



# “Administration and Administrative Reforms of Four Manikya Monarchs of Tipra or Tripuri Kingdom”- A Historical Overview.

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**Abstract:** Tripura was one of the first princely states in ancient India. An ancient kingdom in the utmost east of India. Tripura, like several historical kingdoms, had a fortified army and administrative system. Tripura's independence had stored intact for greater than 5000 years through the kingdom's ethical administration and army system. Tripura has had 185 rulers, every of whom has endorsed diverse sociocultural, economic, and political upheavals. In Tripura, the Manikya dynasty installed the political organization of monarchy. Following that, Maharaja Birchandra Manikya ushered modernization in Tripura. Following that for the first time, Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya began out of city making plans and improvements of Agartala, the Capital town of the kingdom. Maharaja Birendra Kishore Manikya continually tries to unfold education over the kingdom. Lastly, Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya tirelessly tries to architect the kingdom in diverse ways. This paper entitled “Administration and Administrative Reforms of Four Manikya Rulers of Tipra or the Tripuri Kingdom- An Historical Overview” directs and investigates the initiatives, and cutting-edge context to guide this modernization, it's miles vital to recognize the character of the connection and the wave of social issues.

**Keywords -** Manikya dynasty, Tripuri kingdom, a princely state, Tripura, administration, modernization, and social reformation.

## INTRODUCTION:

Tripura, located on India's eastern border, is a beautiful land inhabited by fascinating people like Tripuris and a variety of ethnic communities that have coexisted peacefully for centuries. Tripura, Manipur, and Kamarupa (now Assam) were the original states of North-East India. Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh are the other states that have emerged in the last half-decade. The Rajmala, the history of Tripura Kingdom gives the picture of the Kingdom. The history of Tripura, so far as it is written, begins with the settlement of Yayati's exiled son Druhya. The Kings of Tripura attach this ancestral link with the Lunar dynasty, which had its capital in the northeastern part of India. Which gave rise to a number of small Chieftainships in North Eastern India And a number of small Kingdoms were formed. All of the North Eastern Kingdoms, including Heramba or Kamrup, Kamta, Sikkim in the Himalayan foothills and hill ranges, and the Brahmaputra valley, are therefore descended from the same bloodline and clan, the stem of Tripuris. For the purposes of administrative effectiveness, human agricultural practices, and consideration of desirability for trade and commerce, the people of Tripura built their capital cities in areas with mild, accessible topography and stunning natural surroundings. The ancient Kingdom of Tripura at various times extended its rule from the Sunder Bans in the west to Burma in the East and North as far as Kamarup. The Tripuri people have traditionally chosen to reside on suitable plain land as well as on suitable hillocks and plateaus in order to avoid frequent floods or unfavorable breezes. In areas of Tripura's vast terrain that have lovely undulating plain land paired with hillocks, the general Tripuri people likewise adhere to the same traditions, settlement patterns, and ways of life. All of the regimes, from Durhya to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya, established their capitals in stunning locations with a landscape in valleys next to foothills and taking use of significant waterways.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- 1) To study and decode the modernization process of Tripura.
- 2) To analyze the progressive and modern administrative steps taken by the Monarchs.
- 3) To point out the contributions of several kings for development.
- 4) To navigate and reconstruct the dynamics and environment of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Both historical and content analytic methodologies have been used to conduct the study. I have studied historical sources such as Administration reports, letters, books, journals, articles, various proclamations, and other documents to adhere to the historical method.

**ADMINISTRATION AND REFORMATION BY THE FOUR MONARCHS :****1. Maharaja Birchandra Manikya (1862-1896 A.D)**

Bir Chandra Manikya is widely regarded as the father of modern Tripura. From his time, the princely state's social, political, and cultural thinking began. Birchandra was Krishna Kishore Manikya's son and Ishan Chandra Manikya's brother. It was not easy for him to seize the Kingdom's throne; he had to fall out with his brother and nephews. However, in view of the Privy Council's decision on March 15, 1869, he was proclaimed occupying king on March 9, 1870. During his tenure, various significant steps were taken in the administrative, social, economic and other fields of the state. Bir Chandra Manikya's rule over Tripura marked the start of the modern era. Efforts to Modernize Tripura begin in all aspects of administration, law, education, social reform Etc. We will discuss the various reforms in detail that were taken by him. Various significant steps were taken during his tenure in the administrative, social, economic, and other fields of the state. Various administrative reforms were implemented with the assistance of political agents during his tenure. During the reign of Bir Chandra Manikya, Tripura entered the modern era. Efforts to modernize Tripura begin with administration, law, education, social reform, and so on.

**Bir Chandra Manikya as an administrative reformer:**

The contribution of Bir Chandra Manikya As an administrative reformer is significant. The appointment of the Political agent of Tripura started during his time. The British government assured the King that the political agent would not affect the king's power in the kingdom. A.W.B Power is designated as the first political agent. Bir Chandra Manikya took the initiative to bring about the constitutional change. By remodeling, he introduced many significant reforms in the country's civil and executive administrations. All judicial matters used to be brought before the Maharaja for ultimate disposal. However, he abolished it and delegated the task to two judges appointed by the Maharaja. At his request, the departments of Excise, Stamps, and Registration were established, and laws governing these departments were drafted. The entire territory was subdivided for administrative ease, and in short, a renaissance marked every phase of the state's life. He not only created several new posts but also gathered a group of the day's most capable administrators around him. He chose Chunta's Ishan Chandra Gupta as Chakla's Dewan Ishan Chandra was a distinguished Comilla Bar lawyer who compiled the criminal and judicial laws that, with minor changes here and there, still govern the criminal and judicial administration of the State. Ram Manikya Barman of Bidyakot was another intelligent and capable officer who contributed significantly to the suppression of the Kukee troubles as well as the reorganization of internal affairs. In 1878, Prince Radha Kishore was appointed chief judge of the Khas Appellate Court, where he served with distinction. Braja Mohan Thakur, Dinabandhu Thakur, Nilmoni Das, and Rai Bahadur were also appointed by Bir Chandra Manikya. Mohini Mohan Bardhan, Dhananjaya Thakur, and Rai Bahadur Umakanta Das served as ministers in succession, each providing valuable services to the state. Bahadur Rai Mohini Mohan Burdhan drafted the Tenancy Act, as well as rules governing officer leave and the protection of minors' property. Mr. Sambhu Chandra Mukherjee, a well-known publicist, was also named assistant minister for political affairs. In imitation of the British administration, he established the excise and stamp departments in the state and instituted document registry rules. For administrative purposes, Tripura was divided into three parts during his reign. Aside from these, he implemented additional administrative reforms. The introduction of the municipality in Agartala in 1871 was a notable reform. A political agent was appointed as chairman of this institution. Municipal laws were enacted in 1874. This state budget system was introduced for the first time. Agartala's first post office opened on October 1, 1875. The expenses were decided to be borne by the state government and managed by the Indian Postal Authority. During his tenure, the census was completed in 1881. This was India's and this state's first modern census attempt.

**2. Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya (1896-1909 A.D)**

He was the eldest son of Bir Chandra Manikya and succeeded after the death of his father. The Reforms which had been initiated during the reign of Birchandra had been carried forward by his son Radha Kishore Manikya. He become an innovative ruler like his father who desired to modernize Tripura. He was an enthusiastic, energetic, and patriotic ruler.

**Radha Kishore Manikya as an administrative reformer:**

The King reformed the system of education by introducing many modern trends. The duration witnessed many reforms within side the health department and police department. The agricultural policies of the nation had been additionally reformed as a maximum of Tripura's economic system sustained on its cotton and tea production. The King did away with the oppressive manipulation of Dewans who had been extracting unfair land sales. To get greater sales of land, many new land reforms were implemented. Radha Kishore become regarded to be a benign ruler. He usually recommended the welfare of his topics. The Victoria Memorial medical institution in Agartala become built by him. The recovery paintings of the palace become undertaken through resources that had been the budget of the taxpayers. The King declared the restored palace as a not unusual place for assets of humans of the nation in addition to the royal family. He was a fantastic client of literature and learning. During his tenure, he accomplished remarkable things, reforming all aspects of his administration. Aside from noble works in the kingdom such as the establishment of schools, colleges, and a hospital (Victoria Memorial), he assisted Rabindranath Thakur's International University at Bolpur, the Bengal Technical Institute, and the establishment of Comilla Victoria College. He was well-known for establishing relationships with great people of the time and for providing financial assistance to Jagdish Chandra Bose, Hema Chandra Bandopadya, and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Sen.

### 3. Maharaja Birendra Kishore Manikya ( 1909-1923 A.D)

Birendra Kishore Manikya reigned as King of Tripura from November 25, 1909, to 1923. He succeeded Radha Kishore Manikya, who is remembered as one of modern Tripura's architects, having built many educational institutions and Ujjayanta Palace. Birendra Kishore was 26 when he ascended to the throne of Tripura. Birendra Kishore Manikya is well-known for his administrative reforms, humanitarian efforts, and consistent efforts to spread education. He was also a well-known musician and painter.

#### **Birendra Kishore Manikya as an administrative reformer:**

Birendra Kishore's contribution to the state has been in his consistent attempts to promote administrative reform, outreach, and education. He divided the state into his ten administrative units based on his subdivision model and in 1909 introduced into the administration the Civil Service Examination System to recruit talented young people. The position of chief secretary was established in 1909. In 1909 he re-established the Civil Service, which recruited high-ranking state officials, including the posts of Police Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Police. The new Gun Law and Penal Code Amendment Act he passed in 1911. A small staff under the Senior Inspectorate was hired for Detective purposes. The number of reported cases in the state is consistently low. Birendra Kishore has taken the first initiative to explore the potential of tea cultivation in Tripura by commissioning a study by experts. During his reign, 40 tea estates were established in Tripura. The King had granted his formal license to the Burmese Oil Company to explore for oil, gas, and minerals at Tripura in 1916 after surveys conducted at indicated potential deposits. He also set up a silk weaving center at Agartala and embarked on the development of agriculture. In view of financial condition of the state Maharaja take an important step to appoint a retrenchment committee in 1911 with most efficient and skilled officers of the state. A group of non official experts examine the financial condition of the state and report to the retrenchment committee. By consistent effort Maharaja in a scientific way able to overcome from the problems.

### 4. Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya (1923-1947 A.D)

He succeeded after his father passed away when he was only 16 years old, and the royal house was shown a massive assemblage of people numbering in the lakhs during the Rajyavishek ceremony, which included distinguished guests such as Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, H.H.Rajan sahib of Kotla, representative of Dulpur Durbar, and Nawab Mussruf Hussain, Minister of Bengal.

#### **Bir Bikram Manikya as an administrative reformer:**

The Manikya dynasty's Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Debbarma is widely regarded as Tripura's forerunner. Bir Bikram is attributed to designing the kingdom's capital, Agartala. Bir Bikram built Tripura's first airport in Agartala. He also established one of the country's first municipalities. He established Tripura's first university and built schools. Maharaja Bir Bikram laid the groundwork for Tripura's high literacy rate. As a trained soldier Maharaja himself took initiative to reorganize the state army. He took efficient path to attract youth and able meritorious person to serve the state. A graded service was introduced and makes its headquarter in Kunjaban, Agartala. Under the high-octane leadership the state has made great progress. His son, Kirit Bikram Kishore Manikya, donated 25 acres of land in 1959 for the construction of a hospital in the heart of Agartala and was the princely state's last reigning monarch before it was merged with India in 1949. During the Bangla famine, the Tripura royal family sent food grains to the citizens of Bengal. Both Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore and his son, Maharaja Kirit Bikram Kishore Manikya, played important roles in providing refuge to Hindu Bengalis fleeing East Bengal during partition, saving lives and sheltering people facing persecution. Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Debbarma was the king of Tripura State till 1947. He is known as the "Father of Modern Architecture" in Tripura. During his reign, the entire planning of modern-day Tripura began. He was a forerunner in land reform. He set aside land for the native Tripura people in 1939. This step was later conducive in the establishment of the Tripura autonomous district council. Bir Bikram, Maharaja Kishore Manikya Debbarma ruled Tripura State until 1947. One of his most notable accomplishments was the introduction of a written constitution. This was the subcontinent's first written constitution. By a declaration dated 14 April 1939, Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya promised to take effective steps to adopt, enact, and distribute a written constitution to his subjects.

#### **Conclusion:**

According to the context of this study, the Manikya dynasty's visionary, progressive, and illustration monarchs ranged from Maharaja Birchandra Manikya to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya, they supported and adhered to policies of inclusive and peace loving. Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya initiated Agartala's urbanization as well as progressive work in countryside. Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya take a crucial step to reformed in all departments of his administration. As well as for education established school and colleges. Due to earthquake royal palace was destroyed he renovate it. His son Maharaja Birendra Kishore Manikya started the scientific way of reformation in every sector of the kingdom. His Son Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya refereed as immemorial wealth and splendour of the East because of his big and kind hear ted work for his people as well as for other people. From 1931 to 1939, he was the first ruler to visit in Europe and America. It was because of his foresight that he reserved land for Tripura's Indigenous people (Native Tripuri), the result of which to be the current autonomous district council area. They all initiated a slew of policies, schemes, and reforms to help society grow. Their contributions to Tripura's modernization are greatly admired. In fact, their contribution to Tripura's development in every field should not be forgotten.

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