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 reports[1,2].

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	6	ಊ	ū	11	ಒ	ŏ
2	ಆ	ā	7	ಋ	ṛ	12	ಓ	o
3	ಇ	i	8	ಎ	ĕ	13	ಔ	au
4	ಈ	ī	9	ಏ	e			
5	ಉ	u	10	ಐ	ai			

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

1	ಕ	a[A]	7	ಕೃ	ṛ	13	ಕೌ	au
2	ಕಾ	ā	8	ಕೆ	ĕ	14	ಕಂ	ṁ
3	ಕಿ	i[B]	9	ಕೇ	e	15	ಕಃ	ḥ
4	ಕೀ	ī	10	ಕೈ	ai	16	ಕ್	(E)
5	ಕು	u[C]	11	ಕೊ	ŏ			
6	ಕೂ	ū[D]	12	ಕೋ	o			

<superscript>A</superscript> While most consonants have a diacritic in the upper right corner of the character (like ಕ), some do not, e.g. ಖ kha, ಜ ja, ನ na, ಬ ba, ಲ la.

<superscript>B</superscript> Variations of the diacritic, e.g. ಗಿ gi, ದಿ di.

<superscript>C</superscript> Variations of the diacritic: ಪು pu, ಫು phu, ವು vu.

<superscript>D</superscript> Variations of the diacritic: ಪೂ pū, ಫೂ phū, ವೂ vū.

<superscript>E</superscript> Pronunciation without a vowel: ಕ್ k.

III. Consonant characters

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

IV. Subscript consonant characters (with ಕ or ಲ /in lines 31, 33/ as base character)

1	ಕ್ಕ	k<superscript>A</superscript>	8	ಕ್ಜ	j	15	ಕ್ಣ	ṇ
2	ಕ್ಖ	kh	9	ಕ್ಝ	jh	16	ಕ್ತ	t<superscript>C</superscript>
3	ಕ್ಗ	g	10	ಕ್ಞ	ñ	17	ಕ್ಥ	th
4	ಕ್ಘ	gh	11	ಕ್ಟ	ṭ<superscript>B</superscript>	18	ಕ್ದ	d
5	ಕ್ಙ	ṅ	12	ಕ್ಠ	ṭh	19	ಕ್ಧ	dh
6	ಕ್ಚ	ch	13	ಕ್ಡ	ḍ	20	ಕ್ನ	n
7	ಕ್ಛ	chh	14	ಕ್ಢ	ḍh	21	ಕ್ಪ	p<superscript>D</superscript>

22	ಥ್ಫ	ph	27	ರ್	r	32	ಸ್	s
23	ಬ್	b	28	ಲ್	l	33	ಹ್	h
24	ಭ್	bh	29	ವ್	v	34	ಳ್	ḷ
25	ಮ್	m	30	ಶ್	sh			
26	ಯ್	y	31	ಷ್	ṣh			

[A] Subscript combinations: ಕ್ರ kr, ಕ್ಷ kṣh.

[B] Subscript combination: ಟ್ರ ṭr.

[C] Subscript combinations: ತ್ರ tr, ತ್ಯ ty.

[D] Subscript combination: ಪ್ರ pr.

Combinations with *r* as the first component are written by adding a special symbol after the second consonant: ರ್ಗ 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.

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