

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR NEPALI

BGN/PCGN 2009 Agreement

The BGN and the PCGN have adopted the following system for use in romanizing names in Nepal for which Roman-script spellings are not available in materials produced by the Nepal Survey Department (NSD).¹ This system corresponds to that applied by the NSD and supersedes one approved by the BGN and the PCGN in 1964, and updated and simplified in 1988.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Nepali	Romanization	
1.	क	k	ka
2.	ख	kh	kha
3.	ग	g	ga
4.	घ	gh	gha
5.	ङ	ṅ	ṅa
6.	च	ch	cha
7.	छ	chh	chha
8.	ज	j	ja
9.	झ	jh	jha
10.	ञ	ñ	ña
11.	ट	ṭ	ṭa
12.	ठ	ṭh	ṭha
20.	न	n	na
21.	प	p	pa
22.	फ	ph	pha
23.	ब	b	ba
24.	भ	bh	bha
25.	म	m	ma
26.	य	y	ya
27.	र	r	ra
28.	ल	l	la
29.	व	v/w ³	va/wa
30.	श	sh	sha
31.	ष	ṣ	ṣa

¹ Nepal Geographic Information Infrastructure Program. 2006. <<http://www.ngiip.gov.np/pdf/translation1.pdf>>. Accessed: 08 Aug 2011.

	Nepali	Romanization	
13.	ड ²	ḍ	ḍa
14.	ढ ²	ḍh	ḍha
15.	ण	ṇ	ṇa
16.	त	t	ta
17.	थ	th	tha
18.	द	d	da
19.	ध	dh	dha

	Nepali	Romanization	
32.	स	s	sa
33.	ह	h	ha
34.	क्ष	kṣ	kṣa
35.	त्र	tr	tr
36.	ज्ञ	jñ	jña

VOWEL CHARACTERS

	Nepali		Romanization
	Initial	Medial	
1.	अ		a
2.	आ	ा	ā
3.	इ	ि	i
4.	ई	ी	ī
5.	उ	ु	u
6.	ऊ	ू	ū
7.	ऋ	ृ	ṛi (iṛ in word-medial position)

	Nepali		Romanization
8.	ऋ	ॠ	rī (īr in word-medial position)
9.	ए	े	e
10.	ऐ	ै	ai
11.	ओ	ो	o
12.	औ	ौ	au

OTHER SYMBOLS

◌ḥ is rendered **h**.

◌̃ is rendered by ~ over the vowel letter(s) affected.

◌̣ is rendered by **ṅ** before **k, kh, g,** and **gh**.

ñ before **ch, chh, j,** and **jh**.

ṇ before **t, th, d,** and **dh**.

n before **t, th, d,** and **dh**.

ṃ before **y, r, l, v, sh, s,** and **h**.

◌̣ is rendered by **r** at the end of the preceding syllable.

◌̣ indicates absence of the inherent short [a] vowel. This symbol, called the *halanta*, is not normally written in Nepali except in the verb system and in the case of unabbreviated first elements in conjuncts. Knowledge of the pronunciation of Nepali names is necessary for the proper treatment of the inherent short [a] vowel.

NUMERALS

०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NOTES

1. Only the isolated forms of the characters are given in the consonant table. See any grammar of Nepali (or other language using the Devanagari alphabet) for variant forms used in conjunct characters.
2. These two consonant characters appear sometimes to represent **ṛ** (cerebral r), e.g., पहाड → **pahār** instead of **pahād**. At one time they were written with dots below, i.e., as ढ and ढ̣, though this is no longer normal practice in Nepali. The romanizations **ṛ** and **ṛh**, respectively, are optional for documentary purposes if such dots appear in Nepali writing.
3. Line 29 of the consonant table, व, can be romanized as either **v** or **w**. This character is primarily romanized as **v** in consonant initial, medial, and final position; however, initial, medial, and final **w** romanizations can occur. The **w** romanization is a special case which is possibly dependent on dialect, pronunciation, or stress.