

TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM FOR NEPALI
(BGN/PCGN 1964 System)

The BGN and the PCGN in 1964 jointly adopted the following system for use in romanizing Nepali script names for which no spellings are available from sources produced by the Survey of India. It is applicable also to personal names and may be used for bibliographic and other purposes.

Nepali is written in the Devanagari alphabet. The close correlation between the written and spoken expressions of the language permits relatively unambiguous transliteration. The BGN/PCGN system for Nepali departs from the transliteration of the Devanagari alphabet for Sanskrit and other Indic languages only to accommodate special Nepali pronunciation features, such as w instead of v for व्.

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CONSONANTS 1/

<u>Nepali</u>	<u>Roman</u>	<u>Nepali</u>	<u>Roman</u>
क	k	द	d
ख	kh	ध	dh
ग	g	न	n
घ	gh	प	p
ङ	ng	फ	ph
च	ch	ब	b
छ	chh	भ	bh
ज	j	म	m
झ (झ)	jh	य	y
ञ	ñ	र	r
ट	ṭ	ल	l
ठ	ṭh	व	w
ड	ḍ 2/	श	ś
ढ	ḍh	ष	ṣ
ण (ण)	ṇ	स	s
त	t	ह	h
थ	th		

1. Only the isolated forms of the letters are given in the table of consonants. See any grammar of written Nepali, or other language using the Devanagari alphabet, for the conjunct consonants (consonant ligatures).
2. These two consonants appear sometimes to represent ṛ (cerebral r, e.g., पहाड pahāṛ instead of pahāḍ 'mountain'). At one time they were written with dots beneath as ड and ढ, though this is no longer normal practice in Nepali. The transliterations ṛ and ṛh, respectively, are optional for documentary purposes if such dots appear in the Nepali writing.

VOWELS and DIPHTHONGS

<u>Nepali</u>		<u>Roman</u>
Initial	Medial	
अ	(inherent)	a
आ	।	ā
इ	ि	i
ई	ी	ī
उ	ु	u
ऊ	ू	ū
ऋ	ॄ	ri (ir when medial)
ॠ	ॡ	rī (ir when medial)
ए	े	e
ऐ	ै	ai
ओ	ो	o
औ	ौ	au

OTHER SIGNS

- ॠ is rendered ḥ.
- ◌̃ is rendered by a tilde (~) over the vowel affected.
- ◌̃ is rendered as ṅg before k, kh, g, and gh; as ṅ before ch, chh, j, and jh, as ṇ before ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, and ḍh; as ṇ before t, th, d, and dh; and as ṁ before all other consonants.
- ◌̣ is rendered by r at the end of the preceding syllable.
- ◌̣ indicates absence of the inherent short a vowel. This sign, called the halanta, is not normally written in Nepali except in the verbal system and in the case of unabbreviated first elements in conjuncts. Knowledge of the pronunciation of Nepali names will