

Sinhala

There is as yet no United Nations approved romanization systems for Sinhala (Sinhalese).

The Sri Lanka Survey Department has recently devised a romanization system for Sinhala based on ISO 15919 with some modifications. This system was approved by Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers on 4 September 2018 (Cabinet Paper No.18/1965/829/005). Since that date some further amendments have been made and there is a Sinhala romanization utility published at <https://www.survey.gov.lk/RomanizationConverter/>. Currently the Sri Lanka Survey Department is preparing a national map with romanized names.

Sinhala 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.

System of romanization

Character variants and a list of ligatures have been added. Current, amended romanization equivalents are shown as main variants while the 2018 equivalents have been added in parentheses.

I. Independent vowel characters

1	අ	a	7	උ	u	14	ඒ	ē
2	ආ	ā	8	ඌ	ū	15	ඞ	ai
3	ඇ	æ	9	ඹ	ɾ	16	ඟ	o
4	ඈ	ǣ	10	ය	ṙ	17	ඣ	ō
5	ඉ	i	11	ඣ	l	18	ඤ	au
6	ඊ	ī	12	ඤ	l̄			
			13	ඦ	e			

II. Abbreviated vowel characters and other symbols

1		a	8	උ̣	ū ^C	15	ඞ̣	ō
2	ඞ	ā	9	ඹ̣	ɾ	16	ඟ̣	au
3	ඞ̣	æ ^A	10	ය̣	ṙ	17	ඞ̣	ñ
4	ඞ̣	ǣ ^A	11	ඞ̣	e	18	ඞ̣	h
5	ඞ̣	i	12	ඞ̣	ē	19	ඞ̣	(D)
6	ඞ̣	ī	13	ඞ̣	ai			
7	ඞ̣	u ^B	14	ඞ̣	o			

^A Exceptions: රෑ, රෑ.

^B Exceptions: කු, ගු, තු, භු, රු, ශු.

^C Exceptions: කූ, ගූ, තූ, භූ, රූ, ශූ.

^D Marks absence of the inherent vowel. Special forms: ක්, ඛ්, ච්, ඡ්, ට්, ධ්, ධ්, බ්, ම්, ව්.

III. Consonant characters

1	ක	ka	13	ධ	ḍa	25	ම	ma
2	ඛ	kha ^A	14	ඞ	ḍha ^A	26	ය	ya
3	ග	ga	15	ණ	ṇa	27	ර	ra
4	ඝ	gha ^A	16	ත	ta	28	ල	la
5	ඞ	ṇa ^A	17	ථ	ṭha ^A	29	ව	va
6	ච	cha ^A	18	ද	da	30	භ	ba
7	ඡ	chha ^A	19	ධ	dha ^A	31	ශ	śa ^A
8	ජ	ja	20	න	na	32	ෂ	śha ^A
9	ඤ	ṇa (jha) ^A	21	ප	pa	33	ස	sa
10	ඤ	ṇa ^A	22	ඵ	ṭha ^A	34	හ	ha
11	ට	ṭa	23	ඞ	ḍa	35	ළ	ḷa
12	ඨ	ṭha (ṭha) ^A	24	භ	bha ^A			

^A These consonants are used only in Sanskrit and Pali loanwords.

IV. Consonant ligatures

Examples

- r- ක් rka, ච් rṇa, ම් rma, ව් rva, ෂ් rsha.
- ට -r ක් kra, ග් gra, ඝ් ghra, ජ් jra, ට් ṭra, ධ් ḍra, ත් tra, ද් dra, ධ් dhra, ප් pra, බ් bra, භ් bhra, ශ් śra.
- ය -y ක් kya, ත් tyā, ව් vya.

Prenasalized sounds: භ් ṅga, ඡ් ṅja (ṅja), ඞ් ṅḍa, ද් ṅda, ම් ḥa (ṁba).

Other ligatures: ක් ksha, ඤ් gna, ඤ් nda.