

## History Of Tripura In Post Independence Era: Known To Unknown Facts.

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### Abstract:-

Tripura, an ancient state in Northeast India with rich traditions, has its long history since the ancient period. The significant book called 'Rajmala' detailed the historical discourses about Tripura. According to Rajmala, King Tripura was born into the Chandra dynasty and the state derived its name from him. The tale of King Yayati's son Druha and the Rajasuya yagna is likely mythical. India being a free country signed an agreement called 'The Tripura Merger Agreement' in 1949 and as a result of the Agreement Tripura joined the Indian Union on certain conditions. After the joining of Tripura to the Indian union a new beginning regarding the nature of state politics came to light in the form of 'autonomy movements' for ensuring the rights of the aboriginal people. Moreover, Tripura is situated near the East Pakistan now Bangladesh. As we know that on 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War was took place and therefore millions of people were migrated in Tripura. As a result the indigenous peoples or tribal people were minority in their own land. Therefore the indigenous people started their movement or agitation against the migrated people to protect their land, culture and their rights. The insurgency problem was a common issue for Tripura and developmental programme was very slow in Tripura. The present study focus on History of Tripura known to un known facts.

**Key words:** Social movements, Aborigines, Janasiksha, Autonomy, Modernisation, Movement, TTAADC, 49th Constitution-Amendment

### Introduction:-

Tripura is claimed to be one of the oldest princely State of ancient India. The princely rulers of Tripura claimed to have been descended from the Yoyati of the Lunar Dynasty of the Mahabharata. The colorful kingdom, princely rule came to close due to the merger of the State with India on 15 October, 1949. Maharani Kanchan Prava Devi who signed the Tripura Merger Agreement on 9 September, 1949 in New Delhi on behalf of her son Kirit Bikram Kishore Manikya in accordance with consent of her late husband Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur. Thus, the native princely State merge with India on 15th October, 1949. Then the princely State became a part of C State under the administration of a Chief Commissioner Sri Ranjit Roy, I.C.S. was appointed as the first Chief Commissioner on 15.10.1949. A Council of Advisory was appointed by the President of India to advice the Chief Commissioner. Under the Act of State Re-organization the Territorial Council was set up consisting of 32 members including 2 nominee members. In accordance with the consent of the President of India the Territorial Act was enacted on May, 1963 and under the provision of Article 239 of the constitution of India a presentitive administrator of the President was appointed and coming into the force of State Organization Act. The Territorial Council was abolished and in accordance with the Constitution Act 1962 provision was made for the creation of Legislature and Council of Ministers. Tripura Territorial Council was converted to the Tripura Legislative Assembly on 1 July, 1963 and Council of Ministers was formed for the first time under the Chief Ministership of Sri Sachindralal Singha. The first Legislature of the State began with strength of 30 members. The same democracy process continued up to 1971.

### Statement of the problem:-

History of Tripura in post independence Era: Known and Unknown facts

### Objectives of the study:-

1. To know about the history of Tripura
2. To find out the unknown facts of Tripura.
3. To find out the causes of insurgency in Tripura.
4. To identify the role of Mr. Sudip Roy barman in the history of Tripura.

### Methodology:-

Both Statistical and non-statistical methods were used for this study. Furthermore qualitative and quantative methods besides used for this study. Primary data gathered from field survey and secondary data collected from different writer's articles and journals, books and so on.

**Analysis and interpretation:-****i. Join in Indian Territories and dominant state**

After India's independence, the princely state of Tripura was merged with the Union of India on 15 October 1949. Tripura became a Union Territory on 1 July 1963, and attained the status of a full-fledged state on 21 January 1972.

**ii. Governor rules**

The State of Tripura, in northeastern India, has a long history. The Twipra Kingdom at its peak included the whole eastern region of Bengal from the Brahmaputra River in the north and west, the Bay of Bengal in the south and Burma to the east during the 14th and 15th centuries AD.

The last ruler of the princely state of Tripura was Kirit Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarma who reigned from 1947 to 1949 Agartala after whom the kingdom was merged with India on 9 September 1949, and the administration was taken over on 15 October 1949.<sup>[1]</sup>

Tripura became a Union Territory on 1 July 1963, and attained the status of a full-fledged state on 21 January 1972.

**iii. First election and people representative**

For the first Indian general election of 1951-52, voters in Tripura directly elected two members of the Lok Sabha and elected 30 members of an Electoral College which subsequently convened to elect a single member for the Rajya Sabha. For elections in 1957 and 1962, voters in Tripura elected 30 members to a Territorial Council (with an extra two members appointed). In 1963 the Territorial Council was dissolved and the members transferred to a newly created Legislative Assembly. The first elections to the Legislative Assembly occurred in 1967. In March 1972, the Legislative Council was enlarged to 60 members as a result of Tripura attaining statehood. Lok Sabha elections The Lok Sabha election results for Tripura are as follows:<sup>[4]</sup>

Year	Lok Sabha Election	Tripura West	Tripura East
1952	1st Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India	Communist Party of India
1957	2nd Lok Sabha	Indian National Congress	Communist Party of India
1962	3rd Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India	Communist Party of India
1967	4th Lok Sabha	Indian National Congress	Indian National Congress
1971	5th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
1977	6th Lok Sabha	Bharatiya Lok Dal <sup>[5]</sup>	Indian National Congress
1980	7th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
1984	8th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
1989	9th Lok Sabha	Indian National Congress	Indian National Congress
1991	10th Lok Sabha	Indian National Congress	Indian National Congress
1996	11th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
1998	12th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
1999	13th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
2004	14th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
2009	15th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
2014	16th Lok Sabha	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
2019	17th Lok Sabha	Bharatiya Janata Party	Bharatiya Janata Party

**iv. TUJS and Autonomy Movement:**

The Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti was formed by some younger tribal people of Tripura in 1967. Since the inception, the Organization worked vehemently for the benefit and welfare of the native tribal people. Under the banner of the Samiti approximately 324 tribal people went on to observe a hunger strike demanding their constitutional rights and autonomy on July 11, 1968. Again on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1970 the TUJS observed a 24-hour hunger strike in many parts of the state of Tripura. The TUJS put forward four main demands for granting greater autonomy to the tribal people of the State. These demands are:

- Restoration of tribal lands transferred to the non-tribal people since 1960;
- Ensuring the policy of reservation for the tribal people in Government jobs;

- iii. Recognition of Kokborok as an official language and medium of instruction and adoption of Roman Scripts for Kokborok; and
- iv. Formation of a Tribal Autonomous District Council in Tripura.

#### **v. Bangladesh Liberation war(1971)**

India and Soviet Union were great friends of Bangladesh in time of need, in 1971, and the neighboring Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya were the greatest support providers as they bore the burden of ten million refugees pouring across their borders. Tripura had a population of 1.5 million in 1971 and they alone sheltered 1.6 million of our refugees in their state! While Kolkata served as the political heart of our liberation struggle, Agartala and several other locations in Tripura alongside the international border served as the military hubs of our war endeavours in 1971. Most of the operations carried out in Dhaka city emanated from Tripura. More importantly, the Agartala Case instituted against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had created a very special linkage between Bangladesh and Tripura. Now, the state government of Tripura has come forward to give this historic bondage an artistic expression in the form of Bangladesh Liberation War Memorial Park called Muktijuddha Smriti Park. The memorial park will be located at Chottakhola in Bilonia sub-division, about 130 kilometers from Agartala. The proposed site lies in a stretch of land surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides. The beautiful location comprises of seven hillocks partly separated by a natural lake over 20 hectares of land. It saw intense activities during the liberation war and still bears its memorabilia in the form of remnants of a number of bunkers and trenches built on it in 1971. A training camp of the freedom fighters was located on the site and people around say that two freedom fighters were laid to eternal rest here, though the exact locations of their graves are yet to be traced. Parts of the hillocks were also used as a refugee camp. Awami League leader and a member of the then Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Noakhali, Khaja Ahmed, founded the training camp at Chottakhola in 1971. People of the locality remember him fondly. They also remember student leader of the time, A. S. M. Abdur Rob, and noted left leader Rashed Khan Menon, who had been to that site during the liberation war.

After 52 years of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War that forced 15 lakh refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) to seek shelter in India, the Tripura government started a survey to unearth the status of land plots exchanged between the people of both the countries. Thousands of people had migrated after the partition between India and Pakistan in 1947 to get rid of the hostilities of the Pakistan forces. After the war was over, many went back but many stayed back. Among them, most of the Hindus, settled here permanently after exchanging land plots with Muslims in the state, who later migrated to Bangladesh. Series of surveys between 1980 and 2006 were conducted in different phases to unearth the status of these land plots. As per the government regulations, any land occupied without valid documents would become state property. "Those who have valid documents would be aided with mutation of plot. Those who don't have documents for their occupied plots would be asked to take these plots on lease," said the official. In their preliminary findings, Sepahijala district has been found to have one of the highest numbers of exchanged plots.

#### **vi. Dumbur Dam and Hydroelectric production (1978-1980)**

Dumbur hydro electric project was commissioned in 1976 with an installed capacity of generating 10Mw from its two units A third unit of 5Mw was subsequently installed in 1984 as a standby But the project has been jinxed from the start: It never generated power to capacity and during the last five years, the project has become unviable because of heavy siltation of the lake owing to large scale soil erosion from two surrounding hill ranges that have been heavily deforested. During the protracted dry spells every year, the project comes to a grinding halt as the water level in the lake dips and the turbines do not get sufficient water to generate power. Moreover as a result of Dumbur Dam Project Thousands of Tribal people were Migrated from their own land government did not provide any rehabilitation facility for them and no remedies were provided to them. As a result they stared the movement to push back the migrate people from Tripura and also join in the insurgency activity.

#### **vii. 1980 Riots**

Although the disturbances in West Tripura were described by Zail Singh, Union home minister, as a "massacre", the magnitude of the tragedy that befell thousands of people in half a dozen villages was hardly revealed. It was a planned attack by the militant group of the Upajati Yuba Samiti of Tripura on the Hindu villages where thousands of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan had settled down some 20 years ago. The carnage followed an incident in which a tribal boy was assaulted by some shopkeepers in Lembuchara Bazar. Within minutes, a mob of a few thousand tribals attacked the bazar, ransacked shops and killed a few persons.

#### **vii. Autonomy Movement and ADC Bill:**

The tribal autonomy movement in Tripura reached a decisive phase in 1977. Later on, the left Front Government after coming to power made a decision to set up a Tribal Autonomous Council under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution. But the then Central Government under the Prime Ministership of Morarji Desai did not take an interest in it. Under this circumstances, the Left Front Government in Tripura decided to introduce a bill named 'The Tripura

Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council Bill, 1979' in the Tripura Legislative Assembly. The Bill was passed on March 23, 1979 and thus became an Act after having been assented to by the Nominal Head concerned on 20 July, 1979.

#### **Autonomy Movement and Formation of ADC under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule:**

Following 'The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council Act, 1979' 'The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council' under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution was set up on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1982. Thus a kind of self-government for the tribal people of Tripura for the first time was materialized. It was established with the aim of protecting tribals' right to land, guaranteeing employment and ensuring the right against exploitation by the village money-lenders.

#### **Autonomy Movement and Formation of ADC under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule:**

The TTAADC introduced in Tripura under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution had not been able to satiate the aspirations of the native tribal people in the truest sense. Hence the demand for the establishment of ADC under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule was by degrees increasing. Then during the Prime Ministership of Smt Indira Gnadhi 'The 49<sup>th</sup> Constitution-Amendment Bill, 1984' was introduced in the Indian Parliament. The Amendment Bill was passed and accordingly TTAADC under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule was based on April 1, 1985. The first General Election of TTAADC under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule took place on June 30, 1985 and the oath-taking ceremony took place on July 19, 1985.

**Significance of the Autonomy Movement:** The tribal autonomy movement in Tripura has a long history. The major significance of the movement can be enlisted below:

- i. The long cherished aspiration of the indigenous people of Tripura for self-government was fulfilled with the formation of TTAADC.
- ii. The Kokborok language has been recognized as an official language in Tripura. In this connection 'The Tripura Official Language Act, 1964' was amended in May 1979.
- iii. The Kokborok language has been recognized as a medium of instruction upto the primary level of education.
- iv. A Tribal Language Cell was created for designing and preparing lesson materials for the school-going children belonging to Borok or Tipra community.
- v. The policy of reservation for the native tribal people in government services has been ensured in the right earnest.

#### **Causes of Insurgency**

The origins of insurgency in Tripura lie in the **demographic destabilization**. That large scale immigration had not been dealt with a strong hand since Tripura's merger with the Indian Union in 1949.

#### **Phases**

**Sengkrak Phase:-** The first manifestation of ethnic insurgency in Tripura was expressed through the **Sengkrak** ("Clenched Fist") movement (20) in 1967 in Manu, Chhaumanu, Kanchanpur areas of North Tripura.

**NLFT & ATTF Phase:-** With the return of the third Left Front government in 1993, violent activities of the insurgents re-emerged. It is dominated by two outlawed groups: the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF).

#### **Displacement**

The impact of insurgency has been phenomenal in terms of internal displacement of the unarmed civilian population of the state. Therefore, The demands of human security involve a wide range of inter-related issues and areas connected with insurgencies.

#### **Security of Women**

One of the major fall-outs of insurgency is increased violence against women which can be underpinned to the already existing inherent gender biases and discrimination against women in the social structure of the society or community.

#### **Consequences of Insurgency in Tripura:-**

**In Tripura** the rapid demographic change in the state provoked a group of young tribesmen to form a succession of insurgent groups that promised to throw out the Bengali settlers and liberate Tripura from an administration dominated by them. The Tribal National Volunteers (TNV) emerged in 1978 sustained by the politics of tribalism promoted by the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS). It entered into an accord with Government of India in 1988. Within four years, however, two new rebel groups were born : All-Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) and National Liberation Force of Tripura (NFLT). Both are sustained by their zeal to drive out Bengali settlers from the state, who are seen as responsible for the physical, cultural, political and economic marginalization of the indigenous tribesmen. The TNV and NLFT have strong



evangelist overtones. They regard the acceptance of Christianity by the tribesmen as the one and only way to break away from the dominant Hindu–Bengali culture. However, the ATTF has stayed away from the religious debate.

#### **viii. Contribution of Sudip Roy barman: Opposition to Ruling leader**

The contribution of the Sudip Roy Barman and his family to the development of Tripura's democracy, political leadership and development of society is unique. Barman dada contested assembly election for the first time in 1993 from Agartala constituency against Former CPI(M) Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty and lost. Later, in 1998 Barman contested from the same constituency & defeated CPI(M) Leader Krishna Rakshit by a margin of 2062 votes. He won 5 assembly elections consecutively since 1998 defeating prominent Communist leaders Dr Bikash Roy, Sankar Prasad Datta, Krishna Rakshit respectively. In 2016, he is one of the six MLA from Indian National Congress who joined All India Trinamool Congress, due to various inconsistencies with the Indian National Congress allying with Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 2016 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election. On 7th August 2017, he along with 5 other AITC MLAs of Tripura Legislative Assembly joined BJP in presence of Himanta Biswa Sarma and Dharmendra Pradhan after they cross voted against the party lines in 2017 Indian presidential election. In March 2018, Barman was appointed as the Health Minister designated with other portfolios at the Biplab Deb Cabinet but was removed shortly as the Cabinet Minister due to unknown reasons. On 7th February 2022, he and MLA Ashish Kumar Saha resigned from their MLA post and quit BJP. On 8th February, Barman, along with their supporters, joined INC. The Congress party in Tripura has won the prestigious 6-Agartala Assembly constituency in the By-elections held in the state. Senior Tripura Congress leader Sri Sudip Roy Barman has won the By-elections for the 6 Agartala Assembly Sit. Tripura Congress's Sudip Roy Barman secured a total of 17,241 Votes. After facing all the attacks and its goons Mr. Barman defeated his closest rival-Tripura BJP's Ashok Sinha by a margin of over 3163 votes. That's the reason people of Tripura called him "The Emperor of million hearts" and the peoples leader of Tripura. Sudip Roy Barman is efficient administrators with brilliant intellect use his unmatched wisdom and great sense of diplomacy to unite this Nation. Social development was believed to be the key element in Barman dada's ideological goals. The Guru Mantra that the nation development is complete only through social development, was embodied in the life of Barman dada. Barman dada is a social reformer in the political era. He toiled for the solutions of social problems as a priority. He clearly believed that the country would get independence, but if the social problems were not solved and the social evils were not eradicated then that freedom would be meaningless.

#### **Conclusion:-**

To conclude it can be said that Tripura is a highly resourceful in the natural elements like- Natural gas, medical plants, Bamboo and so many natural trees are available here. Moreover Tripura also connecting with south East Asia countries through the Chatragram sea port in Bangladesh. In upcoming days Tripura will become an Industry Hub and gateway of North east India.

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