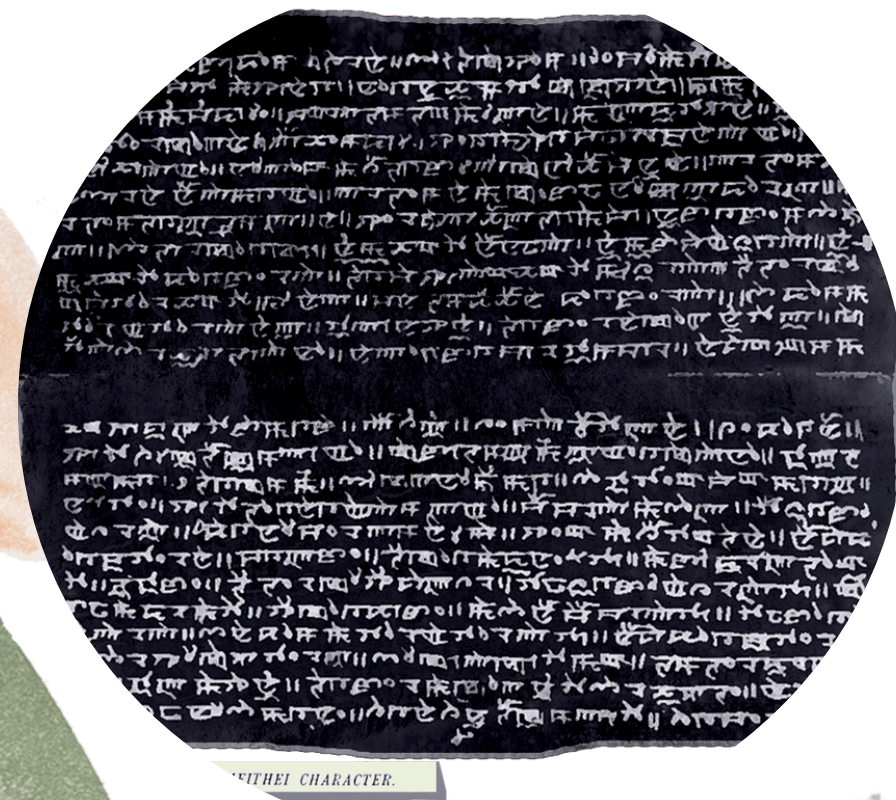


# Manipur - Imphal

Manipur which lies at the North Eastern part of India and the home to several communities living together since time immemorial has nourished a distinct cultural sensibility of its own. Manipur as we call today literally means land of jewels. The naming of this land as Manipur has been mentioned in several manuscripts. It is given in the manuscript called Sanamahi Laikan that the name "Manipur" was first officially introduced during the reign of Maharaja Garibniwaz (1709- 1748 AD



Manipuri literature boasts a rich, over 1,000-year-old tradition that transitioned from oral folklore and indigenous Puya (manuscripts) in the ancient Meitei script to a modern, globally recognized literary movement. Its history is broadly categorized into the Ancient, Medieval, and Modern eras.

The Puyas: These sacred and historical manuscripts documented the cosmology, philosophy, and history of the Meitei people. Notable texts include Numit Kappa (a myth of the sun) and Leithak Leikharon.

**Manipur boasts a rich literary heritage shaped by pioneers who pioneered romanticism, epic poetry, and modern socio-political narratives in Manipuri (Meiteilon) and English.**

**Mahakavi Hijam Anganghal Singh (1892–1943): Often hailed as a pioneer of modern Manipuri literature, he is best known for Khamba-Thoibi Sheireng, a monumental 40,000-line epic poem based on the legendary love story of Khamba and Thoibi.**

**Ashangbam Minaketan Singh, Dr. Lamabam Kamal, and Khwairakpam Chaoba are the towering figures generally credited shaping the modern form of Manipur literature.**



**The Festival of Literature in Manipur was conceived, conceptualised and materialised by Manipur State Kala Akademi in 2011 with the objective of offering a common platform for writers, poets, critics, scholars, general readers etc. of the State and beyond so as to give a positive thrust forward to the literary movements of the State in particular and of India in general. Right from its inaugural edition in 2011, the festival witnessed the participation of many eminent Indian poets, writers and scholars such as Subodh Sarkar, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, Ratan Lal Shant, Kum Veerabhadrapa, Rokeya Roy, Bhagaban Jayasing, Prof. Pradip Acharya, Sutapa Sengupta etc. besides several renowned Manipuri litterateurs from the State as well as other parts of Northeast India.**