

Divisions emerge on renaming of Agartala airport

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In an attempt to pay tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, the first Nobel laureate in literature from Asia, on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary, Left ruled Tripura government has decided to rename the airport. The airport will be renamed after the Nobel laureate who had intimate relation with the state & came here many times. Tripura government has already sent the proposal to the Centre for consideration in this regard. But the decision created heavy resentment amongst a section of the intellectuals who strongly advocated for Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur, ancient ruler & architect of modern Tripura. Surprisingly, the different school of thought has reached into an extreme climax & extended up to the grassroot level which is bound to precipitate in the days to come. Having been informed about the facts, written on the pages of glorious history, one may stand against another undeniably to establish the rhythm. But reality reflects adversity in the form of division which contents of set orders & sub approaches. www.tripuratoday.com carried out a survey & talked with intellectuals of the state to gauge their opinion on this controversial matter. There is clear cut division amongst them over this debatable matter. Those who are in favour of renaming the airport after Maharaja includes -



Bikach Chowdhury (eminent writer & researcher): If renaming is required then I advocated for Maharaja because history knocks at the door to recognize the activity be lated.

Rabindra Debbarma (Political leader): Maharaja is the founder. So, on no account, Agartala airport is renamed as Rabindranath Tagore airport ignoring the truth.

Phulan Bhattacharya (Social activist): Agartala airport should renamed as Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur. The ancient ruler had dedicated himself for the modernization of Tripura. ancient ruler & architect of modern Tripura. ancient ruler & architect of modern Tripura.

Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhal (MLA): Bijoy kumar Hrangkhal has expressed his reasonable grievances over the controversy of renaming of Agartala airport raised by the resolution of the Government of Tripura recently. Terming Rabindranath Tagore as Guruji, Mr. Hrangkhal asserted that Tagore is an Universally acclaimed personality & respected by all. But the renaming of airport in the name of guruji is mismatched as Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur, ancient ruler & architect of modern Tripura had built the same one. Although it is acknowledged that the Nobel laureate had intimate relation with the state & came here many times. He mentioned that a resolution had already sent to the Centre in favour of Maharaja earlier. But no initiative has been taken so far considering the matter. Clearly the assembly resolution has not been able to deter the INPT state president from his stance taken on this matter. He has decided to remain firm on his determination to support any demand for renaming the Agartala airport after Maharaja. Mr.Hrangkhal peevd on controversy over renaming of Agartala airport.

Nanda Kumar Debbarma (Writer): The credit should be rushed to the indigenous founder Maharaja for his work. And it is the time to recognize him through renaming the national airport. The Government should consider the matter.

On the other hand, those who are in favour of rechristening of the airport after Rabindranath Tagore includes-



Tithi Debbarman (Eminent Rabindra sangeet singer): If renaming is required then I pleaded for Kabiguru because it is the universally appreciated name & the history of Tripura is neatly intimate to Kabiguru.

Radhacharan Debbarma (Executive Member of TTAADC): What the State Government has decided in the assembly it is in the right direction.

Jiten Chowdhury (Minister for Industry): I was in the state assembly. I don't want to get myself dragged in any controversy.

Some others were not to eager to pass their opinion on the matter. They include-
Prof. Auronoday Saha (Vice-chancellor, Tripura university) .