

Printing Revolution in India

- Aniket Alam
- **Gutenberg Parenthesis**
 - HS3.304
 - Spring 2023

Orality

- Robust Oral Cultures
- Primary Orality among large populations
- Long, and Strong, Systems in place for Oral Transmission
- Rich variety of languages
- Inter-communicability

Textuality

- Indus Valley 'script'
- Brahmi and Kharoshti (4th-3rd Century BCE)
- Brahmi led to Sarada, Siddham, Landa, Grantha, Kadamba... scripts
- Siddham to Nagari scripts; Grantha to Tamil and Malayalam; Kadamba to Kannada and Telugu
- Landa to Gurmukhi, Sindhi, Saraiki, Pashto...
- Tibetan Script
- Arab-Persian Script: Aramaic inspired Pahlavi; Nastaliq

Scribal Culture

- Rich history of manuscripts
- Rock, Wood, Clay, Bronze, Copper, Iron, Parchment, Paper....
- Deep Rooted Scribal Communities
- Alphabetical Scripts; Hindu numeric Systems
- Wide Spread of Manuscripts
 - Religion
 - Trade and Commerce
 - Marriage and Social Networks
 - Revenue, State Relations, Diplomacy
 - Agriculture
 - Crafts

Printing Press in India

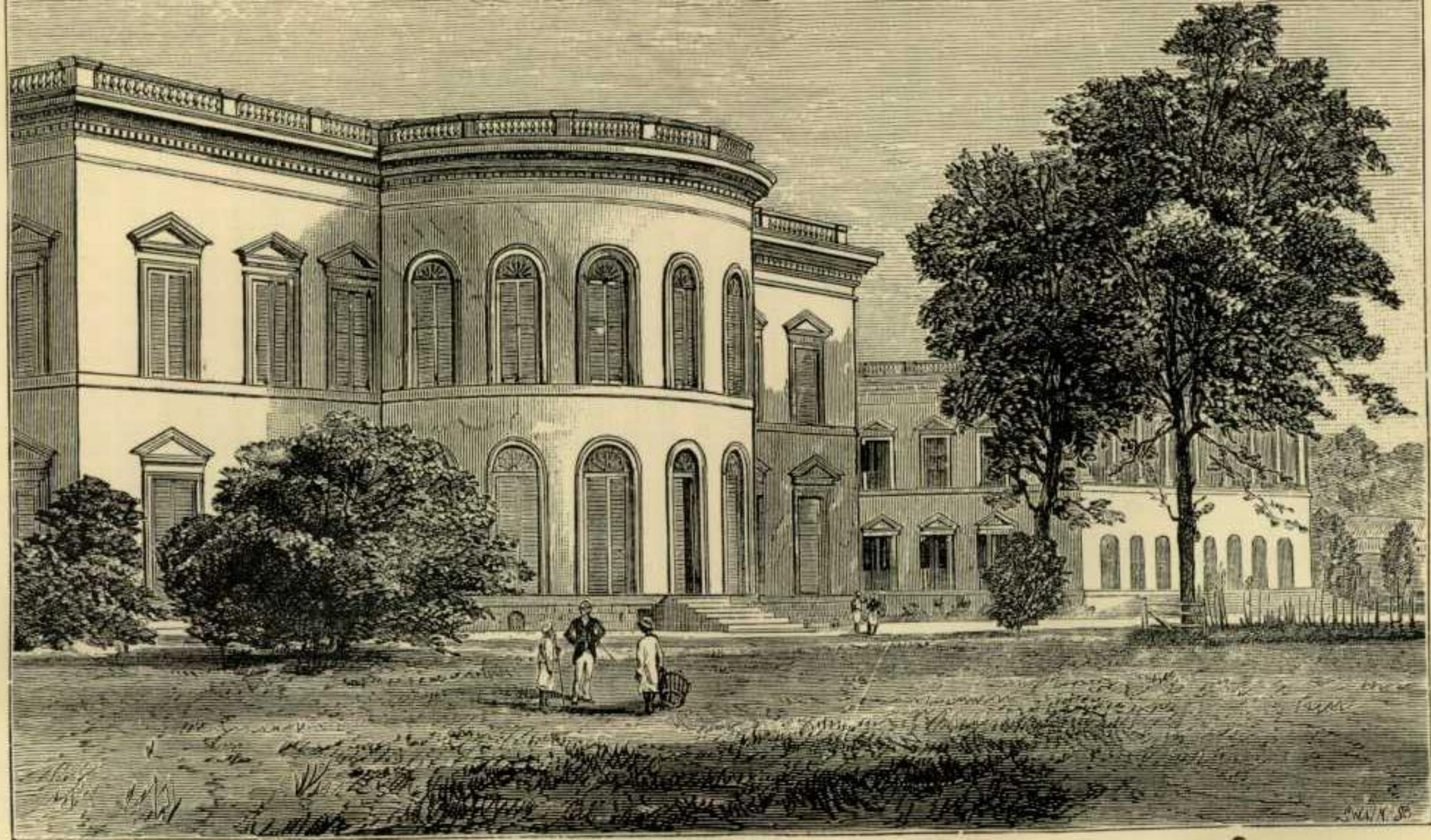
- Started in 1556, Goa
 - St Paul's College
 - Missionary Work; Pamphlets and not really books
- 1560s: First works in Tamil and Konkani
- Danish Missionaries in Tranquebar and Serampore
- 1770s Printing was now “widespread”
 - Bombay, Madras, Calcutta,
- First Newspaper: The Bengal Gazette, 1780

Serampore Mission Press

- Established in Danish Colony in 1800
 - William Carey, William Ward,
 - Escape from British Company Areas which forbade Missionary Activity
- Parallel to British standardising Grammar and Dictionary for Indian Languages
 - Bible in Indian Language with Indian Script
 - Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Divided Indian Scripts and Languages into Hindu and Muslim
 - For Missionary Purposes: Muslim script-language for Muslim conversion and Hindu script-language for Hindu conversion

Modern Indian Languages Emerge

- By 1820 Grammar and Lexicons in
 - Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, Urdu, Braj, Bengali, Marathi, Oriya, Panjabi, Telugu, Kannada....
- Fonts in Indian scripts for Indian Languages
 - Standardised them
 - Drew on Nagari and Nastaliq scripts
 - Bengali, Hindi, Urdu
- Type Foundry in Serampore
- Steam Engine run Paper Mill
- By 1830s
 - Over 2 lakh books in more than 40 languages
 - 7 lakh school textbooks



THE COLLEGE AT SERAMPORE.



JOSHUA MARSHMAN
1768-1837

WILLIAM CAREY
1761-1834

WILLIAM WARD
1769-1823

श्रीरामपुर कॉलेज SERAMPORE COLLEGE

20
पै.प.



भारत

INDIA

स्थापित-ESTD.-1818



Serampore Baptist Mission Press

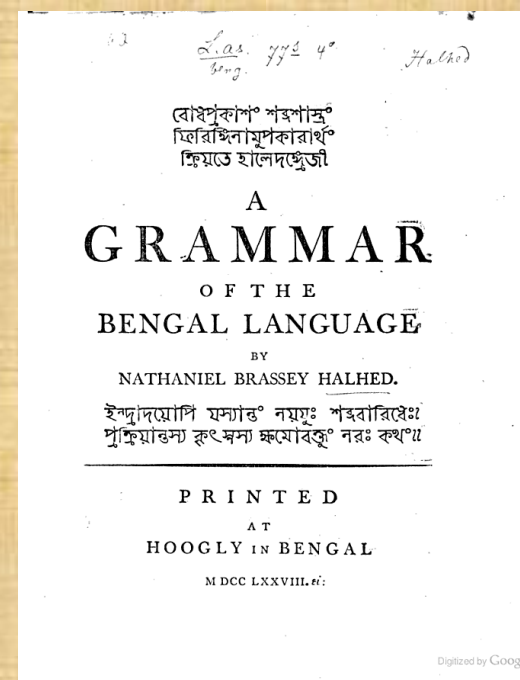


Translating the Bible

- Fonts standardised, and invented, for Indian languages
 - Which is a language and which is a dialect: Role of Chance
- Printed in 50 distinct languages, most translated in Serampore College
 - Translation = standardising grammar, dictionary, script/font/typeface
- Languages listed are !!
 - Bengalee, Ooriya, Hindoostanee, Sunskrit, Telinga, Kurnata, Mahratta, Sikh, Persian, Cashmeree, Assamese, Kunkuna, Mooltanee, Sindhee, Bikaner, Nepalese, Oduypore, Marwar, Juypore, Khasee, Burman, Armenian, Pushtoo or Uffghanee, Gujuratee, Kanojee, Magadh, Ojuyeennee, Jumboo, Bhutnee, Bruj, Sreenugur, Palpa, Muniporee, Bughaulee, Bhutneri, Dogri, Garhwali, Javanese, Kumauni, Lahnda, Magahi, Malay, Malvi, Mewari, Siamese and Singhalese.

Printing Indian Languages

- First Known Bengali Typefont
 - Halhed: Grammar of the Bengal Language (1778)
- The first book with standardised Bengali typefont
 - [Ram Boshoo, Raja Pratapaditya: Charitra](#)
- First Newspaper
 - Samachar Durpan; Akhbar-i-Serampur
- Missionary Work
 - Mungal Samachar



Printing Indian Languages

- “A printing press has been established by learned Hindoos, furnished with complete founts of improved Nagree types of different sizes, for the printing of books...”
- “It may be hoped, that the introduction of the art of printing among the Hindoos, which has been thus begun by the institution of a Sunskrit press, will promote the general diffusion of knowledge among this numerous and very ancient people; at the same time that it becomes the means of preserving the classic remains of their literature and sciences.”
- “...form a useful collection of Vocabularies of all provincial languages, and dialects of India. For this purpose, a Vocabulary in Persian and Hindoostanee, and another in Sunskrit and Bengalee, have been prepared, and will be printed and circulated, for the purpose of being filled up by competent persons with the corresponding terms in other languages in use in India. The printed Vocabularies will be soon completed...”

Inventing Modern Indian Languages

- Meer Sher Ulee, the head Moonshee, in the Hindoostanee department of the College, having compiled and arranged in the Hindoostanee language, a work on the History and Geography of India, has been encouraged by the College to print it for publication. The dissemination, by means of the press, of works composed by Natives eminent for their knowledge and practical skill in this dialect, must gradually polish, and fix a standard of excellence in a language, which, though long employed as an elegant medium of colloquial intercourse, and as the vehicle of poetical imagery, has hitherto been little used for prose composition...”
- “A Dictionary of the Muhratta language, compiled by Mr. Carey, and printed by him in the Muhratta character, has been some time in the press. It is a work which has been long wanted, and the publication of this, with the grammar before prepared by Mr. Carey, furnishing the means of acquiring a very useful language...”

School Text Books

- Set up in 1817
- Supply Printed Textbooks for Schools
- New Schools
- Standardised Syllabus
- Europeans and Indians as members
 - Mrityunjay Vidyalkar
 - Tarini Charan Mitra
 - Ram Comul Sen
 - Radhakanta Deb

श्र	श्र।	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ	ओ
	।	┐	┑	ॐ	ॐ	।	।	।
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ai	o
[ə]	[a:]	[ɪ]	[i:]	[u]	[ʊ]	[e/e:]	[æ:]	[o:]

श्रौ	श्रँ	श्रं	श्रः	
।	ॐ	ॐ	:	、
au	ã	am̐	ah̐	mutes
[ɔ:]	[ã]			vowels

Kaithi Script

Consonants

क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ
ka	kha	ga	gha	ṅa	ca	cha	ja	jha
[kə]	[kʰə]	[gə]	[gʱə]	[ŋə]	[t͡ʃə]	[t͡ʃʱə]	[d͡ʒə]	[d͡ʒʱə]
न	त	थ	द	ड	प	फ	ब	भ
ṇa	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍdha	ḍha	ṛha	ṇa	ta
[ɲə]	[tə]	[tʰə]	[d̪ə]	[d̪ʱə]	[p̪ə]	[p̪ʱə]	[b̪ə]	[t̪ə]
थ	ड	ध	न	प	फ	ब	भ	म
tha	ḍa	dha	na	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma
[tʰə]	[ḍə]	[dʱə]	[nə]	[pə]	[pʰə]	[bə]	[bʱə]	[mə]
य	र	ल	व	श	ष	स	ह	
ya	ra	la	va	śa	ṣa	sa	ha	
[jə]	[rə]	[lə]	[və/wə]	[ʂə]	[ʂə]	[sə]	[hə]	

Kaithi Script

Numerals

०

१

२

३

४

५

६

७

८

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

९

१०

9

10

Punctuation

०

॥

—

=

|

||

abbreviation
sign

numeral
sign

section
mark

double
section
mark

danda

double
danda

Kaithi Script

Kaithi Script

उभयनीपायेकुंगीविगी: नोहृगीहवेठमं गठजेलुगो: गदावाधैहनुमनभोगी
नमरीगाउमउसपेटी: सवसमपदसाधुवपरी: साधुपठेवाजेजो: सवदसप
वाजेवकुंगी: असाउपुजा कीहीहाथ: प्रमयेनुउपनीपेपाह सगउग
खासपदउठवानी: प्रमयेनुउठेवेहानी योउपठसा लाठीउगम: पा
अनखीदागहगहनुमान: गीगाजमुनाउनेअमान: नाहचमेठीपुचवीमान
उठरीयेननसेजप्रमान: साजआलीअगीरानमानचनना मृगकुयीपुजा
गजान: हाहजपुगीओहृदग: वजावाजेसीजओधुनीतीनीहाथउदे
पापहृथअवाणीउर आसनधुनीवीगाजनी

Takri alphabet

Vowels & diacritics

𑖅	𑖆	𑖇	𑖈	𑖉	𑖊	𑖋	𑖌
	𑖍	𑖎	𑖏	𑖐	𑖑	𑖒	𑖓
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ai
[ə]	[ɑ:]	[ɪ]	[i:]	[ʊ]	[u:]	[e]	[ɛ]
𑖔	𑖕	𑖖	𑖗				
𑖘	𑖙	𑖚	𑖛				
o	au	ã	ah	mutes vowels			
[o]	[ɔ]	[ɰ]	[h]				

Tankri Script

Consonants

କ

ka

[kə]

ଖ

kha

[kʰə]

ଗ

ga

[gə]

ଘ

gha

[gʱə]

ଙ

nga

[ŋə]

ଚ

ca

[tʃə]

ଛ

cha

[tʃʰə]

ଜ

ja

[dʒə]

ଝ

jha

[dʒʱə]

ଞ

nya

[ɲə]

ଟ

ṭa

[ʈə]

ଠ

ṭha

[ʈʰə]

ଡ

ḍa

[ɖə]

ଢ

ḍha

[ɖʱə]

ଣ

ṇa

[ɳə]

ତ

ta

[tə]

ଥ

tha

[tʰə]

ଦ

da

[ɖə]

ଧ

dha

[ɖʱə]

ନ

na

[nə]

ପ

pa

[pə]

ଫ

pha

[pʰə]

ବ

ba

[bə]

ଭ

bha

[bʱə]

ମ

ma

[mə]

ଯ

ya

[jə]

ର

ra

[rə/rə]

ଲ

la

[lə]

ୱ

wa

[wə/ʋə]

ଶ

śa

[ʃə]

ଷ

ṣa

[ʂə]

ସ

sa

[sə/hə]

ହ

ha

[hə]

ୠ

ṛa

[ɽə]

ଋ

ṛha

[ɽʱə]

ୡ

za

[zə]

ଷ

ṣa

[θə]

ଢ

fa

[fə]

Tankri Script

Numerals

•	୧	୨	୩	୪	୫	୬	୭
ସୂନ୍ୟ	୧କ	ଦୁଇ	ତ୍ରୈ	ଚାର	ପାଞ୍ଚ	ଛେ	ସାତ
śunya	ik	do	trai	cār	pānj	cē	sāt
୦	୧	୨	୩	୪	୫	୬	୭
୮	୯	୧୦					
ଅଟ୍ଟ	ନବ	ଦଶ					
āt	nau	dās					
୮	୯	୧୦					

Tankri Script

Takri^{[1][2]}

Official Unicode Consortium code chart  (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1168x	𑌀	𑌁	𑌂	𑌃	𑌄	𑌅	𑌆	𑌇	𑌈	𑌉	𑌐	𑌑	𑌒	𑌓	𑌔	𑌕
U+1169x	𑌖	𑌗	𑌘	𑌙	𑌚	𑌛	𑌜	𑌝	𑌞	𑌟	𑌠	𑌡	𑌢	𑌣	𑌤	𑌥
U+116Ax	𑌦	𑌧	𑌨	𑌩	𑌪	𑌫	𑌬	𑌭	𑌮	𑌯	𑌰	𑌱	𑌲	𑌳	𑌴	𑌵
U+116Bx	𑌶	𑌷	𑌸	𑌹	𑌺	𑌻	𑌼	𑌽	𑌾	𑌿						
U+116Cx	𑌿	𑍀	𑍁	𑍂	𑍃	𑍄	𑍅	𑍆	𑍇	𑍈						

Notes

1. ^ As of Unicode version 15.0
2. ^ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

Mahajani Script

Vowels

ᳵ

a

[a/a:]

ᳶ

i

[i:/e/ai]

᳷

u

[u:/o/aʊ]

᳸

e

[e:]

᳹

o

[o:]

Mahajani Script

Consonants

ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ
ka	kha	ga	gha	ca	cha	ja	jha
[ka]	[k ^h a]	[ga]	[g ^h a]	[tʃa]	[tʃ ^h a]	[dʒa]	[dʒ ^h a]
ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ
ñya	ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ta	tha
[ɲa]	[ṭa]	[t ^h a]	[ḍa]	[ḍ ^h a]	[ɳa]	[ta]	[t ^h a]
ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ
da	dha	na	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma
[da]	[d ^h a]	[na]	[pa]	[p ^h a]	[ba]	[b ^h a]	[ma]
ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	ॐ	
ra	la	wa	sa	ha	ṛa	shri	
[ra]	[la]	[wa]	[sa/ʃa]	[ha/ɦa]	[ɽa]	[ʃri:]	

Mahajani Script

Other symbols



nukta



abbreviation
sign



section
mark

Notes

The nukta symbol is used for writing sounds that are not represented by a unique character, such as allophonic variants and sounds that occur in local dialects or in loanwords.

Mahajani^{[1][2]}

Official Unicode Consortium code chart  (PDF)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1115x	ᱠ	ᱡ	ᱢ	ᱣ	ᱤ	ᱥ	ᱦ	ᱧ	ᱨ	ᱩ	ᱪ	ᱫ	ᱬ	ᱭ	ᱮ	ᱯ
U+1116x	ᱰ	ᱱ	ᱲ	ᱳ	ᱴ	ᱵ	ᱶ	ᱷ	ᱸ	ᱹ	ᱺ	ᱻ	ᱼ	ᱽ	᱾	᱿
U+1117x	ᱠ᱿	ᱡᱽ	ᱢ᱿	ᱣᱟ	ᱤᱞ	ᱥᱟ	ᱦᱟ									

Notes

- [^] As of Unicode version 15.0
- [^] Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

Vowels & diacritics

							
							
a	aa	i	ii	u	e	ai	o
[a/ɐ]	[aː]	[i]	[iː]	[u/uː]	[e]	[ɛ]	[o]
							
au	anusvara	virama	nukta	shadda	sukkun		
[ɔ]	nasalizes	mutes		doubles	mutes		
	vowels	vowels		consonants	vowels		

Consonants

က

ka

[ka]

ਖ

kha

[k^ha]

ဂ

ga

[ga]

ဂ္ဂ

gga

[gʃ/gr/g^ha]

ဂှ

gha

[g^h/gʃa]

၁

nga

[ŋa]

င

ca

[ca]

ဇ

cha

[c^ha]

၁

ja

[dʒ/f/dʒ^ha]

၁

jja

[f/dʒ^h/dʒ/za]

၁

nya

[ɲa]

တ

tta

[ta]

တ

ttha

[t^ha]

တ

dda

[d/ɲ/ɾa]

တ

ddha

[d^ha]

တ

nna

[ɲ/d/ɾa]

တ

ta

[ta]

တ

tha

[t^ha]

တ

da

[d/d^ha]

တ

ddda

[d/ɾ/d^ha]

တ

dha

[d^h/dʒa]

တ

na

[na]

တ

pa

[pa]

တ

pha

[p^ha]

တ

ba

[b/β/b^ha]

တ

bba

[β/b^h/ba]

တ

bha

[b^h/βa]

တ

ma

[ma]

တ

ya

[ja]

တ

ra

[ra]

တ

la

[la]

တ

va

[wa]

တ

sa

[sa]

တ

ha

[h̥a]

တ

lla

[ɾa/la]

တ

qa

[qa]

တ

xa

[xa]

တ

gha

[ɣa]

တ

za

[za]

တ

tah

[t^ha]

တ

fa

[fq]

တ

sha

[ʃ/s^ha]

တ

hah

[ha]

တ

ain

[ʔ/ʔ]

တ

ain

[ʔ/ʔ]

Punctuation

ل

danda

ل

double
danda

:

word
separator

—

section
mark

==

double
section
mark

o

abbreviation
sign

Khojki Script

- Wrote Sindhi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Persian, Hindi...
- From the 15th to 20th century

Multani Script

- Used to write Saraiki, Sindhi, Punjai, Hindi
- From 17th to 20th century

Vowels

a	i	u	e	h
[a/a:/e/æ]	[i/i:]	[u/u:]	[e/æ/o]	[h]

Numerals

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9								

Consonants

ka	kha	ga	gha	ca	cha	ja	jha	nya
[ka]	[k ^h a]	[ga]	[g ^h a/ɟa]	[tʃa/tʃ ^h a]	[c ^h a]	[dʒa]	[dʒ ^h a/fa]	[ɲa]
ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍḍa	ḍha	ṇa	ta	tha	da
[tʰa/tʰ ^h a]	[tʰa]	[ɖa]	[ɖa]	[ɖ ^h a/ɖa]	[ɳa]	[ta]	[tʰa]	[da]
dha	na	pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	ya	ra
[da/d ^h a]	[na]	[pa]	[p ^h a]	[ba]	[b ^h a/ɸa]	[ma]	[ja]	[ra]
la	wa	sa	ha	ṛa	ṛha			
[la]	[wa]	[sa/ʃa/ʂa]	[ha]	[ɽa]	[ɽ ^h a]			

Vowels and vowel diacritics

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ
	ा	ी	ि	ु	ू	ृ	ॄ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	ṝ
[ə]	[a]	[i]	[i:]	[u]	[u:]		
ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	ऐ	औ		
—	—	—	—	—	—		
ॢ	ॣ						
!	!	e	ai	o	au		
		[e]	[əi]	[o]	[əu]		

Consonants

क

ka

[kə]

ख

kha

[kʰə]

ग

ga

[gə]

घ

gha

[gʱə]

ङ

ṅa

[ŋə]

च

ca

[tʃə/tʃə]

छ

cha

[tʃʰə]

ज

ja

[dʒə/dʒə]

झ

jha

[dʒʱə/dʒʱə]

ञ

ña

[j̃ə]

ट

ṭa

[ʈə]

ठ

ṭha

[ʈʰə]

ड

ḍa

[ɖə]

ढ

ḍha

[ɖʱə]

ण

ṇa

[ɳə]

त

ta

[tə]

थ

tha

[tʰə]

द

da

[də]

ध

dha

[dʱə]

न

na

[nə]

प

pa

[pə]

फ

pha

[pʰə/fə]

ब

ba

[bə]

भ

bha

[bʱə]

म

ma

[mə]

य

ya

[jə]

र

ra

[rə]

ल

la

[lə]

व

va

[ʋə]

श

śa

[ʃə]

ष

ṣa

[ʂə]

स

sa

[sə]

ह

ha

[ɦə]

ळ

ḷa

[ɭə]

Numerals

०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७
śūn'ya	ēk	dōn	tīn	cār	pāc	sahā	sāt
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
८	९						
āṭh	na'ū						
8	9						


Punctuation

।	॥	॰	हु
danda	double	abbreviation	huva
(comma)	danda		used as an
	(fullstop)		invocation

Modi Script

- From 1600s to 20th century
- Used to write Marathi

The Modi alphabet (U+11600–U+1165F) was added to the [Unicode](#) Standard in June 2014 with the release of version 7.0.

Modi ^{[1][2]}																
Official Unicode Consortium code chart  (PDF)																
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1160x	ਅ	ਘ	ਓ	ਓ	ਓ	ਓ	ਐ	ਐ	ਲ	ਲ਼	ਓ	ਓ	ਓ	ਓ	ਸ਼	ਓ
U+1161x	ਗ	ਘ	ਙ	ਤ	ਓ	ਐ	ਸ਼	ਐ	ਹ	ਹ਼	ਤ	ਙ	ਓ	ਤ	ਐ	ਓ
U+1162x	ਓ	ਐ	ਙ	ਸ਼	ਓ	ਐ	ਸ਼	ਓ	ਤ	ਐ	ਙ	ਓ	ਐ	ਓ	ਐ	ਓ
U+1163x	ਾ	ੀ	ੀ	ੂ	ੂੰ	੍ਰ	੍ਰ	੍ਰ	੍ਰ	੍ਰ	ੇ	ੋ	ੋ	ੋ	ਂ	ਂ
U+1164x	ੱ	।	॥	ੌ	ੌ											
U+1165x	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ	ੌ						

Notes

- 1.^ As of Unicode version 15.0
- 2.^ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points

Consonants

क

क

ka

ख

ख

kha

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Some conjuncts

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Numerals

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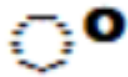
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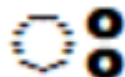
Other symbols



virama



anusvara



visarga



avagraha



siddham



Notes

- The virama mutes the inherent vowel, and is used to create conjuncts
- The anusvara indicates nasalization, e.g. [ã]
- The visarga indicates post vocalic aspiration, e.g. [ah]
- The avagraha indicates the elision of word-initial a as a result of sandhi
- The siddham is used as an invocation at the beginning of documents

Nandinagari Script

- Prevalent in the regions of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu...
- First evidence from 6th century CE
- In use till 19th Century CE
- Official script of the Vijayanagar Empire
- One of the official scripts of the Cholas (Raja Raja Chola)
- Nagari script in south India!

Before Modern Vernaculars

- 1700s India: Persian as language of State
 - Similar to Latin in Medieval Europe; English in present day India
 - Sanskrit and Arabic: highly regarded classical languages, long history of scholarship
 - Persian replaced 1832 Bombay/Madras; 1837 Bengal Presidency
- Different languages of people in an unbroken continuum
 - Moors, Indostan, Hindawi, Rekhta, Urdu, Hindi, Bhasha
 - A variety of scripts drawn from Nagari, Nustaliq, and other sources

“...elegant language which is used in every part of Hindoostan and the Dukhin, which is the common vehicle of intercourse among all well-educated natives and among the illiterate also, in many provinces of India; which is almost everywhere intelligible to some among the inhabitants of every village...” [H.T. Colebrooke, cited by John B. Gilchrist]

Inventing New Languages

- “The Command of Language and the Language of Command”
- From 1770s onwards British effort to master Indian languages
- Fort William College
 - Hindu and Muslim languages
 - Bengali became Hindu; Grammar and Dictionary; excised Persian words
 - Linguistic Duality of Hindi-Urdu
- Serampore Missionaries’ School Book Societies
 - Technical necessity of printing: standardise grammar, orthography, script
 - Purpose was to preach religion: Sanskrit register for Hindus, Arabic/Persian register for Muslims
 - Gave a religious boundary to a language community

Nagari Script

- First demand to be allowed to use Nagari script
 - Named “Dev-Nagari” to stress divine origins; link to religious texts
- Hunter Commission on Education, 1882
 - 76 memorials for Nagari/Hindi, signed by 58,289 people
- Madan Mohan Malaviya: superiority of Nagari script over Persian
 - Link to spread of education, social reform, political loyalty
- 18, April 1900: Order allowing use of Devnagari in Courts of Law
 - 1915-16: School Text books should be in Hindi with Nagari Script

Script \neq Language

- Initially the fight was over script; but script and language were soon conflated
- Hindi and Urdu emerged over the 1910-1940s as distinct “languages”
- Strange division:
 - Same grammar
 - Same syntax
 - Synonym words from Persian and Sanskrit roots
 - Elision of local vocabulary
- “...the Hindi language, which we have come to call Hindustani and Urdu also...”

[M.K. Gandhi, 1937, *Harijan Sevak*]
- Thousands fail basic school exams in their “Mother Tongue”. How?

Colonising Vernaculars

- Print Capitalism invented ...
- Modern Indian Languages
 - Turned other languages into “Dialects”
 - Denied them scripts; forgotten scripts
 - They are “dying languages”
- Indian Vernaculars are Languages of Power
 - State; Social; Cultural
 - Wood’s Despatch 1854
- National Movement organised itself around linguistic regions
- Post-Independence India’s internal political borders along language lines

Colonial Education in the Print Era

- 1830s: Debate clinched (about Oriental or English education)
- English education for government jobs, legal practice
 - Colleges opened for Indians
- Wood's Dispatch (1854)
 - Calcutta, Bombay, Madras Universities; Govt of India's Education Department
 - Emphasis on schools, uniform syllabus, examinations
 - Primary schools vernacular, high schools Anglo-vernacular, higher education English
- Government funding of education

STATE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY; BOTH VIRTUE AND NEED

Colonial Education

- Rapid expansion of public education
 - 3 Universities (1857) to 21 Universities, 500 colleges
 - Thomason College (1847)
 - Medical Colleges in Calcutta and Madras (1835)
- Wide-spread involvement of Indian charity
- Native States invested in education

DESIRE FOR EDUCATION SPREAD WIDE
SEEN AS TOOL FOR IMPROVING STATUS AND INCOME

Macaulay's Minutes on Education

“What is that power worth which is founded on vice, on ignorance, and on misery—which we can hold only by violating the most sacred duties which as governors we owe to the governed—which as a people blessed with far more than an ordinary measure of political liberty and of intellectual light—we owe to a race debased by three thousand years of despotism and priest craft? We are free, we are civilized, to little purpose, if we grudge to any portion of the human race an equal measure of freedom and civilization.”

Macaulay Continued (II)

- “Are we to keep the people of India ignorant in order that we may keep them submissive? Or do we think that we can give them knowledge without awakening ambition? Or do we mean to awaken ambition and to provide it with no legitimate vent? Who will answer any of these questions in the affirmative? Yet one of them must be answered in the affirmative, by every person who maintains that we ought permanently to exclude the natives from high office. I have no fears. The path of duty is plain before us: and it is also the path of wisdom, of national prosperity, of national honour.”

Macaulay Continued (III)

“It may be that the public mind of India may expand under our system till it has outgrown that system; that by good government we may educate our subjects into a capacity for better government, that, having become instructed in European knowledge, they may, in some future age, demand European institutions. Whether such a day will ever come I know not. But never will I attempt to avert or to retard it. Whenever it comes, it will be the proudest day in English history. To have found a great people sunk in the lowest depths of slavery and superstition, to have so ruled them as to have made them desirous and capable of all the privileges of citizens would indeed be a title to glory all our own.”

Macaulay Continued (IV)

“We are free to employ our funds as we choose; that we ought to employ them in teaching what is best worth knowing; that English is better worth knowing than Sanskrit or Arabic; that the natives are desirous to be taught English, and are not desirous to be taught Sanskrit or Arabic; that neither as the languages of law, nor as the languages of religion, have the Sanskrit and Arabic any peculiar claim to our engagement; that it is possible to make natives of this country thoroughly good English scholars, and that to this end our efforts ought to be directed.”

Macaulay Continued (V)

- “I have conversed both here and at home with men distinguished by their proficiency in the Eastern tongues. I have never found one among them who could deny that a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia. Honours might be roughly even in works of the imagination, such as poetry, but when we pass from works of imagination to works in which facts are recorded, and general principles investigated, the superiority of the Europeans becomes absolutely immeasurable.”

Macaulay Continued (VI)

“Whoever knows [English] has ready access to all the vast intellectual wealth, which all the wisest nations of the earth have created and hoarded in the course of ninety generations. It may be safely said, that the literature now extant in that language is of far greater value than all the literature which three hundred years ago was extant in all the languages of the world together.”

The question now before us is simply whether, when it is in our power to teach this language, we shall teach languages, by which, by universal confession, there are not books on any subject which deserve to be compared to our own; whether, when we can teach European science, we shall teach systems which, by universal confession, whenever they differ from those of Europe, differ for the worse; and whether, when we can patronise sound Philosophy and true History, we shall countenance, at the public expense, medical doctrines, which would disgrace an English farrier, --Astronomy, which would move laughter in girls at an English boarding school,--History, abounding with kings thirty feet high, and reigns thirty thousand years long,--and Geography, made up of seas of treacle and seas of butter.”

Macaulay Continued (VII)

“It is impossible for us, with our limited means, to attempt to educate the body of the people. We must at present do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern; a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect. To that class we may leave it to refine the vernacular dialects of the country, to enrich those dialects with terms of science borrowed from the Western nomenclature, and to render them by degrees fit vehicles for conveying knowledge to the great mass of the population.”

English as an Indian Language

- Macaulay's hopes for Bilingual Indian intelligentsia "refin[ing] the vernacular dialects" of India was only partially met
- Vernaculars became good at building political-cultural communities
- Poor record in science and academic communication
 - "...enrich those dialects with terms of science borrowed from the Western nomenclature, and to render them by degrees fit vehicles for conveying knowledge to the great mass of the population."
- Two centuries later, still a work in progress
- India's rising middle classes have adopted English as their language of preference for professions
 - You cannot become Prime Minister without good Hindi, and you cannot rise in law, medicine, academia, corporate sector without good English

Press and Publications

- 1820s – 30s: Indian language publications spread in British India
 - Printing press in Patna, Banaras, Allahabad, Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Bombay, Poona, Madras, Travencore...
 - Vibrant publication eco-system by 1850s
- Government control from the beginning
 - Licence for establishing and circulating Newspapers and Books
 - Censorship
 - Distinct Laws and Policies for Indian and European Publications

Press and Publications

- Vernacular Press
 - Bombay Samachar
 - Udant Martand
 - Indian Mirror, Hindu Patriot, Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hindu, Kesari, Bengalee, Huriara, Bengali Public Opinion, Reis and Rayet, Samprokash, Sulabh Samachar, Hitavadi, Induprakash, Swadeshimitran, Advocate of Lucknow, Herald of Bihar...
- 475 newspapers by 1875
- Newspapers became the primary vehicle for not just news but also political work
- Subscription rose to lakhs
- Readership in crores
 - Oral Readers

BOOKS

- Preferred vehicle for political activity
- Every major political leader, public figure has published book(s)
- 1860s-80s: Indian publishers emerge
 - Nawal Kishore Press (1858) Lucknow
 - DB Taraporewala (1860s) Bombay
 - AH Wheeler (1870s) Allahabad
 - Indian Press (1884) Allahabad
 - Moti Lal Banarasi Das (1903) Varanasi
 - Oxford University Press India (1912) Calcutta
 - Gita Press (1927) Gorakhpur
- Library and Library movements in the 20th century

Print Capitalism in India

- Benedict Anderson's theory of Print Capitalism
 - Time
 - Circulation
 - Definition of News
- Interlinkages of press and economy
- Interlinkages of press and politics
- State as platform of print and capitalism

Print Capitalism's India

- Script wars define modern India
 - Become scriptural wars!
- Scripts created modern Indian languages
- Script-languages helped form modern political communities in India
- Education and educated professions as central to defining middle class India
- Role of print and print capitalism in education and professions
 - Underwritten by State and its policies
- Scripts and Print as the makers of modern India
 - Hidden in plain sight