

# **ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR URDU**

## **BGN/PCGN 2007 System**

The following is the approved romanization system for deriving standard spellings of Urdu geographic names for Pakistan. It was jointly adopted by the BGN and PCGN at the 23<sup>rd</sup> BGN/PCGN Joint Conference in Washington, DC, in 2007. The romanization system is based on the Hunterian system of Urdu romanization, which has been used by the Surveys of India and Pakistan for romanizing Urdu geographic names for more than one hundred years. The BGN/PCGN system has two forms: a simplified form designed for desk users, and a rigorous form, which is fully reversible and is appropriate for databases. In every case the same base characters are kept as are used in the Hunterian system. The rigorous forms have further been designed to harmonize with the BGN/PCGN Persian romanization system.

## 1. Consonants and Special Characters

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Urdu Example	Rigorous Transliteration
1	ب	پ	ٻ	ٻ	0628	b	b	بوجُدی	Boghdī
2	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	067E	p	p	ٻالیر	Pālīr
3	ت	ٿ	ٿ	ٿ	062A	t	t	ٻڙوٽ ڪ	Bezot Kale
4	ٺ	ٺ	ٺ	ٺ	0679	t	ڏ	عَلْ كُوت	'Amal Kot
5	ٿ	ٿ	ٿ	ٿ	062B	s	ڦ	شَاه نَسَار مِيلَه	Shāh Naśār Melah
6	ج	ڱ	ڱ	ڱ	062C	j	j	برجُو مِيلَه	Barjū Melah
7	ڇ	ڇ	ڇ	ڇ	0686	ch	ch	چپری	Chaprī
8	ح	ح	ح	ح	062D	h	ڻ	اَحمد خان ڪ	Aḥmad Khān Kale
9	خ	خ	خ	خ	062E	k̠h	kh	آکَا خِيل	Ākā Khel
10	ڏ	ڏ	ڏ	ڏ	062F	d	d	درانی	Durānī

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Urdu Example	Rigorous Transliteration
11	ڌ	ڌ	ڌ	ڌ	0688	d	ڌ	ڌنگلیا	Dangīlā
12	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	0630	z	ڙ	ڙانی	Žarānī
13	ر	ر	ر	ر	0631	r	r	برکی	Burkī
14	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	0691	r	ڦ	گیدڙہ	Gīdaṛah
15	ز	ز	ز	ز	0632	z	z	علی زانی	‘Alī Zā’ī
16	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	0698	zh	zh	ڙوب	Zhob
17	س	سـ	سـ	سـ	0633	s	s	بساتو	Bisātū
18	ش	شـ	شـ	شـ	0634	sh	sh	احمدی شاما	Aḥmadī Shāmā
19	صـ	صـ	صـ	صـ	0635	s	§	اصلت کے	Aṣālat Kale
20	ضـ	ضـ	ضـ	ضـ	0636	z	ڙ	خضخان	Khazar Khān
21	طـ	طـ	طـ	طـ	0637	t	ڏ	سلطان	Sultān

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Urdu Example	Rigorous Transliteration
22	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	0638	z	z	عَظَمْ سِيدُ نُورِ کَلَّ	‘Azam Sayyid Nūr Kale
23	ع	ع	ع	ع	0639	‘	‘	عَلَمْ شَرِّ	‘Alam Sher
24	خ	خ	خ	خ	063A	gh	gh	بَغَّالِي	Bghākī
25	ف	ف	ف	ف	0641	f	f	مَظْفَرْ كَوَطْ	Mużafar Koṭ
26	ق	ق	ق	ق	0642	q	q	حَقَّدَرَهْ	Haqdarah
27	ک	ک	ک	ک	06A9	k	k	کَچَکِیَّہْ	Kachkīnah
28	گ	گ	گ	گ	06AF	g	g	بَاگَنْ	Bāgan
29	ل	ل	ل	ل	0644	l	l	بَلَبَلَکَ	Bulbalak
30	م	م	م	م	0645	m	m	بَلِیَامِینْ	Bilyāmīn
31	ن	ن	ن	ن	0646	n	n	نَہْ	Nahr
32	س	س	-	س	06BA	n	ñ	جَمُولْ اُورْ کَشْمِیرْ	Jamuñ aur Kashmīr

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Urdu Example	Rigorous Transliteration
33	و	و	و	و	0648	w	w	ارواں	Arawālī
34	ھ	ھ	ھ	ھ	0647	h	h	ہر و شاہ	Heroshāh
34A	ڻ	ڻ	ڻ	ڻ	06C1	h	h	مُهڏدی	Mahrdī
35	ٻ	ٻ	-	ٻ	06BE	h	h	ٻڙ	Baڻh
36	ء	ء	ء	ء	0621/ 0626	-	,	شیواو	Shīwā'o
37	ے	ے	ے	ے	0649	y	y	یاردا کل	Yārdā Kale

## 2. Consonantal Digraphs

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Urdu Example	Rigorous Transliteration
38	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	0628+06BE	bh	bh	بھانی خان	Bhā'ī Khān
39	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	ٻ	067E+06BE	ph	ph	پھاشک	Phāshk

	Final	Medial	Initial	Inde- pendent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romaniz- ation	Rigorous Romaniz- ation	Urdu Example	Rigorous Translitera- tion
40	ٿ	ٿ	ٿ	ٿ	062A+06BE	th	th	ٿل	Thall
41	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	0679+06BE	th	ڻh	پڻھان ریا	Pathān Ryā
42	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	062C+06BE	jh	jh	ڙھیل	Jhīl
43	ڇ	ڇ	ڇ	ڇ	0686+06BE	chh	chh	بادشاہ ڇھم	Bādshāh Chhum
44	ڌ	ڌ	ڌ	ڌ	062D+06BE	dh	dh	سنڌ	Sindh
45	ڏ	ڏ	ڏ	ڏ	0688+06BE	dh	ڏh	ڏهڻ	Dhand
46	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	0631+06BE	rh	rh	غوزگڙهي	Ghozgarhi
47	ڪ	ڪ	ڪ	ڪ	06A9+06BE	kh	kh'	ڊوغل ڪاڪھر	Doghal Gākh'ar
48	ڱ	ڱ	ڱ	ڱ	06AF+06BE	gh	gh'	خان ڱھري	Khān Gh'ařī
49	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	ڦ	0644+0627	lā	lā	غلامڪ ڪ	Ghulāmak Kale
50	ڪ	ڪ	ڪ	ڪ	06A9+0627	kā	kā	ڪاراخيل	Kārākhel

	Final	Medial	Initial	Inde- pendent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romaniz- ation	Rigorous Romaniz- ation	Urdu Example	Rigorous Translitera- tion
51	گ	گ	گ	گ	06AF+0627	gā	gā	خپینگا	Khapyangā
52	کل	کل	کل	کل	06A9+0644	kl	kl	گندہ کل	Gandah Kale
53	گل	گل	گل	گل	06AF+0644	gl	gl	گلونا ڈھیری	Gulonā Dherī

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

	Final	Medial	Initial	Inde- penden- t	Unicode Value	Simplified Romaniz- ation	Rigorous Romaniz- ation	Urdu Example	Rigorous Translitera- tion
54	ئِي	ئِي	اِي	ئِي	0650+0649	ī	ī	خیرہ دین	Kherah Dīn
55	وُ <sup>1</sup>	وُ	وُ	وُ	0650	i	i	مورپتھی	Maurpithī
56	ئے	ئے	اے	ئے	06D2	e	e	درے پلاری	Dre Plārī
57	اَ	اَ	اَ	اَ	0627 / 0622	ā	ā	اَگرہ	Āgrah
58	-	ُ	اِ	ُ	064E	a	a	ڏنڈر	Dandar

	Final	Medial	Initial	Inde- penden- t	Unicode Value	Simplified Romaniz- ation	Rigorous Romaniz- ation	Urdu Example	Rigorous Translitera- tion
59	و	و	او	و	0648	o	o	گیدو	Gido
60	-	ُ	اُ	ُ	064F	u	u	گبازانہ	Gubāzānah
61	ُو	ُو	او	ُو	064F+0648	ū	ū	اؤشو	Ūsho
62	ے	ے	اے	ے	064E+06D2	ai	ai	حیدر علی کے	Haidar ‘Alī Kale
63	و	و	او	و	064E+0648	au	au	تودہ چینہ	Taudah Chīnah
64	ُ	ُ	ُ	ُ	0652	<i>Not Roman- ized</i>	<i>Not Roman- ized</i>		
65	ِ	-	-	ِ	0670	a	á	موسیٰ خان کے	Mūsá Khān Kale
66	ڦ	ڦ	-	ڦ	0651	<i>Double Consonant</i>	<i>Double Conso- nant</i>	ملا باغ	Mullā Bagh

## Notes

1. When the vowel sign zīr ( ڦ ) 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. Source of all example names is the *1951 Census of Pakistan, Village List, Northwest Frontier Province, Chitral State*. Office of the Provincial Superintendent of Census, North-West Frontier Province, Peshawar.
3. No examples of aspirated dental r (rh, ڙ) were found, though this phoneme is assumed to be part of the phonology of Urdu, and was therefore left out of Table 2.
4. Because of technical font problems, the Urdu examples are not pointed. Future drafts of this document will contain pointed Urdu examples.
5. Occasionally, sequences of **z** or **s** plus **h** may be encountered, i.e. **z·h**, **s·h**. These are romanized with the Unicode 'center dot' (U+00B7) separating the two letters, to distinguish them from the digraphs 'zh' and 'sh'.