

## Need to use a proper script for Samskritam

Even though Bhagavan understands all languages, the power of our Bharatiya languages cannot be matched in expressing our cultural values especially when rising to the plane of conversing with Bhagavan. Of them, the Samskrita bhasha is special in that it is pan-Bharatiya. Hence **our scriptures, anushtana paddhati-s and a lot of bhakti sahitya texts are in Samskrita only.**

We know that in Samskritam, especially for **anushtanam**, **sound/pronunciation** is important. Therefore one should **write and read sankalpa shloka-s** etc for anushtanam in an appropriate script which is capable of distinguishing all the sounds of Samskritam.

Now the Latin (English) script was evolved for other languages, and we all know the difficulty of correlating spelling and pronunciation even in English. Further, **more letters are required to write Samskritam** than English as there are more sounds in it. However, since Latin script is widely known, scholars felt it useful to create a **Latin-based transliteration system for Samskritam.**

In such a system, Latin letters which may be casually applied to different sounds need to be **differentiated**. For instance in Rama the first or second “a” may denote a long sound. This is differentiated as Rāma or Ramā. Similarly, other marks called diacritics are used to differentiate sounds as in āā īī ūū ṛṛ ṝ ṝ̄ ṁṁ ḥḥ ṇṇ ṇ̄ ṭṭ ḍḍ ṣṣ. Aspirated (mahāprāna) sounds are denoted with an additional h as in k/kh, g/gh, c/ch, j/jh, ṭ/ṭh, ḍ/ḍh, t/th, d/dh, p/ph, b/bh.

However, a system is useful only if followed correctly. **If diacritics or added h-s are ignored and we do not read with the intended pronunciation, then the transliteration is no longer useful for its intended purpose.** It is very easy to ignore diacritics as they are not in daily use. It would then have altogether been better to use a script which actually has different symbols for the sounds.

Therefore **it is strongly recommended to learn a Bharatiya script** like Devanagari, Grantha, Telugu, Kannada etc **which has clearly different letters to denote the various sounds.** Our documents are published in many such scripts.

However, with a view to help people who are not able to immediately learn such scripts, we are now publishing documents in Latin transliteration as well as per the system called International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST). For the above reasons, people should use these as a temporary measure till they learn a Bharatiya script.

The Samskrita varnamala in IAST is given below with Devanagari equivalents:

a अ, ā आ, i इ, ī ई, u उ, ū ऊ, ṛ ॠ, ṝ ॡ, ḷ ॴ, ḻ ॵ

e ए, ai ऐ, o ओ, au औ, am अं, aḥ अः

ka क, kha ख, ga ग, gha घ, ṇa ङ

ca च, cha छ, ja ज, jha झ, ña ञ

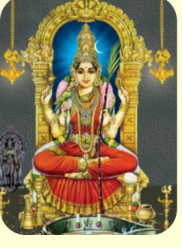
ṭa ट, ṭha ठ, ḍa ड, ḍha ढ, ṇa ण

ta त, tha थ, da द, dha ध, na न

pa प, pha फ, ba ब, bha भ, ma म

ya य, ra र, la ल, va व, śa श, ṣa ष, sa स, ha ह

om



śrīmad-ādyā-śaṅkara-bhagavatpāda-  
paramparāgata-mūlāmnāya-sarvajña-pīṭham  
śrī-kāñcī-kāmakoti-pīṭham  
jagadguru-śrī-śaṅkarācārya-svāmi-śrīmaṭha-  
samsthānam

## svasti-vacanam

- svasti śrīmad-akhila-bhūmaṇḍalālaṅkāra-trayastrīṃśat-koṭi-devatā-sevita-śrī-kāmākṣī-devī-sanātha-śrīmad-ekāmrānātha-śrī-mahādevī-sanātha-śrī-hastigirinātha-sākṣātkāra-paramādhiṣṭhāna-satyavratā-nāmāṅkita-kāñcī-divya-kṣetre śāradāmaṭha-susthitānām
- atulita-sudhā-rasa-mādhurya-kamalāsana-kāminī-dhammilla-samphulla-mallikā-mālikā-niḥṣyanda-makaranda-jharī-sauvastika-vānīgumpha-vijṛmbhaṇānanda-tundilīta-manīṣi-maṇḍalānām
- anavaratādvaita-vidyā-vinoda-rasikānām nirantarālaṅkṛtī-kṛta-śānti-dānti-bhūmnām
- sakala-bhuvana-cakra-pratiṣṭhāpaka-śrīcakra-pratiṣṭhā-vikhyāta-yaśolaṅkṛtānām
- nikhila-pāṣaṇḍa-ṣaṇḍa-kaṇṭakotpātanena viśadī-kṛta-veda-vedānta-mārga-ṣaṇmata-pratiṣṭhāpakācāryānām
- paramahaṃsa-parivrājakācārya-varya-jagad-guru-śrīmat-śaṅkara-bhagavatpādācāryānām

- adhiṣṭhāne siṃhāsanābhiṣikta-śrīmad-jayendra-sarasvatī-śrīpādānām
- antevāsi-varya-śrīmat-śaṅkaravijayendra-sarasvatī-śrīpādānām
- tadantevāsi-varya-śrīmat-satya-candraśekharendra-sarasvatī-śrīpādānām ca
- caraṇa-nalinayoḥ sa-praśrayaṃ sāñjali-bandhaṃ ca namaskurmaḥ||

