

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Comments on ‘Consensus on Kashmiri additions for Devanagari’ (N3727 L2/09-389)
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The document ‘Consensus on Kashmiri additions for Devanagari’ (N3727 L2/09-389) describes the new Devanagari characters recommended for addition to the Universal Character Set, agreed upon at the WG2 meeting in Tokyo on October 28, 2009.

The Devanagari characters were proposed by the Indian National Body in “Proposal to add Six characters in the Devanagari block for representation of Kashmiri language in Devanagari script” (N3710 L2/09-369).

The present author submitted comments regarding N3710 L2/09-369 to the UTC on October 27, 2009, in L2/09-377, in which it was stated that six of the new Devanagari characters proposed by the Indian National Body are not exclusive to Kashmiri. These vowel letters and their accompanying signs are used in languages such as Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Maithili. The use of these characters in these languages was documented in “Proposal to Encode Additional Short Vowel Characters for Devanagari” (L2/09-320).

In N3727 L2/09-389, it is recommended that, among others, the characters औ and ौ be encoded for Kashmiri as U+0975 DEVANAGARI LETTER AW and U+094F DEVANAGARI VOWEL SIGN AW, respectively. These characters were proposed for encoding as additions to Devanagari in L2/09-320, along with two other characters as:

- ऐ DEVANAGARI LETTER SHORT AI
- ै DEVANAGARI VOWEL SIGN SHORT AI
- औ DEVANAGARI LETTER SHORT AU
- ौ DEVANAGARI VOWEL SIGN SHORT AU

It is recommended that the characters U+0975 DEVANAGARI LETTER AW and U+094F DEVANAGARI VOWEL SIGN AW *not* be encoded with the names specific in N3727 L2/09-389, but with the names given in L2/09-320: औ DEVANAGARI LETTER SHORT AU and ौ DEVANAGARI VOWEL SIGN SHORT AU. These names also conform to the naming convention established for Devanagari vowel letters and signs. Additionally, the characters should not be described in the names list as being specific to Kashmiri. They should be encoded and described in a manner that will allow more general usage across several languages.