Hindi

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 reports[1,2].

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 mapping[3].

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).

Romanization

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

I. Independent vowel characters

1	अ	a	6	ऊ	ū	11	ऐ	ai
2	आ	ā	7	ऋ	ṛ	12	ओ	o
3	इ	i	8	ॠ	ṝ	13	औ	au
4	ई	ī	9	ऌ	ḷ			
5	उ	u	10	ए	e			

II. Abbreviated vowel characters (क stands for any consonant character)

1	क	a	5	कु	u[B]	9	कै	ai
2	का	ā[A]	6	कू	ū[B]	10	को	o
3	कि	i	7	कृ	ṛ[B]	11	कौ	au
4	की	ī	8	के	e			

[A] With an additional mark: कॉ kă̆.

[B] Exceptions: रु ru; रू rū; हृ hṛ.

III. Other symbols (अ stands for any vowel character in lines 1–3, क stands for any consonant character in line 4)

1	अं	ṁ	3	अः	ḥ
2	अँ	m̐	4	क्	(A)

[A] Pronunciation without a vowel: क् k.

IV. Consonant characters

1	क	ka[A]	12	ठ	ṭha	23	ब	ba
2	ख	kha[A]	13	ड	ḍa[A]	24	भ	bha
3	ग	ga[A]	14	ढ	ḍha[A]	25	म	ma
4	घ	gha	15	ण	ṇa	26	य	ya
5	ङ	ṅa	16	त	ta	27	र	ra
6	च	cha	17	थ	tha	28	ल	la
7	छ	chha	18	द	da	29	व	va
8	ज	ja[A]	19	ध	dha	30	श	sha
9	झ	jha	20	न	na	31	ष	ṣha
10	ञ	ña	21	प	pa	32	स	sa
11	ट	ṭa	22	फ	pha[A]	33	ह	ha

[A] Dotted variants of the characters: क़ qa; ख़ k̲ha; ग़ g̲a; ज़ za; ड़ ṛa; ढ़ ṛha; फ़ fa.

V. Ligatures

Adscript form:

Examples

र्त r- र्त rta, र्द्व rdva

Other ligatures (the list is not complete; availability depends on the fonts used)

क्क	क्ख	क्त	क्त्व	क्य	क्र	क्ल	क्व	क्ष	क्ष्ण	क्ष्म	क्ष्य	क्ष्व
kka	kkha	kta	ktva	kya	kra	kla	kva	kṣha	kṣhṇa	kṣhma	kṣhya	kṣhva

क्स	ख्य	ख़श	ग्द	ग्ध	ग्न	ग्भ	ग्म	ग्य	ग्र	ग्ल	घ्न	घ्य
ksa	khya	k̲hsha	gda	gdha	gna	gbha	gma	gya	gra	gla	ghna	ghya

घ्र	ङ्क	ङ्ख	ङ्ग	ङ्घ	च्च	च्छ	च्छ्र	च्य	च्र	ज्ज	ज्झ	ज्ञ
ghra	ṅka	ṅkha	ṅga	ṅgha	chcha	chchha	chchhra	chya	chra	jja	jjha	jña
ज्य	ज्र	ज्व	ञ्च	ञ्छ	ञ्ज	ट्ट	ट्ठ	ट्ठ	ड्ड	ड्ढ	ढ्ढ	ण्ट
jya	jra	jva	ñcha	ñchha	ñja	ṭṭa	ṭṭha	ṭhṭha	ḍḍa	ḍḍha	ḍhḍha	ṇṭa
ण्ठ	ण्ड	ण्य	त्क	त्त	त्त्य	त्त्व	त्थ	त्न	त्प	त्म	त्म्य	त्य
ṇṭha	ṇḍa	ṇya	tka	tta	ttya	ttva	ttha	tna	tpa	tma	tmya	tya
त्र	त्र्य	त्व	त्स	त्स्न	त्स्य	थ्य	श्र	द्ग	द्द	द्ध	द्भ	द्म
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	ntya	ntra	ntha	nda
न्द्र	न्ध	न्ध्य	न्ध्र	न्न	न्म	न्य	न्र	न्व	न्स	न्ह	प्त	प्त्य
ndra	ndha	ndhya	ndhra	nna	nma	nya	nra	nva	nsa	nha	pta	ptya
प्न	प्य	प्र	प्ल	प्स	फ्य	फ्ल	ब्द	ब्न	ब्य	ब्र	भ्य	भ्र
pna	pya	pra	pla	psa	phya	phla	bda	bna	bya	bra	bhya	bhra
म्न	म्ब	म्भ	म्म	म्य	म्र	म्ल	म्व	म्ह	य्य	य्र	ल्क	ल्प
mna	mba	mbha	mma	mya	mra	mla	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	ष्क	ष्क्र	ष्ट	ष्ट्र	ष्ठ	ष्ण	ष्प	ष्प्र	ष्म	ष्य	ष्व
shla	shva	ṣhka	ṣhkra	ṣhṭa	ṣhṭra	ṣhṭha	ṣhṇa	ṣhpa	ṣhpra	ṣhma	ṣhya	ṣhva
स्क	स्ख	स्त	स्त्र	स्थ	स्न	स्प	स्फ	स्म	स्म्य	स्य	स्र	स्व
ska	skha	sta	stra	stha	sna	spa	spha	sma	smya	sya	sra	sva
ह्न	ह्म	ह्य	ह्र	ह्ल	ह्व							
hna	hma	hya	hra	hla	hva							

Notes

1. It is recommended that the vowel अ (*a*) should always be romanized except when it ends a name. If a name ends with a consonant, the consonant should carry a sub-macron. Such cases, however, will be very rare. For example, कानपुर Kānapur (not Kānapura), जगत् Jagaṯ.
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*.

Other systems of romanization

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

UN	Hunterian	ṁ	= n, m	ṣh	= sh
ā	= ā, a[A]	ṅ	= ng	ṭ	= t
ḍ	= d	ṇ	= n	ṭh	= th
ḍh	= dh	ñ	= ny	v	= w, v[B]
ī	= ī, i[A]	sh	= s, sh		

[A] Word-finally.
[B] Exceptionally, e.g. before *i*.

The transliteration standard for Indian languages **ISO 15919: 2001** provides different transliteration equivalents to the characters of the Indian languages. These are:

UN	ISO	j̇	= y[C]	ṛ	= r̥
ă	= ĕ	k̲h	= k̲h	ṝ	= r̥̄
ã̆	= ŏ	ḷ	= l̥	sh	= ś
ch	= c	ḹ	= l̥̄	ṣh	= ṣ
chh	= ch	ḻ	= ḻ [B]	ṭ̈	= ṯ [D]
e	= ē, e[A]	m̆	= m̐, ˜, n̆ [E]	y	= ẏ [CF]
ě	= e	o	= ō, o[A]	y̱	= y [F]
g	= ġ	ŏ	= o		
ḥ	= ḥ, k̲ [B]	ṙ	= ṛ		

[A] Non-uniform vowels option: if the only scripts in view are without short *e, o*, then long *e, o* may be transliterated *e, o*, respectively.
[B] Used in Tamil.
[C] Used in Bengali.
[D] Used in Malayalam.
[E] Used in Telugu.
[F] Used in Oriya.

References

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.
2. *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.* Athens, 17 August – 7 September 1977. Vol. II, *Technical papers*, pp. 393 etc.
3. *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.* Montreal, 18–31 August 1987. Vol. I. *Report of the Conference*, p. 30.