

# ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR NEPALI

## BGN/PCGN 1964 System

The BGN and the PCGN jointly adopted the following system in 1964 for use in romanizing Nepali names for which Roman-script spellings are not available in materials produced by the Survey of India or by the government of Nepal. In 1988, a simplification in the conventions indicating nasalization was implemented by BGN and PCGN.

### CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Nepali	Romanization	
1.	क	k	ka
2.	ख	kh	kha
3.	ग	g	ga
4.	घ	gh	gha
5.	ङ	ng	nga
6.	च	ch	cha
7.	छ	chh	chha
8.	ज	j	ja
9.	झ (भ्)	jh	jha
10.	ञ	ñ	ña
11.	ट	ṭ	ṭa
12.	ठ	ṭh	ṭha
13.	ड <sup>2</sup>	ḍ	ḍa
14.	ढ <sup>2</sup>	ḍh	ḍha
15.	ण (ण्)	ṇ	ṇa
16.	त	t	ta
17.	थ	th	tha

	Nepali	Romanization	
18.	द	d	da
19.	ध	dh	dha
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	w	wa
30.	श	ś	śa
31.	ष	ṣ	ṣa
32.	स	s	sa
33.	ह	h	ha

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

## OTHER SYMBOLS

◌ः is rendered **h**.

◌ँ and ◌ं are rendered by **ñ** after the vowel letter(s) affected.

◌ँ 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 **r̥** (cerebral r), e.g., पहाड → **pahār̥** instead of **pahād̥**. At one time they were written with dots below, i.e., as ढ̣ and ढ̣̣, though this is no longer normal practice in Nepali. The romanizations **r̥** and **r̥h**, respectively, are optional for documentary purposes if such dots appear in Nepali writing.

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