Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2011-041

Outcome: Adopted with amendments
Effective date: October 31, 2023

SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2011-041: to create the code element [vsn] for Vedic Sanskrit, with amendments to create [cls] Classical Sanskrit and update the scope of [san] Sanskrit to macrolanguage

CR 2011-041, request to create a code element for Vedic Sanskrit, was suspended for an extended period while questions involving the interaction of parts 2 and 3 of ISO 639 were under review during the revision of the ISO 639 standard. This request involves treating a historical language as a macrolanguage and splitting it, but there was no precedent for that. This was determined to be in scope in the redrafting of the standard. The RA is therefore now adopting the request with amendments, which include the creation of the identifier [cls] Classical Sanskrit and the promotion of [san] Sanskrit to a macrolanguage comprised of these two individual historical languages–[vsn] Vedic Sanskrit and [cls] Classical Sanskrit. This solution balances the needs of legacy applications to continue using a single code with the requirements of scholarship that treat Classical Sanskrit and Vedic Sanskrit as distinct, though diachronically related, languages.