

**Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set**  
**International Organization for Standardization**  
**Organisation internationale de normalisation**  
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**Title: Correction of a Saurashtra character name in PDAM3**

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**Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC**

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In a document in 2003 (L2/03-277), Peri Bhaskararao criticized the name UPAKSHARA that Jeyakumar Chinnakkonda Krishnamoorthy and I had used in N2607, and which we later used in N2969R2 which was approved for balloting as U+A8B4 𑀘 SAURASHTRA LETTER UPAKSHARA by WG2. In particular he suggested that the name was a recent coinage.

Further research on the name indicates that it is not a recent coinage, but also that it is not the right name for the character. The name should be changed.

In 1943 H. N. Randle published “An Indo-Aryan Language of South India: Saurashtra-bhasa” in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp 104-21. In this article, Randle describes Rāma Rao’s grammar of Saurashtra:

Rāma Rao says that *Saurāṣṭra bhāṣā* has fifty letters: twelve vowels (including *ē* and *ō*, and the diphthongs (*duvun*) *ē ai*, *ō au*; but excluding *ṛ ṝ ṝ̄ ṝ̄̄ ṝ̄̄̄ aṃ aḥ*): thirty-five consonants (those of the Sanskrit alphabet, with cerebral *ḷ* and *ḥ*): and three *upākṣarun*: *hāru* (= *nh mh rh lh*); *dātu* (= the dental modification of *c ch j jh*); and *nāgu* (= a nasalization written “̣”).... “*Hārun*.”—*nh*, *mh*, *rh*, *lh* occur in very few words, but most of them are words in frequent use: *rhā-* (as common in Sau. as *rah-* in Hindi); *mhoṭṭo* (great); *lhovvo* (red); *nhī-* and *nhā-* in negative forms of *hū-*; *nhanno* (small).

It is clear from this that *upākṣara* (Saurashtra plural *upākṣarun*), is a generic term for “modifier”, which makes sense, since the word means, literally, ‘sub-letter’. It would be better to change the name of U+A8B4 to SAURASHTRA LETTER HAARU, which is the term used for the particular aspiration this character marks in Saurashtra.