

Proposal to encode chakra symbols in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following seven symbols in the ‘Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs’ (U+1F300) block in Unicode.



SAHASRARA CHAKRA



AJNA CHAKRA



VISHUDDHA CHAKRA



ANAHATA CHAKRA



MANIPURA CHAKRA



SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA




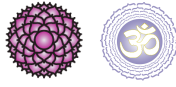
MULADHARA CHAKRA

2 Description

The proposed ‘chakra’ symbols represent the seven major points of energy in the human body, as perceived by Indian and other Asian philosophical traditions. The chakra symbols are well-known and widely-used in yoga culture in the western world. They are used in print and digital publications.


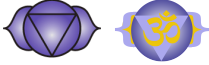
The Sanskrit word चक्र *chakra* means “wheel” and symbolizes a rotation of energy in philosophical teachings. Each chakra symbol is associated with a particular part of the body and a *bīja* or *mantra*, or “seed-syllable”. Each symbol is also associated with a specific color and shape. The representation of the symbol may differ according to artistic preference. For instance, the *bīja* is often written in Devanagari, but a symbol may also be portrayed without the syllable. Symbols may be either in color or black-and-white. The identity of each symbol is preserved on account of the shape of the symbol.

2.1 SAHASRARA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		SAHASRARA CHAKRA



The सहस्र *sahasrāra* “thousand-petaled” or crown chakra is the state of pure consciousness. It is symbolized as a lotus consisting of a thousand petals in either white or purplish hues. It is represented by the seed syllable ॐ *om*.

2.2 AJNA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		AJNA CHAKRA


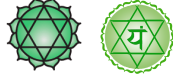
The आज्ञा *ājñā* “command” or third-eye chakra is symbolised by a lotus with two petals, and corresponds to the colours violet, indigo or deep blue, though it is traditionally described as white. The seed syllable for this chakra is ॐ *um*.

2.3 VISHUDDHA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		VISHUDDHA CHAKRA



The विशुद्ध *viśuddha* “purest” or throat chakra is depicted as a silver crescent within a white circle, with 16 light or pale blue, or turquoise petals. The seed mantra is ह्रँ *ham*.

2.4 ANAHATA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		ANAHATA CHAKRA



The अनाहत *anāhata* “unstruck” or heart chakra is symbolised by a circular flower with twelve green petals. Within it is a *yantra* of two intersecting triangles, forming a hexagram. The seed mantra is यं *yam*.

2.5 MANIPURA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		MANIPURA CHAKRA



The मणिपूर *maṇipūra* “jewel city” or solar plexus / navel chakra is symbolised by a downward pointing triangle with ten petals, along with the color yellow. The seed syllable is रं *ram*.

2.6 SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		SVADHISHTHANA CHAKRA

The स्वाधिष्ठान *svādhiṣṭhāna* “one’s own base” or sacral chakra is symbolized by a white lotus within which is a crescent moon, with six vermilion, or orange petals. The seed mantra is वं *vam*.

2.7 MULADHARA CHAKRA

representative glyph	variants	character name
		MULADHARA CHAKRA

The मूलाधार *mūlādhāra* “root support” or root chakra is symbolized by a lotus with four petals and the color red. The seed syllable is लं *lam*.

3 Acknowledgments

Some of the information presented here is sourced from Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakra>). The variant forms of chakra symbols shown in section 2 are sourced from the following: First set (left) were produced by Sacred Centers and Anodea Judith (www.SacredCenters.com) and sourced from Wikimedia. The second set (right) were sourced from Ananda Sangha Worldwide (<http://www.ananda.org/the-yogis-say/chakras/>). The images shown in the accompanying figures were sourced from various websites and may be the copyright of their original creators.

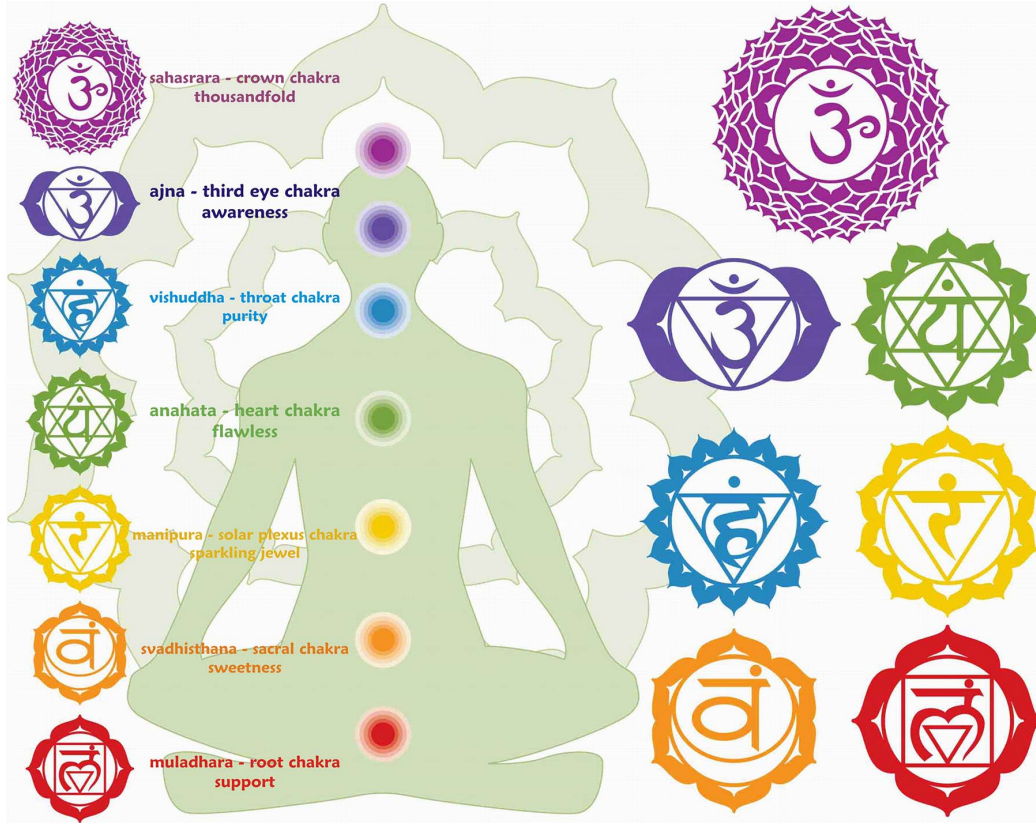


Figure 1: Chakra symbols with Devanagari *bīja*-s and their visualizations within the human body.








 <p>Muladhara: The Base Chakra</p> <p>Sexuality, Lust, Obsession, Stability, Sensuality, Security</p>	 <p>Svadhisthana: The Saeral Chakra</p> <p>Basic Emotions, Relationships, Violence, Addictions, Pleasure, Joy, Creativity</p>	 <p>Manipura: Solar Plexus Chakra</p> <p>Complex Emotions, Personal Power, Fear, Anxiety, Opinions, Introversion</p>	 <p>Anahata: The Heart Chakra</p> <p>Complex Emotions, Compassion, Devotion, Unconditional Love, Rejection, Well-being</p>	 <p>Vishuddha: The Throat Chakra</p> <p>Self-Expression, Communication, Independence, Fluent Thought, Security</p>	 <p>Ajna: The Brow Chakra</p> <p>Balance of Higher and Lower Self, Intuition, Inner Guidance, Consciousness, Clarity</p>	 <p>Sahasrara: The Crown Chakra</p> <p>Pure Consciousness, Spiritual Unity, Meditation, Karma, Transcendence</p>
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Figure 2: Explanations of the meanings of each chakra and their symbols.



Figure 3: The chakra symbols with *bīja*-s in Devanagari.



Figure 4: The chakra symbols with *bīja*-s in Devanagari.



Figure 5: Variant representations of chakra symbols. The symbol for each chakra has a distinctive graphical element and color that is retained across variants.



Figure 6: Color and black-and-white renderings of chakra symbols



Figure 7: Color and black-and-white renderings of chakra symbols



Figure 8: The use of chakra symbols in *Om Yoga Magazine*, a periodical printed by Prime Impact Events & Media Ltd, United Kingdom. Source <http://www.ommagazine.com/>