

Shashir's Notes

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Modern Transcription of

Sanskrit has an inventory of thirteen vowels and thirty-four consonants: into Devanāgarī (and various other South Asian scripts). As of recent history, simpler typesetting and wider scholarship. The dominant Romanization : Transcription (IAST), which evolved out of various earlier Romanization s 1894 by the Tenth International Congress of Orientalists). Apart from Ro true alphabet (Brāhmī scripts are abugidas).

Devanāgarī

Historically, Sanskrit was encoded in whatever was the native script of th **देवनागरी**) has become the dominant standard. Devanāgarī and virtually descend from the ancient Brāhmī, so they share a complex abugidaic ort modifiable vowels) with many possible ligatures for consonant clusters: t organize and precisely describe all of Sanskrit's sounds in their scripts.

The following charts display Devanāgarī's most basic glyphs and Interna

अ / अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ
/ʌ/, /ə/?, /e/?	/a:/	/i/	/i:/	/u/	/u:/	/ɹ/	/ɹ:/

क	ख	ग	घ	ङ		च	छ
/kʌ/	/kʰʌ/	/gʌ/	/gʰʌ/	/ŋʌ/		/tʃʌ/	/tʃʰʌ/
ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण		त	थ
/tʌ/	/tʰʌ/	/dʌ/	/dʰʌ/	/ɳʌ/		/tʌ/	/tʰʌ/
प	फ	ब	भ	म		य	र
/pʌ/	/pʰʌ/	/bʌ/	/bʰʌ/	/mʌ/		/jʌ/	/rʌ/
श	ष	स	ह			:	*
/ʃʌ/	/ʃʰʌ/	/sʌ/	/hʌ/			/h/	na

Consonant-vowel modifications are quite regular.

क्	क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	कृ	कृ
/k/	/kʌ/	/ka:/	/ki/	/ki:/	/ku/	/ku:/	/kɹ/	/kɹ:/

Ligatures are used to describe consonant clusters. Each preceding consonant attaches to the succeeding consonant. Many exceptions exist among the can be especially far-fetched (Charles Philip Brown once protested, “[even] such as lkha, sba, vpha, yra, khpa; and when we have acquired them, we never occur...”). The following are some examples.

क	त	क्त
/k/ (half)	/tʌ/	/ktʌ/

Examples	क्	क्ष	त्व	स्व	
	/k:/	/dʒʌ/	/kʃʌ/	/lkʰʌ/	/sʌ/

Typing and displaying Devanāgarī on computers is somewhat difficult. TI using Charles Wikner's skt package.

Roman transcription and transliteration (Romanizat

(Due to written Devanāgarī's isomorphic correspondence with spoken Sa automatically a *phonetic* transcription of Sanskrit, *vice versa*. See [Translite](#)

Romanization schemes (by both transcription/transliteration) vary signifi British administrators and surveyors aimed to easily reproduce native w severely Anglophilic transcription (*pundit*, *thug*, *suttee*, *Himalaya*). But sav possibly compare it with related languages like Avestan), so their scheme

Compare the following schemes.[\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) [\(3\)](#) [\(4\)](#)

Devanāgarī	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ
N. Halhed (1776)	ě	ā	ěě	ēē	ōō	ōō
M. Monier-Williams (1864)	a	á	i	í	u	ú
M. Müller (1866)	a	â	i	î	u	û
W. D. Whitney (1879)	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū
Congress of Orientalists (1894)	a	ā	i	ī	u	ū

Devanāgarī	N. Halhed	M. Monier-Williams	M. Müll
क, ख	kě, khě	ka, kha	ka, k
ग, घ	gě, ghě	ga, gha	ga, g

च, छ	chě, chhě	ća, čha	ch, cl
ज, झ	jě, jhě	ja, jha	ja, j
ट, ठ	tě, thě	ṭa, ṭha	ṭa, ṭ
ड, ढ	dě, dhě	ḍa, ḍha	ḍa, ḍ
त, थ	tě, thě	ta, tha	ta, t
द, ध	dě, dhě	da, dha	da, d
प, फ	pě, phě	pa, pha	pa, p
ब, भ	bě, bhě	ba, bha	ba, b
ङ, ञ, ण	ñgě, gnyě, ně	n·a, ña, ṇa	ña, ña
न, म	ně, mě	na, ma	na, m
य, र, ल, व	yě, rě, lě, wě	ya, ra, la, va	ya, ra,
श, ष, स, ह	shě, shě, sě, hě	śa, sha, sa, ha	śa, sha,
ः, *	h, ung	ḥ, ṃ	ḥ, ṃ

Sěj्jěňŭřyě hrěědēyum nēwěñēētum The good Man's He
 Yědwěduntěě wěěbōōdhā ftědělēēkum. The Poets fay, but h
 Enyědâêhê wěělěfět pěrěētāpāt Upon beholding an
 Sěj्jěňō drěwětěě nō nēwěñēētum. The good Man meli

(PDF) "Specimen of the *Reiq Beid*," p. (xxxi). Halhed, Nathai

In 1894, during the Tenth International Congress of Orientalists, a Comm
 amalgamate the two major styles of Sanskrit Romanization (those used b
Morgenländische Gesellschaft).⁽⁶⁾ Their *Rapport de la Transcription* describe
 some unknown bloke coined as): the International Alphabet of Sanskrit T
 foremost academic standard for Sanskrit Romanization.

"Sur ces bases, l'alphabet de transcription se
 a ā ī ū r ṛ ḷ e ai o au
 k kh g gh ñ
 c ch j jh ñ
 ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ
 t th d dh n
 p ph b bh m
 y r l v ś ṣ s h ḷ ṃ ṁ
 visarga ḥ
 jihvāmūlīya ḥ
 upadhmānīya ḥ
 quant aux accents, l'udātta serait représenté
 le svarita par le circonflexe ^
 le anudātta par le grave `."

Excerpt, Emile Senart. "*Rapport de la sous-commission de la transcription des alphabets Sanscrit et Praci*

Instead of including English digraphs such as *ch* and *sh*, the Congress of Orientalists defined digraphs to define aspiration. The Congress took particular effort to differentiate *th*, *d*, *dh* and to identify the nasals (*m*/*m̐*: *ṁ*, *ñ*, *ṇ*, *n*, *m*). For the *anusvāra* (ṁ) but also allowed *m̐*. IAST differs from the Congress's scheme in only three

Machine readability and displaying Sanskrit on computers

Despite the versatility of the Congress's scheme, its five diacritics break rendering (typesetting and word processing). One tremendously popular and strictly computer character set) Sanskrit transcription scheme is the Kyoto-Harvard transcription scheme of Michael Witzel.⁽⁷⁾ KH overcomes machine readability by differentiating *ca*

Relatively recently, several LATEX-compatible Devanāgarī-rendering packages have been developed. Avinash Chopde's Indian Language Transliteration Package (ITRANS);⁽⁸⁾ a scheme was later adopted by Charles Wikner for the skt package,⁽⁹⁾ which

It is actually also possible for many modern browsers to render Devanāgarī text without the risk of improper rendering by adhering to Devanāgarī images through CSS.

The following tables compare these methods of displaying machine/human-readable

Congress of Orientalists	Devanāgarī	Kyoto-Harvard	ITRANS
a, ā	अ, आ	a, A	a, aa
i, ī	इ, ई	i, I	i, ii/I
u, ū	उ, ऊ	u, U	u, uu
r, ṛ, Ṛ	ऋ, ॠ, लृ	R, RR, IR	RRi/R
e, ai	ए, ऐ	e, ai	e, ai
o, au	ओ, औ	o, au	o, au

Congress of Orientalists	Devanāgarī	Kyoto-Harvard
k, kh, g, gh, ṅ	क्, ख्, ग्, घ्, ङ्	k, kh, g, gh, G
c, ch, j, jh, ñ	च्, छ्, ज्, झ्, ञ्	c, ch, j, jh, J
ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, ḍh, ṇ	ट्, ठ्, ड्, ढ्, ण्	T, Th, D, Dh, N
t, th, d, dh, n	त्, थ्, द्, ध्, न्	t, th, d, dh, n
p, ph, b, bh, m	प्, फ्, ब्, भ्, म्	p, ph, b, bh, m
y, r, l, v	य्, र्, ल्, व्	y, r, l, v

ś, ṣ, s, h	श, ष, स, ह	z, S, s, h
m̐/m̐, ḥ	ं, ः	M, H

Devanāgarī keyboards are rare, and only a few programs vindicate the o programs require transliterated ASCII input. In this way, modern comput exceptionally well-conveyed via the aforementioned Roman transcriptior

Notes and sources

As noted above, Devanāgarī and other Brāhmī scripts are abugidas and alternate alphabetic writing system for Sanskrit in order for Sanskrit to IAST, with glyphs developed from Brāhmī, Kharoṣṭhī, modern Indic scripts ancient Greek alphabet). It is severely incomplete, and an outline can be

Although I was always interested in Sanskrit scripts, I was particularly ob 2007-08. The following are just some of the vast number of sources I che Books, and ILL.

(1) Halhed, Nathaniel. *A Code of Gentoo Laws* (1776).

This is one of the earliest European researches into Indian culture. *Gento* mercantilists to better interact and trade with the "Gentoo"/Hindus. In t Devanāgarī and invents this outlandish scheme to transliterate Sanskrit: excerpt a "[Specimen of the Reig Beid](#)," p. (xxxi) (PDF); public domain source

(2) Monier-Williams, Monier. *A Practical Grammar of the Sanskrit Grammar* Download full text: <http://books.google.com/books?id=qRwJAAAAQAAJ>, c

(3) Müller, F. Max. *A Sanskrit Grammar for Beginners, in Devanāgarī and Ro* Download full text: <http://books.google.com/books?id=SKYIAAAAQAAJ>, c

(4) Whitney, William Dwight. *A Sanskrit Grammar, including both the classic Brahmana* (1879).

Download full text: <http://books.google.com/books?id=RFAIAAAAQAAJ>, c

(5) Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. v. 26 1 Not to be confused with the Congress of Orientalists. This committee wa Congress to address the issue of standardized transcription/transliteration domain source, courtesy of University of Michigan Libraries.

(6) Xme Congrès International des Orientalistes, Session de Genève. *Rapp* Download public domain original in French (missing some pages): [Rapp](#) Minnesota. English translation: Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Gre the "Report of the Transliteration Committee, Tenth International Congr full text: [translation of Report \(PDF\)](#), public domain source, courtesy of U It was somewhat difficult to get a hold of this pamphlet... I finally got an University of Minnesota. It describes the transliteration conventions of t versus the style of the British Isles.

(7) Through correspondence with Dr. H. Nakatani (Tokyo University of For years ago at Kyoto by the cooperation of Prof. Witzel and me [Nakatani]. transcription system" by Nakatani (for his then institution in Kyoto).

(8) Chopde, Avinash. ITRANS: Indian Language Transliteration I ITRANS can be used to render many more Indic scripts than just Devanāṁ upload Sanskrit documents.

(9) Velthuis, Frans. devnag. <http://devnag.sarovar.org/>.

Wikner, Charles. skt. <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/language/sanskrit> Consult sktdoc.pdf at: <http://www.ctan.org/get/fonts/ps-type1/sanskrit/s> built for Devanāgarī rendering: it is what I use on this website.

Burgess, James. "The Transliteration of Oriental Alphabets". *Bulletin*. Tent Geveva (1894).

Burgess identifies the many benefits to standardizing Oriental alphabets [Transliteration](#), public domain source, courtesy of University of Michigan

Jones, William. "Orthography of Asiatick Words in Roman Letters". *Asiatic* This dissertation is the first part of the vol. 1 of *Asiatick Researches*. Sir Wi Arabian, and Persian Letters"; download [System \(PDF\)](#), public domain so Libraries. Full text of *Asiatick Researches* available at Google Books: <http://>

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