

Rebirth of a language

PALĪ – Parashar Līpī

User's Guide

Practical

Hindustani

Script

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(PALI) Practical Hindustani Script

In this guide, the reader would be introduced to PALI (Parashar Lipi - Practical Hindustani Script). You'll learn how to type and write Hindustani using PALI Letters.

The nucleus of PALI is the Hindustani language and Latin letters equivalent to Devnagri script. Hindustani is used predominantly in northern India although it is not recognized as an official language. Hindustani is the mixture of words from Hindi, Urdu and other languages.

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I. Layout of the Devnagri letters on the standard computer keyboard

Let's start with taking a fresh look at the Standard Computer Keyboard.

Devnagri letters and their corresponding English Letter Layout on a Standard Keyboard

	ो	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	०	-	०
	`	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=
Shift	ओ	ऐ	ँ	्र	र्	ज्ञ	त्र	क्ष	श्र	()	ः	ऋ	
Shift	~	!	@	#	\$	%	^	&	*	()	_	+	

	ौ	ै	ा	ी	ू	ब	ह	ग	द	ज	ड	ी	ॉ
	q	w	e	r	t	y	u	i	o	p	[]	\	
Shift	औ	ऐ	आ	ई	ऊ	भ	ड	घ	ध	झ	ढ	ञ	ऑ
Shift	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	{ }		

	ो	े	्	ि	ु	प	र	क	त	च	ट		
	a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	l	;	“		
Shift	ओ	ए	अ	इ	उ	फ	र	ख	थ	छ	ठ		
Shift	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	:	”		

	े	ं	म	न	व	ल	स	,	.	य			
	z	x	c	v	b	n	m	,	.	/			
Shift	ऐ	ँ	ण	त	ळ	ळ	श	ष	।	य			
Shift	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	<	>	?			

Table 1

This table acquaints the reader with the common Devnagri layout on the standard computer keyboard.

Note:

Position of the Caps Lock is “off”;

“Shift key” means typing the letter while pressing the Shift key;

II. Introduction

PALI uses far less letters than the Devnagri script in order to make the script slimmer and extremely powerful. This is achieved by means of using special characters and combination of letters. The Devnagri script used in Hindi is quite complex. For instance, the words beginning with a vowel use only the “Akshar” version of the vowel, however in the middle of a word both “Akshar” and “Matra” vowels are used.

Note!!! - “Matra” is always spelt after the “Akshar” consonant. The “Matra” vowels appearing in the beginning of a Hindi word are in fact always spelt after the first “Akshar”, which can only be a consonant.

Ex.: किताब -> Real order of spelling the letters is - क + ि + त + ा + ब

So, क is spelt before ि even though ि appeared before क in the example.

Difference between “Akshar” vowel and “Matra” vowel is that “Akshar” vowel produces full sound of the vowel while “Matra” vowel replaces the intrinsic “A - अ” or “H - ह” sound accompanying each consonant.

E.g.:

“Akshar” vowels in the beginning of a word:

आन = आ + न $\Rightarrow \underline{AA} + N = AAN$

“Akshar” vowels NOT in the beginning of a word

नईम = न (+अ inherent sound) + ई + म $\Rightarrow N + \underline{II} + M = NII'M$

“Matra” vowels:

नाम = न + ा + म $\Rightarrow N + \underline{A} + M = NAM$

नीम = न + ी + म $\Rightarrow N + \underline{II} + M = NIIM$

If you are not able to fully understand the PALI representations, things would be properly explained in a short while from now.

III. Latin letters used in PALI

PALI uses 24 (out of 26) Latin letters. In addition it uses 4 special characters which are explained further.

A	अ
B	ब
C	च
D	द
E	ए
F	फ
G	ग
H	ह
I	इ
J	ज
K	क
L	ल
M	म
N	न
O	ओ
P	प
Q	Unused (Reserved)
R	र
S	स
T	त
U	उ
V	व
W	श
X	Denotes the implicit “H - ह्” sound associated with Devnagri Consonants
Y	य
Z	Unused (Reserved)

Table 2

IV. Special Characters used in PALI:

- ‘ - Apostrophe “**soft sound**”, makes the letter preceding it sound short (soft) by removing the implicit **A - अ** sound following the letter. This soft sound is used for denoting half-letters of Hindi: क् ख् ग् घ् च् छ् ज् झ् ट् ठ् ड् ढ् ण् ...
- ‘ - **hard sound symbol** ` makes the letter preceding it sound hard, used for denoting hard-letters and special cased in Devnagri:
T` ट, T`X ठ, D` ड, D`X ढ, N` ण, W` ष, R` ऋ
- it also denotes a full vowel inside a word, eg. कई - KII`. Without the hard sound symbol ` the word will become की - KII
- * - beginning of word denotes अं, inside a word denotes ँ
- * - inside a word denotes ौ
- . - denotes the “nukta” below letters to create Urdu/Hindi sound as in:
Urdu K. क KX. ख G. ग F. फ J. ज
Hindi D`. ड            D`X. ढ *. ड

All other punctuation marks except those defined above (Special Characters) are used as in English.

V. Rules for constructing PALI equivalents for Devnagri letters

Excess Rules most often bring more complications than benefits. Keeping that in mind, we have tried to keep the rules **simple**, **practical** and **minimum**.

The main rules need to be remembered for the following cases:

- 1) Devnagri consonants **NOT** followed by vowels
- 2) “A - अ” and “A` - आ”
- 3) “MATRA” vowels and “AKSHAR” vowels
- 4) “R” in a few instances is used like a “MATRA”
- 5) Successive vowels
- 6) Full stop symbol “.”

1. Devnagri consonants NOT followed by vowels

Devnagri consonants not followed by vowels are implicitly followed by the “अ” or “ह” intrinsic sound. It would be the same case with the consonants of PALI. Every PALI consonant not followed by a vowel would be followed by an implicit “अ” sound.

The implicit “ह” sound would be denoted by letter “X”

चमचम = CMCM

छमछम = CXMCXM

!!! in English both words are written alike as “CHAMCHAM”

2. “A - अ” and “A` - आ”

In the beginning of a word

“A” would denote “अ”

अमर - AMR

and

“AA” would denote “आ”

आदमी - AADMII

whereas anywhere inside a word “A” would denote “आ” sound like a “Matra”

अनार - ANAR

3. Same PALI representations for “AKSHAR” and “MATRA” vowels

The same letters at the beginning of a word would denote “Akshar” vowel and inside a word denote “Matra” vowel.

ए	एक	E	<u>EK</u>
े	नेक	E	<u>NEK</u>

The “Akshar” Vowels appearing inside the word are followed by the Hard Symbol `

ई रईस
II` RII`S

4. “R”, as a special case, is written like a Matra

In “कर्म” (क+र्+म) would be written as “KR`M”.

In “क्रम” (क्+र्+म) would be written as “K`RM”.

5. Successive vowels

A) Two Matra vowels never occur together, so the second vowel is written without the Hard Symbol ` but still sounds like a full Akshar vowel. In the following example the first vowel is the Matra vowel and the subsequent vowel is the Akshar vowel.

रुई र+ु+ई RUII

B) When both first and second vowels need to be Akshar vowels, the second vowel is accompanied by the Hard Symbol `

आई आ+ई AAII`

6. Full stop symbol “.”

The PALI full stop symbol “.” is preceded by a space just like the Devnagri “Purna Virama”. It also keeps it distinct with “Nukta”.

NON COMPULSARY PROVISIONS:

When two same consonants occur together inside a word

In this case normally the first consonant carries Half Akshar sound and the second consonant carries the full Akshar sound.

बत्तख BT`TKX. May be written as BT`KX.

चम्मच CM`MC May be written as CM`C

लट्टू LT`T`UU May be written as LT`UU

VI. Consonants

A) Full “Akshar” consonants

1. Understanding the structure of Devnagri “Akshar” consonants

“Devnagri” Consonants are followed by either “A - अ” or “H - ह” sound.

The following Table demonstrates the dissection of each consonant.

क	क्+अ	च	च्+अ	प	प्+अ	त	त्+अ	ट	ट्+अ	य	य्+अ	ष	ष्+अ	क्ष	क्+श्+अ
ख	क्+ह	छ	च्+ह	फ	फ्+ह	थ	त्+ह	ठ	ट्+ह	र	र्+अ	स	स्+अ	त्र	त्+र्+अ
ग	ग्+अ	ज	ज्+अ	ब	ब्+अ	द	द्+अ	ड	ड्+अ	ल	ल्+अ	ह	ह्+अ	ज्ञ	ज्+ञ्+अ
घ	ग्+ह	झ	ज्+ह	भ	ब्+ह	ध	द्+ह	ढ	ड्+ह	व	व्+अ				
ङ	ङ्+अ	ञ	ञ्+अ	म	म्+अ	न	न्+अ	ण	ण्+अ	श	श्+अ				

Table 3

Note: All Devnagri consonants are implicitly followed by “अ” or “ह”

2. PALI equivalents of the Devnagri “Akshar” consonants

क	K	च	C	प	P	त	T	ट	T'	य	Y	ष	W'	क्ष	K'W
ख	KX	छ	CX	फ	F	थ	TX	ठ	T'X	र	R	स	S	त्र	T'R
ग	G	ज	J	ब	B	द	D	ड	D'	ल	L	ह	H	ज्ञ	G'Y
घ	GX	झ	JX	भ	BX	ध	DX	ढ	D'X	व	V				
ङ	*.	ञ	Y'	म	M	न	N	ण	N'	श	W				

Table 4

Note: Implicit Devnagri “ह” requires to be explicitly denoted by PALI letter “X” but all remaining PALI consonants will be considered as being implicitly followed by “अ - A”.

3. Examples of the Devnagri “Akshar” consonants and PALI equivalents

क	कवूतर	K	KBUUTR	प	पतंग	P	PT*G	ट	टमाटर	T'	T'MAT'R
ख	खरगोश	KH	KXRGOW	फ	फल	F	FL	ठ	ठेरा	TX'	T'XT'XERA
ग	गमला	G	GMLA	ब	बत्तख	B	BT'TKX.	ड	डमरु	D'	D'MRU
घ	घड़ी	GX	GXD'.II	भ	भालू	BX	BXALUU	ढ	ढपली	DX'	D'XPLII
ङ		*.		म	मछली	M	MCXLII	ण	रण	N'	RN'
च	चम्मच	C	CM'MC	त	तख्ती	T	TKX.'TII	य	यजूव	Y	YJ'
छ	छतरी	CX	CXTRII	थ	थन	TX	TXN	र	रस्सी	R	RS'SII
ज	जहाज़	J	JHAJ.	द	दवात	D	DVAT	ल	लट्टू	L	LT'T'UU
झ	झंडा	JX	JX*D'A	ध	धनुष	DX	DXNUW'	व	वृक्ष	V	VR'K'W'
ञ	वर्जन	Y'	V'YY'JN	न	नल	N	NL	श	शलगम	W	WLGM
ष	षटकोण	W'	W'T'KON'	क्ष	क्षत्रिय	K'W'	K'W'T'RIY				
स	सपेरा	S	SPERA	त्र	त्रिशूल	T'R	T'RIWUUL				
ह	हल	H	HL	ज्ञ	ज्ञानी	J'	J'ANII				

Table 5

B) Half “Akshar” consonants

Devnagri Half “Akshar” Consonants with their PALI equivalents:

In these letters the implicit “अ” or “ह” sound following each letter is absent. Adding the soft symbol ' after each full letter makes it a half letter.

क्	K'	च्	C'	प्	P'	त्	T'	ट्	T''	य्	Y'	ष्	W''	क्ष्	K'W''
ख्	KX'	छ्	CX'	फ्	F'	थ्	TX'	ठ्	T'X'	र्	R'	स्	S'	त्र्	T'R'
ग्	G'	ज्	J'	ब्	B'	द्	D'	ड्	D''	ल्	L'	ह्	H'	ज्ञ्	J''
घ्	GX'	झ्	JX'	भ्	BX'	ध्	DX'	ढ्	D'X'	व्	V'				
ङ्	*.'	ञ्	Y''	म्	M'	न्	N'	ण्	N''	श्	W'				

Table 6

VII. Vowels

Vowels are of two types – “Akshar” and “Matra”. Difference between an Akshar and a Matra is:

- Akshar produces a full sound;
- Matra replaces the implicit “अ” or “ह” sound following a consonant;

नमक न्+अ+ म्+अ+ क	NMK	‘n’ and ‘m’ are followed by the implicit “अ - A” sound
अनेक अ+ न्+(अ)+े+ क	ANEK	The implicit “अ - A” sound after ‘N’ is replaced by the े Matra

Table 7

A) “Akshar” vowels

1) PALI equivalents of Devnagri “Akshar” Vowels appearing at the
BEGINNING
of a word:

अ	A	इ	I	उ	U	ऋ	RI	ए	E	ओ	O	अं	*
आ	AA	ई	II	ऊ	UU			ऐ	EE	औ	OO	अः	:

Table 8

Example

अ	अनार	A	<u>ANAR</u>
आ	आम	AA	<u>AAM</u>
इ	इमली	I	<u>IMLII</u>
ई	ईख	II	<u>IIX</u>
उ	उल्लू	U	<u>UL’LUU</u>
ऊ	ऊन	UU	<u>UUN</u>
ऋ	ऋतु	R’	<u>R’TU</u>
ए	एड़ी	E	<u>ED’.II</u>
ऐ	ऐनक	EE	<u>EENK</u>
ओ	ओखली	O	<u>OKXLII</u>
औ	औरत	OO	<u>OORT</u>
अं	अंगूर	*	<u>*GUUR</u>
अः	प्रातः	:	<u>P’RAT:</u>

Table 9

2) PALI equivalents of “Akshar” Vowels when they appear inside a word

EXCEPT

its beginning:

Note: For obtaining the full Akshar sound inside a word, the vowels are followed by the hard sign `

Examples

ई	रईस	II`	RII`S
ई	कई	II`	KII`
ऊ	गऊ	UU`	GUU`
ए	नए	E`	NE`

Table 10

ई	रिस	II	RIIS
---	-----	----	------

ए	ने	E	NE
---	----	---	----

Table 11

Table 10 displays the full Akshar vowels appearing inside a word except its beginning.

Table 11 displays that the above “Akshar” vowels become “Matra” vowels if the hard-sign ` following them is removed.

B) “Matra” vowels

Devnagri “Matra” Vowels and their PALI equivalents:

		ि	I	ु	U	ृ	R`	े	E	ो	O	ं	*
ा	A	ी	II	ू	UU			ै	EE	ौ	OO	ः	:

Table 12

Examples

ा	A	काम	KAM
ि	I	अमिट	AMIT`
ी	II	सही	SHII
ु	U	जामुन	JAMUN
ू	UU	अंगूर	A*GUUR
ृ	R`	कृषि	KR`W`I
े	E	अनेक	ANEK
ै	EE	पैर	PEER
ो	O	अमोल	AMOL
ौ	OO	मौन	MOON
ं	*	पंख	P*KX
ः	:	अतः	AT:

Table 13

Table 12 and 13 are “Matra” Vowels with examples.

VIII. Some more symbols

Some more PALI equivalents to Devnagri symbols are displayed in Table 14. Although some of them are quite rare, they are still available for conversion.

R ^ˆ	ॠ	0	०
L ^ˆ	ॡ	1	१
L ^ˆ	ॢ	2	२
L.	ॣ	3	३
Y.	।	4	४
N.	॥	5	५
R.	०	6	६
S ^ˆ	१	7	७
A ^ˆ	ॡ	8	८
* ^ˆ	ॢ	9	९
AO ^ˆ	ॣ	.	।

Table 14

IX. Things to Do

The aim of this Project is to make the new script PALI intuitively simple and robust. While writing by hand, The writer should be able to join the Script letters using cursive writing.

	Things to do	Status
1	Create the Varnmala for PALI	Completed
2	Create the software – “PALI2Devnagri2PALI” for conversion of text from PALI to Devnagri and Devnagri to PALI. This software shall use the Unicode values for printing the letters of Devnagri Script or find practical innovative solutions	Completed
3	Create the website for online conversion	Completed
4	Publish the Project on the internet	Completed

