

# The akshar package

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>User guide</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>2</b>

## 1 Introduction

When dealing with processing strings in the Devanagari script, normal  $\LaTeX$  commands usually find some difficulties in distinguishing “normal” characters, like क, and “special” characters, for example ् or ी. Let’s consider this example code:

```
1 \ExplSyntaxOn
2 \tl_set:Nn \l_tmpa_tl { की}
3 \tl_count:N \l_tmpa_tl \c_space_token tokens.
4 \ExplSyntaxOff
```

2 tokens.

The output is 2, but the number of characters in it is only one! The reason is quite simple: the compiler treats ी as a normal character, which it isn’t.

To tackle that, this package provides `expl3` functions to “convert” a given string, written in the Devanagari script, to a sequence of token lists. each of these token lists is a “true” Devanagari character. You can now do anything you want with this sequence; and this package does provide some front-end macros for some simple actions on the input string.

## 2 User guide

a  
क्ष  
b  
कौ  
c  
क्षय  
d

## 3 Implementation

```
1 <@@=akshar>
2 <*package>
```

Declare the package.

[illegible]

# Index

The italic numbers denote the pages where the corresponding entry is described, numbers underlined point to the definition, all others indicate the places where it is used.

<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>
akshar internal commands:	\NewDocumentCommand ..... 59
\l__akshar_char_seq ..... 11, 15, 23, 24, 30, 31, 40, 41, 47, 52, 57	<b>P</b>
\c__akshar_diacritics_tl ..... 7, 20	prg commands:
\l__akshar_input_tl ..... 8, 17, 18	\prg_generate_conditional_ variant:Nnn ..... 12
\c__akshar_joining_tl ..... 6, 27	\ProvidesExplPackage ..... 4
\l__akshar_map_tl ..... ..... 18, 20, 24, 27, 32, 42, 47	<b>R</b>
\l__akshar_prev_joining_bool .. ..... 10, 16, 33, 37, 43	\RequirePackage ..... 3
\__akshar_str_getchar:nn .... 13, 61	<b>S</b>
\l__akshar_tmp_tl ..... ..... 9, 23, 24, 30, 32, 40, 42	seq commands:
<b>B</b>	\seq_clear:N ..... 15
bool commands:	\seq_count:N ..... 52
\bool_if:NTF ..... 37	\seq_item:Nn ..... 57
\bool_new:N ..... 10	\seq_new:N ..... 11
\bool_set_false:N ..... 16, 43	\seq_pop_right:NN ..... 23, 30, 40
\bool_set_true:N ..... 33	\seq_put_right:Nn ..... 24, 31, 41, 47
<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>
cs commands:	tl commands:
\cs_new:Npn ..... 13	\tl_const:Nn ..... 6, 7
<b>I</b>	\tl_if_eq:NNTF ..... 27
int commands:	\tl_if_in:Nn ..... 12
\int_compare:nNnTF ..... 52	\tl_if_in:NnTF ..... 20
<b>M</b>	\tl_map_break: ..... 54
\mystrchar ..... 59	\tl_map_variable:NNn ..... 18
	\tl_new:N ..... 8, 9
	\tl_set:Nn ..... 17