Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation internationale de normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Proposal to encode the INDIAN RUPEE SIGN in the UCS
Source: Michael Everson
Status: Individual Contribution
Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC
Date: 2010-07-19

The Indian Rupee Sign. In February 2009 Ministry of Finance for the Government of India initiated a contest to design a currency symbol for the *rupee*. On 2010-07-15 the winning design was announced. At the bottom of this page the winning designer, D. Udaya Kumar, is shown. His prize was R250,000 (€4200).

As with the EURO SIGN, HRYVNIA SIGN, and TENGE SIGN, the encoding of the INDIAN RUPEE SIGN would seem to be a matter of some urgency.

D UDAYA KUMAR

Kumar joins IIT Guwahati faculty on Thursday, 15 July, 2010.
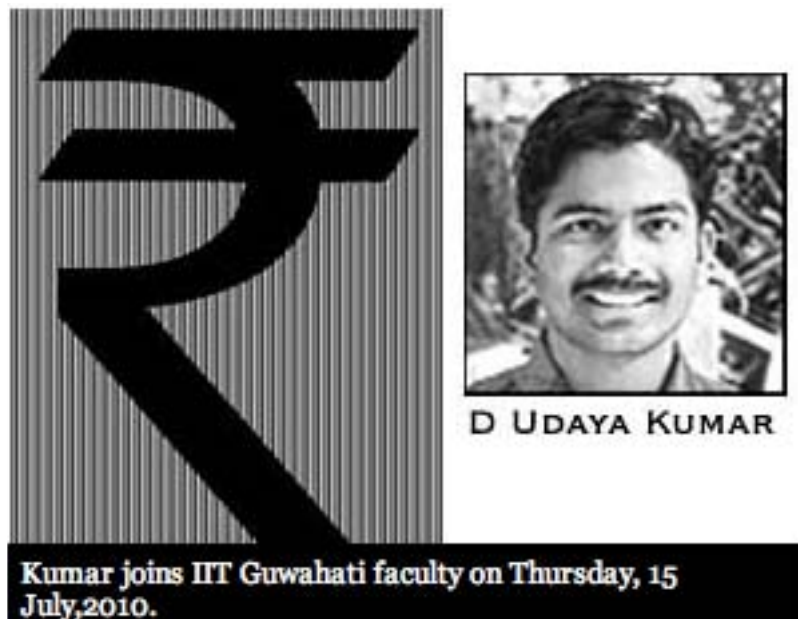
The shape of the currency sign has been specified as "an amalgam" of the DEVANAGARI LETTER RA, and the LATIN CAPITAL LETTER R and it is likely that many fonts will take the Latin capital letter as the starting point for design, to harmonize with European digits and other currency signs. An example using a Times-like font is given below, between the encoded RUPEE SIGN and an ordinary Rs.

$ ¥ € Rs ₹ Rs

The **symbol of Indian Rupee** has finally been decided by the 5 member jury panel of Indian cabinet. There were 5 proposed designs and the jury chose the design of **IIT post graduate Udaya Kumar** and recommended it for Cabinet approval.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni announced this, saying the Rupee had now arrived on the international platform in sync with universal standards. The Cabinet approved the design today.

Soni would not commit to a date by when the symbol would be officially in use but said it would take about six months in India and about two years to make it recognized internationally.

The government had organised a symbol design competition with a prize of Rs 2.5 lakh for the winner. Five designs were shortlisted. Udaya Kumar had submitted more than one design.

The contestants were asked to design a symbol that would be the Hindi alphabet Ra with two lines – to "reflect and capture the Indian ethos and culture," in Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's words.

The growing influence of the **Indian economy** in the global space is said to have prompted this move. The **Rupee** will join the select club of global currencies like the **US dollar, the British Pound, European Euro** and **Japanese Yen** that have **unique symbols.**

Right now, the abbreviation for the Indian Rupee, '**Re**' or '**Rs**' is used by India's neighbours **Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka** as well.

A UCS codepoint assignment for this character is urgent. Already at least one font has been published which puts the character's glyph at U+0060 GRAVE ACCENT.

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal to encode the INDIAN RUPEE SIGN in the UCS

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

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

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2010-07-19

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

6b. More information will be provided later

No.

B. Technical -- General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

Proposed name of script

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

Yes.

1b. Name of the existing block

Currency Symbols.

2. Number of characters in proposal

1

3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)

Category A.

4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 1.

4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

4c. If YES, reference

Spacing character.

5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

No.

7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. 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.

9. 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 Unicode Character Database http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/ UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

The character should have the same properties as other currency signs.

C. Technical -- Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

No.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?
No.
2b. If YES, with whom?
2c. If YES, available relevant documents
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?
People in India and elsewhere.
4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)
To represent the Indian rupee currency in monetary amounts.
4b. Reference
5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?
No.
5b. If YES, where?
6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?
Yes. Position U+20B9 is proposed.
6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?
Yes.
6c. If YES, reference
Keep with other currency signs.
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?
8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?
No.
8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
8c. If YES, reference
9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?
No.
9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
9c. If YES, reference
10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?
No.
10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
10c. If YES, reference
11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?
No.
11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
11c. If YES, reference
12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
No.
12b. If YES, reference
13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?
No.
13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)
14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?
No.
14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?