1 Introduction

There is an absence of information about \character{9FA} in The Unicode Standard. The name of the character provides some context regarding its use, such that even those speakers of Bengali who are unfamiliar with it may deduce that it is a honorific symbol. But the name alone does not provide sufficient detail about the meaning and usage of the character to users and implementers who do not speak Bengali. In an attempt to do so, this document requests the addition of annotations for BENGALI ISSHAR in the names list of the Unicode standard.

2 Background

The name isshar is derived from Bengali ঈশ্বর (śvāra) \(<\text{Skt.}\ śvāra) ‘god’). The spelling isshar is a transcription of Bengali śvāra as [iʃɔɾ] or [iʃoɾ], although it is not the most accurate or logical rendering; ishvar would an appropriate spelling.

The \character{9FA} is used for referencing entities that are regarded with reverence. The character symbolizes ‘god’ and may be written in place of the name of a deity. It is also used for referring to a recently deceased person. In such usage, it is written as a prefix and is read as স্বর্গীয় svargiya “heavenly”. It has the same euphemistic sense of the English “late”, eg. স্বর্গীয় জবস “the late Steve Jobs”.

3 Recommendations

The following annotations should be added to the entry for BENGALI ISSHAR in the names list:

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09FA  BENGALI ISSHAR
     = ishvar
* represents the name of a deity
     = svargiya
* written before the name of a deceased person
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