To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson
Date: April 19 2017
Subject Comments on L2/16-322 and L2/16-383, Sandhi marks for Bengali and Newa

Background:
At the January 2017 meeting, the UTC approved two characters, U+09FE COMBINING BENGALI SIGN AVAGRAHA (based on L2/16-322) and U+1145E COMBINING NEWA SIGN AVAGRAHA (based on L2/16-383). Based on the script ad hoc recommendations, the UTC approved the characters with the properties Mn;230;NSM, which are found for U+A8F1 COMBINING DEVANAGARI SIGN AVAGRAHA

The original proposals, however, had different names and properties:
BENGALI SANDHI MARK and
NEWA SANDHI MARK, with gc=Po.

Below is the response from the authors on the name and property change.

Response from authors:

Our document is based on Sharada Sandhi mark, which has the name as SANDHI MARK and property as Punctuation. This change in name will also affect the encoding of sandhi mark in Devanagari script.

In all scripts COMBINING SIGN AVAGRAHA is not equivalent to sandhi mark. Combining sign avagraha is written above whereas sandhi mark is written after the syllable and is smaller in shape when compared to combining sign avagraha. Both signs may occur in the same text and may need to distinguish in plain text. Since sandhi mark doesn’t combine above with preceding syllable and is written equidistantly between the two syllables. These sandhi mark is similar to Sharada separator and sandhi mark where both are assigned the property as Po.

I require time to research whether they can be considered as combining character or Punctuation. These sandhi marks are similar to Sharada separator and sandhi mark where both are assigned the property as Punctuation.

I would like to know the reason for changing the name and property to Nonspacing mark. I wish script ad hoc committee review the proposals again and send comments on properties and name. Based on the feedback we will modify the proposal and send the fonts.