

## The Kokborok Language

## **Source: TH**

Members of the **Twipra Students' Federation (TSF)** were detained for protesting at the Tripura Assembly entrance, demanding the inclusion of the **Roman script** for **Kokborok ( a Sino-Tibetan language)** in textbooks and official work.

- Language and Community: Kokborok, is the mother tongue of the Borok people
  (Tripuris) and tribal communities in Tripura, including Debbarma, Reang, Jamatia, and others.
- **Etymology:** "Kok-Borok" combines Kok (language) and Borok (man), meaning "the language of man" or "the language of the Borok people."
- Script and Writing: Kokborok originally used the Koloma script but now lacks a native script and is written in Bengali script.
- Historical Roots: Existed since at least the 1st century AD. Rajratnakar, a chronicle of Tripuri kings, was initially written in Kokborok and Koloma script by Durlobendra Chontai.
- Recognition: Kokborok was recognised as the official language of Tripura in 1979 (spoken by 23.97% of Tripura's population (2011 Census)), second only to Bengali.
- Use of Roman Script: Kokborok, favored by tribal groups, has been written in Roman script for decades. Two commissions, led by Shyama Charan Tripura and Pabitra Sarkar, supported Roman, while the government preferred Bengali.
  - Tribal organizations oppose Bengali or <u>Devanagari scripts</u>, fearing cultural imposition and identity disruption.

Read more: NRC in Tripura

## **UPI Transactions Enabled for PPI Holders**

## **Source: TH**

The <u>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</u> has amended its regulations to allow <u>full-KYC Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)</u> holders to perform <u>Unified Payments Interface (UPI)</u> transactions via third-party UPI apps.

- Objective: To allow PPI holders, such as users of digital wallets and gift cards, to make and receive UPI payments via third-party apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm, which were limited to the issuer's app only.
  - It aims to enhance flexibility, customer satisfaction, and ease of use, promoting greater participation in the digital payment ecosystem.
- PPIs: PPI are digital wallets and payment tools that allow users to purchase goods and services, transfer funds, and access financial services using the value loaded onto them.
  - There are over **1.14 billion PPIs** issued by **banks and non-banks** in India.
- **UPI:** It is an **instant real-time payment system** developed by **NPCI** to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

- UPI accounts for **70% of India's digital transactions** in **2023-24**.
- In October 2024, UPI processed **Rs 23.49 lakh crore** across **16.58 billion transactions**, marking a **45% increase from** 2023.
- The Indian government is also promoting **UPI** and **RuPay cards internationally**.

Read More: <u>UPI Payments: Empowering Users, Challenging Banks</u>

PDF Reference URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/18-01-2025/print

