

Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl
M.L.A.

President

Indigenous Nationalist Party of
Twipra

IV/3, Kunjaban Township
Agartala-799006
Phone : 0381-351997

Email: hr_bwkrang@rediffmail.com

**Speech of Shri B.K. Hrangkhawl, MLA, President of the
Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra at the 20th meeting
of the working group of Indigenous Population (WGIP) - 2002
held at Geneva, from 22nd July to 26th July, 2002.**

TRIPURA, a tiny state of federal India was perhaps oldest Kingdom in World history, ruled by Borok nation. In the Sabha Parva, Chapter XXXI, the sixtieth verse of the Mahabharata, the great epics of the Aryan it has stated that, Sahadeva, the youngest brother of the Pandavas conquered the immeasurably effulgent Tripura. In verse 9 to 11 of Chapter CCL-III (253) of Vana Parva of the Mahabharat it has been stated that, Karna, a bosom friend of Duryudhan conquered and subjugated kingdom like Mohana, Pattana, Tripura and Kolsala. In the Visma Parva, at Chapter LXX-IV (74) the 8th and the 9th verses says that, the General of the Tripura emperor joined the ever biggest warfare of Kurukshetra in support of the Kurus.

Considering all above mention aspect Mr. E.F. Sandys, ICS and writer of the HISTORY OF TRIPURA maintained that ---"whether the great war of the Mahabharata took place or a merely Lunar myth, yet in kingdom of Tripura in exist before vyasa, who compiled the great epics. That is before 600 B.C. otherwise he could not have mentioned it in his list of kings".

In the Ashoka Pillar, now preserved at the Allahabad cantonment, at the instant Emperor Akbar we find clear mention of Tripura alongwith Samatal (now Bengal) Nepalok (now Nepal) and Kamaruya (now Assam). The full verses of the inscriptions are as below – 'whose imperiors commands were fully gratified by the payment of taxes and execution of

remaining subjects shall be exercised by the state government. But the Bengali employees and the intelligentsia started giving pressure to Maharani Kanchanprabha for merger with India. Accordingly merger agreement was signed on 9.9.1949 and came into being from the 15th October, 1949.

As soon the Merger Agreement came in force, influx of refugees from the then East Pakistan was started. In a democratic country population of particular caste, creed and religion is a big factor. In fact, democracy means rule of majority people. Tripura was an oldest kingdom in India, perhaps in the World having chronicles of 184 kings without break. The Borok people has such a glorious history, second to none. The oldest ruling dynasty of India as believed by the historians is the Rajput. History says the Rajputs are decedent of Emperor Samudra Gupt, who ruled India during 3rd century. But Tripura kingdom existed 600 B.C. as has been revealed by Mr. E.F. Sandys.

How the refugees overpowered the indigenous people of Tripura is best example. In 1901, according to census report total population of Independent Tripura was 173,325 out of it caste/community/religious wise population was as below –

1. Borok People	-	75,781
2. Other indigenous people	-	16,696
3. Bengali Hindu	-	15,072
4. Muslims	-	44,426
5. Manipuri & Manipuri Muslims	-	13,256
6. Others	-	3,000

It is notable that, at that time the Bengali Hindu used to represent less than one percent. After partition of India all the Muslims were compelled to leave Tripura and Bengali Hindus are ruling with absolute majority. The population of Tripura during the last century are as below–

This is the reason behind extremism in Tripura. The first extremist organisation, the 'Sangkrak' was formed by the Royal family members in 1945, with a view to resist probable Bengali infiltration in Tripura, after achieving Independence of India. It did not work because of isolation of the royal family members from the Borok Community who live in villages and Hills.

The second venture was initiated in 1948, led by Dasharath Deb forming Mukti Parishad, meaning Liberation Council. The idea behind the organisation was to drive away the Bengalee Refugees from Tripura. It became useless as soon the Mukti Parishad involved with the Communist Party of India in 1950.

In 1968, the third venture under the name of Sangkrak was organised by one Anant Reang with a target to drive away Bengali Refugees from a particular valley. The organisation was confined within a group of Borok people. Ultimately the outfits were compelled to surrender.

The fourth initiative was ventured by Binand Jamatia under the nomenclature of All Tripura Peoples' Liberation Organisation (ATPLO). In 1980, the first communal riot took place in Tripura. Thousand of Borok people have been killed by the Bengalee Refugees. Nearly three lakhs indigenous people were compelled to take shelter in the camps. But Jamatia could not continue the fight and had to surrender.

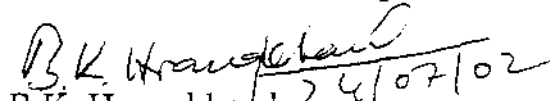
You will be astonished to know that, it was me to form Tripura National Volunteer (TNV) an arm outfits in 1978 with a view to fight for the Borok nation, sons of the soil of Tripura. My achievement was tremendous. The government of India agreed to increase reserved seats for indigenous people in the state Legislative Assembly of Tripura by way of Constitution amendment. I agreed to sign a Memorandum of understanding with the govt. of India and returned home along with five hundred Volunteers on 12th August, 1988. The govt. of India increased reserved seats of the Tripura Legislative Assembly of which I am representing now. But the other aspect, related to development of

EXTINCTING TRIBES IN TRIPURA

In Tripura There are tribes alarmingly reducing to extinct like (1) Saihmar and (2) Korbong besides some other unprotected tribes constituting less than 4 thousand population. Exceptionally the Saihmar tribe is scatterly found in Kulai-Gontachhera and Kamaranga villages of Ambassa and Kamalpur Sub-division of Dhalai District of Tripura. Their population is about 100 (one hundred). And the Korbong tribe is seen at south of Champaknagar, Sadar sub-division of Tripura west. Their population is below 200 (two hundred).

In no where in whole of Tripura or in India these extincting tribes are found. Local Govt. has no record of such description neither keen to preserve the tribes.

They do not dare to expose and identify themselves as having distinct rich culture heritage. Educational and economically they are worst. None, out of them nor any advanced Forum/Bodies are pleading their cause. They are likely to be washed away from the face of the earth in the next half a century if initiative is not taken right now to protect them. U.N. Human Right and Indigenous population organization bodies should come forward to preserve these unprotected population.


B.K. Hrangkhawl 24/07/02