

Jamatia Uprising



Introduction

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The Jamatia rebellion occupies an important place in the history of Tripura. Like other revolts in the history of Tripura, this revolt was against corruption. From the point of view of the king and his administration it was just an act of audacity towards royal administration. This rebellion is merely an attempt by the Jamatia Chief Parikshit to forbid his community to pay taxes. But from the point of the Jamatia, this revolt was against injustice , exploitation and humiliation.

Causes of revolt

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There is a special reason behind any rebellion. If we want to know the real reason for the Jamatia revolt we have to look at the history of 1240-1757. At that time Tripura was repeatedly attacked by the Mughals and Afghans. Only Jamatia communities had the power to deal with those attacks. Jamatia soldiers were brave and skilled in war and they shed their blood like water to deal with enemies on the battlefield. On the battlefield they suffered from hunger and disease. Their only goal was to protect their lands from enemies.

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But the situation changed completely after the battle of Plassey in 1757. Power passed from the Mughals to the British and the fear of attacks by the Mughals and Afghans on Tripura ceased. At that time Jamatia communities became isolated and neglected. Moreover the King and his administration did not pay much attention to the progress of Jamatia Communities. Those who once protected the lands from the enemies are now neglected on the other hand Thakur Communities became powerful as they were close to the royal families. Moreover after death of Ishan Chandra Manikya, there was political unrest in the state. Bir Chandra and his brother fought each other to ascend the throne. At that time no one paid attention to the shortcomings and grievances of the people of the state but ignored them.

The real cause of the rebellion

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The immediate cause of the Jamatia revolt was the persecuted tax collector Oakhirai Hazari putting pressure on the Jamatia for taxes. Oakhirai himself was a Jamatia. He was sent to Udaypur to collect taxes on the orders of the royal court of Tripura and his wife and a few bodyguards went with him. But unfortunately his wife became menstruant. Then Oakhirai ordered the Jamatia people to carry his wife on a cradle (Oaying) made of bamboo-splits. But it hurt the honour of the Jamatia people and they expressed reluctance to carry the menstruant woman on the cradle. As a result, the situation took a terrible turn. And eventually turned to affray. Oakhirai's bodyguards were beheaded.

The King's reaction to the Uprising



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When Oakhirai reached the Agartala royal court, he gave false information to the King about the Jamatia Communities. He told the king that the Jamatia Communities has refused to pay taxes, insulted the king and demanded a different state. The King instantly believed Oakhirai's misinformation. The King Immediately sent a body of police to Udaypur to punish Jamatias. Although this campaign failed. The King then arranged for them to be severely punished.

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A large group of attacking kookis was summoned by the order of the King and sent to Udaypur against Jamatia Communities. The kookis killed a lot of Jamatias, Plundered their property and damage their homes. The Kookis brought about two hundred heads of the Jamatia People and the Chief of this movement Parikshit Jamaita was caught. The King ordered to set up bamboo posts on both sides of the main road of Agartala and impale the heads of Jamatias on those posts for the purpose of display. Parikshit pardoned on condition of a promise to Practice the Vaisnava way of life. Thus this movement was ended.

The result of the King's reaction



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The King only wanted to warn the Jamatias not to go against the royal administration. But the strict action taken by the King against Jamatias made them against him.

Conclusion

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Jamatia revolt was usually movement against injustice and inhumanity. But unfortunately the King thought this movement was against him and royal court. If the King did not believe the false information given by Okhirai and the King would be able to understand the reason for this revolt according to his own intellect, then he could have known the real reason for this revolt and this rebellion could have ended peacefully. However, we can finally say that the Jamatia revolt is a significant event in the history of Tripura.

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