How to view Assamese Properly in your windows PC

For Windows XP-SP2 users

Windows XP doesn't have inbuilt support for Assamese. If you are new to it, it may so happen that when you browse Content in web, the letters may be distorted, particularly the vowel signs. To view Assamese properly , if your operating system is windows XP-SP2, you have take a little pain of configuring your language setting. Follow the steps listed below

1. Upgrade your internet browser to the latest version, such as Internet explorer (version 8, or higher), Mozilla firefox (version 5.0 or higher), Opera(9 or higher) if you want to view Assamese on Web.

2. The second thing you need is a Unicode font, generally a font named Vrinda, comes bundled with Windows, and is the default font for viewing Assamese and Bengali. However, there are many options, as there are many fonts are freely available in the web. Download the fonts you like, and paste them in the " Fonts" folder under your Windows directory.

   (c:\WINDOWS\Fonts)

   NB: at this point don't worry if the font is named as Bengali font, most of the Bengali Unicode fonts support Assamese too, but there are issues, which you don't have to bother at present.

3. Now, for the configuration part, got to control panel and click on the "Regional and Language options" (if you are in classic view) or " Date, Time, Language, and Regional Options (In Category view). Under category view click on the "Regional and Language options". (So, one more click is required if you are in Category view). This will display dialogue box ""Regional and Language options", click on the "Language" tab. Here you will find two check boxes under the heading of " Supplemental Language support". Check the " Install files for complex Script and right to left languages". Click OK and APPLY to come out.

   NB: - The system will ask for the windows installation CD, so get ready with it, before you start.

   The system will reboot after installation.

4. If you are using latest versions of firefox, IE, Chrome or Opera, after this reboot, you should be able to view Assamese properly in your web browser.

5. Now, as already said, the default font is Vrinda for Assamese, which is, well, not very handsome, and the XP version of it is very small in size (God knows why?), so you may feel like changing the default font and resizing them for your browser.

Society for Development of Language Technology, Assam

To Change the default font and sizes in your browser :-

__For IE Users__ : Click on "Internet options" under the "Tools" menu. Under the "general" tab, you will find the "Fonts" button, click on it, a small dialogue box named " Fonts" will pop up. Select " Language script " as Bengali and a list of Fonts will be displayed under " Web page font:" . select your favorite font and click ok. To Change the size of the font go to 'view' menu and select 'large' or 'largest' as text size.

*__For Firefox users__***:** Click on the " Options " under "Tools" menu, and go the "Content" tab. Under the heading of "Fonts and colors" , click on the advanced tab. Choose "Bengali" in "fonts for" option, and then select your favorite languages in different categories like 'Proportional', 'Sherif', 'Sans-Sherif', etc. You can change the size of the displayed font by changing values in the "Size" buttons towards the right in the dialogue box. Click OK to come out.

For Windows Vista & Windows 7 users

These operating systems have in-built support for Assamese, so no configuration is required. For viewing too, with latest browsers, no additional setting is required. However for changing the font for your browser, you can follow the same procedure as Win-XP.

Conclusion

Assamese can be viewed in other platforms like Linux, Mac- OS-X, and Mobile OS like Android, Symbian etc, with little configuration and installation of fonts. However that is beyond the scope of this article. For inputting Assamese, download and install *__Rodali__* , and follow the guidelines in the help menu, and you will be able to write Assamese easily, anywhere in your PC.