Sugam-98/2K

Windows 98/2000/XP, can display (render) Unicode[†] encoded Nagari text if proper OpenType fonts are available. As you know Nagari script is used to write many languages like Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, etc.
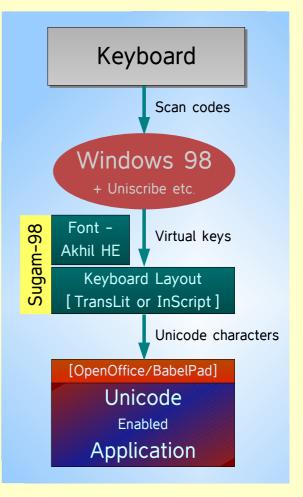
While support for Unicode-Nagari in Windows 2000 and XP is decent, it is not so for Windows 98. Uniscribe available with Internet Explorer 6 can render Nagari text in Windows 98. But there is no facility for entering Unicode encoded Nagari in Windows 98.

People who use Windows 98 require :

> A quality OpenType font containing glyphs of Nagari and Latin and

> Some software to enable entry of Unicode encoded Nagari in Windows 98.

Sugam-98 contains following components :

> OpenType font 'Akhil HE' and TrueType font 'Akhil'.

> TransLit-98 and InScript-98.

The font 'Akhil HE'[‡] is for typesetting text of Nagari and Basic-Latin. The glyphs (letter-forms) in this font are clean. These are carefully drawn and redrawn many times to avoid and remove smallest error in curves and straight lines. This font is professionally instructed (hinted). Hinting is required to display legible text on monitors (and other low-resolution devices) particularly at small sizes. It is the first font hinted using TrueType instructions in India! Its OT Layout tables are very logical and meticulously formulated to render correct text.

The font 'Akhil' is a small & plain font to set English only text.

TransLit is the new keyboard layout developed by us. It combines productivity of INSCRIPT with ease of Phonetic layout. TransLit-98 is the program that facilitates input using this new layout. Following is the layout of TransLit.

Advantages of using our OpenType font(s) :

> These are futuristic, standard based and typographically correct fonts.

> Nagari characters and the Latin characters are synchronised to look great together.

> Users are not required to do any formatting for writing Hindi along with English.

> Renders simple and legible Nagari text.

> Unnecessary and hard to read conjuncts are not formed automatically.

> Below-Base forms except very common ones are not formed automatically.

You may prefer to use Sugam-98 with free software such as the OpenOffice.org or BabelPad. These software can render Unicode encoded Hindi text even in Windows-98.

With Windows 2000/XP you may choose to use our font(s) and the default keyboard provided with Windows 2000/XP. Forthcoming TransLit-2K will provide the advantages of our new keyboard layout to the users of Windows 2000/XP.

Now-a-days requirement for displaying Hindi text along with English text is increasing. One should record such text in Unicode only. The Nagari font 'Mangal' distributed with Windows contains glyphs of only Nagari. So, we are required to do lot of formatting, as for Nagari text we have to select 'Mangal' (with bigger point size) and for English text we are required to select a Latin font like 'Arial' (with smaller point size). The font 'Arial Unicode MS' contains glyphs of lot of scripts including that of Nagari, but the 'Arial Unicode' is a big font and it slows Windows down. Also its Nagari glyphs do not match with its own Latin glyphs.

For a 5 user (client CPUs) license of Sugam-98 we charge Rs 2500. Single user license costs Rs 800.

‡ 'H' in 'Akhil HE' stands for Hindi and 'E' for English.

† Unicode is an international standard designed to support the worldwide interchange, processing, and display of the written texts of the diverse languages. It prevents loss of data and information.

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In 1996 we developed a simple multilingual text editor 'Lekhni' for Windows 95. Lekhni used proprietary encoding as Unicode was not supported by Windows 95.
Lekhni does not allow a user to enter illogical character combinations in Nagari! No other software for Windows has this capability!!

InScript-98 is the program that facilitates input using DOE's INSCRIPT layout. Following is the layout of INSCRIPT color coded by us.

Uniscribe and Windows are software products of Microsoft Corporation, USA.