

# ROMANIZATION OF URDU

## BGN/PCGN 2007 System

The following is the approved romanization system for deriving standard spellings of Urdu geographical names for Pakistan. It was jointly adopted by BGN and PCGN at the 23<sup>rd</sup> BGN/PCGN Conference in Washington, DC, in 2007 and it is based on the Hunterian romanization system for Urdu, which has been used by the Surveys of India and Pakistan for romanizing Urdu geographical names for more than one hundred years. The BGN/PCGN system laid out below includes diacritical marks in order that the original script can be derived from the romanized form (i.e. it is reversible). For desk users requiring a diacritic-free form, these diacritics can simply be removed. In every case the same basic Roman-script characters are kept as are used in the Hunterian system. The BGN/PCGN forms have further been designed to harmonize with the BGN/PCGN Persian romanization system.

## 1. Consonants and Special Characters

| No. | Final | Medial | Initial | Independent | Unicode Value | Hunterian | BGN/PCGN | Urdu Example  | BGN/PCGN Romanization |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1   | ب     | ب      | ب       | ب           | 0628          | b         | b        | بوغدی         | Boghđī                |
| 2   | پ     | پ      | پ       | پ           | 067E          | p         | p        | پالیر         | Pālīr                 |
| 3   | ت     | ت      | ت       | ت           | 062A          | t         | t        | بیزوت کله     | Bezot Kale            |
| 4   | ٹ     | ٹ      | ٹ       | ٹ           | 0679          | t         | ṭ        | عمل کوٹ       | ‘Amal Koṭ             |
| 5   | ش     | ش      | ش       | ش           | 062B          | s         | š        | شاہ نثار میلہ | Shāh Našār Melah      |
| 6   | ج     | ج      | ج       | ج           | 062C          | j         | j        | برجو میلہ     | Barjū Melah           |
| 7   | چ     | چ      | چ       | چ           | 0686          | ch        | ch       | چپری          | Chaprī                |
| 8   | ح     | ح      | ح       | ح           | 062D          | h         | ḥ        | احمد خان کله  | Aḥmad Khān Kale       |

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|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 9   | خ     | خ      | خ       | خ           | 062E          | kh        | kh       | آکا خیل         | Ākā Khel              |
| 10  | د     | د      | د       | د           | 062F          | d         | d        | درانی           | Durānī                |
| 11  | ڈ     | ڈ      | ڈ       | ڈ           | 0688          | d         | ḍ        | ڈنگیلا          | Ḍangīlā               |
| 12  | ذ     | ذ      | ذ       | ذ           | 0630          | z         | z̄       | ذرائی           | Z̄arānī               |
| 13  | ر     | ر      | ر       | ر           | 0631          | r         | r        | برکی            | Burkī                 |
| 14  | ڑ     | ڑ      | ڑ       | ڑ           | 0691          | r         | ṛ        | گیدڑہ           | Gīḍarāh               |
| 15  | ز     | ز      | ز       | ز           | 0632          | z         | z        | علی زائی        | ‘Alī Zā’ī             |
| 16  | ژ     | ژ      | ژ       | ژ           | 0698          | zh        | zh       | ژوب             | Zhob                  |
| 17  | س     | س      | س       | س           | 0633          | s         | s        | بساتو           | Bisātū                |
| 18  | ش     | ش      | ش       | ش           | 0634          | sh        | sh       | احمدی شاما      | Aḥmadī Shāmā          |
| 19  | ص     | ص      | ص       | ص           | 0635          | s         | ṣ        | اصالت کله       | Aṣālat Kale           |
| 20  | ض     | ض      | ض       | ض           | 0636          | z         | ẓ        | خضر خان         | Khazar Khān           |
| 21  | ط     | ط      | ط       | ط           | 0637          | t         | ṭ        | سلطان           | Sulṭān                |
| 22  | ظ     | ظ      | ظ       | ظ           | 0638          | z         | ẓ        | عظم سید نور کله | ‘Aẓam Sayyid Nūr Kale |
| 23  | ع     | ع      | ع       | ع           | 0639          | ‘         | ‘        | علم شیر         | ‘Alam Sher            |
| 24  | غ     | غ      | غ       | غ           | 063A          | gh        | gh       | بغاک            | Bghākī                |
| 25  | ف     | ف      | ف       | ف           | 0641          | f         | f        | مظفر کوٹ        | Muẓafar Koṭ           |
| 26  | ق     | ق      | ق       | ق           | 0642          | q         | q        | حقدارہ          | Ḥaqdarah              |
| 27  | ک     | ک      | ک       | ک           | 06A9          | k         | k        | کچکینہ          | Kachkīnah             |

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|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 28  | گ     | گ      | گ       | گ           | 06AF          | g         | g        | باگن         | Bāgan                 |
| 29  | ل     | ل      | ل       | ل           | 0644          | l         | l        | بلبلک        | Bulbalak              |
| 30  | م     | م      | م       | م           | 0645          | m         | m        | بلیامین      | Bilyāmīn              |
| 31  | ن     | ن      | ن       | ن           | 0646          | n         | n        | نہر          | Nahr                  |
| 32  | س     | س      | -       | س           | 06BA          | n         | ñ        | جوکالیان     | Jokālīāñ              |
| 33  | و     | و      | و       | و           | 0648          | w         | w        | اروالی       | Arawālī               |
| 34  | ہ     | ہ      | ہ       | ہ           | 0647          | h         | h        | ہیروشاه      | Heroshāh              |
| 34A | ہ     | ہ      | ہ       | ہ           | 06C1          | h         | h        | مہردی        | Mahrdī                |
| 35  | ہ     | ہ      | -       | ہ           | 06BE          | h         | h        | بڑھ          | Barḥ                  |
| 36  | ء     | ء      | ء       | ء           | 0621/<br>0626 | -         | ,        | شیواؤ        | Shīwā'o               |
| 37  | ی     | ی      | ی       | ی           | 0649          | y         | y        | یارداکے      | Yārdā Kale            |

## 2. Digraphs

| No. | Final | Medial | Initial | Independent | Unicode Value | Hunterian | BGN/PCGN | Urdu Example | BGN/PCGN Romanization |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 38  | بھ    | بھ     | بھ      | بھ          | 0628+06BE     | bh        | bh       | بھائی خان    | Bhā'ī Khān            |
| 39  | پھ    | پھ     | پھ      | پھ          | 067E+06BE     | ph        | ph       | پھاشک        | Phāshk                |
| 40  | تھ    | تھ     | تھ      | تھ          | 062A+06BE     | th        | th       | تھل          | Thall                 |
| 41  | ٹھ    | ٹھ     | ٹھ      | ٹھ          | 0679+06BE     | th        | ṭh       | پٹھان ریا    | Paṭhān Ryā            |

| No. | Final | Medial | Initial | Independent | Unicode Value | Hunterian | BGN/PCGN | Urdu Example | BGN/PCGN Romanization |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 42  | جھ    | جھ     | جھ      | جھ          | 062C+06BE     | jh        | jh       | جھیل         | Jhīl                  |
| 43  | چھ    | چھ     | چھ      | چھ          | 0686+06BE     | chh       | chh      | بادشاہ چھم   | Bādshāh Chhum         |
| 44  | دھ    | دھ     | دھ      | دھ          | 062D+06BE     | dh        | dh       | سندھ         | Sindh                 |
| 45  | ڈھ    | ڈھ     | ڈھ      | ڈھ          | 0688+06BE     | dh        | ḍh       | ڈھنڈ         | Ḍhand                 |
| 46  | ڑھ    | ڑھ     | ڑھ      | ڑھ          | 0631+06BE     | rh        | ṛh       | غوز گڑھی     | Ghozgarḥī             |
| 47  | کھ    | کھ     | کھ      | کھ          | 06A9+06BE     | kh        | kh       | دوغل گاکھر   | Doghal Gākhar         |
| 48  | گھ    | گھ     | گھ      | گھ          | 06AF+06BE     | gh        | gh       | خان گھڑی     | Khān Gharī            |
| 49  | لا    | لا     | لا      | لا          | 0644+0627     | lā        | lā       | غلامک کله    | Ghulāmak Kale         |
| 50  | کا    | کا     | کا      | کا          | 06A9+0627     | kā        | kā       | کاراخیل      | Kārākhel              |
| 51  | گا    | گا     | گا      | گا          | 06AF+0627     | gā        | gā       | خپینگا       | Khapyangā             |
| 52  | کل    | کل     | کل      | کل          | 06A9+0644     | kl        | kl       | گندہ کله     | Gandah Kale           |
| 53  | گل    | گل     | گل      | گل          | 06AF+0644     | gl        | gl       | گلونا ڈھیری  | Gulonā Ḍherī          |

### 3. Vowels, Diphthongs, and Diacritical Marks

| No. | Final           | Medial | Initial | Independent | Unicode Value | Hunterian | BGN/PCGN | Urdu Example | BGN/PCGN Romanization |
|-----|-----------------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 54  | یٰ              | یٰ     | ایٰ     | یٰ          | 0650+0649     | ī         | ī        | خیرہ دین     | Kherah Dīn            |
| 55  | یٰ <sup>1</sup> | یٰ     | ایٰ     | یٰ          | 0650          | i         | i        | مورپتھی      | Maurpithī             |
| 56  | ے               | ے      | ایٰ     | ے           | 06D2          | e         | e        | درے پلاری    | Dre Plārī             |

| No. | Final | Medial | Initial | Independent | Unicode Value | Hunterian               | BGN/PCGN                | Urdu Example   | BGN/PCGN Romanization |
|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 57  | آ     | آ      | آ       | آ           | 0627 / 0622   | ā                       | ā                       | آگرہ           | Āgrah                 |
| 58  | -     | اَ     | اَ      | اَ          | 064E          | a                       | a                       | ڈنڈر           | Ḍanḍar                |
| 59  | و     | و      | او      | و           | 0648          | o                       | o                       | گیدو           | Gīdo                  |
| 60  | -     | اُ     | اُ      | اُ          | 064F          | u                       | u                       | گبازانہ        | Gubāzānah             |
| 61  | وُ    | وُ     | اُو     | وُ          | 064F+0648     | ū                       | ū                       | اوشو           | Ūsho                  |
| 62  | اے    | اے     | ای      | اے          | 064E+06D2     | ai                      | ai                      | حیدر علی کالے  | Ḥaidar ‘Alī Kale      |
| 63  | او    | او     | او      | او          | 064E+0648     | au                      | au                      | تودہ چینہ      | Taudah Chīnah         |
| 64  | و     | و      | و       | و           | 0652          | <i>Not Romanized</i>    | <i>Not Romanized</i>    | بوغدی          | Boghḏī                |
| 65  | ا     | -      | -       | ا           | 0670          | a                       | á                       | موسیٰ خان کالے | Mūsá Khān Kale        |
| 66  | و     | و      | -       | و           | 0651          | <i>Double Consonant</i> | <i>Double Consonant</i> | ملا باغ        | Mullā Bāgh            |

## Notes

1. When the vowel sign zīr ( ) occurs word-finally in the first element of a compound, it is assumed to mark the Persian izafat morpheme, and is romanized **-e**, not **i**.
2. The source of almost all example names is the *1951 Census of Pakistan, Village List, Northwest Frontier Province, Chitral State*. Office of the Provincial Superintendant of Census, North-West Frontier Province, Peshawar.
3. No examples of aspirated dental r (rh, رھ) were found, though this phoneme is assumed to be part of the phonology of Urdu, and was therefore left out of Table 2.
4. Note that the short vowels in the Urdu examples are not pointed.
5. Occasionally, sequences of /z/ or /s/ plus /h/ may be encountered, i.e. **z·h**, **s·h**. These may be romanized with the Unicode 'center dot' (U+00B7) separating the two letters, to distinguish them from the digraphs /zh/ and /sh/.

6. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ‘ (U+2018)      | ’ (U+2019)      |
| Á (U+00C1)      | á (U+00E1)      |
| Ā (U+0100)      | ā (U+0101)      |
| Ḑ (U+0044+0323) | ḑ (U+0064+0323) |
| Ḑ (U+1E10)      | ḑ (U+1E11)      |
| Ḥ (U+1E28)      | ḥ (U+1E29)      |
| Ī (U+012A)      | ī (U+012B)      |
| Ñ (U+00D1)      | ñ (U+00F1)      |
| Ṛ (U+0052+0323) | ṛ (U+0072+0323) |
| Ş (U+015E)      | ş (U+015F)      |
| Š (U+0053+0304) | š (U+0073+0304) |
| Ṭ (U+0054+0323) | ṭ (U+0074+0323) |
| Ṭ (U+0162)      | ṭ (U+0163)      |
| Ū (U+016A)      | ū (U+016B)      |
| Ẑ (U+005A+0327) | ẑ (U+007A+0327) |
| Ž (U+005A+0304) | ž (U+007A+0304) |
| Ẓ (U+005A+0331) | ẓ (U+007A+0331) |

7. The Romanization columns show only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.