



LEVEL - 3 GUIDE FOR PURE PRONUNCIATION OF ŚRĪMADBHAGAVADGĪTĀ

Special Vowels (Swara) and their signs-

- 'Ṛ' and 'Ṝ' are such Vowels in Sanskrit that though actually vowels they appear to be Consonants. These vowels have ृ (ṛ) and ृ̄ (Ṝ) signs to show the short meaning hraswa and long meaning dīrgha Pronunciation.

The positioning of Repha (्र, ्र̄) signs in collaboration with the consonants-

- Half R collaborates with various consonants in two ways. In the collaborations if it comes before the consonant then it is shown as ्र̄ on the top of the alphabet like it appears in the word- Karma (कर्म). If it comes later after the consonant then it is shown as ्र like in the word Krama (क्रम).

The method of writing and reading the joint consonants-

Joint consonants are written in two different ways in the Devanāgarī script-

- In the first way, one consonant appears "over the other one" wherein the first consonant comes above and the second follows underneath it as shown in the word – Udbhava (उद्भव)
- In the second way, the consonants are written as they are pronounced. The first consonant is pronounced half followed by the second consonant in full, as shown in the word – Udbhav (उद्भव)

Joint Collaboration rules.

When two alphabets join together it is called a "Collaboration" Sandhi. If the alphabets coming together are vowels, then it is called the Swara Sandhi, if they are consonants then it is called the Vyañjana Sandhi, if it is a collaboration between Anuswāras, then it is called a Anuswāra Sandhi and if between Visargas then it is called Visarga Sandhi. We will now study the various rules related to the transformation that happens in one or both alphabets due to the collaboration.

Swara or Ach (Sandhi) Collaboration–

Swara Sandhi occurs in between two specific swaras. As the swara gets transformed due to the collaboration it is called Swara Sandhi. It is of different types -

1. Dīrgha Sandhi - Akah Savarṇe Dīrghaḥ

When two similar swaras collaborate then it becomes a **Dīrgha Swara**.

Two Swaras collaborating		One long swara replacing the two swaras	Examples
A/ Ā	A/ Ā	Ā	Bhay+a+abhaye= Bhayābhaye (18/30)
I/ Ī	I/ Ī	Ī	Bhramat+i+iva= Bhramatīva (1/30)
U/ Ū	U/ Ū	Ū	Teṣ+u+upajāyate=Teṣūpajāyate (2/62)
R/ Ṛ	R/ Ṛ	Ṛ	Pit+r+ṛṇam=Pitṛṇam This Sandhi has not been used in the Gītā Text

2. Guṇa Sandhi – Ādguṇaḥ

If the first alphabets to join in the collaborations are '**A**' or '**Ā**' and the second ones are either of '**I**', '**U**', '**R**' or '**Ṛ**' then they will transform into '**E**', '**O**', '**AR**' or '**AL**' respectively.

The two alphabets coming together		The transformation that takes place at both places	Example
A/ Ā	I/ Ī	E	Vigat+a+iccha=Vigatechhā (5/28)
	U/ Ū	O	Pur+ā+uvāca=Purovāca (3/10)
	R/ Ṛ	AR	Mah+ā+ṛṣṇām=Maharṣṇām (10/2)
	Ḍ	AL	Tav+a+ḷkāraḥ=Tavalkāraḥ This sandhi has not been used in the Gītā Text

3. Yaṇa Sandhi – Iko yaṇaci

If the first alphabets to join in the collaborations are following swaras 'I', 'U', 'R' or 'L' short or long and in the second ones if there is any swara other than the ones mentioned earlier, then they take the following consonants respectively 'Y', 'V', 'R' and 'L' to join the two swaras.

First Swara to collaborate	Second Swara to collaborate	The transformation in the first swara when combined	Example
I/Ī	Any swara other than the ones mentioned.	Y	Karmaṇ+i+eva=Karmaṇyeva (2/47)
U/Ū		V	T+u+evāham=Tvevāham (2/12)
R/Ṛ		R	Jāg+r+ati=Jāgrati (2/69)
L		L	L+ākṛtiḥ=Lākṛtiḥ This sandhi has not been used in the Gītā Text

4. Vṛddhi Sandhi - Vṛddhirādaic

If the first alphabets to join in the collaborations are following swaras 'A' or 'Ā' and in the second ones there is 'E', 'Ai', 'O', or 'Au' then at both places respectively 'Ai' and or 'Au' will be found as the combined pronunciation.

First alphabets to collaborate	Second alphabets to collaborate	The Vruddhi- Ādeśa replacement, in place of both the alphabets	Example
A/ Ā	E/Ai	Ai	Sahas+ā+eva=Sahasaiiva (1/13)
	O/Au	Au	C+a+oṣadhīḥ= Cauṣadhīḥ (15/13)

5. Ayādi Sandhi – Eco'yavāyāvaḥ

If the first alphabets to join in the collaborations are following swaras 'E', 'Ai', 'O' or 'Au' and in the second alphabets if there is 'any swara' then the first set of swaras will get replaced by 'Ay', 'Āy', 'Av' or 'Āv' and then get joint with the second alphabet.

First alphabet to collaborate	Second alphabet to collaborate	The Ayādi -Ādeśa replacement in the first alphabet	Example
E	Any Swara	Ay	Rājarṣ+e+aḥ=Rajarṣayaḥ (4/2)
Ai		Āy	N+ai+akaḥ= Nāyakaḥ (1/7)
O		Av	Man+o+e= Manave (4/1)
Au		Āv	Dw+au+imau=Dwāvimau (15/16)

6. Pūrvarūpa Sandhi – Eṇah padāntādati

If the first alphabets to join in the collaborations are following swaras 'E', or 'O' and in the second alphabets if there is 'A' then at both places respectively 'E', or 'O' will be found as the combined pronunciation. The lost 'A' is denoted by this sign " ' "(S) "Avagraha".

First alphabet to collaborate	Second alphabet to collaborate	The Pūrvarūpa - Ādesha replacement in the both alphabets	Example
E	A	E'	T+e+abhihitā=T e' bhihitā (2/39)
O	A	O'	Dr̥ṣṭ+o+antaḥ = Dr̥ṣṭ o' ntaḥ (2/16)

Common Glossary

• Alphabets –

Vowels or Swara (स्वर) – A, Ā, I, Ī, U, Ū, R, Ṛ, E, Ai, O, Au

Consonant or Vyañjana-

- **Guttural (कण्ठ्य)**- K Kh G Gh Ṇ
- **Palatal (तालव्य)**- C Ch J Jh Ñ
- **Cerebral (मूर्धन्य)** - Ṭ Ṭh Ḍ Ḍh Ṽ
- **Dental (दन्त्य)** - T Th D Dh N
- **Labial (ओष्ठ्य)** - P Ph B Bh M

- **Internal or underlying** – In this pronunciation, the air is not released outside from the mouth and remains inside. So, they are called Internal alphabets. Such alphabets are Y, V, R, L.
- **External or Warm** – In this pronunciation it is as if hot air is released and so they are called External or warm alphabets. Such alphabets are Ś, Ṣ, S, H.
- **Soft Consonants** – The third, fourth and fifth consonants of the five Consonant Groups mentioned above G, Gh, Ṇ, J, Jh, Ñ, Ḍ, Ḍh, Ṽ, D, Dh, N, B, Bh, M and Internal consonants Y, V, R, L are considered as soft consonants.
- **Tough Consonants** – The first and the second consonants of the five Consonant Groups K, Kh, C, Ch, Ṭ, Ṭh, T, Th, P, Ph and Ś, Ṣ, S are considered as Tough Consonants.
- **Short-lived Consonants** – Short-lived consonants are such that they can be pronounced quickly and there is not much exhalation of air when they are uttered. K, G, Ṇ, C, J, Ñ, Ṭ, Ḍ, Ṽ, T, D, N, P, B, M, Y, R, V.
- **Aspirate Consonants** – Such consonants that are difficult to pronounce and need forceful exhalation of air are called Aspirate consonants. There are 15 such consonants- Kh, Gh, Ch, Jh, Ṭh, Ḍh, Th, Dh, Ph, Bh, Ś, Ṣ, S, H.
- **Jihvāmūliya** – If before K or Kh, there is a visarga then it will be pronounced like a half Kh*. So, it should just sound like Kh but not actually say Kh.
- **Upadhmāniya** – If before P or Ph there is a visarga then it will be pronounced like a half Ph*. So, it should sound like Ph but not actually say Ph.

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