

TRACE BACK TO FORMATION OF BPPF: *ITS SPLIT AND PERFORMANCE*

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INTRODUCTION

The political parties are indispensable group for the working of democratic government. They play an important role in interest articulation and interest aggregation of the masses. It can enable the people to take part in the government's activity directly or indirectly. In an era of adult suffrage they establish a direct and intimate contact with their supporters and sympathizers and contest elections with a view to capture power of government. The election manifesto promises to implement their development programmes of social reconstruction and general welfare for the people. The different political parties with different ideologies compete with each other to gain majority of seats and to form the government. Political party may be national or regional in their kinds. The national political party holds broader area and activity than the regional party.

Definition of political Party: A political party according to Burke is "a body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavours, upon some particular principles in which they are all agreed". Maciver defines political party as "an association organized in support of some principles or policy which by constitutional means it endeavors to make the determinant of government". To prof. Leacock, political party is "as more or less organized group of citizens who act together as a political unit". They share or profess to share the same opinions on public questions and by exercising their voting power towards a common end, seek to obtain control of the government".

Basic Features of political party:

It is a voluntary unit or association.

II. It is formed by persons holding common views on certain basic political, economic and other matters.

III. It must be organized and possess well laid down rules and regulations.

IV. Its members believe in peaceful and constitutional methods.

V. It aims at capturing political power with a view to promote public rather than narrow interest of the members.

RESULT OF SPLIT

History of Split of Political Parties: The split of the political parties whether national or regional has become a common practice since long years in India. The Indian National Congress formed in 1885 faced major split in 1969. Again it faced second split in 1978 between Indira Gandhi and Dev Raj Urs.

The Janata Party was formed in January 1977 by four parties, viz., congress (I), Jana Sangh, Socialist Party and Bharatiya Lok Dal. This party got split in 1980 and gave birth Bharatiya Janata Party.

Asom Gana Parishad of Assam was formed in 1985. It got split first in 1991 and gave birth Natun Asom Gana Parishad led by Bhigru kr. Phukan. The second split of AGP took place in 2000 led by Atul Bora. He formed Trinomul Gana Parishad. The third time split of AGP took place in 2005, Sept.15 led by former chief minister Prafalla Kr. Mahanta. He formed Asom Gana Parishad (Progressive).

Birth of BPPF: The Bodoland People's Progressive Front was formed on April, 13, 2005. The large and united intellectuals assembled at Ganga Cinema Hall and gave birth the new political party to rule Bodoland Territorial Council.

Structure: Executive Committee

1. Rabiram Narzary (President) 2.Chandan Brahma (Vice president) 3.Baktar Ali Ahmed (Vice President) 4.Hemendra Nath Brahma (General Secretary) 5.Emanuel Musahari (Secretary) 6.Sobharam Brahma. 7. Jagdish Sarkar 8.Lwmsrao Daimary 9.Niren Roy 10. Badan Hasda 11.Rihon Daimary

Policy Making Committee:

1.Hagrama Mohilary (Convenor) 2.Sansuma Kungur Bwiswmutiary (Member) 3.Urkao Gwra Brahma (Member) 4.Pramila Rani Brahma(Convenor) 5. Ten member representation from each district.

SPLIT of BPPF to BPF: It was observed during that time the student union's leader particularly the All Bodo Student Union being over ground activists had advantageous to play much more role in new dimension of new politics. The students leaders being much learned and experienced the politics since the formation of organization in 1967 had been leading the entire Bodo politics. It may be mentioned that the rigorous Bodo movement for the creation of separate land was streamlined by student organization. The historic achievement of Bodoland Autonomous Council in 1993 was result of agitation by student organization. Since that the whole direction for further democratic agitation for separate land was guided by student's organization.

The unthinking to equalize the representation of interest of the underground group with other intellectuals may be considered as one of the prime cause of division. Lack of equal inclusion of members in the new party from the signatories of accord dissatisfied them. For instance Hagrama Mohilary, chairman of Ex-BLT and signatory with the Indian government was offered neither president nor secretary of new party. Rather he was offered convenor of the party which seems a secondary role. The other high portfolio holders of Ex-BLT or signatories of accord were also not assigned primary roles.

As a result, signatory faction was in dissatisfaction since the inception of new party. So, Hagrama Mohilary, the chief executive member of Interim council lost interest in the parent party and started to support several independents candidate against official candidates in council polls.

Parallel formation of primary party:

1. Kokrajhar district co-mmittee: Karendra Brahma and Derhasat Basumatary were selected as president and secretary.

2. Parbatjhora committee: Hem Chandra Brahma and Nabajit Brahma were selected as president and secretary.

3. Gossaigaon unit: Majendra Brahma was elected as chief convener.

H. Mohilary Supported some independents candidate against official nomination during first election:

1. Dakendra nath Brahma against Sankarlal Brahma from Dotma constituency.

2. Reo Reoa Narzihary against Tiken Basumatary from Jamduar constituency.

3.Mono Kr. Brahma against Rabiram Narzary from Banargaon constituency.

Formal declaration of BPF(H): A great political convention under the leadership of Hagrama Mohilary on 4th & 5th December, 2005 at Debargaon took place and formal declaration of BPF(Bodoland Peoples Front) was made. Hagrama Mohilary and Emmanuel Mosahary were selected as President and general secretary of the new party. Shri Kampa Borgoyary was selected as publicity secretary or spokesman.

IDEOLOGY OF BPF

1. To administer the Bodoland and Assam as a whole through the Principles of Democracy, Socialism and Secularism.
2. To work for the eradication of poverty and for the upliftment of the downtrodden people living in Bodoland and Assam as a whole.
3. To work for strengthening the Indian Nationalism providing due respect to the identities of all sections of people.
4. To strive for the all-round development of the people of Bodoland as well as Assam.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (a) To work for the sovereignty and integrity of the country based on democracy, socialism and secularism.
- (b) To work for the political rights, economic development and social justice to all.
- (c) To make Bodoland a model and self-sufficient by influencing the state Govt. of Assam and the Govt. of India to explore the abundant natural resources like water, forest, minerals and human resources.
- (d) To work to free nationalism from the prejudices of castes, religions and languages to stand by the principles of co-operation, trust, tolerance, fraternity and co-existence.
- (e) To influence the Govt. of Assam, the Govt. of India and the national and international financial and industrial institutions to utilize their capacities to invest for the all round economic development of Bodoland.
- (f) To bring reforms in the field of education to suit present conditions.
- (g) To implement the Bodo Accord signed by B.L.T., Assam Govt. and the Govt. of India in letter and spirit as soon as possible with co-operations from all concerned.

SOCIAL BASE: The BPF led by Hagrama initially enjoyed huge support base from all sections of peoples and community of BTAD. In the first election five candidates including Hagrama won uncontested. Again Hagrama supported independents candidates became winner with huge margins and he had the support of maximum numbers of MCLA. In initial stage it enjoyed the base from Bodo, Muslim, Bengali, Adivashis, Business community and other tribes. It enjoyed much loyalty from youths, poor students, farmers, business groups, labourers, women etc.

DISCUSSION

PERFORMANCE: After the BTC accord on 10 February, 2003 with the central and state government, Lal Krishna Advani, Deputy Prime Minister, attended the first inaugural ceremony on 7 December, 2003 at Debargaon, Kokrajhar. The interim council of BTC was formed on 7 December, 2004 with following members:

SLNO	Name	Designation
1	Hagrama Mohilary	Chief
2	Chandan Brahma	Dy. Chief
3	Kampa Borgoyary	EM
4	Derhasad Basumatary	EM
5	Sabharam Basumatary	EM
6	Daken Basumatary	EM
7	Mitharam Basumatary	EM
8	Hitesh Basumatary	EM
9	Reo Reoa Narzihary	EM

10	Bishiram Narzary	EM
11	Badan Hasda	EM
12	Niren Roy	EM

The winners from BPF during the BTC election of 2005, May 13. The exact number of winners from the BPF could not be figured out because that time the BPF party was not formally declared and there were many candidates from BPPF who supported H. Mohilary. But it was clear that more than 90 percent winners were loyal to H. Mohilary.

SLNO	Name	Constituency/No	Designation
1	Hem Ch. Brahma	1 Porbotjora (ST)	MCLA
2	Rohindra Brahma	2 Guma (Open)	MCLA
3	Lakiram Tudu	3 Shrirampur (NST)	EM
4	Reo Reoa Narzihary	4 Jomduar (ST)	Speaker
5	Rajen Narzary	5 Saraibil (ST) uncontested	MCLA
6	Sobharam Basumatary	6 Kuchugaon (ST) uncontested	EM
7	Afzul Hoque Sarkar	7 Fakiragram (NST)	MCLA
8	Dokendra Nath Brahma	8 Dotma (ST)	MCLA
9	Mono Kr Brahma	9 Banargaon (ST)	EM
10	Hagrama Mohilary	10 Deborgaon (ST) uncontested	Chief EM
11	Doneswar Goyari	11 Baokungri (ST)	MCLA
12	Derhasad Basumatary	12 Salakati (ST)	EM
13	Laben Basumatary	13 Chirang (ST)	MCLA
14	Kampa Borgoyary	14 Chirang Duar uncontested	Dy CEM
15	Chandan Brahma	15 Kajalgaon (ST) uncontested	Dy CEM til 2006
16	James Basumatary	16 Nishima (ST)	MCLA
17	Shinghoram Boro	17 Subhajhar (ST)	EM
18	Subhas Ch. Basumatary	18 Manas Serphang (ST)	MCLA
19	Kalilur Rahman	19 Turibari (Open)	MCLA
20	Makhan Swargiary	20 Mathanguri (open)	MCLA
21	Ranjit Kerkatary	21 Salbari (ST)	MCLA
22	Budhiram Narzary	22 Koklabari (ST)	EM
23	Munshing Brahma	23 Dhiraj (Open)	MCLA
24	Hitesh Basumatary	24 Mushalpur (ST)	EM
25	Bonomali Boro	25 Baganpara ST	MCLA
26	Emmanuel Musahary	26 Dorangajuli (ST)	EM
27	Robindra Bala	27 Nagrijuli (NST)	MCLA
28	Modon Mohon Musahary	28 Goybari Tamulpur ST	MCLA
29	Ganesh Kochari	29 Suklai Serphang ST	MCLA
30	Moheswar Basumatary	30 Goreswar (ST)	EM
31	Lwmsrao Daimary	31 Kwirabari (ST)	EM
32	Ratiram Boro	32 Bhergaon (ST)	MCLA
33	Santoj Kujur	33 Nanoi Serphang (NST)	MCLA
34	Banjar Daimary	34 Kaling Duar (ST)	MCLA
35	Kesab Ch. Deka	35 Mudwibari (open) AGP	MCLA
36	Kartik Boro	36 Harshinga (ST)	MCLA

37	Mitharam Basumatary	37 Dhanshiri (ST)	EM
38	Purna Kanta Dwimary	38 Bwirakunda (ST) Dy Speaker	MCLA
39	Shyam Sundhi	39 Pasnoi Serphang (NST)	EM
40	Alindra Musahary	40 Rowta (ST)	MCLA

The winners from BPF during the 2nd BTC election of April, 2010. BPF: 31, BPPF:1, UDPF: 1, Cong: 3, Ind:4

SLNO	Name	Constituency/No	party	Designation
1	Rabiram Narzary	1 Porbotjhora (ST)	BPPF	MCLA
2	Rahindra Brahma	2 Guma (Open)	BPF	MCLA
3	Cristom Tudu	3 Srirampur (NST)	Congress	MCLA
4	Reo Reoa Narzihary	4 Jomduar (ST)	BPF	EM
5	Debojit Narzary	5 Saraibil (ST)	BPF	MCLA
6	Sabharam Basumatary	6 Kuchugaon (ST)	BPF	EM
7	Afjal Hoque Sarkar	7 Fakiragram (NST)	IND	MCLA
8	Indra Mohan Brahma	8 Dotma (ST)	BPF	MCLA
9	Mono Kr. Brahma	9 Banargaon (ST)	BPF	EM
10	Hagrama Mohilary	10 Debargaon (ST)	BPF	Chief
11	Daneswar Goyary	11 Baokungri (ST)	BPF	MCLA
12	Derhasat Basumatary	12 Salakati (ST)	BPF	EM
13	Laben Basumatary	13 Chirang (ST)	BPF	MCLA
14	Kampa Borgoyari	14 Chirang Duar (ST)	BPF	DY Chief
15	Pani Ram Brahma	15 Kajolgaon (ST)	BPF	Speaker
16	James Basumatary	16 Nishima (ST)	BPF	EM
17	Tiren Basumatary	17 Subhaijhar (ST)	BPF	MCLA
18	Subhas Ch. Basumatary	18 Manas Serphang (ST)	BPF	MCLA
19	Khalilur Rahman	19 Thuribari (Open)	IND	MCLA
20	Makhan Swargiyari	20 Mothanguri (Open)	IND	MCLA
21	Ranjit Kherketari	21 Salbari (ST)	BPF	MCLA
22	Budhi Narzary	22 Koklabari (ST)	BPF	MCLA
23	Moon Singh Brahma	23 Dihira (Open)	BPF	MCLA
24	Hitesh Basumatary(till 2011) and Ansumwi Kungur Boro	24 Mushalpur (ST)	BPF	EM/MCLA
25	Bonomali Boro	25 Baganpara (ST)	BPF	EM
26	Emmanuel Mosahary(till 2011) and Bijitgwra Narzary	26 Darangajuli(ST)	BPF	EM/MCLA
27	Rabindra Bala Biswas	27 Nagrijuli (NST)	BPF	MCLA
28	Deben Boro	28 Goibari (ST)	BPF	MCLA
29	Ganesh Kachary	29 Suklai serphang (ST)	BPF	EM
30	Pabitra Kr. Boro	30 Goreswar (ST)	IND	MCLA
31	Lwmsrao Daimary	31 Kwirabari (ST)	BPF	EM
32	Rati Ram Boro	32 Bhergaon (ST)	BPF	MCLA
33	Santoj Kr. Kujur	33 Nanoi Serphang (NST)	Congress	MCLA
34	Bonjar Daimary	34K aling Duar (ST)	BPF	Dy Speaker
35	Jagadish Sarkar	35 Mwdwibar (Open)	BPF	MCLA

36	Kartick Ch. Boro	36 Harshinga (ST)	BPF	MCLA
37	Mitharam Basumatary	37 Dhanshiri (ST)	BPF	EM
38	Pradip Kr. Daimary	38 Bhairabkunda (ST)	UDPF	MCLA
39	Jitu Kishan	39 Pasnwi Serfang(NST)	Cong	MCLA
40	Alindra Kr. Moshahary	Rowta 40 (ST)	BPF	MCLA

The winners from BPF and others during the 3rd BTC election of April 8, 2015. BPF: 20, People's coordination for democratic rights: 07, AIUDF: 4, Sanmilitya Janaghostiya Aikyo Mancha: 3, Anaboro Suraksha Samiti: 2, BJP: 1, Ind: 3. The result of 3rd BTC election shows the gradual declining of people support to BPF. On the other hand BPF have to face tough contest in every constituencies.

SLNO	Name	Constituency/No	party	Designation
1	Jatindra Nath Brahma	1 Porbotjhora (ST)	AIUDF	MCLA
2	Muminur Islam	2 Guma (Open)	AIUDF	MCLA
3	Srirampur	3 Abdul Kalek Mondol (NST)	SJAM	MCLA
4	Jiron Basumatary	4 Jamduar (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
5	Mritunjay Brahma	5 Saraibil (ST)	BPF	EM
6	Banamali Rabha	6 Kuchugaon (ST)	IND	MCLA
7	Abdul Ali Mondol	7 Fakiragram (NST)	AIUDF	MCLA
8	Jatindra Brahma	8 Dotma (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
9	Rajib Basumatary	9 Banargaon (ST)	BPF	EM
10	Hagrama Mohilary	10 Deborgaon (ST)	BPF	Chief EM
11	Doneswar Goyary	11 Baokungri (ST)	BPF	EM
12	Arpana Das	12 Salakati (ST)	SJAM	MCLA
13	Maoti Brahma Hazowary	13 Chirang (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
14	Kampa Borgoyary	14 Chirang Duar (ST)	BPF	Dy Chief
15	Rwngwra Narzary	15 Kajalgaon (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
16	Nirmal Kr. Brahma	16 Nishima (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
17	Guneswar Goyary	17 Subhaijhar (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
18	Atin Hajong	18 Manas Serfang (ST)	SJAM	MCLA
19	Maheneswar Roy	19 Turibari (Open)	ABSS	MCLA
20	Gautam Das	20 Mothanguri (Open)	BPF	MCLA
21	Sakradhar Das	21 Salbari (ST)	IND	MCLA
22	Anip Kr. Basumatary	22 Koklabari (ST)	PCDR	MCLA
23	Ghanashyam Das	23 Dihira (Open)	ABSS	MCLA
24	Ansumwi Kungur Boro	24 Mushalpur (ST)	BPF	EM
25	Phanindra Basumatary	25 Baganpara (ST)	BPF	MCLA
26	Bijit Gwra Narzary	26 Darangajuli (ST)	BPF	MCLA
27	Dharma Narayan Das	27 Nagrijuli (NST)	BJP	MCLA
28	Deben Boro	28 Goibari (ST)	BPF	EM
29	Ganesh Kochari	29 Suklai Serfang (ST)	BPF	EM
30	Maheswar Basumatary	30 Goreswar (ST)	IND	EM
31	Lwmsrao Daimary	31 Kairabari (ST)	BPF	EM
32	Nerswn Boro	32 Bhergaon (ST)	BPF	Dy Speaker
33	Suresh Tanti	33 Nanoi Serfang (NST)	BPF	MCLA

34	Bonjar Daimary	34 Kaling Duar (ST)	BPF	EM
35	Jagadish Sarkar	35 Mudwibari (Open)	BPF	EM
36	Tridip Daimary	36 Harisinga (ST)	BPF	Speaker
37	Robert Narzary	37 Dhansri (ST)	AIUDF	MCLA
38	Ripen Daimary	38 Bwirakunda (ST)	BPF	MCLA
39	Shyam Sundi	39 Pasnoi Serfang (NST)	BPF	EM
40	Alindra Mushahary	40 Rowta (ST)	BPF	EM

CONCLUSION

The split of nascent political party in the beginning gave negative impact upon the Bodo society. It has divided the intellectual leaders into two opposite direction in the crucial period of nation building. Long time unity for the cause of Bodo race was harmed by a little power politics. From glimpse about the performance of BPF in first two BTC elections, it shows excellence performance. It could enjoy the huge public support from different caste and communities in initial period. It may be mentioned that the supremo and others leaders of BPF were the signatories of BTC accord in 2003. The BTC accord heralded an upward dimension of Bodo politics and more involvement in state politics also. The Bodos have good representation in Assembly and three ministers in a term in the state backed by BPF. The BPF could have a coalition partner with the congress government in the state. In 2015 BTC poll the BPF could win 20 seats, one short of majority implying the gradual reducing of public support. On the other hand the BPPF led Rabiram Narzary since inception could play very poor performance in the BTC poll. He could win only one seat by himself in BTC poll in 2010. It can be said that the political consciousness and participation has been growing among the Bodo community after the accord of BTC. The contesting candidates in recent BTC poll have proved the growing political consciousness in the BTAD region. But recently the factionalism has cropped up among the key leaders which may lead the coalition government. The coalition government is weak in nation building which is very concern to Bodo community. The BTC accord is in the way to achieve greater milestone. It is observed from the recent electoral episode that the vote bank politics may have a chance in near future. The vote bank politics will be greatest challenge to cultural identity movement of any indigenous group in Assam.

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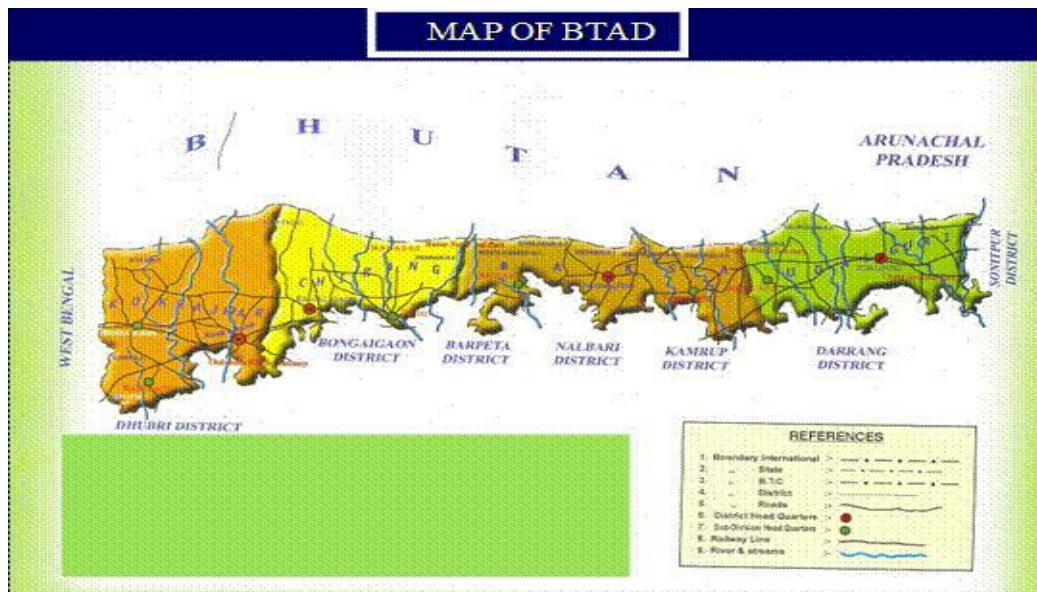


Fig: 1

DISTRICT WISE NO. OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN BTC ELECTION APRIL, 2015

SLNO	District	Total eligible Voters
1	KOKRAJHAR	5,85,971
2	CHIRANG	3,20,170
3	BAKSA	6,27,783
4	UDALGURI	5,30,175
	Total:	20,64,099

Table: 1

WINNERS FROM BPF AT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2006-2011:

SLNO	Name	Constituency/ No	Desiegnation
1	Smt. Pramila Rani Brahma	30 Kokrajhar East	Agri. Minister
2	Chandan Brahma	31 Sidli	Transport Minister
3	Rihon Daimary	69 Udalguri	PHE
4	Parameswar Brahma	29 Kokrajhar West	MLA
5	Majendra Narzary	28 Gossaigaon	MLA
6	Kamalsing Narzary	33 Bijni	MLA
7	Thaneswar Basumatary	63 Chapaguri	MLA
8	Maneswar Brahma	62 Barama	MLA
9	Smt. Kamali Rani Basumatary	64 Panery	MLA
10	Moheswar Boro	65 Kalaigaon	MLA
11	Karendra Nath Basumatary	70 Mazbat	MLA

Table: 2

WINNERS FROM BPF AT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2011-2016:

SLNO	Name	Constituency/ No	Designation
1	Banendra kumar Mushahary	24 Gauripur	MLA
2	Majendra Narzary	28 Gossaigaon	MLA
3	Pradip kumar Brahma	29 Kokrajhar West	MLA
4	Pramila Rani Brahma	30 Kokrajhar East	MLA
5	Chandan Brahma	31 Sidli	MLA
6	Kamalshing Narzary	33 Bijni	MLA
7	Emmanuel Mosahary	58 Tamulpur	MLA
8	Maneswar Brahma	62 Barama	MLA
9	Hitesh Basumatary	63 Chapaguri	MLA
10	Kamali Basumatari	64 Panery	MLA
11	Rihon Daimari	69 Udalguri	MLA
12	Rakheswar Brahma	70 Mazbat	MLA

Table: 3