

July 16, 2010

To: Unicode Inc Technical Committee (UTC)
C/O Magda Danish
1065 L'Avenida Street
Microsoft Building 5
Mountain View, CA 94043
E-Mail: l2doc@unicode.org
v-magdad@microsoft.com

Copy: (a) Deborah W. Anderson
(b) Director & HoD TDIL Programme, IT Department, Government of India
(c) Nagair - Общество ревнителей санскрита – nagari@googlegroups.com

Re: Proposal to Encode India's National Currency Symbol

Dear Madam/Sir:

I propose to encode India's national currency symbol to Unicode in Deva-Nagari script, and enclose herewith a completed ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 Proposal Summary Form [1].

Government of India (GOI) has recently approved a new currency symbol - *see* [2] [3].

XXX0 DEVANAGARI RUPEE SIGN (₹)

Properties: The general category for this character is *Sc*.

List of enclosures:

- [1] ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM
- [2] Heather Timmons, "India Adopts a New Symbol for Its Currency", the New York Times, July 15, 2010.
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/16/business/global/16rupee.html?_r=1&src=busln&pagewanted=print
- [3] "Indian government approves new symbol for rupee", BBC News, 15 July 2010.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south+asia-10644730>

Thank you for your times, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,



Rabin Deka, Ph.D.
San Jose, California

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: India's National Currency Symbol

2. Requester's name: Dr. Rabin Deka

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual Contributor

4. Submission date: July 15, 2010

5. Requester's reference (if applicable): _____

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal:

(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): _____

Proposed name of script: _____

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Name of the existing block: Deva-Nagari Script

2. Number of characters in proposal: (1) ₹ Devanagari Rupee Sign

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? Dr. Rabin Deka

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): Dr. Rabin Deka, 1324 S Winchester BL Unit 177, San Jose, CA 95128 Email: R.Deka@IEEE.org

6. References:

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard? Dr. Rabin Deka

If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used: 1324 S Winchester BL Unit 177, San Jose, CA 95128 Email: R.Deka@IEEE.org

6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? No

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ Form number: N3702-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	Yes
	<i>Aadarsha Ratne script users group; assamonline group; Nagari Russian group</i>
	(a) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ratne (b) http://groups.yahoo.com/group/assamonline (c) http://groups.google.com/group/nagari
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	
	<i>Hindi is National language of India</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Common
	<i>Anywhere in World where Indian currency may be used</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes
	<i>[1] Anywhere in World where Indian currency may be used</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	No
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No

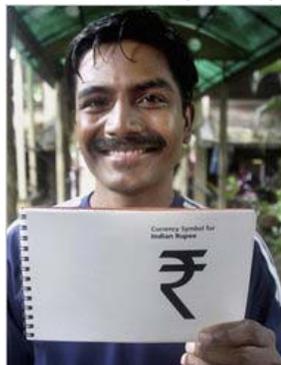
Advertise on NYTimes.com

India Adopts a New Symbol for Its Currency

By HEATHER TIMMONS
Published: July 15, 2010

NEW DELHI — The Indian rupee joined the U.S. dollar, the [British pound](#), [the euro](#) and the Japanese yen on Thursday when it got its very own symbol.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Associated Press

D. Udaya Kumar, a research scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology, displays the new symbol for the rupee, which he designed.

The rupee's new rune is a modification of a letter in the Devanagari script, which is used to write Hindi, India's official language. It was designed by D. Udaya Kumar, a student at the Indian Institute of Technology, who studied typography, scripts and ancient printing methods. It looks like a capital letter R, minus its vertical leg, and with two added horizontal lines through the upper, curved portion.

Mr. Kumar's winning entry was picked from more than 3,000 submissions and five finalists, and approved by the India's top government ministers on Thursday. Mr. Kumar, who begins teaching as an assistant professor at his alma mater on Friday, told a local news channel it was a "great honor" to be part of India's history. He takes home a prize of 250,000 rupees, or about \$5,363.

The symbol will "lend a distinctive character and identity to the currency and further highlight the strength and robustness of the Indian economy," the Ministry of Finance said Thursday in a statement. It will also help distinguish India's currency from others with similar or identical names, like the Nepalese and Pakistani rupee, and the Indonesian rupiah.

It often takes several years for a new currency symbol to be adopted around the world.

For India, the next step after government approval is submission to the Unicode Consortium, a not-for-profit organization of many of the world's largest software manufacturers, which has created standard computer coding to represent many of the world's languages. An Indian technology trade organization, Nasscom, will ask software developers to include the symbol in their new products, and Indian keyboard manufacturers will be encouraged to include it new products.

FACEBOOK

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE



Breaking News Alerts by E-Mail



Sign up to be notified when important news breaks.

Sign Up

[Privacy Policy](#)

Advertise on NYTimes.com

MOST POPULAR - BUSINESS

E-MAILED BLOGGED VIEWED

1. DealBook: Give Bain a Virtual Pitch
2. After Crisis, Show of Power From JPMorgan
3. Report Warns of Risks to China's Bank System
4. Advertising: For FarmVille Players, a Crop From a Real Organic Farm
5. JPMorgan Chase Exceeds Forecasts
6. Fed Leaders Show Division Over Deflation
7. Biggest Defaulters on Mortgages Are the Rich
8. Factory Efficiency Comes to the Hospital
9. American Dream Is Elusive for New Generation
10. An Artificial Heart Its Makers Say Could Be a Standard Replacement

[Go to Complete List »](#)



The Times & the Bay Area - now at 50% off when you subscribe for the convenience of home delivery.

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

15 July 2010 Last updated at 06:44 ET

Indian government approves new symbol for rupee

India is to have a new symbol for its currency, the rupee, after the government approved the winning entry in a national competition.

The symbol is a cross between the Roman letter R and its Hindi equivalent, and was designed by a teacher at the Indian Institute of Technology.

A panel of artists, officials and bankers picked the new design.

The Indian government hopes it will soon be as recognisable as the dollar, the pound or the euro.

Correspondents say choosing the symbol reflects India's ambition to be seen as a global power.

The winning entry was one of five shortlisted in the public competition announced in March 2009. Designers were given a brief to come up with a symbol that captures the ethos and culture of India.



Five symbols were shortlisted, and this won

'Distinctive'

Until now the rupee has generally been shortened to the letters Rs or sometimes INR (Indian rupee).

India's government says these are not symbols but mere abbreviations.

The new symbol will be the "identity of the Indian currency", information minister Ambika Soni says.

"It will distinguish the rupee from other currencies."

The winning design is made up of half the letter R with a horizontal line on top and in between to make it also look like its equivalent in the Devanagari script, which used in a number of Indian languages including Hindi and Sanskrit.

It will soon be introduced on computer keyboards and banknotes in India and is expected to take a year or two to be fully implemented.

The winning entry was submitted by D Udaya Kumar, a newly-appointed teacher of design at the Indian Institute of Technology. He will receive prize money amounting to \$5,350 (£3,500).

Experts say implementing a new currency symbol can be an expensive exercise.

According to one estimate, when the euro was introduced in 1999 it cost Europe's biggest companies more than \$50bn to update their computer systems to deal with the changeover.