



# Bharati Script

## Why in News

Bharati script is designed to be a **common script** that can express all the major Indian languages.

- Script refers to a set of letters used for writing a particular language. E.g. Devanagari, Roman, etc.

## Key Points

- **Developed By:** Srinivasa Chakravathy's team at IIT Madras.
- **Features:**
  - Bharati is a **simple and unified script** which can be used to write most major Indian languages.
  - It is designed using simplest shapes, often borrowing simple characters from various Indian languages/scripts and English.
  - **Scripts supported** are: Hindi/Marathi (Devanagari), Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Bengali, Oriya, Kannada and Malayalam.
- **Use of Technology:**
  - **Optical Character Recognition:** The Team has developed a **method for reading documents in Bharati script** using a multi-lingual **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)** scheme.
    - OCR is a system that provides a full alphanumeric recognition of printed or handwritten characters at electronic speed by simply scanning the form.
  - **Finger-spelling Method:** It can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.
  - **Related Applications/Tools:** Bharati Handwriting Keyboard and Bharati Transliterater.
    - Transliteration changes the letters from one alphabet or language into the corresponding, similar-sounding characters of another alphabet.
    - It is **different from translation** which allows words in one language to be understood by those who speak another language. Essentially, translation of a foreign word involves interpreting its meaning.
    - **Transliteration**, on the other hand, makes a language a little more accessible to people who are unfamiliar with that language's alphabet. Transliteration **focuses more on pronunciation than meaning**, which is especially useful when discussing foreign people, places, and cultures.
- **Significance:**
  - It is in line with '**One Nation, One Script**'.
  - The **Roman script** is used as a **common script for many European languages** (English, French, German, Italian etc.), which **facilitates communication across nations** that speak and write those languages. Likewise, a common (Bharati) script for the entire country is hoped to bring down many communication barriers in India.
  - It **can help the next generation** of Indians to easily read in Indian languages.

- It is an **ideal script for languages like Konkani or Tulu** that don't have their own script.
- It can serve as a **writing system for the innumerable tribal languages** of India, and languages of the NorthEast.
- It can **act as a link script for migrant Indians** who move out of their native state for work
- It can **connect the millions of Non Resident Indian (NRI) children** back to Indian literature.
- It can **lead to a new system of Braille** (for blind persons) for Indian languages and even a fingerspelling system for the hearing-impaired.
- It can **shorten the duration of adult literacy programs** from 6 months to a few weeks, as the script is easy to learn.

**Source: TH**

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