

Kannada

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.

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

Kannada 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).

Romanization

I. Independent vowel characters

1 ಅ	a	3 ಇ	i	5 ಉ	u	8 ಎ	ě	11 ಒ	õ
2 ಆ	ā	4 ಈ	ī	6 ಊ	ū	9 ಏ	e	12 ಓ	o
				7 ಯು	ṛ	10 ಐ	ai	13 ಔ	au

II. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols (• stands for any consonant character)

1 • ಅ	a ^A	3 • ಇ	i ^B	5 • ಉ	u ^C	8 • ಎ	ě	11 • ಒ	õ	14 ಒ	m̃
2 • ಆ	ā	4 • ಈ	ī	6 • ಊ	ū ^D	9 • ಏ	e	12 • ಓ	o	15 ಃ	ḥ
				7 • ಯು	ṛ	10 • ಐ	ai	13 • ಔ	au	16 ಳ	(^E)

^A Some consonants do not have the diacritic, e.g. ಖ kha, ಜ ja, ಣ ṇa, ಬ ba, ಲ la.

^B Variations of the diacritic, e.g. ಗಿ gi, ದಿ di.

^C Variations of the diacritic: ಪು pu, ಫು phu, ವು vu.

^D Variations of the diacritic: ಪೂ pū, ಫೂ phū, ವೂ vū.

^E Pronunciation without a vowel: ಕ್ಕ k.

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. 147-148; *Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Athens, 17 August - 7 September 1977. Vol. II, *Technical papers*, pp. 393 etc.

III. Consonant characters

1 ಕ	ka	6 ಚ	cha	11 ಟ	ṭa	16 ತ	ta	21 ಪ	pa	26 ಯ	ya	30 ಶ	sha
2 ಖ	kha	7 ಛ	chha	12 ಠ	ṭha	17 ಥ	tha	22 ಫ	pha	27 ರ	ra	31 ಷ	ṣha
3 ಗ	ga	8 ಜ	ja	13 ಡ	ḍa	18 ದ	da	23 ಬ	ba	28 ಲ	la	32 ಸ	sa
4 ಘ	gha	9 ಝ	jha	14 ಢ	ḍha	19 ಧ	dha	24 ಭ	bha	29 ವ	va	33 ಹ	ha
5 ಙ	ña	10 ಞ	ñña	15 ಣ	ṇa	20 ನ	na	25 ಮ	ma			34 ಳ	ḷa

IV. Subscript consonant characters

1 ಕ್	k ^A	6 ಚ್	ch	11 ಟ್	ṭ ^B	16 ತ್	t ^C	21 ಪ್	p ^D	26 ಯ್	y	30 ಶ್	sh
2 ಖ್	kh	7 ಛ್	chh	12 ಠ್	ṭh	17 ಥ್	th	22 ಫ್	ph	27 ರ್	r	31 ಷ್	ṣh
3 ಗ್	g	8 ಜ್	j	13 ಡ್	ḍ	18 ದ್	d	23 ಬ್	b	28 ಲ್	l	32 ಸ್	s
4 ಘ್	gh	9 ಝ್	jh	14 ಢ್	ḍh	19 ಧ್	dh	24 ಭ್	bh	29 ವ್	v	33 ಹ್	h
5 ಙ್	ñ	10 ಞ್	ñ	15 ಣ್	ṇ	20 ನ್	n	25 ಮ್	m			34 ಳ್	ḷ

^A Subscript combinations: ಕ್ಕ್ kr, ಕ್ಷ್ kṣh.

^B Subscript combination: ಠ್ಠ ṭṭ.

^C Subscript combinations: ಠ್ಠ tr, ಠ್ಠ ty.

^D Subscript combination: ಪ್ಪ pr.

Combinations with *r* as the first component are written by adding ಳ after the second consonant: ಳ್ಳ rga.

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.