

## Nepali

The United Nations recommended system was approved in 1972 (II/11), based on a report prepared by D. N. Sharma. The note on the system was published in volume II of the conference report<sup>1</sup>.

There is no evidence of the use of the system either in Nepal or in international cartographic products. The resolution IV/17 (1982) recommended association, inter alia, with Nepal in carrying out further studies on the system. In Nepal a system of romanization is employed by the Nepal Survey Department (NSD). This system has been applied to names appearing on national mapping, and it is also used in the Geographic Information Infrastructure Programme (NGIIP)<sup>2</sup>.

Nepali (Nepālī) uses the alphasyllabic script Devanāgarī. For further details see the Hindi section of the report.

### *Romanization*

#### **I. Independent vowel characters**

1	अ	a	6	ऊ	ū	11	ऐ	ai
2	आ	ā	7	ऋ	ṛ	12	ओ	o
3	इ	i	8	ॠ	ṝ	13	औ	au
4	ई	ī	9	ऌ	ḷ			
5	उ	u	10	ए	e			

#### **II. Abbreviated vowel characters (क stands for any consonant character)**

1	क	a	5	कु	u <sup>A</sup>	9	कै	ai
2	का	ā	6	कू	ū <sup>A</sup>	10	को	o
3	कि	i	7	कृ	ṛ <sup>A</sup>	11	कौ	au
4	की	ī	8	के	e			

<sup>A</sup> Exceptions: रु ru; रू rū; हृ hr.

**III. Other symbols** (अ stands for any vowel character in lines 1-3, क stands for any consonant character in line 4)

1	अं	m̄	3	अः	h
2	अँ	m̄̇	4	क्	<sup>(A)</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Pronunciation without a vowel: क् k.

#### IV. Consonant characters

1	क	ka <sup>A</sup>	13	ड	ḍa <sup>A</sup>	25	म	ma
2	ख	kha <sup>A</sup>	14	ढ	ḍha <sup>A</sup>	26	य	ya
3	ग	ga <sup>A</sup>	15	ण	ṇa	27	र	ra
4	घ	gha	16	त	ta	28	ल	la
5	ङ	ṅa	17	थ	tha	29	व	va
6	च	cha	18	द	da	30	श	sha
7	छ	chha	19	ध	dha	31	ष	ṣha
8	ज	ja <sup>A</sup>	20	न	na	32	स	sa
9	झ	jha	21	प	pa	33	ह	ha
10	ञ	ña	22	फ	pha <sup>A</sup>			
11	ट	ṭa	23	ब	ba			
12	ठ	ṭha	24	भ	bha			

<sup>A</sup> Dotted variants of the characters: क् qa; ख् kḥa; ग् ga; ज् za; ङ् ṅa; ढ् ḍha; फ् fa.

#### Notes to Nepali romanization

1. In normal spelling ṛ and ṛh are not marked, instead dotless ड ḍa, ढ ḍha are used to denote these sounds.
2. Ligatures may be formed with *r* as the first component: र्ह rha.

#### *Other systems of romanization*

The system used by the **Nepal Survey Department (NSD)** differs from the UN system in the following cases (numbers refer to the tables and characters in the UN system):

No.	Char.	UN	NSD	I.8	ऋ	ṛ	(absent)
I.7	ऋ	ṛ	ṛi	III.1	अं	m̄	<sup>A</sup>

III.2	अँ	ṁ	~ <sup>B</sup>	IV.31	ष	ṣh	ṣ
III.3	अः	ḥ	h	-	क्ष	kṣh	kṣ <sup>C</sup>
IV.29	व	v	v or w				

<sup>A</sup> Transliterated 1) ṁ before k, kh, g and gh; 2) ñ before ch, chh, j and jh; 3) ṇ before t, ṭh, ḍ and ḍh; 4) n before t, th, d and dh; 5) ṁ before y, r, l, v, sh, s, h.

<sup>B</sup> Rendered by ~ over the vowel affected.

<sup>C</sup> A ligature.

There is also a simplified version in use whereby all diacritical marks are omitted and the following substitutions made, among others: ṁ → ng; ṣ → sh, kṣ → ksh or x, jñ → gy.

The **BGN/PCGN 1964 System** as simplified in 1988 but retired in 2009 in favour of the NSD system had the following different Roman equivalents for the romanization of Nepali:

UN BGN/PCGN	ṛ	= ri, ir <sup>A</sup>	v	= w
ṁ	= ṁ	ṝ	= rī, īr <sup>A</sup>	
ṅ	= ng	sh	= ś	
ṛ	= ṛ	ṣh	= ṣ	

<sup>A</sup> The second variant is used in word-medial position.

## References

1. *Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names*. London, 10-31 May 1972. Vol. II. *Technical papers*. United Nations. New York 1974, p. 133.
2. *Transliteration and Translation System for Nepal*. – National Geographic Information Infrastructure Programme, <http://www.ngiip.gov.np/geographical.php>. Accessed 1 Nov. 2010.