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Meetei Mayek

Meetei-Mayek is the script which was used to write Meeteilon (Manipuri) till the 18th century. The script nearly became extinct as a result of a mass burning of all books in Meeteilon ordered by Ningthau Pamheiba who ruled Manipur in the 18th century. The main person behind this atrocity was Shantidas Gosain who had come to Manipur to spread Vaishnavism, on whose instigation the king gave the order. The king embraced Vaishnavism, took the name Garibnawaz and made Vaishnavism the state religion. Subsequently, Bengali script was adopted to write the language and is being used till date. Recent research has resurrected this script, and it is now being given its due place.

ទីខាគ សម្រាប់ទីខាគែ សម្រាប់ នៅ មេស្ស ខេត្ត ಶನ್ಯ ಒಪ್ಪ ಶಕ್ಷಕು೫ ॥೨೫೫೪೨೨೩೨೨೦ ಆಂಚ್ मिंदेम ८६ तेंद्र ८००० प्रीमा भारताल हें है । ಗಿಗ್ರಾಕರಿಗ್ ಹ TOT. ॥ ਹਿਣਅਤਿਲਾਜ਼ਜ਼ਤਿਆਜ਼ ₩松•皿 ಸಾಯ್ಗುತಾಲ ಈಇಒ ಕ್ಷಶಾನ ಕ್ಷಾ ಚಲ್ನೆ ಲೀಕ್ರಿಸ್ನಲ್ಲ ប់ ភេយាប បខាតេយល់អា ឃ'ស ឃ ាអាយ ត យោអា ឃាយ់ ច ಶಕ್ನೆಗಳು ಗಿರುಕೌನ್ಸು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಗಿಂಗಕ್ಷ್ ಈ ಹಾಶ್ಯಾಪ ות עד ""ភ(ជាស្នា។" সল'ত шсЭшш ण्ट्रेस ौणाहरूसि ॥ोन्यथ्रयेय साधर हिठोर हुम'छोस ित्याधेर ४५७औऽो० ग्राया॰२३म ोठीमाय॰४ ऋग्रायाधि॰४ ម្នាយ់អ្នក ស្រួក ព្រះស្រុក ស្រួក នាយុខ្មែរ ជាប្រុក ជាស្វាយ ಿಯಾ ಇಂಚಾ ಗಳಗಾಗಿಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾರ್ನಿ ಕಾರ್ಲಿಕ್ ডিস আপ্সি ডারভিতে সমাআতি ডিভাত আমুাস পিআডিতৈ ा∘ऋत'ग्र प्रान्याप

- The Script
- History of Meetei Mayek

We introduce the *Meetei Mayek* TrueType Font, which allows you to do everything you are used to doing in English, in the *Meetei Mayek* script! This means, you can

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This font is free!

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The main idea behind creating this font is to make *Meetei Mayek* popular, by giving everybody a simple way to use it on the computer, without having to learn and use any new software. This font is also intended to introduce *Meetei Mayek* into the world of internet and World Wide Web, by paving a way for creating Web pages and exchanging emails in *Meetei Mayek*.

Download and Install Meetei Mayek Font 家、世[®]医さる **は**歴で加 万度のなって How to use the Meetei Mayek Font ほびゃ ほ兄∘田 ほどは

विज्ञाराष्ट्रीय रामभाषा

Key Map for <u>Meetei Mayek Font</u> **辰**了が 展界。四四 **四**でかける **四**でのでからに

You can see *Meetei Mayek* on this page because it is put as images, and not text. In normal usage, the matter has to be displayed as text. For viewing *Meetei Mayek* text in webpages, you need to download and install the *Meetei Mayek* font.

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Have you got the *Meetei Mayek* font installed? Enjoy Manipuri in the original script, at the following site:



Update: In this Prose and Poetry page we use a *dynamic* version of Meetei Mayek font, so that if you are using a later version of Netscape or Internet Explorer, you do not even need to download and install the font to view the page. The font downloads and displays automatically when you access the page.

If you create a page using the Meetei Mayek font, do tell us. We will give it a link here.

Meetei Mayek True-Type font.
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The Meetei Mayek Font, and this Site created by

Pravabati Chingangbam and Tabish

Send your comments to: prava@arbornet.org

Meetei Mayek font was created using the Font Creator Program

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History of Meetei Mayek

It is indeed difficult to trace the exact period of the origin of the *Meetei Mayek*. The burning of vital historical documents or the *Puyas* of Kangleipak (Manipur) written in *Meetei Mayek* during the reign of King **Pamheiba** in the early 18th century, made the effort all the more difficult. However, *Meetei Mayek* experts and authorities say the script dates back as early as 3900 years ago. (*Kanglei Eeyek Wari*, Kangjia,1996).

According to the very few *Puyas* that survived, such as, *Wakoklon Thilel Salai Singkak, Wakoklol Thilel Salai Amailon*, *Meetei Mayek* comprised of 18 alphabets. Even during the reign of King Pamheiba (1709-1748), all documents were written in these 18 alphabets. Pamheiba embraced Hinduism in 1717. Few years after this, he ordered the destruction of pre-Hindu places of worship and the burning of all the *Puyas* of the *Kangleichas* or the citizens of *Kangleipak*. After the massive destruction of the pre-Hinduism records of *Meetei* philosophy, literature and history, the king and his descendents tried taking total control over the cultural, literary and religious affairs of the people. But the official effort of the *Konung* or the Royal Palace to impose a concoction of Bengali, Devnagri and Gurumukhi script on the people was not welcomed by one and all. Between 1709 to 1941, Bengali script replaced *Meetei Mayek* and subsequently became the official script of the *Konung*. During this phase, there were many voices of dissent.

The most strident voice of dissent came from a *Meetei* scholar, Laininghan Naoria Phullo (Naorem Phumdrei). Naoria started the movement to revive *Kanglei* or *Meetei* tradition in 1930 from a village called Jaribon, Laishramkhul in Cachar in Assam. He developed a script and named it after him. The *Naoria Mayek* challenged the script imposed and propagated by the *Konung* in *Kangleipak* (Manipur). It had 24 alphabets. The voice of revivalism and the new script soon spread to the entire *Kangleipak*.

An organization called the *Meetei Marup* was formed in 1947 in *Kangleipak* to propagate the *Naoria Mayek*. Serious debates on the script began in 1950. A state level committee called the *Mayek Lupteen* Committee (MLC) was formed in 1958 to conduct a study. A sub-committee of the same group concluded that there are only 18 alphabets in the *Meetei Mayek*. Though the effort of Naoria Phullo was appreciated, another conference on *Mayek* in 1969 discovered that some of the alphabets of the *Naoria Mayek* were Bengali and Devnagri. The same conference also found out that not a single ancient *Meetei Puya* was written in *Naoria Mayek*. After a thorough study of an original Puya called "*Wakoklon Thilel Salai Amailon Pukok*" the participating judges recommended that the actual genuine *Meetei Mayek* had only 18 alphabets.

The most significant development in the history of the *Meetei Mayek* happened in 1976. During the "Writers Conference" in the same year, all the groups working towards the development of *Meetei Mayek* officially endorsed the 18 alphabets and urged the government of Manipur to popularize the script. The supporters of the *Naoria Mayek* did not oppose the move. Thus the present *Meetei Mayek* re-emerged with new vigor. The nine letters called the *Lom Eeyek*, which are derivatives of the previous 18 were added so as to incorporate additional phonetic sounds present in *Meeteilon* as a result of historical changes. On the 19th of January, 1983, the Education Department of the Government of Manipur, prescribed "*Meetei Mayek Tamnaba Mapi Lairik*" as text book for students of class VI.

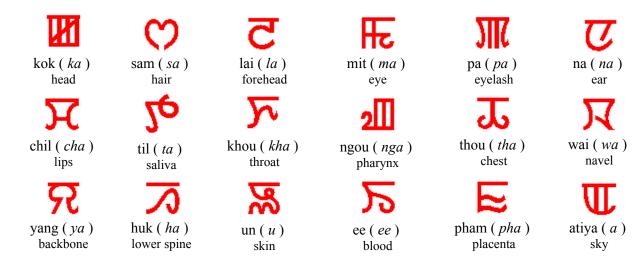
-- Dhiren Sadokpam sadokpam@yahoo.com

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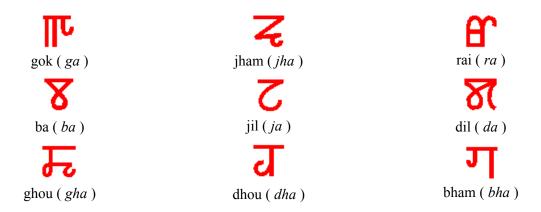
Meetei Mayek: The Script

Interestingly, the letters in Meetei Mayek are named after parts of human body. Meanings of these names are indicated with the letters below. Sounds which the letters denote are indicated within brackets.

Eeyek Eepee (Original Letters)



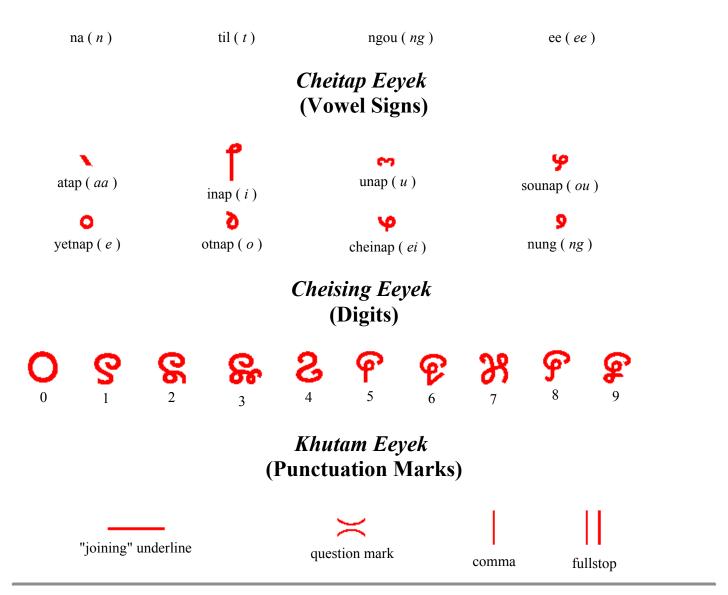
Lom Eeyek (Additional Letters)



Lonsum Eeyek (Letters with short ending)



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References:

- 1. Meetei Mayek Tamnaba Mapi Lairik by Ng. Kangjia
- 2. Kanglei Eeyekki Wari (History of Kanglei Eeyeks) by Ng. Kangjia

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