

Translation and Transliteration

All translations from Urdu and Hindi are by the present author unless otherwise indicated, using the symbols given below.

Passages that contain words from Sanskrit show the nasalized letter “ن” as “ñ”. The izāfat-construction is shown as “-e” not “-i”.

Table of Roman Transliteration for Urdu

Letter	Modified ALA-LC ¹ Urdu	Letter	Modified ALA-LC Urdu
ا	ā; initial sound: a, i, u; omitted (supporting ء)	ص	ṣ
آ	ā; only initial sound	ض	ẓ
ب	b	ط	ṭ
پ	p	ظ	ẓ
ت	t	ع	‘
ٹ	ṭ	غ	gh
ث	s	ف	f
ج	j	ق	q
چ	c	ک	k
ح	ḥ	گ	g
خ	kh	ل	l
د	d	م	m
ڈ	ḍ	ن	n; ñ (when nasalized)
ذ	ẓ	و	ñ
ر	r	ہ, ے, ہ	h
ڑ	ṛ	ی, ی	y; ī; e; ai
ز	z	ے	e; ai
ژ	zh	و	v; ū; o; au
س	s	اُ, اُ	an (tanvīn)
ش	sh	ء	’

Well-known writers, familiar names of people and places in South Asia are mainly written according to convention. Other South Asian names, however, have been transliterated. Mainly stemming from Arabic, Muslim names

¹ American Library Association and the Library of Congress.

containing the letter “ﺀ” are transliterated as “w” instead of “v”. Words in Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, and other languages ordinarily used in English and found in dictionaries have not been transliterated, unless they appear in the title of poems or other literature. For instance, fatwa (fatwah), hirja (hijrā), and Qur’an (qur’ān). Words in direct quotations are written as originally spelled.