

**PROGRESSIVE  
TRIPURA**

Historiography owes a great deal to geneological tables for providing the posterity with generation to generation account of the historic dynasties. In the absence of records, history of many a notable descent is buried beyond recognition.

This book contains history of 'Tripura', an exotic geographical entity at the North-Eastern tip of India and one of the India's oldest states. The Tripura state priests encouraged by their Kings maintained historical record in Sanskrit and Bengali of the illustrious Ruling House from the pre-historic period down to the present day.

The present work is a pioneering attempt to present in English language a systematic history in a chronological order of 2840 years of Tripura Royal Family. The most attractive feature of the book lies in its charm of its descriptions, where facts are recorded in a fascinating style, lending a living interest to the account of events that have transpired in the different epochs of Tripura history.

The present book accompanied by captivating illustration would provide interesting reading to intelligentsia in general and would be a valuable possession for every library.

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# PROGRESSIVE TRIPURA

A.C. BHATTACHARYYA



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Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur.

# PROGRESSIVE TRIPURA



BY

**APURBA CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,**  
*EDITOR, CHUNTA PRAKASH.*



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**MANYABAR RANA SAHIB BODH JUNG BAHADUR**  
*Chief Secretary.*

**THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED**  
**AS A TOKEN OF SINCERE REGARD.**

## AUTHOR'S NOTE.

It is not an absolutely new ground that is sought to be broken in this work as more writers than one have already narrated the history of the Tripura Ruling family. The only justification that may be pleaded on behalf of this humble work is that all such works are either in Sanskrit or Bengali, there being up till now not a single work which attempts to present in the English language a systematic history in chronological order of the events of this illustrious Ruling House from the pre-historic period down to the present times. There have, no doubt, been news paper articles here and there dealing with certain particular aspects of one Ruling Chief or another but that is hardly sufficient to present a complete picture of the achievements of this ancient Ruling House. To get together authentic materials for compiling a complete up-to-date history, separated from legends that invariably get woven round incidents, is no easy task.

*Rajmala* ends with the regime of Maharaja Kashi Chandra. *Rajmala* as compiled by the late Babu Kailash Chandra Sinha concludes with only a brief reference to the events of the reigns of Maharaja Krishna Kishore, successor of Kashi Chandra, Maharaja Ishan Chandra and Maharaja Birchandra Manikya. The story has been fully carried on in this work from where the *Rajmala* left it and the narration of incidents of the latter part of the reign of Bir Chandra as well as that of Maharaja Radhakishore Manikya, Maharaja Birendra Kishore Manikya and the present ruler is exclusively our own collection. It appears that from the reign of Krishna Kishore the State chroniclers were busy in re-editing and compiling the *Rajmala* and hence no systematic attempt has been made to continue the record of events after Maharaja Krishna Kishore in black and white. Our task has therefore been extremely difficult. Since the work was taken in hand unforeseen difficulties came in our way and hindered our progress to a considerable extent. In the circumstances it is natural that the book has not been entirely free from blemishes. If however, any opportunity presents itself of bringing out a second edition, attempts will be made to eliminate these defects as far as practicable.

I take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Dewan Saheb K. P. Dutt M. A. B. L. M. R. A. S. (London) Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja Manikya Bahadur who has furnished me with all papers and records regarding the legislature and also photos from the State archives. The advice and help of my friend Mr. Bidhu Bhusan

Sen-Gupta, Editor, Free Press of India, was simply indispensable to me. I had a right to claim his assistance at every step and my hearty thanks are naturally due to him for all he has done to lighten my labours. I had to indent upon the kindness of many others for information and materials in connection with this work. Among them following names should be particularly mentioned :— Pandit Kali Prasanna Sen Bidyabhushan, Mr. Satya Ranjan Bose B. A.—Under Secretary, Mr. Subodh Chandra Mukherjee B. A.—Personal Clerk to His Highness, and Mr. Syama Charan Chakravarty —State Artist.

I feel I cannot close this note of thanks without making, however briefly, a reference to Babu Ramanath Chakravarty, Pleader, High Court, Agartala. I need not try to describe how each of them helped me to complete this work. But I will say only this that without their sincere desire to stand by me I could not have discharged the duty I voluntarily accepted. My thanks are due to all of them.

CALCUTTA  
25th Sept. 1930.

}

A. C. BHATTACHARYYA.

## INTRODUCTION.

The history of Tripura State whose rulers claim their descent from legendary heroes of the Lunar dynasty is a story not only of solid achievements but of great human interest. There is hardly any Ruling House in India which can claim the privilege of 2,840 years of uninterrupted rule and has stood the ravages of times and shocks of wars, intrigues and revolutions so successfully and which has kept intact its ancient traditions and at the same time adapted itself to progressive changes so wonderfully. *Rajamala* which is a mixture of legend and history chronicles the story of this historic house in such a wealth of details that it has even evoked the admiration of Western scholars. Rev. James Long in his analysis of *Rajamala* (printed in Asiatic Society's journal in 1850) has referred to the book in eloquent terms as a document of great historical importance. It is a critical review of the achievements of Tripura Rulers. Long rightly says that *Rajamala* is "a curiosity as presenting us with the oldest specimen of Bengali composition extant, the first part of it having been compiled in the beginning of the 15th century."

The present Ruler Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur whose accession in 1927 has raised great expectations in the minds of the people is the 153rd Ruler from Daitya whose great-grandson Trilochan attended the *Rajshuya Jagna* of Emperor Judhisthir. Writing about Tripura kings Rai Bahadur Dr. Dinesh Chandra Sen says :—"From Saka 1380 to Saka 1850 we have a substantially correct history of the Tippera Raj which, in my opinion, presents materials far more trustworthy than the *Raj Tarangini* of Kalhan. The most attractive feature of the *Rajamala* lies in the charm of its descriptions, where facts are recorded in a fascinating style lending a living interest to the account of events that have transpired in the different epochs of Tripura history "

The twenty third pillar inscriptions of Samudra Gupta make mention of Tripura as a powerful State. This is unassailable evidence that Tripura was a flourishing State in the fourth century A. D. During this long period the history of Tripura is mainly an unbroken record of brilliant military victories in which several heroic and patriotic queens also played a prominent part. The name of the queen of Ohhengthum Fa who led the Tripura army against the Emperor of Gour and annexed Meherkul after inflicting a crushing defeat will ever live in history as a record of glorious achievement.

Tripura Rulers have most of them been high priests of culture and the patronage bestowed by them for the culture of Bengali language forms an interesting chapter in the history of Tripura which found and still find frequent manifestations not only in the help rendered to literary men and literary institutions but also in the keen interest taken by the Rulers themselves in literary pursuits.

The author of *Progressive Tripura* has in this decent volume presented within a short compass this interesting story from the legendary period down to the present times in a manner worthy of his past success recorded in the pages of *Chunta Prakash*. In this book facts have been separated from legends with a critical analysis of events based on solid foundations of history and the story has been carried on with conspicuous ability from where the *Rajamala* left it. Thus from the point of view of a connected story of Tripura House the book has great historical importance and so far as the Modern Period is concerned contains a record of events which, I am confident, will afford ample interesting materials for future historians. The progress recorded in *Progressive Tripura* does not consist in the military achievements and conquests of the ancient period, the necessity for external defence having disappeared with the assumption of control of the same by the Paramount Power, but in the record of liberal dispensation of the fruits of peace viz, education, sanitation, arts, literature, industry and commerce and the utilisation of the resources of the State for the welfare and happiness of the people. For a proper appreciation of the sincere efforts of the author for the presentation of Tripura history in an intelligible form down to the present Ruler, for the first time in English, the reader is referred to the fascinating story that is unfolded in the subsequent pages.

CALCUTTA,  
FREE PRESS OF INDIA,  
27th September, 1930.

} B. SEN GUPTA.

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| 2. Budha          | 28. Kanian            |
| 3. Pururaba       | 29. Pratisraba        |
| 4. Ayu            | 30. Pratistha         |
| 5. Nahush         | 31. Shatrujit         |
| 6. Jajati         | 32. <b>Pratarddan</b> |
| 7. <b>Druhyu</b>  | 33. Pramatha          |
| 8. Babhru         | 34. Kalinda           |
| 9. Setu           | 35. Krama             |
| 10. Aradban       | 36. Mitrari           |
| 11. Gandhar       | 37. Baribarha         |
| 12. Dharma        | 38. Karmuk            |
| 13. Dhrita        | 39. Kalinga           |
| 14. Durmada       | 40. Bhishan           |
| 15. Pracheta      | 41. Bhanumitra        |
| 16. Parachi       | 42. Chitra Sen        |
| 17. Parabasu      | 43. Chitraratha       |
| 18. Parishad      | 44. Chitraudha        |
| 19. Arijit        | 45. Daitya            |
| 20. Sujit         | 46. <b>Tripura</b>    |
| 21. Pururaba      | 47. Trilochan         |
| 22. Bibarna       | 48. Dakshmin          |
| 23. Puru Sen      | 49. Taidakshmin       |
| 24. Meghavarna    | 50. Sudakshmin        |
| 25. Bikarna       | 51. Tardakshmin       |
| 26. Basuman       | 52. Dharmataru        |
| 27. Kirti         |                       |

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53. Dharmapal
  54. Sadharma
  55. Tarabanga
  56. Debang
  57. Nabangit
  58. Dharmangada
  59. Rukmangada
  60. Somangada
  61. Noujug Rai
  62. Tarajunga
  63. Rajdharma
  64. Hamraj
  65. Bir Raj
  66. Sree Raj
  67. Sreeman
  68. Lakshmitaru
  69. Rupaban
  70. Lakshmban
  71. Nageswar
  72. Jogeswar
  73. Niladhwaja
  74. Basuraj
  75. Dhanaraj Fa
  76. Harihar
  77. Chandra Sekhar
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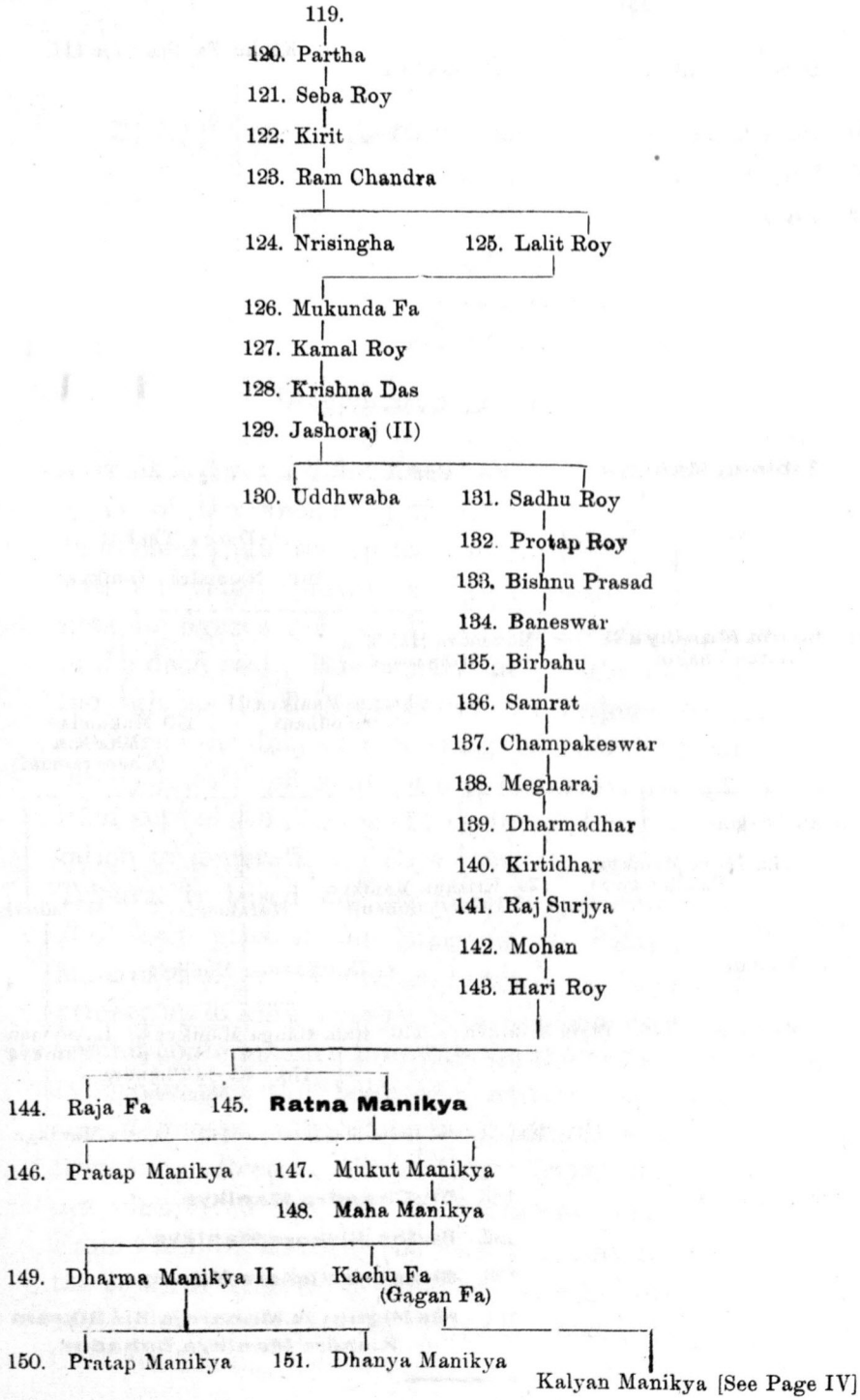
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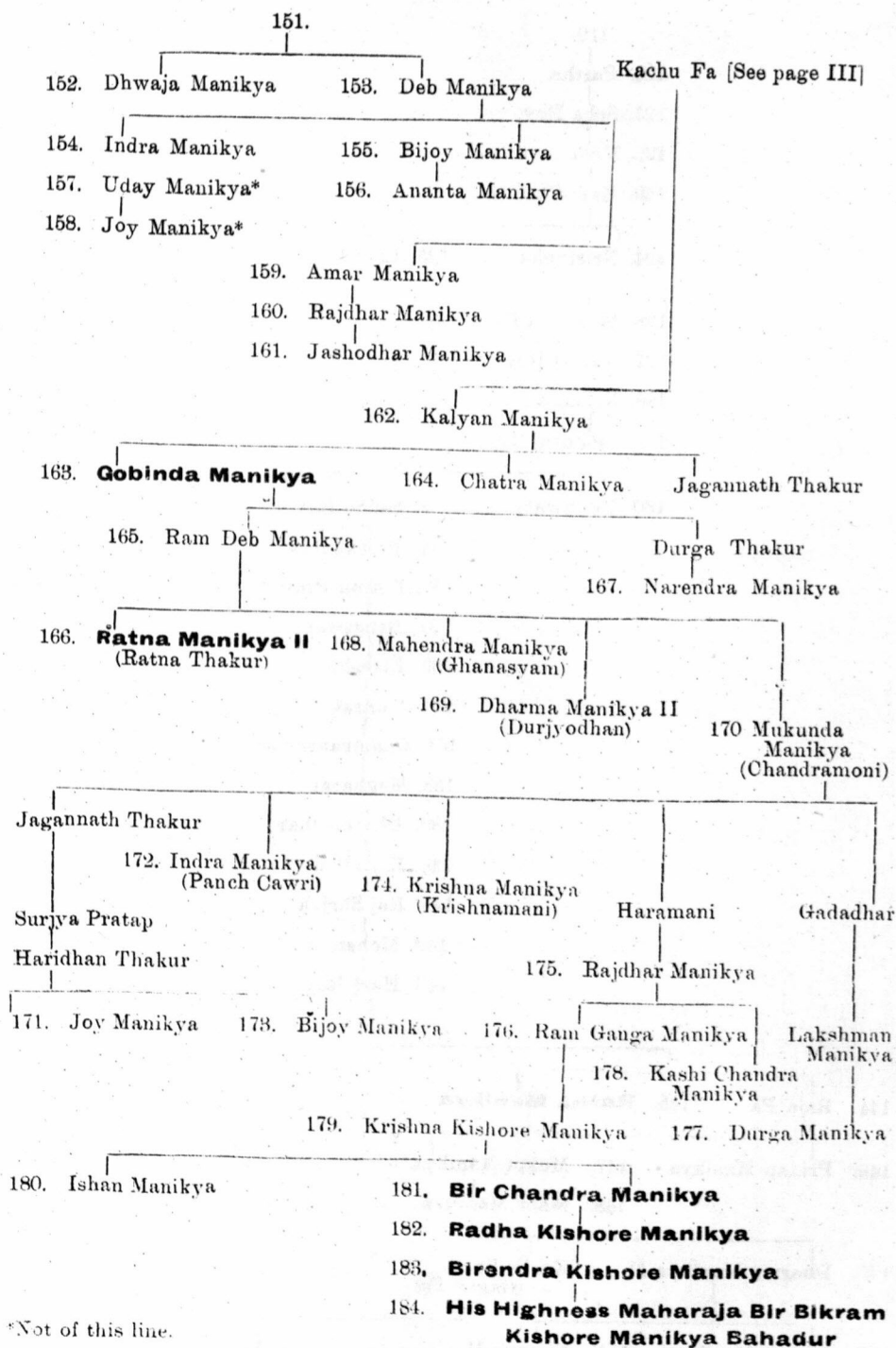
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First page of original Bengali Rajmala.

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Last page of original Bengali Rajmala.





## SOME VALUABLE WORKS OF ALLIED INTEREST

An Anthology of Tripura / *Jagadis Gan-Chaudhuri*, 1985, xii, 131 p., 20 Tables, 12 Illus., Index, 26 cm.

Glimpses of Tibet, Nepal and the Himalayan Mountains / *P. F. Etherton*, 1983 (c. 1934), iv, 297 p., 79 Illus., Index, 23 cm.

Human Resources of North-Eastern India / *J. P. Singh*, 1982, xii, 202 p., 27 Maps, 45 Tables, Abbreviations, Bibliography, Index, 23 cm.

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Manipur Tribal Scene : *Studies in Society and Change* / *Rajat Kanti Das*, 1985, xii, 106 p., 4 Figs., 14 Illus., 6 Tables, Bibliography, Index, 26 cm.

A Political History of Tripura / *Jagadis Gan-Chaudhuri*, 1985, xiv, 92 p., 25 Tables, 12 Illus., Tripura Merger Agreement, Index, 26 cm.

Tibet, The Mysterious / *Sir Thomas Holdich*, 1983, (c. 1906), xii, 356 p., 32 Maps, Bibliography, Index, 23 cm.

Tripura : *A Profile* / *S. N. Chatterjee*, 1984, xii, 66 p., 5 Illus., 8 Tables, Bibliography, Glossary, Index, 26 cm.

Tripura : The Land and Its People / *Jagadis Gan-Chaudhuri* (ed.), 1980, viii, 180 p., 4 Illus., 15 Tables, Index, 23 cm.



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