

Title: Proposal to Deprecate GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN
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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to deprecate the character ૃ U+0AF1 GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN. The character is an abbreviation of the Gujarati word રૂપિયો *rūpiyo* > રૂ *rū*. The character ૃ may be decomposed as ર U+0AB0 GUJARATI LETTER RA + ુ U+0AC2 GUJARATI VOWEL SIGN UU + an abbreviation sign. The ligature ૃ is the common representation of RA + VOWEL SIGN UU. The circle element is an abbreviation sign analogous to ° U+0970 DEVANAGARI ABBREVIATION SIGN. The word ‘rupee’ is abbreviated in other scripts according to a similar composition, eg. Devanagari रुपया *rupayā* > रु *ru*. (RA + VOWEL SIGN U + ABBREVIATION SIGN).

2 Analysis

The Government of India introduced the GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN to the Unicode Technical Committee through L2/01-304, as one of several additions for Gujarati. The UTC accepted the sign for encoding because “the symbol is not made from pieces that are already encoded Gujarati characters” (L2/01-430R: 7). The encoding of the abbreviation ૃ as an atomic character motivated India to propose the Devanagari analogue रु for encoding as DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN (L2/04-236, L2/05-063). The UTC responded appropriately in L2/05-070, stating that the

Devanagari currency sign is already representable by “Ra + U-sign + abbreviation sign”. Many currency signs are simple combinations of letters, e.g. sFr for Swiss Franc. Would need to establish that the proposal has a unique shape. Can add as named sequence.

The GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN is a simple combination of letters. It is not an atomic character. The shape ૃ is not a unique sign for representing currency in Gujarati; the abbreviation is also written as ‘રૂ.’ using the Latin fullstop in place of the circular abbreviation sign. The rationale for encoding GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN should be reconsidered according to these positions.

3 Conclusion

The GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN should be deprecated and added as a named sequence. This requires the encoding of an ABBREVIATION SIGN for Gujarati, for which a proposal has been submitted (L2/09-330). If the proposal is approved, the character may be defined as RA + VOWEL SIGN UU + ABBREVIATION SIGN:

GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN; 0AB0 0AC2 0AF0

Future proposals for the addition of abbreviations as atomic characters in Indic scripts should be considered in the light of UTC’s view that such characters are ‘simple combinations of letters’. Abbreviation signs are not yet encoded for several Indic scripts. They should be added as necessary to prevent the encoding of abbreviations as atomic characters and appropriately as character sequences.