A Guide to Pronunciation of Diacritical Marks

In order to ensure uniformity, the diacritical marks used in this book follow the Dravidian convention even for Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, and other non-Dravidian languages. Thus, Hāveri and kevalajñāna will be written as Hāvēri and kēvalajñāna, Gurshāsp and Shāh as Guršāsp and Śāh.

**Vowels**
- a as o in mother
- ā as a in park
- i as i in bill
- ì as ee in week
- u as oo in book
- ū as oo in root
- ţ as r in crystal
- e as e in men
- ē as a in sage
- ai as y in cry
- o as o in robust
- ō as o in smoke
- au as ou in ground

**Semi-labial**
- m as m in empire

**Semi-aspirate**
- ḥ as ah in the exclamation, yeah, but with mild aspiration

**Guttural or Velar Consonants**
- k as c in country
- kh as kh in ask her
- g as g in wagon
- gh as gh in big hunch
- ņ as n in monk

**Palatal Consonants**
- c as ch in charity
- ch as chh in witch hunt
- j as j in jungle
- jh as geh in challenge him
- ņ as n in bench
Retroflex or Cerebral or Lingual Consonants

\( \text{ṭ} \) as \( t \) in \textit{talk}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate
\( \text{ṭ}h \) as \( th \) in \textit{boat house}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate
\( \text{ḍ} \) as \( d \) in \textit{rod}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate
\( \text{ḍ}h \) as \( dh \) in \textit{god head}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate
\( \text{ṇ} \) as \( n \) in the American pronunciation of \textit{horn}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate

Dental Consonants

\( t \) as \( th \) in \textit{three}, but without aspiration
\( \text{ṭh} \) as \( th \) in \textit{think}
\( d \) as \( th \) in \textit{other}
\( \text{ḍh} \) as \( theh \) in \textit{bathe her}
\( n \) as \( n \) in \textit{native}

Labial Consonants

\( p \) as \( p \) in \textit{province}
\( \text{ph} \) as \( ph \) in \textit{stop him}
\( b \) as \( b \) in \textit{beach}
\( \text{bh} \) as \( bh \) in \textit{abhor}
\( m \) as \( m \) in \textit{master}

Liquids

\( y \) as \( y \) in \textit{young}
\( r \) as \( r \) in \textit{aroma}
\( l \) as \( l \) in \textit{love}
\( v \) as \( w \) in \textit{wheat}

Sibilants

\( ś \) as \( sh \) in \textit{ash}
\( \text{ṣ} \) as \( sh \) in \textit{wash}, but with tongue bent slightly upwards
\( s \) as \( s \) in \textit{secret}

Aspirate

\( h \) as \( h \) in \textit{host}

Dravidian liquids

\( r \) as \( r \) in \textit{ring}, but uttered with tongue slightly bent upwards to touch the hard palate

Dravidian retroflex liquids

\( Ṛ \) as \( l \) in \textit{blow}, but uttered with tongue bent upwards to touch the hard palate
\( Ṣ \) as \( r \) in the American pronunciation of \textit{practice}