

## ADDENDUM

To the comment made on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr. '14 by Ms. Neha Gupta

### Request to include U+02BC in the MSR

#### Overview

Three Indian languages use MODIFIER LETTER APOSTROPHE as part of their character set. These are Boro, Maithili and Dogri.

In all three languages the character resembles an apostrophe mark which is placed flush along with the shirorekha i.e. the top line and cannot be confused with an apostrophe.

खर'

When Unicode was approached to encode this character and assign it a code-point with the code block of Devanagari, Unicode decided to allot for this modifier letter the code-point 02BC. 02BC is part of the Spacing Modifier letters range<sup>1</sup>

02B9..02C1; Common # Lm [9] MODIFIER LETTER PRIME..MODIFIER LETTER REVERSED GLOTTAL STOP

#### Examples of Use:

Part of Unicode chapter 09<sup>2</sup> reproduced below clearly indicates that 02BC is used in three languages using Devanagari script and thus warrants inclusion within the MSR of characters which need to be included.

The Unicode text is reproduced verbatim below:

*Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili. The orthographies of the Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili languages of India make use of U+02BC “ ’ ” modifier letter apostrophe, either as a tone mark or as a length mark. In Bodo and Dogri, this character functions as a tone mark, called gojau kamaa in Bodo and sur chinha in Dogri.*

*In Dogri, the tone mark occurs after short vowels, including inherent vowels, and indicates a high-falling tone. After Dogri long vowels, a high-falling tone is written instead using U+0939 devanagari letter ha.*

*In Maithili, U+02BC “ ’ ” modifier letter apostrophe is used to indicate the prolongation of a short a and to indicate the truncation of words. This sign is called bikari kaamaa.*

*Examples illustrating the use of U+02BC “ ’ ” modifier letter apostrophe in Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili are shown in Figure 9-10. The Maithili examples show the same sentence, first in full form, and then using U+02BC to show truncation of words.*

Figure 9-10. Use of Apostrophe in Bodo, Dogri and Maithili

Language	Examples	Meaning
Bodo	खर' दख'ना	head type of Bodo dress
Dogri	ख'ल्ल ति'लकना	down to slip
Maithili	कतए पड़ाए गेलह? कत' पड़ा' गेल'?	} Where did you go away?

<sup>1</sup> <http://unicode.org/cldr/utility/character.jsp?a='&B1>Show>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode6.3.0/ch09.pdf> - (Page Number : 292 - Extensions in the Main Devanagari Block )

## **REQUEST FOR INCLUSION**

Unless the team has read the document wrongly, no mention is made of 02BC and hence it can be concluded that the report excludes the code point from the MSR. It is requested that since these three languages are official languages of India and their joint population is as under as per Ethnologue; 02BC be included in the repertoire.

Maithili: 30,000,000 in India (2000 SIL). Population total all countries: 33,890,000. 12,000,000 monolinguals (1998).

Dogri: 2,280,000 (2001 census).

Boro: 1,330,000 in India (2001 census). Population total all countries: 1,334,380.

We are fully aware that the introducing U+02BC in the MSR may pose some of the challenges as it is perceived as punctuation, which is not really the case insofar as these three languages are concerned. It is requested that the Integration Panel permit this as a part of the MSR and let the further decision on its inclusion/exclusion be taken by the community in the Generation Panel.