

Hindi

1.

Origin of the system

The United Nations recommended system was approved in 1972 (II/11) and amended in 1977 (III/12), based on a report prepared by D. N. Sharma. The tables and their corrections were published in volume II of the conference reports¹.

2.

Implementation

There is no evidence of the use of the system either in India or in international cartographic products. It was stated in 1987 that the appropriate resolution had not been implemented in India and the Hunterian system was still in use in large-scale mapping².

3.

Brief characterization

Hindi uses the alphasyllabic script Devanāgarī whereby each character represents a syllable rather than one sound. Vowels and diphthongs are marked in two ways: as independent characters (used syllable-initially) and in an abbreviated form, to denote vowels after consonants. The romanization table is unambiguous but the user would have to recognize many ligatures not given in the original table (only three are given). The system is mostly reversible but there may exist some ambiguities in the romanization of vowels (independent vs. abbreviated characters) and consonants (ligatures vs. character sequences).

¹ *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. London, 10-31 May 1972. Vol. II. *Technical papers*. United Nations. New York 1974, pp. 119-131; *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977. Vol. II, *Technical papers*, pp. 393 etc.

² *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Montreal, 18-31 August 1987. Vol. I. *Report of the Conference*, p. 30.

4. Romanization

In the romanization system below the table of ligatures has been added.

Independent vowel characters

अ a	इ i	उ u	ऋ ṛ	ॠ ṝ	ए e	ओ o
आ ā	ई ī	ऊ ū	ॠ ṝ		ऐ ai	औ au

Abbreviated vowel characters (• stands for any consonant character)

• a	• i	• u ²	• ṛ ²	• e	• o
• ā ¹	• ī	• ū ²		• ai	• au

¹ with an additional mark: • ă

² exceptions: रु ru; रू rū; हृ hr̄

Other symbols

• m̄	• m̄̄	• ḥ	• ¹
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¹ pronunciation without a vowel: क̣ k

Consonant characters

क ka ¹	च cha	ट ṭa	त ta	प pa	य ya	श sha
ख kha ¹	छ chha	ठ ṭha	थ tha	फ pha ¹	र ra	ष ṣha
ग ga ¹	ज ja ¹	ड ḍa ¹	द da	ब ba	ल la	स sa
घ gha	झ (झ) jha	ढ ḍha ¹	ध dha	भ bha	व va	ह ha
ङ ṅa	ञ ña	ण ṇa	न na	म ma		

¹ dotted variants of the characters: क̣ qa; ख̣ ḳha; ग̣ ga; ज̣ ja; ड̣ ḍa; ढ̣ ḍha; फ̣ fa

Notes

1. It is recommended that the vowel अ (a) should always be rendered in Roman except when it ends a name. If a name ends with a consonant, the consonant should be underlined. Such cases, however, will be very rare. E.g. कानपुर Kānapur (not Kānapura), जगत् Jagat̄.
2. If each letter of a digraph or any two parts of a trigraph has a distinct independent sound then it should be indicated by a hyphen, thus d-h.

Ligatures

Adscript form:

•	r-	Examples
		र्त rta, र्द्व rdva

Other ligatures (the list is not complete)

क्क	क्ख	क्त	क्त्व	क्य	क्र	क्ल	क्व	क्ष	क्षण	क्षम	क्ष्य	क्ष्व
kka	kkha	kta	ktva	kya	kra	kla	kva	kṣha	kṣhaṇa	kṣhma	kṣhya	kṣhva

क्स	ख्य	ख़्या	ग्द	ग्ध	ग्न	ग्भ	ग्म	ग्य	ग्र	गल	घ्न	घ्य
ksa	khya	khsha	gda	gdha	gna	gbha	gma	gya	gra	gla	ghna	ghya
घ्र	क्ख	क्ख़्या	ङ्ग	ङ्ग़	ङ्ग्न	ङ्गभ	ङ्गम	ङ्ग्य	ङ्ग्र	ङ्गल	ङ्गघ्न	ङ्गघ्य
ghra	ñka	ñkha	ñga	ñgha	chcha	chchha	chchhra	chya	chra	jja	jjha	jña
ज्य	ज्र	ज्व	ञ (ञ्च)	ञ्छ	ञ्ज (ञ्ज)	ट्ट	ट्ट	ट्ट	ड्ड	ड्ड	ड्ड	ण्ट
jya	jra	jva	ñcha	ñchha	ñja	ṭṭa	ṭṭha	ṭṭha	ḍḍa	ḍḍha	ḍḍha	ṇṭa
ण्ट	ण्ड	ण्य	त्क	त्त	त्त्य	त्त्व	त्थ	त्त	त्प	त्त	त्त्य	त्त्य
ṇṭha	ṇḍa	ṇya	tka	tta	ttya	ttva	ttha	tna	tpa	tma	tmya	tya
त्र	त्रय	त्व	त्स	त्सन	त्स्य	त्थ्य	त्थ्र	द्व	द्व	द्व	द्व	द्व
tra	trya	tva	tsa	tsna	tsya	thya	thra	dga	dda	ddha	dbha	dma
द्य	द्र	द्व	ध्न	ध्म	ध्य	ध्र	ध्व	न्त	न्त्य	न्त्र	न्थ	न्द
dya	dra	dva	dhna	dhma	dhya	dhra	dhva	nta	ntyā	ntra	ntha	nda
न्द्र	न्ध	न्ध्य	न्ध्र	न्ध्र	न्म	न्म	न्म	न्व	न्स	न्ह	न्त	न्त्य
ndra	ndha	ndhya	ndhra	nna	nma	nya	nra	nva	nsa	nha	pta	ptya
ज	प्य	प्र	प्ल	प्स	प्य	फु	ब्द	ब्ज	ब्ज	ब्ज	भ्य	भ्र
pna	pya	pra	pla	psa	phyā	phla	bda	bna	bya	bra	bhya	bhra
म	म्ब	म्भ	म्म	म्य	म्र	म्ल	म्व	म्व	य्य	य्र	ल्क	ल्प
mna	mba	mbha	mma	mya	mra	m̐a	mva	mha	yya	yra	lka	lpa
ल्म	ल्य	ल्ल	ल्व	ल्स	व्य	व्र	श्च	श्च्य	श्छ	श्न	श्य	श्र
lma	lya	lla	lva	lsa	vya	vra	shcha	shchya	shchha	shna	shya	shra
श्ल	श्व (श्व)	ष्क	ष्क़	ष्ट (ष्ट)	ष्ट्र	ष्ट	ष्ण	ष्ण	ष्ण	ष्म	ष्म	ष्म
shla	shva	shka	shkra	shṭa	shṭra	shṭha	shna	shpa	shpra	shma	shya	shva
स्क	स्ख	स्त	स्त्र	स्थ	स्न	स्प	स्फ	स्म	स्म्य	स्य	स्त्र	स्व
ska	skha	sta	stra	stha	sna	spa	spha	sma	smya	sya	sra	sva
ह	ह्य	ह्य	ह्र	ह्र	ह्र							
hna	hma	hya	hra	hla	hva							

5.

Other systems of romanization

The **Hunterian system** is the actually used national system of romanization in India.

UN Hunterian

ā	= ā, a ¹	ṁ	= n, m	sh	= s, sh	v	= w, v ²
ḍ	= d	ṅ	= ng	ṣh	= sh		
ḍh	= dh	ṇ	= n	ṭ	= t		
ī	= ī, i ¹	ñ	= ny	ṭh	= th		

¹ word-finally

² exceptionally, e.g. before *i*

The draft transliteration standard for Indian languages **ISO CD 15919** (1998) gives differently the following transliteration equivalents to the characters of Indian languages.

UN ISO

ā	= ǎ	ě	= e	kh	= <u>kh</u>	ṁ	= ṁ, ~, ṁ ⁵
ch	= c	ḡ	= ḡ	ḷ	= ḷ	o	= ȯ, o ¹
chh	= ch	ḥ	= k ²	ḹ	= ḹ	ō	= o
e	= ē, e ¹	j	= y ³	ḽ, ḽ	= ṛ ^{2,4}	ṛ	= ṛ

ṛ = ṛ sh = ś ñ = ṅ⁴ y = y⁶
r̄ = ṝ ṣh = ṣ y = ṽ^{3,6}

¹ allowed for Northern Indian languages

² used in Tamil

³ used in Bengali

⁴ used in Malayalam

⁵ used in Telugu

⁶ used in Oriya