

## Bengali

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<sup>1</sup>.

There is no evidence of the use of the system either in Bangladesh, in India or in international cartographic products. The resolution IV/17 (1982) recommended association, inter alia, with Bangladesh, in carrying out further studies on the system.

Bengali (Bānglā) 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 but the user would have to recognize many ligatures not given in the original table. The system is mostly reversible but there exist some ambiguities in the romanization of vowels (independent vs. abbreviated characters) and consonants (ligatures vs. character sequences).

### Romanization

In the romanization system below character variations and the table of ligatures have been added.

#### I. Independent vowel characters

1 অ	a	3 ই	i	5 উ	u	7 ঝ	ṛ	8 এ	e	10 ও	o
2 আ	ā	4 ঐ	ī	6 ঊ	ū	9 ঞ	ai	11 ঔ	au		

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

1 •	a	3 ি	i	5 ু	u <sup>A</sup>	7 ্	ṛ <sup>C</sup>	8 ে	e	10 ৌ	o
2 ী	ā	4 ী	ī	6 ূ	ū <sup>B</sup>	9 ৈ	ai	11 ৌ	au		

<sup>A</sup> Exceptions: ঞ gu; রু ru; শু shu; হু hu; তু ntū; স্তু stu.

<sup>B</sup> Exception: রূ rū.

<sup>C</sup> Exception: হ্র ḥṛ.

#### III. Other symbols (• stands for any consonant character)

1 ৎ	m̃	2 ঁ	m̃	3 ৎ	h̃	4 ্	(A)
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<sup>A</sup> Pronunciation without a vowel; special form: ৎ t.

<sup>1</sup> *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. 139-140; *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977. Vol. II, *Technical papers*, pp. 393 etc.

#### IV. Consonant characters

1 ক ka	6 চ cha	11 ট ṭa	16 ত ta	21 প pa	26 য ja <sup>A</sup>	29 শ sha
2 খ kha	7 ছ chha	12 ঠ ṭha	17 থ tha	22 ফ pha	27 র ra	30 ষ ṣha
3 গ ga	8 জ ja	13 ড ḍa <sup>A</sup>	18 দ da	23 ব ba	28 ল la	31 স sa
4 ঘ gha	9 ঝ jha	14 ঢ ḍha <sup>A</sup>	19 ধ dha	24 ভ bha		32 হ ha
5 ঙ ṅa	10 ঞ ña	15 ণ ṇa	20 ন na	25 ম ma		

<sup>A</sup> Dotted variants of the characters: ড় ṛa; ঢ় ṛha; য় ya.

#### V. Ligatures

Adscript forms of some consonants

Example

ৠ r-: র্কা rka

ৡ -r: গ্রা gra

ৢ -y: ত্যা tya

Other ligatures (the list is not complete)

ক	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্	ক্
kka	kṭa	kta	kna	kma	kra	kla	kva	kṣha	kṣhna	kṣhma	kṣhva
ক্স	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্	গ্
ksa	gga	gda	gdha	gna	gma	gra	gla	ghra	ṅka	ṅga	chcha
ছ	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্	ছ্
chchha	chchhva	chña	jja	jjva	jjha	jña	jva	ñcha	ñchha	ñja	ñjha
ট্	ড্	ন্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্	ণ্
ṭṭa	ḍḍa	ṇṇa	ṇṇha	ṇḍa	tta	ttva	ttha	tna	tma	tra	tla
ত্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্	দ্
tva	dda	ddva	ddha	ddhva	dna	dva	dbha	dma	dra	dla	dhra
ঠ্	ড্	ক্	ত্	ত্র	হ্	ন্দ	ন্দ	ন্দ	ন্দ	ন্দ	ন্দ
nṭha	ṇḍa	nka	nta	ntra	ntha	nda	ndra	ndha	nna	nma	nva
প্	ণ্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্	প্
pna	pta	ppa	pra	pla	phra	bja	bda	bdha	bba	bra	bhra
ম্প	ষ্	স্ত	ষ্	ম্	ম্	ম্	ক্	ল্	ল্	ল্	ল্
mpa	mba	mbha	mbhra	mma	mra	mra	lka	lṭa	lḍa	lma	lla
শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্	শ্
shcha	shchha	shta	shna	shma	shra	shla	shva	ṣhka	ṣhṭa	ṣhṭra	ṣhṭha
ফ্	স্প	স্প	স্ক	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্	স্ক্
ṣhña	ṣhpa	ṣhpha	ska	skra	skha	sta	sna	sma	sra	sva	hna
ক্ষ	হ্	হ্									
hma	hra	hla									

#### Other systems of romanization

For differences between the UN system and the **ISO transliteration standard ISO 15919: 2001** see the section on the romanization of Hindi.