

## Other Sounds

**h** : the *visarga* ‘discharge’ or ‘emission’ (or the older term *visarjanīya* ‘that which is to be emitted’) is a substitute sound for ‘s’ or ‘r’. It appears at the end of a word or syllable and has a voiceless breathing sound (with the following vowel taking on the same quality as the preceding vowel).

In theory, some may pronounce the *visarga* as a voiceless velar fricative /x/ (the ‘ch’ in Bach or loch) before the velar sounds /k, kh, g, gh, ṅ/ or the /ϕ/, which is a bilabial sound naturally preceding bilabials /p, ph, b, bh, m/. The first is called *jihvāmūlīya*, the second is known as the *upadhmānīya*.

**m** : The *anusvāra* ‘aftersound’ is a syllabic nasal sound, that is, a continuous sound with no stoppage of the airflow. According to early Hindu phoneticians, the nasal sound may be a nasalized vowel, nasal semivowel, or nasal stop. Thus, the vowel preceding the *anusvāra* takes on a nasalized quality much like