

Note on the Spelling of Indian Words

Sanskrit and Hindi terms are transliterated according to Caracchi (1992), but with some modifications:

- In commonly used Hindi words, the final short ‘a’ is omitted (for example, I will write *ghāṭ*, not *ghāṭa*). The final short ‘a’ is retained in the case of endings of consonant clusters where pronunciation requires an abbreviated vowel sound. The short ‘a’ is also omitted within a word according to pronunciation rules.
- For recurring Sanskrit terms used in Hindi in ritual and religious contexts, for those indicating elements of sacred geography, classes of deities, months of the lunar calendar and proper names of deities, I have chosen to maintain the Sanskrit-derived transliteration (thus I will use Śiva, *darśana*, *liṅga*, *bhairava* and so on).
- The specific names of divine forms corresponding to contemporary shrines, however, are transliterated according to the rules used for Hindi as mentioned above (Kedārnāth, Kedāreśvar and so on).
- For historical and contemporary figures, contemporary geographic names, the proper names of interlocutors and Indian authors, and the names of Indian publishers, I have chosen to adopt a simplified spelling without diacritical marks.
- Both sonorant and cerebral *r* found in Hindi words are transliterated as *r*.