

National Seminar
On
“Birsa Munda and Freedom Struggle of India”

November 19, 2021

Organised by

Department of English
Maharaja Bir Bikram University,
Agartala, Tripura

In collaboration with

Tribal Research and Cultural Institute
Under

Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tripura
Agartala, Tripura

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Concept Note

Birsa Munda is revered as an icon across tribal communities. Birsa Munda fought bravely against the British colonial system and spearheaded a movement against British oppression, thereby giving a call for 'Ulgulan' meaning Revolution. Although, Munda lived for a short span, nevertheless, he was known to have mobilised the tribal community and had also forced the colonial officials to introduce laws that would protect the land rights of the tribal communities. His spirit of activism in the late nineteenth century made him a name to be remembered forever. Born and raised in the tribal belt of the two Indian States, namely around Bihar and Jharkhand, Birsa Munda's achievements are known to be even more commendable by the very fact that he came to acquire them even before he was 25 years of age. The feat that Munda achieved was seen as so important that, in fact, in recognition of his impact on the national movement, the state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary in the year 2000. Munda was born on November 15, 1875. He spent much of his childhood moving from one village to another with his parents. Munda belonged to the Munda tribe in Chhotanagpur plateau area. He received his early education at Salga under the guidance of his teacher Jaipal Nag. On the recommendation of his teacher, Munda converted to Christianity in order to join the German Mission School. However, he opted out of that school after a few years. Munda started the faith of 'Birsait', because he gained awareness of the British colonial ruler and the efforts of the missionaries to convert tribals to Christianity. During the period, 1886 to 1890, Birsa Munda spent a large amount of time in Chaibasa which was close to the centre of the Sardars agitation. The activities of the Sardars had a strong impact on the mind of the young man, who soon became a part of the anti-missionary and anti-government program. By the time he left Chaibasa in 1890, Birsa Munda was strongly involved in the movement against the British oppression of the tribal communities. Munda was arrested on March 3, 1900, by the British police while he was sleeping with his tribal guerilla army at

Jamkopai forest in Chakradharpur. He died in Ranchi jail on June 9, 1900 at a young age of 25. As a part of the year-long commemoration of 75 years of Independence, the Union Cabinet has also approved declaration of November 15 as "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas" to remember the contribution of Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters.

This national webinar proposes to understand-

1. the role of Birsa Munda in the Freedom Struggle of India,
2. His ideas and thought towards development of adivasi or tribal people in India
3. the relevance of Birsa Munda in the 21st century.

About Maharaja Bir Bikram University

Maharaja Bir Bikram University, established by an Act of Tripura Legislative Assembly, began its maiden journey in 2015. Situated in a lush of green landscape adjacent to MBB College, Agartala, the university intends to sail through the vibrant world of academia with objective of encouraging imagination, innovations and ideas in the newly emerging academic disciplines without ignoring the vast knowledge that have been accumulated over long period of human civilization.

Department of English

The Department of English, MBB University was established in the year 2016. The aim and objective of the Department are to prepare the students as well-conversant and knowledgeable in the vast world of English Literature and Language. The students of the Department are nurtured and encouraged to pursue research. The Department conducts international, national webinars, seminars and students seminars on regular manner.

Invitation

The seminar will be held in the Conference Hall, Academic Block, MBB University, College Tilla, Agartala, Tripura. Eminent Resource Persons have been invited. All are cordially invited to participate in the seminar.