

## Note on transliteration and pronunciation

The printing of Sanskrit words in transliteration uses the internationally employed conventions and diacritics.

The vowels ā, ī, ū (with macron) are pronounced long; e and o are always long and closed vowels (as in German *Ofen*, not as in English *open* or in German *offen*); ṛ is a vocalic r pronounced like ri (e.g., Kṛṣṇa like “Krishna”). C is pronounced as in “challenge”, j as in “just”, y as in “yes”; ñ as in Spanish “mañana”. The combination jñ is traditionally the combination of the sounds j and ñ, but is nowadays pronounced like gy (e.g., jñāna sounds like “gyāna”); ṁ indicates a slight nasalisation of the preceding vowel, ḥ is a gentle aspirate at the end of a word. An h that follows a consonant indicates a clearly audible aspiration (e.g, *phala* as in “upheaval”, *dharma* as in “adherent”). The stress lies on the long syllables (i.e., syllables with long vowel or short vowel before more than one consonant), thus, “Mahābhārata”, “Bhagavadgītā”, “Arjuna”.

In view of any use of the transliterated text that involves (automatic) sorting, a certain amount of standardization seemed advisable and necessary. The printed source text may write *Pañcarātra* or *Paṁcarātra*, *aṅga* or *aṁga*. The chosen input conventions require that *anusvāra* (ṁ) is used in all cases where the etymology of the word implies a compounded form. Thus, we transliterate *Śaṁkara* (not *Śaṅkara*), *Satsaṅgijīvanam* (not *Satsaṁgijīvanam*), etc., independent of the treatment of the nasal in the printed text.

