

Title: Preliminary Proposal to Encode the Mahajani Script in ISO/IEC 10646
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1 Background

Mahajani is a Brahmi-based writing system that was used across northern India until the middle of the 20th century. The name ‘Mahajani’ (Hindi महाजनी *mahājanī* < महाजन *mahājana* ‘banker’) refers to bankers and money lenders, with whom the script was primarily associated. It is also known as Sarrafi (Hindi सराफ़ी *sarrāfī* < Arabic سراف *ṣarrāf* ‘banker’)¹ and as Kothival (कोठीवाल *koṭhīvāla* ‘merchant’).²

Mahajani is a specialized commercial script used for writing accounts and financial records. It was used for recording several languages, namely Hindi, Marwari [rwr], and Punjabi. The script was taught and used as a medium of education in Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh in schools known as चटशाला *caṭśālā*-s, where students from merchant and trading communities learned the script and other writing skills required for business.³

The majority of Mahajani documents are account books known as बही-खाता *bahī-khātā*. Other documents produced using the script are merchant diaries (रोज़नामा *roznāmā*); financial instruments, eg. bills of exchange (हुंडी *huṇḍī*); and letters (चिट्ठी *ciṭṭhī*), among many others.

Several lithographed books for teaching the script were produced in the late 19th century. One such instructional manual is महाजनीसारहिस्साअवलवदोयम [*Mahājanī-sāra-hissā-avala-va-doyama*], written by Lālā Gaṅgādāsa Muṃṣī Lāla in Delhi in the 19th century. It teaches the Mahajani script and explains methods of accounting and letter writing. It contains Hindi text in Mahajani, Devanagari, and the Perso-Arabic scripts (see Figure 5). Another primer is महाजनीसार [*Mahājanī-sāra*], which was written in Hindi by Śrīlāla in 1875 and published in Allahabad (see Figure 6 and Figure 7). Śrīlāla also published a supplementary edition of his text in Devanagari (see the comparison in Figure 8).

Several specimens of Mahajani appear in grammar books, script primers, and other such materials. Charts showing the script are given by George A. Grierson in *A Handbook to the Kaithi Character* (1899) and by Samuel Kellogg in *A grammar of the Hindi language* (1876). Gottlieb W. Leitner included numerous specimens of Mahajani as used in Punjab in *History of Indigenous Education in the Punjab* (1882).

Mahajani is not commonly used in present-day India. But, there is evidence that the script is not entirely obsolete. In 2004, an article in the *Tribune* newspaper of Chandigarh, India reported the demise of ‘Langdi Hindi’, which appears to be a form of Haryanvi [bge] used specifically for bookkeeping that is written in Mahajani. Although the Mahajani script is no longer in general use, it is an important key to the historical financial records of northern India.

¹ Kellogg 1876: 17 fn 31.

² Hoernle 1880: 2.

³ Leitner 1882: 37.

1.1 Relationship to Other Scripts

Mahajani has similarities to Landa, Kaithi, and Devanagari. A comparison of these scripts is given in Table 2 and Table 3. See also the comparison of Mahajani with scripts of the Sharada family in Figure 17.

In structure and orthography, Mahajani resembles scripts of the Landa family used in Punjab and Sind,⁴ which are related to Sharada. The term *lanḍā* (Punjabi ਲੰਡਾ; Hindi लंडा *lanḍā*, ‘tailless, clipped’) refers to certain characteristics possessed by these writing systems, such as an abbreviated repertoire of vowel and consonant letters, the absence of vowel signs, inattention to word spacing, etc. As shown in the above tables, Mahajani and Landa have similar glyphs for vowel letters, but there are considerable differences in the glyph shapes of consonant letters.

Mahajani is often described as a derivative of Kaithi⁵ or a ‘tachygraphic abbreviation’ of Devanagari.⁶ While there are similarities between these scripts, the majority of Mahajani letterforms are distinct from those of Kaithi and Devanagari. Moreover, while Mahajani may have been influenced by Kaithi and Devanagari, it possesses structural, orthographic, and graphical features that are distinct from these scripts.

The term ‘Mahajani’ also refers to a style of writing other scripts when used in commercial activity. For example, the name ‘Mahajani Dogra’ refers to a form of the Dogra script used by merchants, which is written in a manner characteristic of the Mahajani or Landa style. The term ‘Mahajani’ has also been applied to the Gujarati script and to a form of Devanagari used for writing Marwari and other languages of Rajasthan.

Mahajani is closely related to a group of scripts called ‘Sarrafi’, or ‘banker’s script’. The form of Sarrafi as used in Delhi is shown in Figure 13–16. The letterforms of ‘Delhi Sarrafi’ are very similar to the forms of Mahajani. Another group of scripts closely related to Mahajani is that called ‘Baniauṭī’ by Kellogg, shown in Table 11. These scripts may be unified with Mahajani.

2 Character Repertoire and Letter Forms

The regional forms exhibit a high level of uniformity in terms of character repertoire and glyph shapes, as shown in Table 1. The specimens show two broad varieties of Mahajani, which can be classified as the forms used in Delhi and further west, as exemplified by Gaṅgādāsa; that used in the eastern United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh) and Bihar, as shown by Grierson and Kellogg; and a more general form used throughout this region that is illustrated by Śrīlāla.

The forms of Mahajani shown by Gaṅgādāsa, Kellogg, and Śrīlāla share great similarities, while Grierson’s is a bit distinct. For the most part, the character repertoires shown by these four are fairly similar. The greatest differences are the representation of vowel letters, vowel signs, and nasal consonants. Grierson’s character repertoire appears to be an idealized form of Mahajani that is unlike to be attested. The forms shown by Gaṅgādāsa, Kellogg, and Śrīlāla are more suggestive of actual usage, as illustrated by published materials.

The proposed character repertoire for Mahajani is based upon the inventory shown in Table 1. The glyph shapes are based upon forms used by Gaṅgādāsa, or what might be called ‘Delhi Mahajani’. Delhi Mahajani appears to be a standardized form of the script that is comparable to Sarrafi (see Figure 13–16). The source is a printed work and is illustrative of a standardized form of Mahajani used at the end of the 19th century.

⁴ See Pandey 2010 for details.





⁵ Kellogg 1876: 17

⁶ Leitner 1882: 37.

The character repertoire contains characters not attested in Gaṅgādāsa, such as NYA and NNA. Glyphs for these characters based upon upon Grierson's forms.






















2.1 Notes on Characters Proposed



The proposed character set and nameslist is shown in Figure 1. Notes on specific characters proposed for encoding are given below:

- NNA The character  NNA is proposed for encoding because it is attested in several sources, such as Grierson and Leitner. It is not attested in Gaṅgādāsa or Śrīlāla. Kellogg uses  NA for NNA.
- NYA The character  NYA is rare. It is attested only in Grierson. Gaṅgādāsa, Kellogg, and Śrīlāla use  NA for NYA.

2.2 Characters Not Proposed


The following characters are not proposed for encoding:






- AA Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- II Not a unique letter. Written using  I.
- UU Not a unique letter. Written using  U.
- E Attested by Kellogg as the unique character . This letter is generally written using  I.
- AI Not a unique letter. Written using  I.
- O This letter is represented uniquely by Grierson as  and by Kellogg as . Grierson's  is not a unique character; it is the glyph  BA +  NUKTA, which is also used for representing  NGA in his chart. Kellogg's form appears to be distinct, but it is unattested in other sources, such as Gaṅgādāsa and Śrīlāla. The vowel letter O is generally written using  U.
- AU Not a unique letter. Written using  U.
- VOWEL SIGN AA Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- VOWEL SIGN I Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- VOWEL SIGN U Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- VOWEL SIGN E Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- VOWEL SIGN O Attested only in Grierson (see Figure 9).
- NGA Shown by Grierson as . It is not a unique character, but a composite formed from  BA +  NUKTA. It is not attested in other sources. Gaṅgādāsa, Kellogg, and Śrīlāla use  NA for NGA.
- YA Shown by Grierson as . Not attested in other Mahajani sources. It is generally represented using  JA.
- SHA Shown by Grierson as . Not attested in other Mahajani sources. It is generally represented using  SA.



- SSA Shown by Grierson as . Not a unique character. It is generally written using  KHA, as is the case for Grierson’s form.

3 Writing System

Structure Mahajani is based upon the Brahmi model, but it is structurally simpler and behaves as an alphabet. Vowel signs are not used. The script is written from left to right.




VIRAMA There is no attested use or graphical shape for VIRAMA in Mahajani. A generic  VIRAMA is proposed for encoding in order to enable the representation of special ligatures (see ‘Special Ligatures’ below).







Vowel Letters There are only three vowel letters:  A,  I, and  U. Other vowels are represented using these characters:  I is used for writing *II, *E, *AI and  U is used for *UU, *O, *AU.

Vowel Signs Vowel signs are not written. The glyph  KA represents not only *ka*, but also any one of the syllables *ka*, *kā*, *ki*, *kī*, *ke*, etc. In cases where greater precision is required, a vowel letter may be written after a consonant to convey the intended vocalic context, eg. *ki* may be written  KA, but this also represents *kī* and *kaī*. In general, the value of a consonant letter must be inferred at the morphological level.

Consonant Letters Consonant letters theoretically bear the inherent vowel /a/.


Consonant Conjunctions Consonant clusters are not written in Mahajani using half-forms or ligatures or a visible VIRAMA. The elements of a consonant cluster are written sequentially using regular consonant letters.






Nasalization Nasalization is not represented using special signs, such as ANUSVARA. The letter  NA is used in cases where nasalization is explicitly recorded. In several cases, words are written simply with the nasalization sign deleted, eg. Devangari  *humḍī* and Mahajani  *hd*.

NUKTA The use of  NUKTA is limited. As in other Indic scripts, NUKTA is written with a base letter in order to represent other phonetic values. In Gaṅgādāsa’s repertoire, the character BA is written as  BA, which may be decomposed as  PA +  NUKTA. In Grierson’s inventory, the vowel letter  O is written by adding NUKTA to  BA.

Digits Digits similar to those used in major north Indic scripts, such as Devanagari and Gujarati, are attested. Digits for Mahajani may be unified with those of Devanagari.

Number Forms Fraction signs (⁄, ≐, etc.) and unit marks (), ʃ, etc.) are found in Mahajani documents (see Figure 2). These may be represented using the characters encoded in the ‘Common Indic Number Forms’ block (U+A830..U+A83F).⁷

Special Ligatures Śrīlāla shows the ligature  , which corresponds to Devanagari श्री (SHA + VIRAMA + RA + VOWEL SIGN II). This ligature may be represented in Mahajani as: SA + VIRAMA + RA + II.

Variant Forms Several letters have glyphic variants:  CA is also written as  CA;  A is written as  A and  A; etc. These variants should be managed as presentation forms.

⁷ See Pandey 2007 for more information on these characters.

Word Boundaries There are no formal rules for word spacing. Generally, word spacing is not observed.

Punctuation There are no unique marks or formal rules for punctuation. Marks similar to a dash, middle dot, and colon are used in various documents for marking sentence boundaries. The use of *daṇḍās* are also attested. These marks may be unified with corresponding characters in Latin and Devanagari.

Ruled Lines Ruled lines are used in Mahajani records as a method of titling and structuring documents. These lines are not identical to the head-stroke found in modern Devanagari letters.

Collation The collating order follows the encoding order.

Linebreaking Attention is not paid to linebreaking in running text. Linebreaking rules implemented for Devanagari may be used for Mahajani.

Character Properties Properties for Mahajani characters in the Unicode Character Database format are:

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11250;MAHAJANI LETTER A;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11251;MAHAJANI LETTER I;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11252;MAHAJANI LETTER U;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11253;MAHAJANI LETTER KA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11254;MAHAJANI LETTER KHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11255;MAHAJANI LETTER GA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11256;MAHAJANI LETTER GHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11257;MAHAJANI LETTER CA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11258;MAHAJANI LETTER CHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11259;MAHAJANI LETTER JA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125A;MAHAJANI LETTER JHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125B;MAHAJANI LETTER NYA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125C;MAHAJANI LETTER TTA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125D;MAHAJANI LETTER TTHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125E;MAHAJANI LETTER DDA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1125F;MAHAJANI LETTER DDHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11260;MAHAJANI LETTER NNA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11261;MAHAJANI LETTER TA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11262;MAHAJANI LETTER THA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11263;MAHAJANI LETTER DA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11264;MAHAJANI LETTER DHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11265;MAHAJANI LETTER NA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11266;MAHAJANI LETTER PA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11267;MAHAJANI LETTER PHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11268;MAHAJANI LETTER BA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11269;MAHAJANI LETTER BHA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126A;MAHAJANI LETTER MA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126B;MAHAJANI LETTER RA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126C;MAHAJANI LETTER LA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126D;MAHAJANI LETTER VA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126E;MAHAJANI LETTER SA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
1126F;MAHAJANI LETTER HA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11280;MAHAJANI LETTER RRA;Lo;0;L;;;;N;;;;;
11271;MAHAJANI SIGN VIRAMA;Mn;9;NSM;;;;N;;;;;
11272;MAHAJANI SIGN NUKTA;Mn;7;NSM;;;;N;;;;;

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	1125	1126	1127
0	𑌃 11250	𑌄 11260	𑌅 11270
1	𑌆 11251	𑌇 11261	𑌈 11271
2	𑌉 11252	𑌊 11262	𑌋 11272
3	𑌌 11253	𑌍 11263	
4	𑌎 11254	𑌏 11264	
5	𑌐 11255	𑌑 11265	
6	𑌒 11256	𑌓 11266	
7	𑌔 11257	𑌕 11267	
8	𑌗 11258	𑌘 11268	
9	𑌙 11259	𑌚 11269	
A	𑌛 1125A	𑌜 1126A	
B	𑌞 1125B	𑌟 1126B	
C	𑌡 1125C	𑌢 1126C	
D	𑌤 1125D	𑌥 1126D	
E	𑌧 1125E	𑌨 1126E	
F	𑌩 1125F	𑌪 1126F	

Independent vowels

- 11250 𑌃 MAHAJANI LETTER A
- 11251 𑌆 MAHAJANI LETTER I
- 11252 𑌉 MAHAJANI LETTER U

Consonants

- 11253 𑌌 MAHAJANI LETTER KA
- 11254 𑌎 MAHAJANI LETTER KHA
- 11255 𑌐 MAHAJANI LETTER GA
- 11256 𑌒 MAHAJANI LETTER GHA
- 11257 𑌔 MAHAJANI LETTER CA
- 11258 𑌗 MAHAJANI LETTER CHA
- 11259 𑌙 MAHAJANI LETTER JA
- 1125A 𑌛 MAHAJANI LETTER JHA
- 1125B 𑌞 MAHAJANI LETTER NYA
- 1125C 𑌡 MAHAJANI LETTER TTA
- 1125D 𑌤 MAHAJANI LETTER TTHA
- 1125E 𑌧 MAHAJANI LETTER DDA
- 1125F 𑌩 MAHAJANI LETTER DDHA
- 11260 𑌄 MAHAJANI LETTER NNA
- 11261 𑌇 MAHAJANI LETTER TA
- 11262 𑌉 MAHAJANI LETTER THA
- 11263 𑌊 MAHAJANI LETTER DA
- 11264 𑌍 MAHAJANI LETTER DHA
- 11265 𑌏 MAHAJANI LETTER NA
- 11266 𑌑 MAHAJANI LETTER PA
- 11267 𑌓 MAHAJANI LETTER PHA
- 11268 𑌕 MAHAJANI LETTER BA
- 11269 𑌘 MAHAJANI LETTER BHA
- 1126A 𑌜 MAHAJANI LETTER MA
- 1126B 𑌟 MAHAJANI LETTER RA
- 1126C 𑌢 MAHAJANI LETTER LA
- 1126D 𑌥 MAHAJANI LETTER VA
- 1126E 𑌨 MAHAJANI LETTER SA
- 1126F 𑌪 MAHAJANI LETTER HA
- 11270 𑌅 MAHAJANI LETTER RRA

Various signs

- 11271 𑌈 MAHAJANI SIGN VIRAMA
- 11272 𑌋 MAHAJANI SIGN NUKTA

Figure 1: Proposed code chart and nameslist for Mahajani.

	A	B	C	D		A	B	C	D
A					TA				
I					THA				
U					DA				
E	—				DHA				
O	—				NA				
KA					PA				
KHA					PHA				
GA					BA				
GHA					BHA				
NGA	—	—			MA				
CA					YA	—	—		—
CHA					RA				
JA					LA				
JHA					VA				—
NYA	—	—			SHA	—	—		—
TTA					SSA	—	—		—
TTHA					SA				
DDA					HA				
DDHA					RRA		—	—	—
NNA	—	—							

Table 1: Mahajani letterforms from (A) Gaṅgādāsa, (B) Śrīlāla, (C) Grierson, and (D) Kellogg.

पहिकाभाग १२

कोगावऱ	नागरी	ढारी	कोगावऱ	नागरी	ढारी	
३३३३३३३३३३	क	क	३३३३३३३३३३	ख	ख	
९९९९९९९९९९	ख	ख	९९९९९९९९९९	ग	ग	
२२२२२२२२२२	ग	ग	२२२२२२२२२२	घ	घ	
४४४४४४४४४४	घ	घ	४४४४४४४४४४	ङ	ङ	
००००००००००	ङ	ङ	००००००००००	च	च	
५५५५५५५५५५	च	च	५५५५५५५५५५	छ	छ	
७७७७७७७७७७	छ	छ	७७७७७७७७७७	ज	ज	
११११११११११	ज	ज	११११११११११	झ	झ	
३३३३३३३३३३	झ	झ	३३३३३३३३३३	ड	ड	
६६६६६६६६६६	ड	ड	आनापाई ३।०५			
००००००००००	ड	०	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
९९९९९९९९९९	ड	१	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
७७७७७७७७७७	ड	२	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
२२२२२२२२२२	ड	३	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
८८८८८८८८८८	ड	४	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
९९९९९९९९९९	ड	५	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	६	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	७	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	८	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	९	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	१०	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	११	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	१२	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	१३	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	१४	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	१५	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	१६	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	१७	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	१८	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	१९	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	२०	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	२१	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	२२	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	२३	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	२४	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	२५	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	२६	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	२७	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	२८	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
००००००००००	ड	२९	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।
५५५५५५५५५५	ड	३०	०।	०।	॥०।	॥०।

Figure 2: Table of Mahajani letters (from Gaṅgādāsa 18-?: 12). Also shown is a table of currency fractions titled 'आनापाई' ānā pāī.

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पहिले भाग

नाममहाजनी	नाममहाजनी	नाममहाजनी	नाममहाजनी	नाममहाजनी	नाममहाजनी
१६०६११	केदारनाथ	केदारनाथ	६००६१०	दुर्गाशंकर	दुर्गाशंकर
६२२६०१०	खैरातूलाल	खैरातूलाल	५६०१००	प्यारेलाल	प्यारेलाल
०१५६००	गोपीनाथ	गोपीनाथ	००००००	फतहचंद	फतहचंद
६०६६०६६	धनस्यामदास	धनस्यामदास	५०००६६	बुलाकीदास	बुलाकीदास
००००००	नानकचंद	नानकचंद	०००००	भोखामल	भोखामल
५५००००	चिंजीलाल	चिंजीलाल	००००००	मुन्नालाल	मुन्नालाल
००००००	छोतरमल	छोतरमल	००००००	मोहनलाल	मोहनलाल
००००००	जगन्नाथ	जगन्नाथ	५०००००	बकसीराम	बकसीराम
००००००	मंडूमल	मंडूमल	५००००	खुसालराय	खुसालराय
००००००	ठेकचंद	ठेकचंद	००००००	सीरुचंद	सीरुचंद
००००००	ठंडीमल	ठंडीमल	००००००	रतनचंद	रतनचंद
००००००	हुगारमल	हुगारमल	००००००	मानकचंद	मानकचंद
००००००	ताराचंद	ताराचंद	५०००००	बनारसीदास	बनारसीदास
००००००	धम्मनलाल	धम्मनलाल	००००००	ज्वालामुखीदास	ज्वालामुखीदास
००००००	खुबचंद	खुबचंद	००००००	मनोहरलाल	मनोहरलाल
००००००	गंगाधर	गंगाधर	००००००	ठाकुरदास	ठाकुरदास
००००००	निहालसिंह	निहालसिंह	००००००	इसूरीप्रसाद	इसूरीप्रसाद
००००००	घासीराम	घासीराम	००००००	उत्तमचंद	उत्तमचंद
००००००	चेतराम	चेतराम	००००००	हीरालाल	हीरालाल
००००००	खुबीलचंद	खुबीलचंद	००००००	सरवमीचंद	सरवमीचंद
००००००	मावूमल	मावूमल	००००००	मावूमल	मावूमल
००००००	पिरभूदयाल	पिरभूदयाल	००००००	वजीरसिंह	वजीरसिंह
००००००	किशोरीलाल	किशोरीलाल	००००००	केशरीचंद	केशरीचंद

Figure 3: Personal names written in Mahajani, Devanagari, and Arabic scripts (from Gaṅgādāsa 18-?: 12).

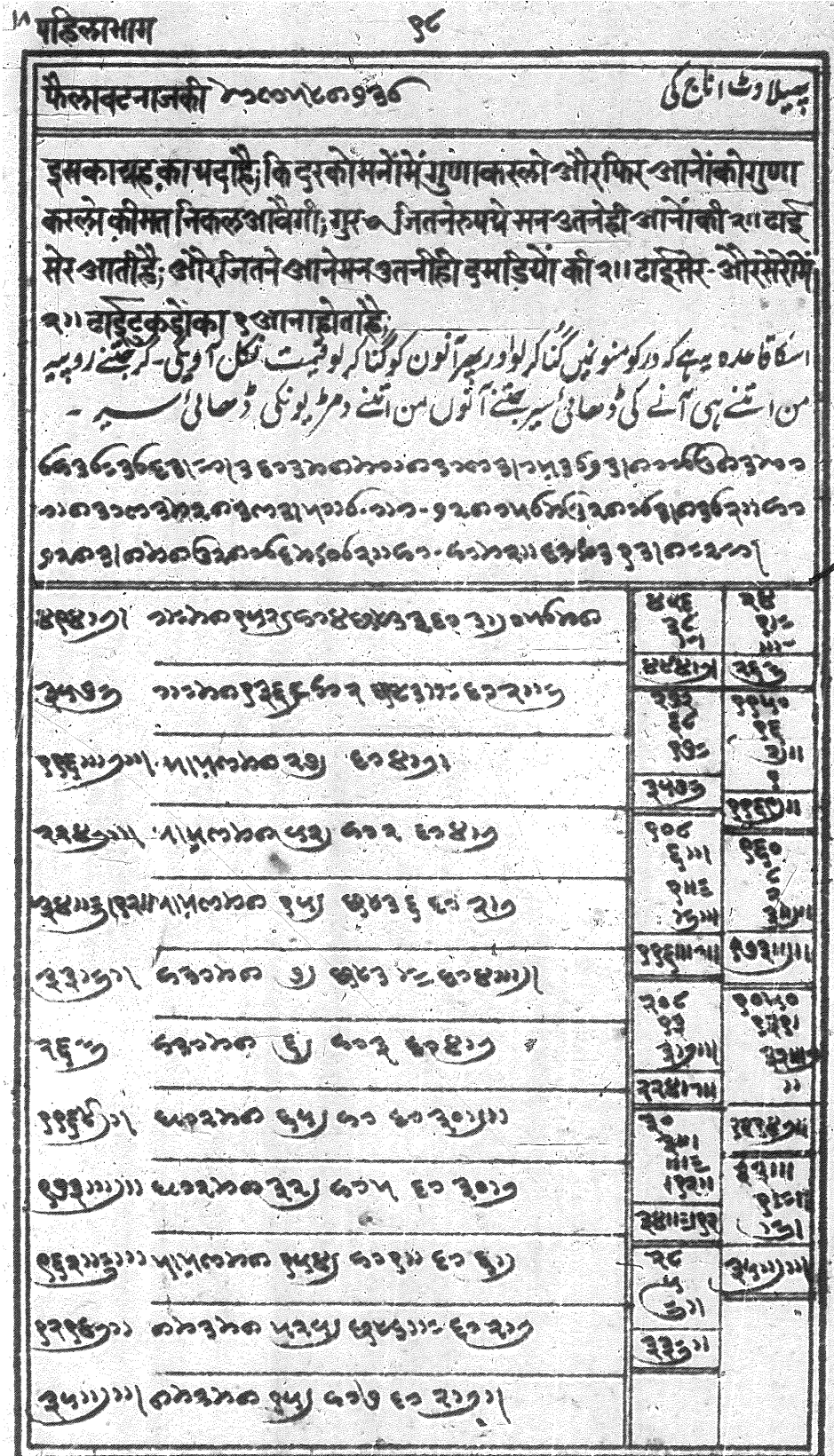


Figure 4: Page from Gaṅgādāsa containing in Devanagari, Mahajani, and Arabic (from Gaṅgādāsa 18–?: 18).



Figure 5: Instructions for writing a हुंडी humdī 'bill of exchange' (from Gaṅgādāsa 18-?: 30).

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स्वर

नागरी	महाजनी	नागरी	महाजनी
अ	ॐ	लृ	x
आ		लृह	x
इ	६	ए	६
ई		ऐ	
उ	ॐ	ओ	ॐ
ऊ		औ	
ऋ	x	अं	x
ॠ	x	अः	x

महाजनी के लिखने में लगमात नहीं लगते परशब्द की आदि में स्वर हो तो उसे लिख देते हैं अथवा कहीं संदेह जान पड़े तो बीच में वाअंत में भी अलग कर स्वर लमा देते हैं ॥

जैसे

नागरी	महाजनी	नागरी	महाजनी
आँवला	ॐ ५ ॐ	आगरा	ॐ १ १
उपमा	ॐ ५ ॐ	दूंदोर	ॐ ६ ॐ १

Figure 6: Table of Mahajani vowel letters (from Śrīlāla 1875: 1).

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व्यंजन

नागरी	महाजनी	नागरी	महाजनी
क	३	द	६
ख	५५४	ध	२
ग	ग	न	०
घ	६	प	५
ङ	×	फ	३
च	५५५	ब	०
छ	६	भ	९
ज	७	म	७
झ	६९	य	×
ञ	×	र	०
ट	२८	ल	३
ठ	४	व	५
ड	६	श	×
ढ	७४	ष	×
ण	३	स	६
त	२०८	ह	५
थ	६	श्री	१७

Figure 7: Table of Mahajani consonant letters (from Śrīlāla 1875: 2).

PLATE I.

<i>Devanāgarī</i>	<i>Kayathī</i>	<i>Mahājani</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Devanāgarī</i>	<i>Kayathī</i>	<i>Mahājani</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Devanāgarī</i>	<i>Kayathī</i>	<i>Mahājani</i>	<i>English</i>
अ	अ	𑂀	a	इ	इ	𑂁	ri	न	𑂂	𑂃	n
आ	आ	𑂄	ā	उ	उ	𑂅	ch	प	𑂆	𑂇	p
इ	इ	𑂈	i	ए	ए	𑂉	chh	फ	𑂊	𑂋	ph
ई	ई	𑂌	ī	अ	अ	𑂍	j	व	𑂎	𑂏	b
उ	उ	𑂐	u	इ	इ	𑂑	jh	भ	𑂒	𑂓	bh
ऊ	ऊ	𑂔	ū	उ	उ	𑂕	ri	म	𑂖	𑂗	m
ऋ	ऋ	𑂘	ṛi	ए	ए	𑂙	t	य	𑂚	𑂛	yj
ॠ	ॠ	𑂜	e	ठ	ठ	𑂝	th	र	𑂞	𑂟	r
ऌ	ऌ	𑂠	ai	ड	ड	𑂡	d	ल	𑂢	𑂣	l
ॡ	ॡ	𑂤	o	ण	ण	𑂥	dh	व	𑂦	𑂧	v.b
क	क	𑂩	au	शा	शा	𑂧	n	श	𑂨	𑂩	s
ख	ख	𑂫	kh	त	त	𑂨	t	ष	𑂪	𑂫	sh, kh
ग	ग	𑂭	g	थ	थ	𑂩	th	स	𑂬	𑂭	s
घ	घ	𑂯	gh	द	द	𑂪	d	आ	𑂮	𑂯	h
				ध	ध	𑂫	dh				

COMBINATIONS OF VOWELS.

<i>Devanāgarī</i>	<i>Kayathī</i>	<i>Mahājani</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Devanāgarī</i>	<i>Kayathī</i>	<i>Mahājani</i>	<i>English</i>
अक	अक	𑂀𑂩	aka	रिक्	रिक्	𑂃𑂩𑂃	rikri
आका	आका	𑂄𑂩𑂛	āka	रुके	रुके	𑂃𑂩𑂛	eke
इकि	इकि	𑂈𑂩𑂛	iki	रुके	रुके	𑂃𑂩𑂛	aikai
ईकी	ईकी	𑂌𑂩𑂛	īki	ओकी	ओकी	𑂛𑂩𑂛	oko
उकु	उकु	𑂐𑂩𑂛	uku	ओकी	ओकी	𑂛𑂩𑂛	aukau,
ऊकु	ऊकु	𑂔𑂩𑂛	ūku				

Table showing the corresponding forms of the Devanāgarī, Kayathī, Mahājani and English alphabets.

Figure 9: Comparison of Mahajani, Kaithi, and Devanagari (from Grierson, 1899: Plate I).

Nāgarī.	Kaithī.	Mahājanī.	Nāgarī.	Kaithī.	Mahājanī.
अ	ल	ॐ	ठ	ठ	७
आ	ला	ॐ	ड	उ	५ ७
इ	लि	७	ढ	ठ	७
ई	ली	७	ण	न	७
उ	लु	७	त	त	७
ऊ	लू	७	थ	थ	७ ५
ऋ	लृ	७	द	द	७
ए	ले	७	ध	य	७ ५ ५
ऐ	ले	७	न	न	७
ओ	ली	७	प	प	५
औ	ली	७	फ	फ	३
क	क	३	ब	व	५ ७
ख	घ	५	भ	ळ	७
ग	ग	७	म	म	७ ७
घ	घ	७ ५	य	य	७
ङ	ङ	७	र	र	७
च	व	५ ७	ल	ल	५ ७
छ	ष	७ ५	व	व	५ ७
ज	झ	७ ५	श	श	५ ७
झ	झ	७ ५	ष	ष	५ ७
ञ	ञ	७ ५	स	स	५ ७
ट	ट	७	ह	ह	५ ७

Figure 10: Comparison of Mahajani, Kaithi, and Devanagari (from Kellogg 1876: plate after p18).

TABLE I. (concluded).—HINDI ALPHABETS.

Nāgari.	Kāyāthī.	Mahājani.	Baniāññī.
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ

TABLE I.—HINDI ALPHABETS.

Nāgari.	Kāyāthī.	Mahājani.	Baniāññī.
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ
उ	उ	उ	उ

Figure 11: Comparison of Kaithi with other scripts used for writing Hindi (from Kellogg 1893: 26–27).

T A B L E O F A L P H A B E T S .

	a	i	u	e	o	k	kh	g	gh	ni	ch	chh	j	jh	ñ	ñ	t	th	d	dh	n	t	dh	n	p	ph	b	bh	m	y	r	rh	l	r	l	v	h	s	sh
1 Pali 3 rd Cent. B.C.	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
2 Pali 4 th	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
3 Pali 4 th (Girnar)	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
4 Gupta 5 th Cent. A.D.	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
5 Valabhi 4 th	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
6 Kutiba 10 th Cent. A.D.	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
7 Kaathi	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
8 Mahajani	𑀀	𑀁	𑀂	𑀃	𑀄	𑀅	𑀆	𑀇	𑀈	𑀉	𑀊	𑀋	𑀌	𑀍	𑀎	𑀏	𑀐	𑀑	𑀒	𑀓	𑀔	𑀕	𑀖	𑀗	𑀘	𑀙	𑀚	𑀛	𑀜	𑀝	𑀞	𑀟	𑀠	𑀡	𑀢	𑀣	𑀤	𑀥	
9 Devanagari	अ	इ	उ	ए	ओ	क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	छ	ज	झ	ञ	ट	ठ	ड	ढ	ण	त	थ	द	ध	न	प	फ	ब	भ	म	य	र	ल	व	श	ष	स	ह	
10 Panjabi	ਅ	ੲ	ੳ	ਏ	ਓ	ਕ	ਖ	ਗ	ਘ	ਙ	ਚ	ਛ	ਜ	ਝ	ਞ	ਟ	ਠ	ਡ	ਢ	ਣ	ਤ	ਥ	ਦ	ਧ	ਨ	ਪ	ਫ	ਬ	ਭ	ਮ	ਯ	ਰ	ਲ	ਵ	ਸ਼	ਸ਼	ਹ		
11 Bangali	অ	ই	উ	এ	ও	ক	খ	গ	ঘ	ঙ	চ	ছ	জ	ঝ	ঞ	ট	ঠ	ড	ঢ	ণ	ত	থ	দ	ধ	ন	প	ফ	ব	ভ	ম	য	র	ল	ব	শ	ষ	স	হ	
12 Oriya	ଅ	ଈ	୳	ଏ	ଓ	କ	ଖ	ଗ	ଘ	ଙ	ଚ	ଛ	ଜ	ଝ	ଞ	ଟ	ଠ	ଡ	ଢ	ଣ	ତ	ଥ	ଦ	ଧ	ନ	ପ	ଫ	ବ	ଭ	ମ	ଋ	ୠ	ୡ	ୢ	ୣ	୤	୦	୧	

Figure 12: Comparison of Mahajani and other scripts (from Hoernle 1880).

Set No 2
Comparison of the alphabets of Nagri Gurumukhi with Different kinds of Landa Sarafi & with Thakuri and Dogri

Roman equivalent	गुरुमुखी Gurmukhi	नागरी Nagri	लण्डा I Landa I	लण्डा II Landa II	लण्डा III Landa III	पंजाबी लण्डा Punjabi Landa	पठाना लण्डा Pathana Landa	सराफी लण्डा Sarafi Landa	दिल्ली सराफी Delhi Sarafi	नासी Nasi Urdu Latteres	नागरी Nagri	दोगरी Dogri	थकुरी Thakuri
i	ੳ <i>ira</i>	इ	ᳵ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	;	ᳶ	᳷	
e	ਏ <i>aira</i>	ए	᳼	᳽	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	,	᳽	᳾	
i	ੲ <i>iri</i>	इ=ए	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	;	ᳶ	᳷	
s	ਸ <i>sasa</i>	स=श	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	;	ᳶ	᳷	
h	ਹ <i>haha</i>	ह	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	,	ᳶ	᳷	
k	ਕ <i>kakka</i>	क	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	,	ᳶ	᳷	
kh	ਖ <i>khakha</i>	ख=ख	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	,	ᳶ	᳷	

Figure 13: Comparison of various Landa forms with Delhi Sarafi (from Leitner 1882: Set 2).

g	ਗ <i>gag</i>	ग	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
gh	ਗ਼ <i>ghagha</i>	घ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
	ङ <i>ngana</i>	ङ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
ch	ਚ <i>chacha</i>	च	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
chh	ਚ਼ <i>chachha</i>	छ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
j	ਜ <i>jajja</i>	ज	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
jh	ਜ਼ <i>jhaja</i>	झ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
	ञ <i>nyanya</i>	ञ	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻
t	ਟ <i>tainha</i>	ट	ᳶ	᳷	᳸	᳹	ᳺ	᳻	᳼	᳾	᳿	ᳺ	᳻

Figure 14: Comparison of various Landa forms with Delhi Sarafi (from Leitner 1882: Set 2).

kh	ठ	khathra	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ
d	ड	dadita	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड
th	ठ	thudha	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ
	ह	hara	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह
z	ड	zatta	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड
h	ह	hathra	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह	ह
d	ड	dadita	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड
d	ड	dadita	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड
N	न	nanna	न	न	न	न	न	न	न	न	न	न	न

Figure 15: Comparison of various Landa forms with Delhi Sarrafi (from Leitner 1882: Set 2).

P	प	pappi	प	प	प	प	प	प	प	प	प	प	प
ph	ठ	phupha	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ	ठ
b	ब	babba	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब	ब
bh	ड	bhabba	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड	ड
m	म	manma	म	म	म	म	म	म	म	म	म	म	म
y	य	yayya	य	य	य	य	य	य	य	य	य	य	य
r	र	rara	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र
l	ल	lalla	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल	ल
w	व	wana	व	व	व	व	व	व	व	व	व	व	व
r	र	rara	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र	र

Figure 16: Comparison of various Landa forms with Delhi Sarrafi (from Leitner 1882: Set 2).

गुरुमुखी	ਪ ਠ ਬ ਭ ਮ ਯ ਰ ਨ ਵ ਸ . ਸ ਠ ਤ ਲ
महाजनी	५ ६ ७ ८ ९ १० ११ १२ १३ १४ १५ १६ १७
लडा	ਪ ७ ਭੁ ਭ ਮ ਯ ਰ ਨ ਵ ਸ ਠ ਤ ਲ
टाकरी	ਪ ७ ६ ७ ८ ९ १० ११ १२ १३ १४ १५ १६ १७
शारदा	ਪ ਠ ਰ ਠ ਮ ਯ ਠ ਲ ਵ ਸ ਮ ਮ ਠ ਕ ਠ
ब्राह्मी	ਪ ਠ ० ४ ੲ ੲ ੲ ੲ ੲ ੲ ਮ ਠ ਸ ੲ ਠ ਠ
नागरी	प फ व भ म य र ल व श ष स ह ड ढ क्ष ज

गुरुमुखी	ਕ ਖ ਗ ਘ ਗ ਚ ਛ ਜ ਝ ਞ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ
महाजनी	३ ੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ ੲੲ
लडा	ਕ ਖ ਗ ਘ ਘ ਚ ਛ ਜ ਝ ਞ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ
टाकरी	ਕ ਖ ਗ ਘ ਘ ਚ ਛ ਜ ਝ ਞ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ
शारदा	ਕ ਘ ਗ ਘ ਠ ਸ ਠ ਘ ਘ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ ਠ
ब्राह्मी	३ ੲ
नागरी	क ख ग घ ङ च छ ज झ ञ ट ठ ड ढ ण त थ द ध न

गुरुमुखी	ਅ ਆ ਕਾ ਇ ਕਿ ਈ ਵੀ ਉ ਵ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ ਊ
महाजनी	ੲ ੲ
लडा	ਅ ਆ ਕਾ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ
टाकरी	ਅ ਆ ਕਾ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ
शारदा	ਅ ਸੁ ਕ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ
ब्राह्मी	ਅ ਸੁ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ ਓ
नागरी	अ आ का इ कि ई की उ कु ऊ कृ ऋ ए के ऐ के ओ को औ नी

Figure 17: Comparison of Mahajani with Brahmi and other scripts of the Sharada family (from Mule 1974: 160–162).

	MAHAJANI	LANDA	KAITHI	DEVANAGARI		MAHAJANI	LANDA	KAITHI	DEVANAGARI
KA	३	२	क	क	DA	६	४	द	द
KHA	६	५	ख	ख	DHA	२	१	ध	ध
GA	००	०१	ग	ग	NA	०३	०४	न	न
GHA	६	५	घ	घ	PA	५	५	प	प
NGA	—	२	उ	ङ	PHA	३	६	फ	फ
CA	५	४	च	च	BA	५	३	ब	ब
CHA	६	५	छ	छ	BHA	६	३	भ	भ
JA	१	०	ज	ज	MA	०	०	म	म
JHA	६	५	झ	झ	YA	—	०	य	य
NYA	३	१	ञ	ञ	RA	०	०	र	र
TTA	५	५	ट	ट	LA	३	०	ल	ल
TTHA	०	०	ठ	ठ	VA	५	५	व	व
DDA	५	३	ड	ड	SHA	—	—	श	श
DDHA	७	५	ढ	ढ	SA	५	०	स	स
NNA	॥	८	ण	ण	HA	५	५	ह	ह
TA	२	३	त	त	RRA	५	३	(५)	(॥)
THA	३	५	थ	थ					

Table 2: Comparison of consonant letters of Mahajani, Landa, Kaithi, and Devanagari.

	MAHAJANI	LANDA	KAITHI	DEVANAGARI		MAHAJANI	LANDA	KAITHI	DEVANAGARI
A	अ	𑂔	𑂑	अ	-A	—	—	—	—
AA	—	—	𑂒	आ	-AA	—	—	ा	ा
I	इ	𑂕	𑂓	इ	-I	—	—	ि	ि
II	—	—	𑂔	ई	-II	—	—	ी	ी
U	उ	𑂖	𑂕	उ	-U	—	—	ू	ू
UU	—	—	𑂖	ऊ	-UU	—	—	्रू	्रू
E	—	—	𑂗	ए	-E	—	—	े	े
AI	—	—	𑂗	ऐ	-AI	—	—	ै	ै
O	—	—	𑂘	ओ	-O	—	—	ो	ो
AU	—	—	𑂘	औ	-AU	—	—	ौ	ौ

Table 3: Comparison of vowel letters and signs of Mahajani, Landa, Kaithi, and Devanagari.