



मातृका MAATRIKA  
भातृका  
A CORE SHARADA TEAM  
FOUNDATION INITIATIVE REINCARNATION OF  
THE SHARADA SCRIPT



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नमस्ते शारदे देवी काश्मीरपुरवासिनि  
त्वामहं प्रार्थये नित्यं विद्यादानं च देहि मे ॥

नमो मातृदे देवी काश्मीरपुरवासिनि  
द्वाभक्तं प्रकृते नित्यं विद्यादानं च देहि मे ॥

## वाचिक मंभूर / वार्षिक संस्करण



The painting has been specially conceptualised by Maatrika Editorial group of Core Sharad Team. The collage has been painted by Ms. Parul Razdan Bradoo.

# LEARN SHARADA TEACH SHARADA

संस्कृति और सभ्यता को जानने की एक पहल

**PRESERVE - PROTECT - PROPAGATE**



Annual Edition  
Dedicated to  
**THE MAN BEHIND  
SATISAR  
SHARADA**  
Shri. Vinodh Rajan



Kuldeep Dhar

## संपादकीय / Editorial

ॐ नमामि त्वां शारदा देवीं, महाभागीं भगवतीं काश्मीर पुरवासनीं  
विद्यादायिनीम् । रक्ष माम् रक्ष माम् त्वाम्

इस अंक के लिये हमने शारदा लिपि के जन्म, शारदा पीठ, शारदा वर्णमाला के विकास से लेकर हाल तक की अवधि में बहुत सारी जानकारी को इकट्ठा करने की कोशिश की है। शारदा पृष्ठभूमि वाले या इसके लिए जुनून रखने वाले कुछ प्रतिष्ठित लोगों के साथ संपर्क करना बहुत रोमांचकारी रहा। उनके साथ संपर्क करना और चर्चा करना वास्तव में एक सुखद अनुभव था। वे अपनी अत्यावश्यक व्यस्तताओं के बावजूद निसंकोच व प्रसन्नता से लिखने के लिये उत्सुक थे। हमारी ओर से आप सभी के ज्ञानवर्धक लेखों के लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

हम भूषणलाल डेम्बी जी, सुधीर सोपोरीजी, अनुपम खेरजी, भाषा सुब्लीजी और कावेरी बामजईजी के इस संस्करण के लिए उनके विशेष संदेशों के लिए बहुत आभारी हैं। यह शारदा लिपि व मातृका को लोकप्रिय बनाने में सहायक होंगे।

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जय शारदा मां ।

कुलदीप णर



## Inside

Page 1	• Editorial
Page 2	• Content List & Reader Feedback
Page 3	• Story of Satisar Sharada • Message from Anupam Kherji
Page 6	• Article by Dr S S Toshkhani
Page 11	• Saints by AK Razdan • Message from Bhasha Sumbli
Page 12	• Isha Upnishad Shaloka 6 by A.K.Razdan • Message from Dr.Deambi
Page 13	• Kashmir Teerth Sangrah by Dr.Kirti Kumar Sharma • Poem by Deepak Sopory
Page 15	• Gauri Tritiya by Dr.CL Raina
Page 16	• Kashmiri Poem by Master Zinda Kaul
Page 17	• Sharada Temple at Teetwal • Poem by Rajinder Jad
Page 19	• Sharada or Sharda – Correct spelling by P V S Kumar
Page 21	• Importance of Kashmiri by Dr. Uday Kakroo

Page 22	• Manuscripts transliterated by CST
Page 23	• Lipi by Nishi Kanta Pande
Page 24	• Developments in Sharada Alphabet over time from Dr.B.L.Deambi's book
Page 25	• RahasyaUpdesh by AK Razdan
Page 26	• Vidwan Vallab-Dev by Vinutha Saligram • Message from Kaveree Bamzai
Page 27	• Children Section-Birds of Kashmir
Page 28	• Children Section-Typical Kashmiri Vegetables
Page 29	• Kashmiri Vowels & Adv
Page 30	• Sharada Varnamala
Page 31	• CST- Way forward by Rakeshji
Page 32	• CST-Minutes of the meeting
Page 33	• Highlights of the month • Shuri Bath & Our Publications • Donation Request

## CST & Satisar Font Feedback

Satisar Sharada app is a boon for all the divine script enthusiasts to experience transliteration of poetry and prose alike from other scripts. The app is an excellent tool to practice and communicate with sharada lipi. The installing and getting started is very easy and straight forward. There is no need to keep notebooks or other references as the full script is also available for clarification in the same.

It would be good if first time there was a tutorial prompt to help navigate the Practice tab (match, memorize feature). The app has empowered those who have learnt the Sharada script to try out the transliteration thereby making them more well versed and confident with the script which in turn makes reading of manuscripts written in Sharada script much more easy.

- Dr. Padmashree Anand, AIS Lab, CIIRC, Bangalore

The satisar sharada app is a brilliant effort to revive the sharada lipi in our daily use and practice. The keyboard to directly type in sharada script works exceptionally well and the ability to convert between Roman and Devanagari scripts is beneficial for people who are not yet familiarized with the sharada-lipi key placements.

The part in the keyword where QUERTY Roman letters are simultaneously mentioned makes it confusing to locate the Sharada letters.

Some feature suggestion:

- option to make the keyboard larger or smaller on the screen for accessibility.
- long-pressing a letter to show conjunct-consonant option for that letter.
- an illustration or video tab embedded in the app for newly installed, where people can see how to locate and navigate the letters on the keyboard. Thank you! This is a very important and useful tool for engaging a wider audience to join in the sharing of sharada lipi.

मैं, हेमन्त कौशिक, संस्कृत भाषा एवं भाषाविज्ञान का छात्र होने के नाते इस प्रयास में था कि कहीं से शारदा लिपि का भी अध्ययन करूँ पर कोई मार्ग नहीं दिख रहा था। कुछ जानकारों से पूछा गूगल किया पर खाली हाथ रहा। "CORE SHARADA TEAM" इसके विषय में सूचना मुझे ट्वीटर से ही मिली. और इस तरह मैंने एक प्राचीन लिपि के अध्ययन के प्रयास किया. और अभी भी मैं इस लिपि के विषय में बालक ही हूँ। शनैः शनैः आगे बढ़ने का नित नूतन जानने का प्रयास रहेगा। इस मंडली के जितने भी माननीय सदस्य हैं विशेष रूप से जिन दो के विषय में मैं जानता हूँ CST Director Rakesh Koul एवं Teacher Veronica Peerji को धन्यवाद, आभार, कहना एक औपचारिक सा व्यवहार लगेगा, पर आपने और सम्पूर्ण "Core Sharada team" ने इस पूँजीवाद के समय में जिस तरह हमें शारदालिपि का निःशुल्क अध्ययन करवाया। ये हम सभी के लिए अत्यन्त वन्दनीय अनुकरणीय एवं मार्ग को प्रशस्त करने वाला है. मां शारदा की कृपा आप पर बनी रहें। प्रणाम स्वीकार करें।

## The Story of Satisar Sharada

सतीसर शारदा के जन्म की कहानी जन्म धाता की जुबानी  
Vinodh Rajan & Core Sharada Team



It's been almost a year and half since Satisar Sharada was released, the same font that is currently being used to print the Sharada text in this very magazine. It can be confidently said that the Satisar Sharada font is the only working open-source font for the Sharada script that can render accurately both Sanskrit and Kashmiri. So, how did this all begin and how did we end up making our own Sharada font?

I have always been fascinated by scripts, particularly our own ancient heritage scripts. I have personally worked with scripts like Tamil-Brahmi, Grantha and Tulu-Tigalari to name a few. I co-developed fonts for both Tamil-Brahmi and Grantha and have worked with improving Unicode representations of historical characters in several other Indic scripts. My love for scripts is the major reason I developed Aksharamukha (<https://aksharamukha.appspot.com>), a widely used script converter and one of the very few pieces of software that supports archaic, historic and minority scripts. Naturally, it also supported Sharada. However, at that time of adding Sharada support, the only available free font was Noto Sans Sharada.

One fine evening in Nov. 2020, Sunil Mahnoori from Core Sharada team contacted me to complain about the rendering of Sharada in Aksharamukha. Of course, I couldn't do much.

The font I used was incorrect and would not properly render conjuncts (samyuktaksharas). I explained this to Sunil. For some reason, Sunil then asked if I could help them create a font, as they have already designed all the necessary letters for Sharada. I had created a font for Tamil-Brahmi with few of my friends a decade earlier, so I kind of said "Maybe!" We had a call about this, and I asked Sunil to mail a few glyphs he designed



to see if it is even possible to generate a sample font out of it. The experiment was successful, and I was able to create a demo font. Then, life got busy, and I couldn't commit completely to create a complete font.

However, Sunil never gave up and kept contacting me constantly to check if I could finally find some time to create the font. Given the great amount of work Core Sharada is doing for the propagation of Sharada, I decided to do my fair share of work in preserving the script. I am neither Kashmiri nor a pandit. But Sharada goes beyond ethnic and geographic identifiers. It is our collective cultural treasure with thousands of manuscripts waiting to be digitized and read. This was one of few ways my technical expertise could be put to active use in the preservation of an important piece of our culture. The last thing to be an obstacle to the use of Sharada shouldn't be the absence of a free working font. Sunil promptly sent over all the glyphs that were painstakingly created by him in Adobe Illustrator to officially kickstart the work.

The work turned out to be more complicated than I expected. Sharada is a reasonably complex script with several special forms and several rules to form samyuktaksharas. But, surprisingly, most of those rules were very regular and there were very few irregular conjuncts. The Core Sharada team kindly set up a call and provided me with a "crash course" in Sharada script and sent over their Sharada primer for reference. I would have to say that the primer was very well made, documenting all the intricacies of the script.

Unique use of "ॐ" & "ॐ" with Nine (9) letters

कु	→	कु	→	कु
गु	→	गु	→	गु
झ	→	झ	→	झ
जु	→	जु	→	जु
तु	→	तु	→	तु
भु	→	भु	→	भु
रु	→	रु	→	रु
श	→	श	→	श

★9 (Nine) Special letter formations with ॐ followed by a full letter

खं	→	खं	→	खं
गं	→	गं	→	गं
ङं	→	ङं	→	ङं
चं	→	चं	→	चं
जं	→	जं	→	जं
झं	→	झं	→	झं
तं	→	तं	→	तं
भं	→	भं	→	भं
रं	→	रं	→	रं
शं	→	शं	→	शं



Creating a Sharada font involves more than just designing the letters, it also involves elaborate opentype font programming to make sure the font properly displays the appropriate forms for any given Sharada text. The same programming is also responsible for the matras to sit perfectly with the consonants and to prevent the overlapping of letters. Every Indian script font you use has such programming to ensure the script is correctly rendered. I had done some open type programming but nothing at the level required to support Sharada. So, I had to learn the intricacies of font programming on the go in order to create a working font.

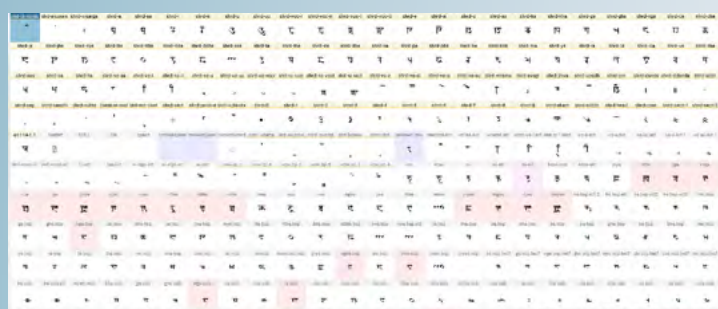
Shapes	Substitutions
काध→ब	shrd-ka shrd-virama shrd-ssa -> kssa.alt
काध→ब	shrd-ka virama.alt shrd-ssa -> kssa.alt
एाड→झ	shrd-ja shrd-virama shrd-nya -> jnya
एाड→झ	shrd-ja virama.alt shrd-nya -> jnya
गाप→क्ख	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-kha -> rkha
गाग→ज	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-ga -> rga
गाए→च	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-nga -> rnga
गाप→च	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-ca -> rca
गाए→च	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-ja -> rja
गाप→ज	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-jha -> rjha
गाड→ञ	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-nya -> rnya
गाँ→न	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-nna -> rnna
गाध→रु	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-tha -> rtha
गाप→रु	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-dha -> rtha
गाम→	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-ma -> rma
गाय→द	shrd-ra shrd-virama shrd-ya -> rya



Because the glyphs were designed individually using Adobe Illustrator, they were not completely harmonized in terms of stroke thickness or appearance. The glyphs had to be harmonized and be brought to have a standardized appearance. The other important question ahead of us was how do we generate all

the samyuktaksharas? Theoretically, thousands of consonant combinations can be rendered in Sharada (though only a couple of hundreds are attested). Now, these ideally should be generated with the fewest individual graphic components possible so the font can be easily maintained and can still be small (and of course save Sunil from additional work). There was no point manually designing and drawing hundreds of individual aksharas.

Fortunately, as noted earlier, Sharada samyuktaksharas are highly regular. By drawing the necessary graphic components that can seamlessly fit into each other, one can render any arbitrary complex akshara. Using opentype programming, we can make the font assemble them as required to render any given combination.



रु रु रु  
मु मु मु

(rtsnya, ndvya, ntstha) – These are all rendered by assembling individual graphic snippets.

As you might have noticed, none of this was trivial. The individual files had to be loaded into the font design tool, the glyphs refined, new glyphs generated and to top it the necessary programming had to be done to make all this work properly. We also had to refer to various manuscripts to make sure the aksharas are correctly formed. This took us nearly 4 months of constant hard work, that involved several sleepless nights to say the least. The Core Sharada team constantly tested the font and reported any bugs that they found.

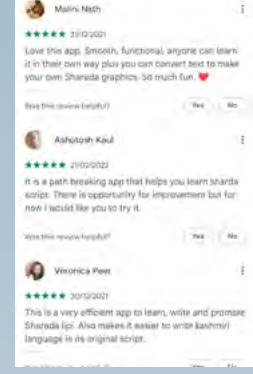
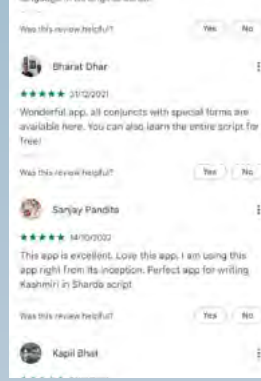
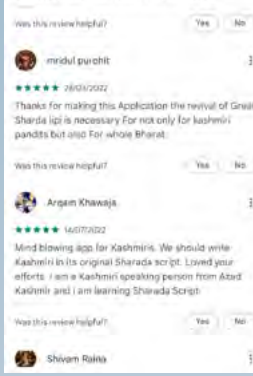
I am particularly grateful to Sunil, who was constantly awake until late hours (despite the time zone difference) re-designing glyphs as requested and delivering them immediately to be used for the font. It was hard work and it was totally worth it. In a way, the font that was being developed was just a digitized version of Sunil's handwritten Sharada.

I also decided to create a companion Web & Android App that would allow people to type in Sharada, convert Devanagari into Sharada and have several resources for people to learn and practice Sharada script. What's the use of a font, if there isn't an easy way to type and produce content in Sharada!

As a side note, we had to come up with a name for the font project. We discussed various names and finally decided on “Satisar” the ancient name of Kashmir. According to legends, Kashyapa Rishi drained what used to be the Satisar lake to create the Kashmir valley.

### Font Release :-

After much testing and few more sleepless nights to fix the remaining bugs and polish the appearance, the “Satisar Sharada” font was finally released officially (along with the companion app) on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. It was pure joy see it beautifully rendering complicated Sanskrit and Kashmiri.



### Conclusion :-

To summarize, Satisar Sharada is a product of hard work and close collaboration to create a free and functioning font for Sharada, which spanned two different continents and required four months of intense work. It is our belief that this act of creating an accessible digital font would encourage people to use Sharada more widely by using it to render Sanskrit and Kashmiri texts in Sharada, thereby keeping Sharada in constant use. It will also help digitize the preserve the Sharada manuscripts in their original script.

Are you writing an article? Do render the heading additionally in Sharada. Perhaps, quote the verses in Sharada and IAST/Devanagari. Add Sharada to your logos. Are you printing an invitation? Make it biscriptual like our magazine. A script lives as long as it is being used and there is somebody to read it. Sharada belongs to us all. The least we can do is to make sure there is always somebody to read and write Sharada.

उग्रपृष्ठकटिग्रीवः भुङ्क्ष्वदृष्टिरधोमुखाः ।

कश्चेन लिपिपठं गच्छेत् तत्रैव पठिष्यात् ॥

Bhagnaprṣṭhakatigrīvaḥ stabdhadrṣṭiradhomukhaḥ .

Kaṣṭhena likhitaṁ granthaṁ yatnena pratipālaya ..

### श्री अनुपम खेर जी का संदेश



मातृका के वार्षिक प्रकाशन के लिए ढेर सारी बधाई! यह हम सब के लिये बहुत गौरव का अवसर है। आप सब के परिश्रम प्रतिबद्धता का फल है जो हम आज शारदा लिपि में प्रकाशित पुस्तकें तथा पत्रिकाएँ पढ़ पा रहे हैं। शारदा लिपि के प्रचार प्रसार के लिए इस पत्रिका का आने वाले समय में बहुत महत्व रहेगा। हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ ॥ जय हो।

*Anupam Kher.*

Koshur Saman bal  
कोशुर समन बल

केशुर समन बल  
کوشور سمن بِل



Samith Karav Athuvàs  
संमिथ करव अथवास  
संमिथ करव अथवास  
سميثه گرو اٹھواس

**Koshur Saman-bal - Sāmīth Karav Athūvās**

~ A Joint Venture of Project Zaan (Mumbai) and KashmirAsItIs (Singapore)

Language is the best way to stay connected with our roots and as our tag line suggests - **Sāmīth Karav Athūvās** - We, have started 'Koshur Saman-bal' (short name 'Kosam'), a literary platform, meant to share knowledge about Kashmir, Kashmiris, Kashmiri language and culture. We conduct Contests and Quizzes, Kashmiri learning sessions, story writing competitions for small children and young boys, girls and Adults. In the due course of time, we also plan to provide guidance in writing poetry, short stories, humor, essays etc. to amateur youngsters. Kosam Kashmiri classes are successfully running since Dec'20; and till now we have successfully conducted 7 batches and have over 150+ students certified in Basic Kashmiri Reading & Writing skills.

Contacts: [admin@koshursamanbal.com](mailto:admin@koshursamanbal.com); <https://koshursamanbal.com>

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## Kashmiri Vowels in Devanagari & Sharada Scripts

### A. Special vowels used in Kashmiri Devanagari & Sharada

अ	आ	ओ	अु	अु	ऐ	अँ	आँ
ं	ा	ो	ु	ु	े	ँ	ाँ
अ	आ	ओ	अु	अु	ऐ	अँ	आँ
ं	ा	ो	ु	ु	े	ँ	ाँ

### Vowels with Guide words

अ	आ	अँ	आँ	अु	अु	ओ	ओ	औ	अँ
	ा	ं	ाँ	ु	ु	ो	ो	ौ	ं
अख	आराम	अँछ	माँज	बु	तुर	दोर	मोल	औशद	अंग
माप	मुराभ	मँळ	भाँल	तु	तुग	दोर	भेल	उमर	मंग

### Vowels with Guide words Continued..

इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ए	ऐ	ऐ
ि	ी	ु	ू	े	ै	ै
खिर	शीन	बुथ	जून	रेल	वैकुंठ	रेह
पिपर	मीन	इष	एन	रेल	वैकुंठ	रेह





# वर्णमाला / वरुभाला



अ म अनार परभा	आ मु आम मुभ	इ उ इमली उभली	ई र ईख रंग	उ उ उल्लू उल्लू	ऊ उ ऊन ऊन	ऋ ए ऋषि एधि	ए ए एकतारा एकतारा
ऐ ऐनक ऐनक	ओ ओखली ओखली	औ औषध औषध	अं अंगूर अंगूर	अः अः अः			

क क कबूतर कबूतर	ख ख खरगोश खरगोश	ग ग गमला गमला	घ घ घड़ी घड़ी	ङ ङ ङ
च च चरखा चरखा	छ छ छाता छाता	ज ज जूता जूता	झ झ झंडा झंडा	ञ ञ ञ
ट ट टमाटर टमाटर	ठ ठ ठेरा ठेरा	ड ड डमरू डमरू	ढ ढ ढेलकी ढेलकी	ण ण ण
त त तरबूज तरबूज	थ थ थैला थैला	द द दूध दूध	ध ध धनुष धनुष	न न नारियल नारियल
प प पतंग पतंग	फ फ फल फल	ब ब बकरी बकरी	भ भ भालू भालू	म म मछली मछली
य य यज्ञोपवीत यज्ञोपवीत	र र रस्सी रस्सी	ल ल लट्ठ लट्ठ	व व वाहन वाहन	श श शलगम शलगम
ष ष षटकोण षटकोण	स स सेब सेब	ह ह हिरण हिरण	क्ष क्ष क्षत्रिय क्षत्रिय	ज्ञ ज्ञ ज्ञानी ज्ञानी

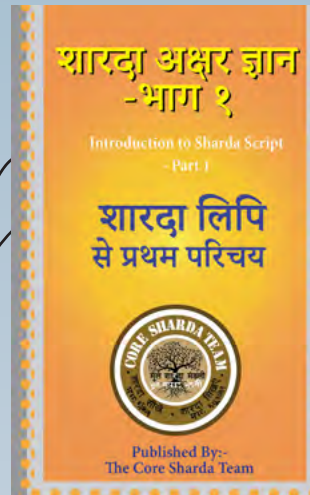
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०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९



## Highlights of the Month

- Meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 with ministry of culture and IGNCA and CST foundation to discuss about the road map, in presence of Core sharada team members Usha munshi ji, Jyoti Razdan ji, prof kirti Kant Sharma ji and Anurag Trivedi from Shaan foundation.
- Concluded Sharada advanced learning course on duration 1<sup>st</sup> Dec to 11<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- \*Concluded basic sharada lipi course duration 20<sup>th</sup> Nov to 14<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- Sharada lipi begginers course to begin in Feb in collaboration with Indica courses.
- 3 day online workshop on basic sharada lipi to be held with Instucen - the school of languages and literature, in the month of February

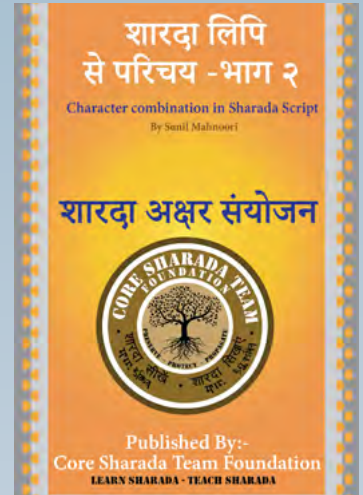
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