # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

4 References

Figure 1: The syllable om̆̇ written as ओ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in Upanayana Tantra, f8.
Figure 2: The syllable om ओ (blue) written as ओ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in Kaivalyopanīṣad Dīpikā, f1.
Figure 3: The syllable om written as ओँ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in Bhairava Sahasranāma, f2.
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Figure 4: The syllable om̄ written as ਐ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ી (red) using the regular form in Śiva Dr̥ṣṭi of Somānanda with the commentary of Utpaladeva, f1.
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Figure 5: The syllable om̃ written as ऋ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ः (red) using the regular form in Mukunda Mālā, f1, f8.
Figure 6: The syllable omi written as ō (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ñ (red) using the regular form in Aghora Bhāṭṭarak Tantra, f7.
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Figure 7: Inverted candrabindu in the syllable ṭham (blue) and the regular form in the syllable ri (red) in Śiva Patrika, f6.
Figure 8: Usage of both forms of candrabindu in the Yoga Vāsiṣṭha for writing the signs 𑇙 and 𑇙, which likely represent the auspicious terms siddham or svasti (from Lokesh Chandra 1982: 366–367). The base for the candrabindu-s resembles the 𑇙 U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE, but could be a similar sign for a Sharada form of siddham or svasti, which are not yet encoded.