## 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>1,2</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	5	উ	u	9	<u></u>	ai
2	আ	ā	6	ঊ	ū	10	ઉ	o
3	ই	i	7	ঋ	ŗ	11	3	au
4	ঈ	ī	8	ฏ	e			

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

1	ক	a	5	কু	$u^A$	9	কৈ	ai
2	কা	ā	6	কূ	$\bar{u}^B$	10	কো	O
3	কি	i	7	কৃ	i, С	11	কৌ	au
4	কী	ī	8	ক	e			

A Exceptions: গু gu; রু ru; শু shu; হু hu; ফু ntu; স্তু stu.

B Exception: ज rū.
C Exception: ▼ hr.

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

1 季、前 3 季。 ḥ 2 ず 前 4 季 <sup>(A)</sup>

### **IV.** Consonant characters

12 ਰੇ 23 ব 1 ক ka tha ba 13 ড  $da^{A}$ 2 থ kha 24 ভ bha dha<sup>A</sup> 3 গ 14 ნ 25 ম ma ga  $ja^{A} \\$ gha 15 ণ য 4 ঘ ņa 26 র યુ 'nа 16 ত 27 5 ta ra 28 ল 17 খ la 6 ᠮ cha tha 29 শ 7 চ্য chha 18 দ da sha 8 19 뙥 30 ষ জ dha șha ja 31 স ঝ jha 20 ন 9 na sa 21 প 32 হ 10 J ña pa ha 11 ট 22 ফ pha ţa

# V. Ligatures

Adscript forms of some consonants

Example

′ r-: **f** rka

୍ଦ -r: ସ gra

্য -y: ত্য tya

Other ligatures (the list is not complete)

奪	<del>ই</del>	ক্ত	ক্ল	শ্ব	ক্র	क्र	<b>ক</b>	<b>স্ফ</b>	কজন	ক্ষ	<b>ফ্ব</b>
kka	kṭa	kta	kna	kma	kra	kla	kva	kṣha	kṣhna	kṣhma	kṣhva
鄄	श्र	ন্দ	শ্ব	ន្ត	শ্ম	ฮ	្ត	ঘ্ৰ	零	স্	<b></b>
ksa	gga	gda	gdha	gna	gma	gra	gla	ghra	ńka	ṅga	chcha
ष्ट्य	क्ष्रू	জ্ঞ	জ্জ	<u>35</u> ⊲	ঙ্খা	জ্ঞ	জ্ব	<b>3</b> 3	<b>જ્</b>	33	₩
chchha	a chchhva	a chña	jja	jjva	jjha	jña	jva	ñcha	ñchha	ñja	ñjha
ট্ট	ড	ન્ট	र्क	শু	<u> उ</u>	ষ্	খ	ন্থ	ত্ম	ত্র	न्न

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> Pronunciation without a vowel; special form: § t.

A Dotted variants of the characters: ਓ ra; ট rha; 묏 ya.

ţţa	ḍḍa	ṇṭa	ṇṭha	ṇḍa	tta	ttva	ttha	tna	tma	tra	tla
ষ্	फ्	দ্ব	<u>দ্ব</u>	氰	দ্ব	দ্ব	দ্ভ	দ্ম	দ্র	দল	ধ্র
tva	dda	ddva	ddha	ddhva	dna	dva	dbha	dma	dra	dla	dhra
ৰ্ব	न्ড	নক	न्र	ন্ত্র	न्र	ন্দ	ন্দ্ৰ	ন্ধ	គ្គ	ন্ম	ন্থ
nṭha	nḍa	nka	nta	ntra	ntha	nda	ndra	ndha	nna	nma	nva
្ត	প্ত	শ্ব	প্র	श्च	ফ্র	<u>ব্</u> য	ৰ্দ্	ৰ	ব্ব	ব্ৰ	ভ্ৰ
pna	pta	ppa	pra	pla	phra	bja	bda	bdha	bba	bra	bhra
म्प्र	শ্ব	स्रु	खु	শ্ম	ম্র	ঙ্গ	न्द्र	ল্ট	न्फ	ল্ম	ਕ੍ਰ
mpa	mba	mbha	mbhra	mma	mra	mla	lka	lṭa	lḍa	lma	lla
<u> 9</u> *	<u> ऋष्</u>	শু	শ্ল	শ্ম	শ্ৰ	न्न	শ্ব	\$	ष्ठ	ষ্টু	ষ্ঠ
shcha	shchha	shta	shna	shma	shra	shla	shva	șhka	șhța	șhțra	șhțha
ಶ್ರೄ	ष्प	क्	শ্ব	ऋ	স্থ্য	স্তু	স্ন	স্ম	ਬ	শ্ব	হ্ন
șhña	ṣhpa	șhpha	ska	skra	skha	sta	sna	sma	sra	sva	hna
<u>শ্ব</u>	<u>इ</u>	ङ्क									
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.

#### 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. 139–140.
- 2. Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Athens, 17 August 7 September 1977. Vol. II, Technical papers, pp. 393 etc.