

British relation with Chakla Roshnabad and Hill Tripura

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Abstract: From the end of the Mughal Empire until India's independence, the kings of Tripura played the role of dudhran in two unequal parts of the state. In the mountains he enjoyed the title of king and in the fertile plains he held the title of zamindar. The fertile land was called Chakla Roshanabad. According to W. W. Hunter, Chakla was the most valuable of all the territories held by the Roshanabad kings and earned more taxes than all the taxes of the Tripura kingdom.

Keywords: British relation, Chakla Roshnabad, Hill Tripura

1.1 Introduction

Tripura's terrain is mainly undulating with hills, hence the state of Tripura was called Hill Tripura in British terms in colonial India. About seventy percent of the land area consists of hilly undulating dunes and the rest is plains and lujza lands located in river valleys. Narrow fertile lowlands at the foot of the dunes.

Tripura of 570 square miles of moderate plains in Noakhali, Tripura and Srihatt districts of East Bengal, adjacent to the western border of the Upura state, was known as Plain Tripura or Chakla Roshanabad Zamindari. After Mir Habib's invasion, it once became an integral part of Tripura state and became a zamindari of this state. Again, after the independence of India, this Chakla Roshanabad was completely lost and then it was included in East Pakistan i.e. the present independent Bangladesh. Nawab Sujauddin Khan was excited about this and named this region as Dhakla Roshanabad. It was from this period that the two ranks of the Raja of Tripura originated - independent Raja in the hill tracts and zamindar under the Nawab of Bengal only in the case of Chakla Roshanabad. Chakla means circle and Roshanabad means land of light.

1.2 Early phase of British relationship with Tripura

One of the reasons for the Muslim invasion of India was the abundance of resources, which enticed the Muslims to invade India again and again. This is also seen in the case of Tripura. Since the establishment of the capital of Bengal at Sonar Gaon, the greed of the Muslim rulers over Tripura, which was rich in precious elephant and ruby resources, increased due to the increased greed of the Muslim rulers for no reason. Three kingdoms were attacked. Thus, from the mid-seventeenth century to the early eighteenth century, the arms of the Tripura kingdom passed into Muslim possession over a vast plain.

Taking advantage of this disastrous situation, on the one hand, the Chaudhuri and Talukdars tried to be free from the subordination of the Tripura state, due to internal disturbances and royal family disputes, the Tripura royal family, Jagatram Thakur, with the help of Aka Sadek, the zamindar of Baldakhal, and Mir Habib, the Dewan of Dhaka Niawat, with the approval of the then Nawab of Bengal, Sujauddin Khan, attacked the state of Tripura. Although there is disagreement among historians about this invasion, 1732 AD mentioned by Kailasachandra Singh seems to be correct.

Jagatram proceeded on the route shown by Manikya and soon reached the capital Udaipur. Raja Dharmamanikya approached Comilla. He got some success in this battle, but was finally defeated and took refuge in hilly Tripura. In this war the western plains of Tripura state came under the Nawab of Bengal. Mir Habir promoted Jagatram Tagore as Raja Jagatmanikya as the King of Tripura. Twenty-two parganas of Mughal-held Tripura, called Chakla Roshanabad, were given to him as zamindaris. This zamindari was spread over Mymensingh, Srihatt, Noakhali, Tripura and Dhaka districts of Bangladesh, Tripura district was initially formed around Chakla and this flat area of Tripura was called Chakla Roshanabad and turned into zamindari. Jagatmanikya became the king, but could not rule for long. Real authority rested in the hands of the newly appointed Mughal Fauzdar Aka Shadek in the capital. In fact Jagatram became the Mughal zamindar of the plains of Tripura or Chakla Roshanabad. Meanwhile, when Dharmamanikya went to Murshidabad and raised all the issues with the Nawab with the help of Jagatsheth, the Nawab returned the zamindari ownership of Chakla to him instead of Jagatmanikya on the promise of a certain amount of revenue. Thus plain Tripura or Roshanabad became a separate zamindari forever out of the rule of Tripuradhipati.

After Dharma Manikya's death, his brother Mukundamanikya ascended the throne of Tripura, causing great confusion in the royal family over the throne. Then those who sat on the throne in succession were rulers of a plot-loving, weak and ineffective nature. Among them, Vijay Manikya, the second, promised to send all the revenues of the state to Murshidabad in return for an annual allowance of 12,000 rupees. Failing that he was captured and taken to the Nawab's court.

Taking advantage of the weakness of the inefficient and scheming ruler's rule, Samsar Gazi Chakla, with the help of the Nawab's army, occupied Tripura by promising large sums of revenue to the Nawab's court and dominated Tripura. At that time, due to the need for more money in the treasury of the Nawab of Murshidabad and because of the greed of more money, he helped Nawab Samsar with troops, and it was possible for him to establish his rights and rule for 12 years. In order to supply large sums of money to the Nawab's court on a regular basis, the Ghazis of Samsar often robbed rich subjects, regardless of whether they were Hindus or Muslims. As the tyranny of Samsar increased day by day, the Nawab sent troops against him and captured him and killed him. Nawab Mirkashim was then in the masnad of Bengal. He recognized Krishnamanikya as Tripuradhipati and fixed the annual revenue of Chakla Roshanabad at 109,376 rupees.

Disputes over revenue collection of Chakla Roshanabad resulted in the Tripura campaign:- After the fall of Gazi of Samas, Mukunda Manikya's son Krishnamani Tagore assumed the name Krishnamanikya and sat on the throne of Tripura in 1760 AD. But within a few days of attaining the throne, though the Gazi crisis was resolved, Krishna Manikya's dispute with the Nawab's Fauzdar and Dewan Reza Khan over the revenue of Chakla Roshanabad came up. At the end of Samseva's tenure, the revenue was not being

collected properly from Chakla. Even after killing Samsara, the situation did not improve. This is where the conflict started. When Fauzdar sought the advice of the Nawab of Murshidabad on this matter, Nawab Mirkashim requested the then English Governor Vansitatak to send troops to help Fauzdar. Meanwhile the East India Company had acquired Burdwan, Medinipur and Chittagong as zamindari from Nawab Mirkashim. Vancitat, now interested in expanding the boundaries of Chittagong, became enthusiastic about the Tripura campaign. Meanwhile, on 8 November 1760 AD, the English East India Company established their local administration at Chittagong and Mr. Verelest was appointed as the chief officer of the company there (Chittagong). On the request of Mirkashim, under the orders of the temporary governor Vancitat, M. Verelest from the company's Chittagong center sent Lt. Mathews with 206 infantry and 2 guns against the Tripuradhipati in February 1761 AD. of the British Army Reza Khan withdrew his army during the Tripura campaign. As the Raja of Tripura was overwhelmed by Reza Khan's army, it was not possible for him to resist the well-trained English army and he surrendered to Methuz. The plains of Tripura came easily to the British when the Tripura Raj's army left the battlefield without a fight (1761 AD).

1.3 Sent to Marriott to collect Tripura revenue: His two contracts with Kriyamanikya

When Collector Marriott was sent to Tripura by Chittagong officials to assess and collect Tripura's revenue, he entered into two agreements with Kriya Manikya. In the first agreement it was fixed that the king would give 1 lakh rupees as revenue and 45 thousand 463 rupees to the British and Nawab's army towards war expenses. According to another agreement, 1 lakh 11 thousand 191 taka 6 annas 3 paise was charged for Nazrana or Salami. The invasion of Reza Khan's army caused the financial condition of Tripura to deteriorate. The cash in the hands of the king was also very little, thinking about the financial distress of the king, Mr. Marriott agreed to accept these money in installments. The Company was not so much interested in Hill Tripura as the British agreed with the King about Chakla Roshanabad or plains Tripura. As a result, Chakla became a zamindar under the English company in the case of Roshanabad or plain Tripura. He continued to rule as an independent king in hill Tripura. Ralph Leek was appointed Resident of Plain Tripura or Chakla Roshanabad and was the first English representative of Tripura. From this time Chakla Roshanabad and Hill Tripura were administered separately. The judiciary in Hill Tripura was administered by judges appointed by the king and in Chakla Roshanabad by the Resident and the Dewan of Chakla Roshanabad jointly as representatives of the king.

1.4 Grant of the zamindari of Chakla Roshanabad to the Raja of Tripura

From Krishnamala it is known that after some time the British authorities gave Jagatmanikya's son Balram Manikya the zamindari settlement of Chakla Roshanabad. The royal power of Tripura was further reduced by this. This system also changed shortly after. Kriplmanika was again given the zamindari of Chakla Roshanabad through the efforts of East India Company's Chittagong Kushti principal Verelest. Kriya Manikya maintained friendly relations with Derenest and Kriyamanikya helped him with troops in Derelest's Manipur and Cachar campaigns. But towards the end of Kriya Manikya's reign, Chakla had a conflict with Krishna Manikya, the English Resident of Tripura, over the settlement of Roshanabad. When Leek repeatedly interfered in the internal affairs of Tripura, the Raja, annoyed with Leek, sent his nephew Rajdharne to the English authorities at Calcutta and through him promised to pay part of the Chakla Roshanabad revenue due to the Company and to give suitable security for the payment of the remaining revenue in future. Agreed but in return Mi Lik has to be ordered to leave Tripura. Meanwhile, Mi Lik also became concerned about the anti-English activities of the Raja and T Vratshpur. He informed the Calcutta authorities that the King had assembled troops at Agartala to prevent the British from taking the Rajal. When Mi Lik asked for military help to deal with this, the British authorities helped Mi Lik with troops but ordered that Mi Lik not use these troops against the king unless attacked by the king. At the end of Kriyamanikya's reign, Chakla's rule was not completed smoothly. Chakla brought Roshanabad under direct government management or khas in 1782 AD after dismissing the king with the English company pension. 1792 AD The zamindari of Chakla Roshanabad was returned to the Raja of Tripura. Thereafter the Chakla Roshnabal zamindari played a decisive role in the succession to the throne of Tripura for a long time and played a prominent role in the economy and politics of the state. Because the one who succeeds in establishing rights in Chakla Roshanabad zamindari continues to be considered as the rightful owner of the royal throne of Tripura. Since Chakla is Roshanabad As a British territory, the British courts have the final jurisdiction over disputes relating to inheritance of zamindari. The status of succession to the throne of Tripura which was settled by the decisions of the British courts in 1809, 1821 and 1870 AD was completely transformed by a decision of the Calcutta High Court in 1881 where the Calcutta High Court while giving its judgment in the case of Navadwip Devavarman v. Birchandra Manikya remarked that the legitimate heir to the throne of Tripura. He is the owner of the zamindari and it cannot be tried by the British courts. The most important aspect of the zamindari of Chakla Roshanabad is that the annual income of the zamindari was much higher than the annual income of the state. So Chakla Roshanabad zamindari is called "The jewel in the crown of the Tripura Raj".

1.5 Conclusion

Tripura was a hill state among the various states of India. The British had a connection with this state because the British wanted to establish the Tripura plains as their own but this state was under the Nawab of Bengal at this time. Hence a connection of the Tipura kings with the British begins.

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