Conventions

This dissertation works with four different languages: Avadhi / Hindi, Rajasthani, English and Bengali. For purposes of readability, I have chosen not to follow the systems of transcription of the standard cited dictionaries in each language. The transcription, following the sequence of the Hindi alphabet, is as follows:

- a, ā, i, ī, u, ū, e, ai, o, au ā
- k, kh, g, gh, n; c, ch, j, jh, ni; t, th, d, dh, n; t, th, d, dh, n; p, ph, b, bh, m;
- y, r, l, v, ś, s, h;

The Rajasthani र is indicated by ɨ; the Persian / Urdu ۊ, ھ and ی are all indicated by ș; similarly, ھ and ہ are both indicated by t; other transcription for Persian consonants not covered above are, w for ہ; kh for ہ; gh for ہ; f for ہ; q for ہ; z for ہ and ہ;

For Bengali, I have generally provided the commonly used Sanskritized form, rather than the actual pronunciation. This is in the interests of readability. For the same reason, the use of diacritical marks is restricted throughout the dissertation.

Where I cite the work of other scholars, I use their spellings. Common words from Indian languages, such as pandit and brahman are not italicized.

For standardization and easy recognition, I have chosen to refer to places by their modern names and spellings.