Telugu

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 reports[1].

2.
Implementation

There is no evidence of the use of the system either in India or in international cartographic products.

3.
Brief characterization

Telugu 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. The romanization table is unambiguous. The system is mostly reversible but there may exist some ambiguities in the romanization of vowels (independent vs. abbreviated characters) and consonants (combinations with subscript consonants vs. character sequences).

4.
Romanization

In the romanization system below the table for subscript consonant characters has been added.

Independent vowel characters

అ a	ఈ ī	ఋ r̥	ఎ ĕ	ఒ ŏ
ఆ ā	ఉ u	ౠ r̥̄	ఏ e	ఓ o
ఇ i	ఊ ū		ఐ ai	ఔ au

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[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. 145-146; *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977. Vol. II, *Technical papers*, pp. 393 etc.

Abbreviated vowel characters (• stands for any consonant character)

•́, • a	•ˢ ī	•ȷ ṛ	•⁻ ĕ	•ᵒ ŏ³
•⁻ ā	•ᴜ u²	•⁻ e	•ᵒ o⁴
•° i¹	•ᵧ ū	•⁻ ai	•ᵓ au

¹ variations: చి chi, ని ni, యి yi, లి li, etc.
² variations: జు ju, పు pu, వు vu, etc.
³ variations: మొ mŏ, యొ yŏ
⁴ variations: మో mo, యో yo

Note. Due to technical reasons, the vowel diacritics above that should appear on top of a character, are shifted to the right. To exemplify the position of the diacritics, here is the row with the consonant *k*:

| క | కా | కి | కీ | కు | కూ | కృ | కె | కే | కై | కొ | కో | కౌ |
| ka | kā | ki | kī | ku | kū | kṛ | kĕ | ke | kai | kŏ | ko | kau |

Other symbols

| ం ṁ | ఁ m̐¹ | ః ḥ | ఼ ² |

¹ signified historic nasal sound, now obsolete
² end-of-syllable mark (i.e. a consonant without a vowel): రంగపూర్ Raṁgapūr

Consonant characters

క ka	చ cha	ట ṭa	త ta	ప pa	య ya	ష sha
ఖ kha	ఛ chha	ఠ ṭha	థ tha	ఫ pha	ర ra¹	స sa
గ ga	జ ja	డ ḍa	ద da	బ ba	ల la	హ ha
ఘ gha	ఝ jha	ఢ ḍha	ధ dha	భ bha	వ va	ళ ḷa
ఙ ṅa	ఞ ña	ణ ṇa	న na	మ ma	శ sha	

¹ variant: ఱ

Subscript consonant characters

| •ౄ k | •ౕ n | •ౝ y | •ౢ l |
| •ౖ t | •ౢ, •ౘ m | •ౢ r | •ౝ v |

5.
Other systems of romanization

For differences between the UN system and the **ISO transliteration draft ISO CD15919** see the section on the romanization of Hindi.