Sinhala

There is as yet no United Nations approved romanization systems for Sinhala (Sinhalese).

The Sri Lanka Survey Department has recently devised a romanization system for Sinhala based on ISO 15919 with some modifications. This system was approved by Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers on 4 September 2018 (Cabinet Paper No.18/1965/829/005). Since that date some further amendments have been made and there is a Sinhala romanization utility published at https://www.survey.gov.lk/RomanizationConverter/. Currently the Sri Lanka Survey Department is preparing a national map with romanized names.

Sinhala uses an alphasyllabic script 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.

System of romanization

Character variants and a list of ligatures have been added. Current, amended romanization equivalents are shown as main forms while the 2018 equivalents have been added in parentheses.

I. Independent vowel characters

1	අ	a	7	උ	u	14	ඒ	ē
2	ආ	ā	8	ඌ	ū	15	ඓ	ĩ (ai)
3	ඇ	æ	9	ඍ	ṛ	16	ඔ	o
4	ඈ	ǣ	10	ඎ	ṝ	17	ඕ	ō
5	ඉ	i	11	ඏ	ḷ	18	ඖ	au
6	ඊ	ī	12	ඐ	ḹ			
			13	එ	e			

II. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols

1		a	8	ු	ū^{C}	15	ෝ	ō
2	ා	ā	9	ෘ	ṛ	16	ෞ	au
3	ැ	æ^{A}	10	ෲ	ṝ	17	ං	ṅ
4	ෑ	ǣ^{A}	11	ෙ	e	18	ඃ	ḥ
5	ි	i	12	ේ	ē	19	්	(D)
6	ී	ī	13	ෛ	ĩ (ai)			
7	ු	u^{B}	14	ො	o			

<superscript>A</superscript> Exceptions: ඇ ræ, ඈ rǣ.
<superscript>B</superscript> Exceptions: කු ku, ගු gu, තු tu, භු bhu, රු ru, ශු śu.
<superscript>C</superscript> Exceptions: කූ kū, ගූ gū, තූ tū, භූ bhū, රූ rū, ශූ śū.
<superscript>D</superscript> Marks absence of the inherent vowel. Special forms: ඛ් kh, ඞ් ṅ, ච් ch, ට් ṭ, ඩ් ḍ, ධ් dh, බ් b, ම්
m, ව් v.

III. Consonant characters

1	ක	ka	15	ණ	ṇa	29	ව	va
2	ඛ	kha^A	16	ත	ta	30	ෆ	fa
3	ග	ga	17	ථ	tha^A	31	ශ	śa^A
4	ඝ	gha^A	18	ද	da	32	ෂ	sha^A
5	ඞ	ṁa^A	19	ධ	dha^A	33	ස	sa
6	ච	cha^A	20	න	na	34	හ	ha
7	ඡ	chha^A	21	ප	pa	35	ළ	ḷa
8	ජ	ja	22	ඵ	pha^A	36	ඟ	ňga
9	ඣ	qa (jha)^A	23	බ	ba	37	ඥ	gna
10	ඤ	ña^A	24	භ	bha^A	38	ඦ	ňja (ňja)
11	ට	ṭa	25	ම	ma	39	ඬ	ňḍa
12	ඨ	ṭa (ṭha)^A	26	ය	ya	40	ඳ	ňda
13	ඩ	ḍa	27	ර	ra	41	ඹ	ḅa (m̌ba)
14	ඪ	ḍha^A	28	ල	la			

^A These consonants are used only in Sanskrit and Pali loanwords.

IV. Consonant ligatures

Examples

r- කී rka, ර්ට rṭa, ර්ම rma, ර්ව rva, ර්ෂ rsha.

◌්‍ -r ක්‍ kra, ග්‍ gra, ඝ්‍ ghra, ජ්‍ jra, ට්‍ ṭra, ඩ්‍ ḍra, ත්‍ tra, ද්‍ dra, ධ්‍ dhra, ප්‍ pra, බ්‍ bra, භ්‍ bhra, ශ්‍ śra.

◌්‍ය -y ක්‍ය kya, ත්‍ය tya, ව්‍ය vya.

Other ligatures: ක්ෂ ksha, ඳ nda.