

**TITLE: Comments on Meitei Dandas**

**SOURCE: Deborah Anderson, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley (Liaison member to SC2)**

**ACTION: For consideration by WG2**

**DISTRIBUTION: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2**

Summary:

The Meitei proposal, N3206, originally included two dandas, MEITEI MAYEK DANDA [ceikhan iyek] and MEITEI MAYEK DOUBLE DANDA [ceikhei iyek]. In the comments accompanying the US negative vote on PDAM5, the US NB re-affirmed its position against the encoding of these characters. Ireland and UK are in favor of including the dandas, with rationale based on their shapes.

In order to clarify the situation in Meitei, members of the user community were queried. Michael Everson solicited feedback on his Meitei email list, which includes 16 members. There was one reply on the Meitei list (by L. Sarbajit Singh). In order to get a more representative response, I asked Shobhana L. Chelliah (Associate Professor, Linguistics Division, English Department, University of North Texas), who deferred to Sohini Ray (whose dissertation was on Meitei) and Chungkham Yashsawanta (Chair, Linguistics Department, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur, India)

In sum: One member spoke in favor, one saw no difference, and the third said the Meitei and Devanagari dandas were very similar. Even with only three responses (two from the Dept. of Linguistics in Manipur University), uncertainty about the uniqueness of the Meitei dandas is evident.

1. -----Original Message-----

From: meitei-bounces@evertyp.com [mailto:meitei-bounces@evertyp.com] On Behalf Of L. Sarbajit Singh  
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2007 11:50 PM  
To: Meitei Mayek in the UCS  
Subject: Re: [Meitei] Meitei Mayek on the ballot -- but not DANDAs

Dear Professor Michael Everson,

I would like to support your point of view on Meitei Dandas. And this is right explanation to be given. By this the debate on Meitei Mayek can be resolved.

Sincerely,  
Sarbajit

L. Sarbajit Singh, Ph.D.  
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2. Message from Chungkham Yashawanta (Chair, Linguistics Department, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur, India

From ----- Original Message -----  
Subject: Re: Re: Re :Meitei dandas  
From: "chungkham yashawanta" <ch\_yash@rediffmail.com>  
Date: Thu, August 9, 2007 10:09 pm  
To: dwanders@berkeley.edu

Hi Anderson

> Do you see a difference between the shape of the  
> Meitei danda/double danda and the Devanagari danda/double danda?

There is no difference in the shape of the danda .  
BYE YASHAWANTA

3. ----- Original Message -----  
Subject: RE: Meitei dandas  
From: "Sohini Ray" <sohiniray@yahoo.com>  
Date: Fri, September 7, 2007 1:21 pm  
To: dwanders@berkeley.edu

Hi Debbie,

>Do you see much difference between the dandas and double dandas in the [Meitei]  
>pages you sent from those used in Devanagari?

Yes, the dandas are pretty much the same as in Devnagari. The pages [with examples] are from a book called 'Chinnugshigi Iraokhon' that used as a textbook in the Meitei Mayek Teachers Training Course that I studied in Imphal, Manipur in '97-'98.

All best, Sohini.