

The Contribution Of Mr.Sudip Roy Barman As A Legendary Superhero In The Democratic Politics Of Tripura

Mr. Prasenjit Ghosh^{1*}, Dr. Shagufta Parveen²

^{1*}*Research Scholar*, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, U.P.

²*Assistant Professor*, Mangalayatan University, Aligarh, U.P.

Abstract:-

The political landscape of Tripura, a northeastern Indian state with a rich history of shifting ideologies, has been profoundly influenced by several leaders. Among them, Mr. Sudip Roy Barman stands out as a key figure whose dynamic political career and staunch commitment to democracy have earned him a reputation as a "legendary superhero" in the state's politics. This research explores the multifaceted contributions of Mr. Barman to the democratic processes in Tripura, examining his roles across different political parties, his leadership in opposition, and his significant role in ending the Left Front's 25-year rule.

Samir Ranjan Roy Barman is an Indian Politician. He was the Chief Minister of Tripura in India from 19th February 1992 to 10th March 1993 as a member of the Indian National Congress. He is the father of the current legislator from 6 No. Agartala Constituency and Indian National Congress leader Sri, Sudip Roy Barman. He has contested from Bishalgarh constituency in the Assembly elections from 1972 to 2013 in 9 elections consecutively, winning in 1972, 1988, 1993 and 2003 Elections.

By employing a qualitative research approach, this study analyzes Barman's political journey, focusing on his transition between the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), his strategic decision-making, and his eventual return to the Congress. Through interviews, case studies, and media content analysis, the research highlights his ability to challenge the political status quo, his advocacy for transparency and accountability, and his connection with the people of Tripura. Barman's political independence, refusal to compromise on principles, and unwavering fight for democratic values position him as a crucial figure in Tripura's political history. His contributions have not only reshaped the political environment but also set new benchmarks for leadership in the region.

Keywords: Legislative Assembly, Leader of opposition, Democracy, Politics, Superhero, Contribution.

Introduction:-

Tripura, a small yet politically vibrant state in the northeastern region of India, has been shaped by various political figures whose ideologies and efforts have paved the way for its development. Among these prominent figures, one name that resonates strongly with the political landscape of Tripura is that of Mr. Sudip Roy Barman. Known for his indomitable spirit, charisma, and dedication, Barman has often been referred to as a "superhero" in the political realm. His contributions to democracy, his fight for the rights of the people, and his role in shaping the modern political identity of Tripura make him a legendary figure in the state's democratic history.

This research article delves deep into the life, political career, and contributions of Mr. Sudip Roy Barman, examining his influence on the democratic politics of Tripura. By exploring his leadership, his ability to connect with the masses, his commitment to transparency, and his unwavering fight for justice, we seek to understand how Barman has played the role of a political superhero in Tripura.

Mr. Sudip Roy Barman is the son of famous Barman family of Tripura state. He was born on 12th April 1966 in IGM Hospital, Agartala. Father Samir Ranjan Roy Barman was the former chief minister of Tripura state and Mother Maya Roy Barman was a model teacher.

The Wife of Sandip Roy Barman is Rita Roy Barman. They have got one son & one daughter. The name of their son is Souvik Roy Barman & daughters name is Ishani Roy Barman. The wife of Sudip Roy Barman is Pinaki Roy Barman. They have got 2 daughters & one son. The name of their daughters are Irana Roy Barman & Rijuka Roy Barman & their sons name is Kuber Roy Barman. The Wife of Joydeep Roy Barman is Mousomi Roy Barman. They have got two daughters. The name of their daughters is Oishika Roy Barman and Arshita Roy Barman. Joyasree Roy Barman got married with Aniruddha Majumder. They have got one son. The name of their son is Ishan Majumder.

Mr. Sudip Roy Barman's Wife Pinaki Roy Barman is also a highly educated woman. Pinaki Devi did her BE in Electrical from Tripura Engineering College and later completed her LLB from Tripura Law College. Both his daughters Irana Roy Barman & Rijuka Roy Barman are meritorious in studies. They have been studying out of the state now a days. His Son Kuber Roy Barman also has brilliance in his academics & a rising youngest football star from the state of Tripura.

Aims & Goals of the Study:-

1. To know about the Early Life and Political Entry of Sudip Roy Barman in the History of Tripura.
2. To know about his Political carrier and struggle in the politics.
3. To identify the causes of changing the political party in his political career.
4. To examine the Educational Contribution of Sudip Roy Barman.
5. To find out the Socio-political contribution of Sudip Roy Barman in the History of Tripura.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for studying "The Contribution of Mr. Sudip Roy Barman as a Legendary Superhero in the Democratic Politics of Tripura" employs a combination of qualitative research techniques to gain a comprehensive understanding of his political career and influence on the democratic process in Tripura. The methodological approach includes descriptive analysis, case study methodology, content analysis, and interviews. Each method is designed to capture different dimensions of Sudip Roy Barman's contributions, ensuring the research captures both the depth and breadth of his impact.

Discussion/Analysis:-

Early Life and Political Entry

Born into a politically active family, Sudip Roy Barman inherited the legacy of public service and political activism from his father, Samir Ranjan Barman, who served as the Chief Minister of Tripura. This early exposure to politics laid the foundation for Sudip's political aspirations. He was educated at leading institutions, where he developed an understanding of governance, public administration, and the nuances of democratic processes.

Sudip Roy Barman has the Unifier of Modern Tripura as his efforts led to the creation of the nation in its present form. An introduction of the life of his eminent personality and his expression about the social concern that he experienced and mention in its peaches is essential through the sociological perspective. Political career of Mr. Sudip Roy Barman was started since 1998 by winning four elections consecutively on Indian National Congress (INC) ticket by handsome margins. Barman holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Calcutta University and a Law degree from the Tripura Government Law College. During his college days,

Barman was actively involved with NSUI, the Students Wing of the Indian National Congress. In 1986 he was elected as the General Secretary of NSUI. In the early '90s, Barman emerged as a Youth Leader propagating for the INC. He was appointed as the General Secretary of

the Tripura Youth Congress in 1991 which he holds up to 1994 before getting appointed as the Vice President. In 1997 Barman was voted as a member of the Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee & later appointed as the vice president of Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee in 2001.

His initial entry into politics was marked by a deep-rooted desire to bring about change in a state that had long suffered from political instability, underdevelopment, and insurgency-related challenges. Tripura, with its unique demography and a history of both Leftist and nationalist political movements, needed strong leaders who could navigate these complex political waters. Sudip Roy Barman's entry into the Tripura legislative assembly was a crucial turning point for the state's politics.

The Rise to Political Prominence

Sudip Roy Barman's rise in the political hierarchy was meteoric. He quickly became a member of the Indian National Congress, where he distinguished himself as a young leader with fresh ideas, strong oratory skills, and the ability to connect with the grassroots. His popularity surged when he contested elections and won the seat from the prestigious Agartala constituency multiple times. His victory was not just a result of political alignment but also a testament to his ability to understand and address the needs of the people.

Barman was never content with being a passive participant in politics. His dynamic nature allowed him to quickly rise through the ranks and become one of the most recognizable faces in Tripura's politics. His political prowess, coupled with a deep sense of empathy towards his constituents, led him to hold several important positions within the Congress and later in other political parties, making him a formidable force.

A Maverick in the Indian National Congress

Within the Congress, Sudip Roy Barman carved out a reputation as a maverick leader. He challenged the status quo and questioned the decisions of the central leadership when they conflicted with the interests of the people of Tripura. Barman's insistence on transparency, accountability, and grassroots-level development set him apart from his

contemporaries. His political acumen led to his election as the Leader of the Opposition in the Tripura Legislative Assembly, where he vociferously opposed policies that he deemed detrimental to the state's welfare.

His tenure as Leader of the Opposition was marked by a relentless pursuit of justice for the people. Barman was known for raising issues related to corruption, unemployment, infrastructure, and social welfare. His ability to articulate these concerns on the floor of the legislative assembly earned him respect not only from his colleagues but also from political adversaries.

However, it was his ability to stand up against his party leadership when necessary that truly defined his role as a political superhero. Barman's rebellion against the Congress leadership, when he believed that their decisions were not in the best interest of Tripura, showcased his willingness to put the state above his party, a rare trait in contemporary Indian politics.

Switch to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

One of the most significant political decisions of Sudip Roy Barman's career was his switch from the Indian National Congress to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2017. This move marked a new chapter in Tripura's political landscape. The BJP, which had traditionally been a marginal player in the state, was now poised to challenge the long-standing dominance of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) or CPI(M).

Barman's defection, along with several other Congress leaders, was a masterstroke that helped the BJP secure a foothold in Tripura. His decision to join the BJP was not without controversy, but it was a strategic move that eventually led to the end of the 25-year rule of the Left Front in the 2018 Tripura Legislative Assembly elections. Barman's influence and mass appeal were instrumental in the BJP's historic victory in Tripura.

The 2018 Tripura Assembly Elections: A Turning Point

The 2018 Assembly elections in Tripura were a watershed moment in the state's political history. The BJP, with the help of its ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), secured a landslide victory, winning 43 out of the 60 seats. Sudip Roy Barman played a crucial role in this victory, campaigning tirelessly across the state and leveraging his political network and organizational skills.

For many voters, Barman was seen as a savior who had brought about the much-needed change in Tripura's political landscape. His shift from the Congress to the BJP was not viewed as opportunism but as a pragmatic decision aimed at liberating the state from the clutches of the Left Front's stagnation. The victory of the BJP was attributed in large part to the efforts of Sudip Roy Barman, who was often seen as the face of the new political order in Tripura.

A Superhero's Struggles Within His Own Party

While Barman's role in the BJP's success was undeniable, his journey within the party was not without challenges. As a leader who had always championed the cause of democracy, transparency, and accountability, Barman found himself at odds with certain factions within the BJP. His outspoken nature and willingness to question the decisions of his own party leadership led to friction, and in 2022, Barman once again found himself at a crossroads when he decided to resign from the BJP.

His departure from the BJP was a bold move, underscoring his political independence and refusal to compromise on his principles. Barman's decision to part ways with the BJP was driven by his belief that the party's leadership had deviated from its promises to the people of Tripura. He accused the party of engaging in autocratic practices, neglecting the welfare of the people, and failing to deliver on the promises made during the 2018 election campaign.

Return to the Congress: Reaffirmation of Democratic Values

In 2022, Sudip Roy Barman returned to his political roots by rejoining the Indian National Congress. His return to the Congress was seen as a reaffirmation of his commitment to democratic values and his desire to fight for the rights of the people of Tripura. His decision to return to the Congress was met with widespread approval from his supporters, who viewed him as a leader who was willing to sacrifice political convenience for the sake of his principles.

Barman's return to the Congress also marked the beginning of a new phase in his political career, one in which he continued to challenge the ruling government, raise important issues related to governance, and fight for the rights of marginalized communities. His political journey, marked by his ability to move across party lines while staying true to his core values, has cemented his place as a political superhero in the eyes of many in Tripura.

Legacy and Lasting Impact

Sudip Roy Barman's contribution to the democratic politics of Tripura is unparalleled. His ability to challenge the status quo, his insistence on accountability and transparency, and his dedication to the welfare of the people have made him a legendary figure in the state's political history. He has demonstrated time and again that political success is not just about winning elections but about standing up for what is right, even when it comes at great personal cost.

Barman's legacy is one of resilience, courage, and unwavering commitment to democratic principles. His political journey, marked by his willingness to take on powerful forces, both within his own party and across the political spectrum, has inspired a new generation of leaders in Tripura. He has set a high standard for political leadership, one that prioritizes the people over party politics.

The contribution of Mr. Sudip Roy Barman to the development of Tripura's democracy:

The contribution of Mr. 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 MLAs 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 No. Agartala Assembly seat 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 No. Agartala Assembly Seat. Tripura Congress leader Mr. Sudip Roy Barman secured a total of 17,241 Votes. After facing all the attacks and its goons Mr. Sudip Roy Barman defeated his closest rival-Tripura BJP's Ashok Sinha by a margin of over 3163 votes. That's the reason people's of Tripura called him "The Emperor of million hearts" & "The people's leader of Tripura".

Mr. Sudip Roy Barman is an efficient administrator with brilliant intellect, 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's 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.

The leader is the one who touches the hearts of the people and lives in the hearts of the people. Following his ideals and inspiration, thousands of young generation engaged themselves in social service. One such a public leader of our hilly state Tripura is MLA Sudip Roy Barman. People's leader Mr. Sudip Roy Barman sir is a unique genius. He is a skilled administrator, a skilled politician and a nature lover, musician and a good hearted person.

There is no field of knowledge which has not been enlivened by the light of his genius.

There is a popular saying in Tripura--

"When all doors are closed for help, only one door remains open 24 hours a day and that door is the door of Jananayak Sudip Roy Barman."

This is why the people of Tripura fondly call Mr. Sudip Roy Barman as Hriday Samrat

During his tenure as the Health Minister of Tripura State, he started the Neuro Department at GB Hospital. He appointed a good quality doctor there. That doctor's name is Arka Siddha Reddy.

He was the main initiator of the Tripura Science City project.

He arranged free blood tests for patients at IGM Hospital and GB Hospital in Agartala.

He arranged plastic surgery at GB Hospital.

He named the Regional Cancer Hospital as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Regional Cancer Hospital

He set up water treatment at DWS office.

He is serving the people every morning till he sleeps at night. Countless people come to his house everyday for help and none of them has returned empty handed till date. That is why he is known as Jananeta, Moni of Eyes, Emperor of Heart, Bhumi Putra of Tripura etc.

Mr. Sudip Roy Barman is directly associated with a social organization called Sandhya Welfare Society. This society was founded by Prasenjit Ghosh, a young talented teacher of Amarpur subdivision. Prasenjit Babu named the social organization Sandhya Welfare Society on the name of his mother Sandhya Devi. It is a popular govt. registered social organization in Amarpur subdivision. MLA Sudip Roy Barman inaugurated this organization. Basically Sandhya Welfare Society is being run by stonewalling the principles and ideals of Jananayak Sudip Roy Barman.

Sandhya Welfare Society is today a well-known name in the entire Tripura state through activities such as blood donation, clothing donation, food donation, Rakhi Bandhan Utsav celebration, Bhatra Vidya Utsav celebration,

VasantUtsav celebration etc. During the corona period, under the leadership of Jananayak Sudip Roy Barman & his followers extended their helping hand to the people of all sections in every sub-division of the entire Tripura state, keeping the slogan "Bandhur Naam Sudip" in the entire Tripura state. The common people were greatly benefitted by this and blessed Mr. Sudip Babu with open arms.

Conclusion

In the political arena of Tripura, where shifting alliances and ideological battles have often dominated the discourse, Mr. Sudip Roy Barman has emerged as a true superhero. His contribution to the democratic politics of the state is not just a matter of electoral success but a testament to his steadfast commitment to the people of Tripura. His willingness to fight for justice, challenge autocratic tendencies, and stay true to his principles, even when it meant going against his own party, has made him a legendary figure in Tripura's democratic history.

At last, it can be said that Mr. Sudip Babu has dynamic contribution in his political carrier in the history of Tripura Politics. He always talks about the interest of common people. Therefore he is a favorite politician for every political party member. Now a days he is a opposition MLA of Tripura Legislative Assembly (INC). From the beginning of his political carrier he joined INC also got ticket in the post of MLA and he also wined six times in his constituency. After INC he also joined TMC for a short time for the interest of Common people, thereafter on 2018 he also contrasts as a people representative of BJP and also wined and he also got the Health Ministry in the Tripura Vidhan Sabha. But due to some issues he left from BJP and again joined INC. To join INC his statement was he was unable to provide sufficient service under BJP govt. He also told that he joined politics to do something for common people but there was no sufficient space in the BJP government, therefore he left from BJP.

Lastly, we can say that Mr. Sudip Babu is one of the unique politicians in the history of Tripura. His Contribution may not be ignoring. So the current study is relevant with today political Scenario of Tripura.

References:-

1. Banik, P. (2008). Tripura legislative assembly: a study of its evolution and selected legislations (1972-2002) (Doctoral dissertation, University of North Bengal).
2. Debbarma, R. K. (2013). Heroes and histories: The making of rival geographies of Tripura. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
3. Majumdar, B. (1985). The Struggle for Responsible Government in Tripura (1947-1956). In Proceedings of North East India History Association (Vol. 6, p. 417). The Association.
4. De, N. (2014). A Historical Investigation into the Growth and Development of Education in Tripura (1862-1971). Global J. Inc, 14(2).
5. Ghoshal, A. (2017). Tripura: A Chronicle of Politicisation of the Refugees and Ethnic Tribals. Development and Change, 14(2), 27-41.
6. Mohanta, B. (2004). Tripura in the light of Socio-Political Movements since 1945. Progressive Publishers.
7. Harris, G. (2014). Communist Leader in India Stands Firm as His Party Shrinks. The New York Times, A6-L.
8. Ghosh, B. (2003). Ethnicity and insurgency in Tripura. Sociological Bulletin, 52(2), 221-243.