NOTES FOR PRONUNCIATION

As a rule the Sanskrit vowels have the same value as Italian vowels; a line above a vowel means a length: ā= aa. Consonants correspond, with some exceptions, to the English consonants. Among the more notable differences are aspirate consonants. For example, th is not pronounced like the English th in theater but is a double consonant like the t-h in hot-house. J and C and their aspirates are pronounced like dsh. There are different t/d sounds (indicated by dots underneath the letters) for which there are no exact equivalents in English. ‘Ś and ś are pronounced like sh. Although the English does not have some of the consonants indicated by diacritics (usually a dot above or below the consonant) the diacritic has been retained for the sake of correct rendering of the words (in Sanskrit the word meaning may be quite different if the d is exchanged for a ḍ, or ṭ for a ṭ etc.). R, r are pronounced ri.
In a work meant not primarily for the specialist in the field, Sanskrit words are rendered normally in their uninflected stem forms rather than with their nominative case endings (e.g., hetu for hetuḥ; maṇḍapa for maṇḍapam). Words, like karma and yoga that have become part of the English vocabulary have been left in the customary form of writing. There is also the common practice of adding an English plural –s to Sanskrit words (neither separating the –s through a hyphen, as is done nowadays in some scholarly journals not using the grammatically correct plural formations; therefore, the plural for Purāṇa(m) as Purāṇas, and not Purāṇa-s or Purāṇā(ni). Indian names have usually been left as they were found in the documents quoted; no attempt has been made either to transcribe them correctly or to provide them with diacritics. Tamil names and words have not been consistently transliterated according to the most recent conventions; for the sake of easier identification the Sanskritized form of some names has been retained (e.g., Sundaramūrti instead of Cuntaramūrti). In the bibliography Indian names have usually been dealt with as if they were European names. This technically is not always correct (e.g., Šastri and Iyengar are really titles and not proper names), but it makes it easier to identify authors.