

Title: Request to Add Annotations for Bengali ISSHAR to the Names List
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Action: For consideration by UTC and WG2
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1 Introduction

There is an absence of information about U+09FA BENGALI ISSHAR in *The Unicode Standard*. The name of the character provides some context regarding its use, such that even those speakers of Bengali who are unfamiliar with it may deduce that it is a honorific symbol. But the name alone does not provide sufficient detail about the meaning and usage of the character to users and implementers who do not speak Bengali. In an attempt to do so, this document requests the addition of annotations for BENGALI ISSHAR in the names list of the Unicode standard.

2 Background

The name ISSHAR is derived from Bengali ঈশ্বর *īśvara* (< Skt. ईश्वर *īśvara*) ‘god’. The spelling ISSHAR is a transcription of Bengali *īśvara* as [iʃɔr] or [iʃoɾ], although it is not the most accurate or logical rendering; ISHVAR would be an appropriate spelling.

The U+09FA ISSHAR is used for referencing entities that are regarded with reverence. The character symbolizes ‘god’ and may be written in place of the name of a deity. It is also used for referring to a recently deceased person. In such usage, it is written as a prefix and is read as স্বর্গীয় *svargīya* ‘heavenly’. It has the same euphemistic sense of the English ‘late’, eg. U+09FA স্টীব জবস ‘the late Steve Jobs’.

3 Recommendations

The following annotations should be added to the entry for BENGALI ISSHAR in the names list:

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09FA    BENGALI ISSHAR
        = ishvar
        * represents the name of a deity
        = svargiya
        * written before the name of a deceased person
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