

# Manipuri Design Guide

## Introduction

This document provides general information about the Manipuri language and some conventions of its usage. It contains a generic description of Manipuri.

## Manipur

Manipur is situated in the northeastern region of the country (India). Manipur is bounded by Nagaland in the north, Mizoram in the south, Upper Myanmar in the east and Cachar district of Assam in the West. Manipur is known as the “**land of jewels**”. Geographically Manipur is divided into two regions viz. hill and plain (valley). The valley is centrally located, surrounded by ranges of hills. In the beginning of the Christian era, the valley was divided into seven independent principalities.

## Languages

### Name of the languages

Manipuri language (Meiteilon) is the official language of the state of Manipur. It is also a Lingua Franca among the various speech communities. It belongs to the Kuki-Chin group within the Tibeto-Burman sub-family of languages. The original speakers of Manipuri language call it Meiteilon. There are at least 29 different languages/dialects spoken in Manipur. Some main tribal languages/dialects spoken in Manipur are Tangkhul, Thadou / Kuki, Paite, Kabui, Mao, Hmar, Lushai, etc.

## Description of Manipuri Language

Manipuri makes use of 15 consonant and 6 vowel phonetic sounds. Later develops r sound as allophone of lateral l, and voiced consonants b, d, j and g are derived from the voiceless counterparts of p, t, c and k making the number of consonants to 20. Due to the influence of neighboring languages another 4 sounds (b<sup>h</sup>, d<sup>h</sup>, j<sup>h</sup> and g<sup>h</sup>) were developed.

The modern linguistic finding reveals that the total number of sounds in modern Manipuri is 30 *phonemes* plus 6 *diphthong like sounds* and 2 *tones*.

[Vowels:

/i, e, ə, a, u, o/,

Consonants:

/p, p<sup>h</sup>, b, b<sup>h</sup>, t, t<sup>h</sup>, d, d<sup>h</sup>, c, j, j<sup>h</sup>, k, k<sup>h</sup>, g, g<sup>h</sup>, s, h, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, j/,

Diphthong like sounds:

/aj, əj, oj, uj, aw, əw/

Tones: Level (unmarked) and Falling

/˘ / ˨˦].

At present it is written using Bengali Script. Manipuri is written from left to right and top to bottom, in the same manner as in English. All the consonants cannot combine with one another. The consonant clusters can occur only in the initial position of a syllable. There are only three independent vowels, and remaining vowels dependent upon a consonant.

## History of Manipuri Language

Manipuri is a direct descendent of the conglomeration of Tibeto-Burman dialects of seven different clans namely,

Angom, Khaangaanba, Khuman, Luwaang, Mangaang, Moirang, and Saraang Layshaang. It has been influenced and enriched by Indo-Aryan languages of Sanskrit origin and English.

### **Population using the Manipuri Language**

23,00,000 in Manipur  
3,00,000 in Assam  
50,000 in Tripura  
30,000 in Nagaland  
3,000 in Mizoram  
5,000 in Meghalaya  
1000 in Arunachal Pradesh  
2000 in West Bengal  
5000 in New Delhi  
500 in Uttar Pradesh  
50,000 in Bangladesh  
1,00,000 in Myanmar  
400 in the U.S.A  
300 in Canada  
500 in United Kingdom  
1000 in countries other than those of above

### **Indigenous Manipuri Alphabet (Meitei Mayek) Characteristics**

Manipuri alphabet utilizes consonant letters, independent vowels, dependent vowel signs, punctuation, numerals and ancient sign.

### **Consonant Letters**

Each consonant letter represents a single consonant sound with an inherent vowel, the Manipuri vowel /ə/ (in IPA). Letters are arranged in rows of three letters. There are seven non-syllabic (final) consonant letters. They represent only the consonant sounds and do not include the inherent vowel.

### **Independent Vowel Letters**

There are only three separate vowel symbols in the Manipuri script, which are pronounced independently.

### **Dependent Vowel Signs (Matras/Cheitap)**

To indicate a vowel sound other than the implicit one, a vowel sign (cheitap) is attached to the consonant. Explicit appearance of a cheitap in a syllable overrides the inherent vowel. Three cheitaps, out of seven used in Manipuri, can exist above, one below and the remaining three to the right of the consonant to which it is applied to.

### **Consonant Conjuncts**

Consonant conjuncts in Manipuri are the combination of two consonants. To indicate the combination and inseparability of two consonants, they are underlined.

### **Numerals**

The Manipuri script (Meitei Mayek) has its own numerals but it is still in vogue.

### **Punctuation Marks**

Except the three punctuation marks in Manipuri (comma, full stop and question mark), others are borrowed from English.

### **The Manipuri Alphabet (in Bengali Script)**

The present using Manipuri alphabet is almost identical with the Bengali alphabet. The Bengali alphabet set along with a few more characters is given below:

ক (ka)	খ (kha)	গ (ga)
ঘ (gha)	ঙ (nga)	চ (cha)

ছ (chaa)	জ (barga ja)
ঝ (jha)	ঞ (nia)
ট (ta)	ঠ (tha)
ড (da)	ঢ (dha)
ণ(mudhoinnya)	ত (ta)
থ (tha)	দ (da)
ধ (dha)	ন (dantiya na)
প (pa)	ফ (pha)
ব (ba)	ভ (bha)
ম (ma)	য (antasta ja)
. ব (antasta ra)	ল (la)
ৰ (waa)	শ (dalebe sho)
ষ(mudhoinnya so)	স (dante so)
হ (ha)	ক্ষ (khya)
ড় (dar bindu)	ঢ় (dhar bindu)
. য (antasta ya)	ং(anungswar)
ঃ(bisharga)	ঁ(chandra bindu)
ৎ (khandata)	

### Independent Vowel letters

There are fourteen independent vowel letters in Manipuri. They are:

অ (soro a)	আ (soro aa)
ই (raswa i)	ঈ (dirgha i)
উ (raswa u)	ঊ (dirgha u)
ঋ (raswa ri)	ঌ (dirgha li)

এ (e)	ঐ (ei)
ও (o)	ঔ (ou)
অং (ang)	অঃ (ah)

Vowels are of two types:  
Short

অ (a), ই (raswa i), উ (raswa u),  
ও (o), এ (e)

Long

আ (aa), ঈ (dirgha i), ঊ (dirgha u),  
ঔ (ou), ঐ (ei)

### Dependent Vowel Signs ( Matras/Cheitap)

There are equivalent cheitaps for all the vowels. These matras can exist above, below, to the right or to the left of the consonant to which it is applied.

আ	া	(a kaar)
ই	ি	(i kaar)
ঈ	ী	(dirgha i kaar)
উ	ু	(u kaar)
ঊ	ূ	(dirgha u kaar)
ঋ	্	(ri kaar)
এ	ে	(e kaar)
ঐ	ৈ	(ei kaar)
ও	ো	(o kaar)
ঔ	ৌ	(ou kaar)

## Halant/Hashanta

To write a consonant without the inherent vowel the 'halant' sign is used below the base glyph. For the Manipuri language, this is not required in normal writing. If no dependent vowel sign is attached to the consonant, no vowel sound is used while speaking. This is one of the major differences in pronunciation from that of Bengali language.

## Consonant Conjuncts

Consonant conjuncts in Manipuri are the combination of two consonants.

For Example:

𑜀 (andha), 𑜁(ancha), 𑜂(anda),  
𑜃 (antha), 𑜄(ambha), 𑜅 (addha),  
𑜆 (astha), 𑜇 (aska), 𑜈 (kra),  
𑜉(ungga), 𑜊 (ashta), 𑜋 (swa),  
𑜌 (anma), 𑜍 (akta), 𑜎 (pra)

## Nukta

Does not exist.

## Anuswar

Anungswar (𑜏) indicates a nasal consonant sound. When an anungswar comes before a consonant belonging to any of the 5 bargas, it represents the nasal consonant belonging to that barga. But it is used in a different manner.

## Chandra Bindu

Chandra Bindu (𑜐) is sparingly used in Manipuri.

## Visarg

Visarg (𑜑) (bisharga in Manipuri) is sparingly used.

## Avagraha

Does not exist.

## Numerals

### মশিং (Mashing)

0	𑜒 শি না (shino)
1	𑜓 অমা (ama)
2	𑜔 অনি (ani)
3	𑜕 অহম (ahum)
4	𑜖 মরি (mari)
5	𑜗 মঙা (mangaa)
6	𑜘 তরুক (taruk)
7	𑜙 তরেং (taret)
8	𑜚 নিপান (nipaan)
9	𑜛 মাপন (maapan)
10	𑜜 তরা (taraa)

## **Punctuation Marks** (খু দমি শং) ( khudamsing )

Full stop	চৈখে (।) (cheikhei)
Comma	কোমা ( , ) (koma)
Semi colon	সেমিকলন ( ; ) (semi kolon )
Colon	কলন ( : ) (kolon)
Question mark	অহংবা খুদম ( ? ) (ahangba khudam)
Exclamatory sign	অঙ্কপা খুদম ( ! ) (angakpa khudam)
Inverted commas	ওন্নৈত নব া কোমা ( “ ” ) ( ‘ ’ ) (onnateinaba koma)
Hyphen	হ া ইফে ন ( - ) (haiphen)
Parenthesis	অহ া নব া ব্রেকেট ( ) (ahaanba breket)
Braces	অনি শুব া ব্রেকেট { } (anishuba breket)
Brackets	অহুম্ শুব া ব্রেকেট [ ] (ahumshuba breket)

## **Ancient signs**

An ancient sign (Anchi) is there for the Manipuri language.

## **Character Set Consideration**

### **Usage Frequencies**

### **Input Sequence Validity**

## **Fonts**

**Character Cell Size** Same as Bengali except for the alphabets ঝ and ঞ

## **Glyphs to be supported in Manipuri Fonts**

**Keyboard**  
ISCII

## **Presentation and Storage Considerations**

**Character Composition**  
Same as Bengali

**Data Entry**  
Same as Bengali

**Printing Displaying**  
Same as Bengali

**Text Space Requirement**  
Same as Bengali

**Manipuri Composing**  
Same as Bengali

## **Formats of Units Calendar**

চৈচৎ পথাপ (cheichat pathaap)

## **Week**

চয়োল (chayol)

## **Date**

তাং (taang)

## **Time**

মত ম (matam)

## Number

মি শং (mashing)

## Currency

লু পা (lupaa)

## Localization Data

### Abbreviated Language Name

Manipuri মৈতৈলোন  
(Meiteilon)

### Abbreviated Country Name

India ভারত (Bhaarot)

## AM/PM Markers

**AM** নুমিং য়ংবা মমাঙ  
(numityungba mamaang)

**PM** নুমিং য়ংবা মতু ং  
(numityungba matung)

**Era** চক (chak)

## Calendars

Optional (in Manipuri)

শক া প্দ (shakaabda)

Gregorian মীতৈ,মৈতৈ কুমশিং পথাপ  
(in Manipuri) (meetei/meitei kumshing  
pathaap)

Century চহী চা (chahi chaa)

Decade চহী তরা (chahi taraa)

Year চহী (chahi)

Month থা (tha)

Forenight থাখাই (thakhai)

Week চয়োল (chayol)

Day নুমিং (numit)

Hour পুঙ (pung)

## Month Names (Manipuri)

শি জবু (shajibu)

কালেন (kaalen)

ইঙা (ingaa)

ইঙেন (ingen)

থর ান(thawaan)

লাংবন (laangban)

মে. ব া (meraa)

হি . য়ৈঙ্গ (hiyangei)

পো ইনু (poinu)

র া কচিং (waakching)

ফাইরেন (phairen)

লমত া (lamtaa)

## Weekday Names

Sunday নোংমাইজিং  
(nongmaijing)

Monday নিংথৌকাবা  
(ningthoukaaba)

Tuesday লৈবাকপোকপা  
(leipaakpokpa)

Wednesday . য়ু মশটৈ শা  
(yumshakeisha)

Thursday শগোলশেন  
(shagolshel)

Friday ইরাই (irai)

Saturday থাংজা (thangja)

**Time Zone** IST (5:30)

Last year	হাকুম (haakum)
This year	কুমসি (kumsi)
Coming year	নোংমৈ (nongmei)
Day before yesterday	নহান (nahaan)
Yesterday	ঙরাঙ (ngarang)
Today	ঙসি (ngasi)
Tomorrow	হয়েঙ (hayeng)
Day after	হঙচিং (hangchit)
Day after the day after	মসেন (masen)
Daytime	অয়ুক-নুংথিল (ayuk-nungthil)
Nighttime	নুমিদাং মতম (numidaang matam)
Morning	অয়ুক (ayuk)
Noon	নুমিৎয়ুংবা (numityungba)
Afternoon	নুমিৎয়ুংবা মতুং (numityungba matung)
Evening	নুংথিল (nungthil)
Night	নুমিদাং (numidang)
Midnight	অহিঙ (ahing)

### Measuring System used

Metre	মিটার (mitar)
Kilometre	কিলোমিটার (kilomitar)
The yard measurement of length	গজ (gaj)
A measure of land four yards square	ফৈদোম (pheidom)
Twenty <i>lasas</i> (of land)	সঙ্গম (sangam)
5 <i>kathas</i> of land	মরাক (maraak)
Four <i>bighas</i> of land	পরী (paree)

### Number Elements

Zero	শিনো (shino)
One	অমা (ama)
Two	অনি (ani)
Three	অহম (ahum)
Four	মরি (mari)
Five	মঙা (mangaa)
Six	তরুক (taruk)
Seven	তরেং (taret)
Eight	নিপান (nipaan)
Nine	মাপন (maapan)
Ten	তরা (taraa)

**Native International Currency  
Symbol**

Rs.            লুপা (lupaa)

**Collating Sequence and Sorting**  
Sorting as per Unicode chart.

**Character, Word, Line and  
Sentence Break Rules**

Comma            কোমা ( , ) (koma)  
Semicolon        সেমিকলন ( ; )  
                         (semi kolon)  
Colon             কলন ( : ) (kolon)  
Exclamatory     অঙকপা খুদম ( ! )  
sign                (angakpa khudam)  
Hyphen            হাইফেন ( - )  
                         (haiphen)

**Weights and measurements**

Gram            গ্রাম (graam)

Kilogram        কিলোগ্রাম  
(kilograam)

Litre             লিটর (litar)

Quintal          কুইন্টল (kuintal)