

Title: Comments on ‘Additions to Deva-Nagari Script & Bengali Script’ (L2/10-029)
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1 Introduction

In ‘Additions to Deva-Nagari Script & Bengali Script’ (L2/10-029), Rabin Deka proposes the encoding of five new characters:

- DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN
- DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN
- ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN
- ASSAMESE HEAVENLY ABODE SIGN
- ASSAMESE OM

This document addresses only DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN, DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN, and ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN and is not concerned with the two other Assamese characters.

2 Analysis

The proposed DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN, DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN, and ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN are abbreviations being proposed for encoding as atomic characters. Deka writes that each of these signs “acts as a special symbol unto itself and does not get attached to any word or letter that comes before or afterwards.” This description is not unique to any of the proposed signs, rather it is the general behavior of abbreviations in Indic, Latin, and other scripts. They are not special symbols and, as the UTC correctly noted in L2/05-070, they are ‘simple combinations of letters’. The proposed ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN should also be considered as such.

There is no standard abbreviation for ‘doctor’ in Devanagari, which is written in various ways: ‘ड॰’, ‘ड.’, ‘डा॰’, ‘डा.’, ‘डॉ’, ‘डॉ॰’, ‘डॉ.’, etc. The same may be said for the abbreviation for ‘rupee’ in Devanagari: ‘र॰’, ‘र.’, etc. Incidentally, the abbreviation for ‘rupee’ in Bengali (eg. ‘₹’) has not been proposed for encoding, and correctly so.

3 Recommendation

A recommendation is made *against* encoding DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN, DEVANAGARI DOCTOR SIGN, and ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN as atomic characters. The character ₹ U+0AF1 GUJARATI RUPEE SIGN should not be taken as precedent because it is a common abbreviation incorrectly encoded as an atomic character (see L2/09-331).

In order to correctly represent the proposed ASSAMESE DOCTOR SIGN, an abbreviation sign should be encoded for Bengali, which may then be used for writing abbreviations appropriately. Such a recommendation was made for Gujarati in L2/09-330.