



Research Paper

Kishor Barman: An Organised and Visionary Leader of Tripura.

Ananta Das

UGCNET, NESLET

PGT in English

Konaban (W) Class XII School

Bishalgarh, Sepahijala Tripura, India

Abstract:

From an activist of the Sangh parivar to the Minister of Higher Education and two other portfolios, Shri Kishor Barman's leadership journey is nothing short of transformational. He is not just the leader of Tripura but a man of vision, execution and resilience. Whether you admire his politics or not, one thing is undeniable - Barman gets things done. He has faced many obstacles and storms and walked out stronger each time. He learns fast, resets faster and rarely loses emotional control in public. Great leadership starts with personal mastery. His life is centered around service and self control. Discipline is reflected in his consistency, stamina and sharp focus. He possesses emotional and cultural intelligence which is a secret leadership weapon. Kishor Barman is not only a dynamic leader of Tripura but also a man of high integrity. The simplicity of nature is the main attraction of his personality. He is an orator par excellence, whose speech are listened with attention by friends and foes inside and outside the assembly. The present paper is an honest attempt to attract the attention of the readers and researchers towards the role and contribution of Shri Kishor Barman in the politics of Tripura.

Keywords: Leadership, Transformational, Personal Mastery, Discipline, Personality, Orator

Received 01 Apr., 2026; Revised 06 Apr., 2026; Accepted 08 Apr., 2026 © The author(s) 2026.

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I. Introduction:

Born on December 12, 1980, at Kemtali, Sepahijala Tripura to Shri Amar Chand Barman and Smt. Raidhani Barman, Shri Kishor Barman acquired and learned the lesson to do something for the country and society from his ideal parents. After getting the primary education from the Junior Basic School of Kemtali, he went to the Melaghar Class 12 School for the completion of his rest of the schooling and he had done it with flying colors. He obtained his Bachelor Degree with Honours in Bengali from Belonia Govt. Degree College, presently known as Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar College, Belonia and his Post Graduation in Bengali from the Tripura University. From the earlier days of his schooling, Barman's propensity and intensity to do something for the society and his nationalist spirit and consciousness developed through the National Service Scheme. When he went to the college, he came in contact with SFI, a student's organization of CPIM, but the ideological differences in terms of serving the nation, leads him to part ways with them. After quoting Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak Ji, we can say that - "The problem is not the lack of resources or capability, but the lack of Will"

After seeing his tenacity to do things for the 'Rashtrahit', one of the members of the SFI's told him to join the Vidyarthi Parishad to quench his ideological interest. If you want to do something for the well- being of people and for the nation, it will cost you in different ways. Shri Barman's journey too was not less than a roller coaster ride. In his college days, he had contributed a satirical piece of his writings in the magazine named 'Titas' and the followers of the then party thought it as a tool of criticism which satirizes the deeds of the then government and as a result of it he nearly lost his life by the attacks from the followers of the communist party. But as it is in his nature, he always bounces back. He often quotes his inspiration Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji -

"Haar nahi manunga,
Raar nahi thanunga,

Kaal ke kapaal par likhta mitata hoon.
Geet naya gata hoon”.

Shri Barman's indomitable spirit to keep fighting to the odds and his never give up approaches in the face of adversity makes him a man of merit and a true organized leader.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) To look at how Kishor Barman becomes a leader and how his early life influenced his political and social beliefs.
- 2) To attract the attention of the readers and researchers towards the role and contribution of Shri Barman in the politics of Tripura.
- 3) To examine the contribution of Shri Barman in education.
- 4) To find out the socio- political contribution of Shri Barman in the political landscape of Tripura.

II. Research Methodology:

In tune with the objectives mentioned above, a close study have been carried out to explore Kishor Barman's contributions to the politics of Tripura, highlighting his role as a visionary and organized leader, his political ideology and his oratory skills. This study adopts a qualitative research methodology, an approach considered particularly suitable for analyzing complex and multifaceted concepts such as leadership styles and personal integrity. By utilizing qualitative methods, the research aims to provide an in- depth understanding of how Shri Barman formulated and applied his leadership principles.

III. Discussion:

ABVP Activist: Kishor Barman started his social activity as a dedicated activist for the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), where he performed various responsibilities like ABVP's branch editor of college, district convener and Tripura state editor. On November 26, 2002, he first actively participated in a student's gathering in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan at the call of ABVP against commercialization and privatization of education. In 2003, through a programme called "Inter-State Student Philosophy", he traveled across the country. And during that time he came in contact with the then President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in Delhi and received his kind words and blessings. Inspired by Dr. Kalam's thinking, passion and approach towards nation where he says - "The ignited mind of the youth is the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth, and under the earth" (Ignited Minds) which means empowering youth and highlighting their potential is India's greatest asset for development, Shri Barman took vow of serving the country and the society. At that time, he came in contact with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and joined the Sangh. In 2006, through Vidhyarthi Parishad's anti- infiltration movement, he reached out to the people through his views. During this time, he gained special knowledge about the country's security and the problems at the border by actively participating in the Indo-Bangladesh Border Survey.

Political Journey:

Kishor Barman spent the core of his political career in West Bengal which shaped him as a dexterous leader. The central leadership of ABVP did not delay in understanding the dedication and honesty of Shri Barman as an activist. As a result in 2007, he was brought to West Bengal and was given the responsibility of Organizational Secretary of Kolkata Metropolitan. In 2011, he was given the responsibility of Vidyarthi Parishad's co-organizational secretary of the province of West Bengal. Under his guidance and leadership, the nationalist youth society has organized a bold movement against corruption of the UPA government across the country through the "Youth Against Corruption: A Fight for solution" platform. Under Shri Barman's extraordinary organizational management and leadership skills a massive student movement began across West Bengal against appeasement in educational institutions with the demand "Save Campus-Save Education". Barman was later appointed as the State Co-Organization Secretary of West Bengal and was instrumental in the BJP's historic victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He was given the responsibility of eight seats of North Bengal in that election, where the BJP won seven and achieved a landslide victory with a huge margin. Even in the 2021 State election of West Bengal, under his leadership, Bharatiya Janata Party won thirty seats out of fifty four which was given to him. Later the central leadership gave him the responsibility of his own state, Tripura. After 14 years, he has returned to his home state as an organizational secretary, which made the people of Tripura very ecstatic. To strengthen the party's core in his own constituency (21-Nalchar) , which was in headlines for humiliating a 'Karyakarta' of the Bharatiya Janata Party at a national level by beating him at the party office of Nalchar of the then government, the central leadership has sent Shri Barman to bring the glory back and win the seat for the party.

However, his journey was not an easy going one. He has faced attacks repeatedly for raising his voice against the communists. Attempts have been made to kill him several times and even the goons of the party attacked his car during the 2018 Tripura Assembly elections. But as it is in his nature, whatever the obstacles are he always resurrects himself and rises out of the ashes. To quote Shivmangal Singh Suman ji-

“ Kya haar mein, kya jeet mein
Kinchit nahi vyabhit mein
Sangharsh path par jo mile, yeh bhi sahi woh bhi sahi
Vardaan manunga nahi”.

Shri Barman's resilience, acceptance, and self-reliance in the face of life's challenges, makes him a true visionary leader.

2023: A Turning point in Stalwart's career:

Kishor Barman is a stalwart, a loyal and hardworking 'Karyakarta' of the Bharatiya Janata Party who's able to keep on going even when things get hard. Kishor Barman began his political journey in West Bengal, where he served as a national secretary of the ABVP and later as the BJP's assistant organizational secretary in North Bengal. He played a crucial role in the BJP's performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly elections in the region. Based on his success, the BJP central leadership sent him to his home state Tripura ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections to strengthen the party's presence. He got his first break in the electoral politics in 2023 assembly elections and clinched success in his debut electoral bout from Nalchar Constituency. His dedication, hard works paid off the moment he was inducted into the Cabinet. It was like blessings in disguise after the first phase of his nuptial ceremony i.e., engagement ceremony with Gargi Mandal, he was elevated into the Cabinet. They shared common values and visions which brought them together. On July 3, 2025, Barman was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister in Chief Minister Manik Saha's government, bringing the cabinet to its full strength of 12 members. He was assigned three key departments on July 11, 2025: Panchayat, Higher Education, and General Administration (Political). Barman's elevation to the cabinet is seen as a strategic move by the BJP central leadership to recognize his significant organizational contributions and grassroots work.

Social Work:

Shri Kishor Barman is a social democrat in spirit and practice. He is notably recognized for his involvement in grassroots social work and community welfare activities. Barman was associated with "Vidyarthi Vikas" an NGO dedicated to various social welfare programmes. Shri Barman was greatly inspired by the philosophy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's "Integral Humanism" where he said that the true progress is measured by the well-being of the most vulnerable and that society should function as a living, integrated organism where no part is left behind. Quoting Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Shri Barman also emphasized the importance of inclusivity and national service in the progress of the society –

"We are pledged to the service not of any particular community or section but of the entire nation. Every countryman is blood of our blood and flesh of our flesh. We shall not rest till we are able to give to every one of them a sense of pride that they are children of Bharatmata."

When Kishor Barman was in West Bengal, he had equal proficiency in constructive work. Through initiatives like Think India, Medivision and 'Jigyasa', he manages conferences for students of IITs, NITs, for medical students, and for Ayurvedic students. As part of the All-India program, an unparalleled project under his leadership was successfully completed through the 'Rural Life Philosophy' project, where urban students could observe the lifestyle of rural people with empathy and develop a sensitive mentality towards them. Understanding the transformative power of education, Barman emphasized the importance of education for the upliftment of the downtrodden. To him, education is a tool for nation building rather than merely earning a degree. Even before becoming an MLA, every year Shri Barman used to organize free coaching program for the students of Madhyamik and Higher secondary of his constituency and he even organized a coaching program for the TET aspirants to support their professional careers in March 2025 at Nalchar. Even in the direst situation of flood in 2024, where more than two thousand and five hundreds families took refuge to the flood relief camp, Shri Barman arranged things of basic needs and provided foods for them. He felicitated Asha workers, Anganwadi workers for their service during the time of Corona.

Under the visionary leadership of Shri Barman, the Nalchar region is undergoing a significant transformation in its athletic landscape. Initiatives has taken to establish a yoga indoor stadium at Nalchar, a mini

sports stadium at Khas chowmuhani, a dedicated volleyball ground at Rangamura which are designed to promote holistic health, mental well-being within the community and serves as the vital hubs for youth recreation and the nurturing of local talent. Collectively, these projects underscore a dedicated effort to decentralize sports infrastructure and provide rural athletes with the high-quality facilities necessary for professional growth and physical fitness. To instill a mindset of social service and civic sense, he always pushes students to participate in the National Service Scheme whenever he gets the opportunity to interact with them. Apart from that Barman has pioneered digital transformation in rural governance. He introduced an e- filing system from the panchayat level to the state aimed at improving the living standards and basic needs of the rural populations.

Oratory Skill and Lasting Impact:

Oratory is the quality of artistry and persuasiveness in speech and effective communication isn't what you say, it's what people feel, remember and act on. As an orator what Shri Barman often does is he blends Indian ethos with global sophistication. He doesn't outsource communication, he just owns the message. Whether it is addressing students, teachers, farmers and other classes of the society, Shri Barman adjusts tone, language and emotion to speak their language. His body language, attire and pauses during speeches are deliberate to create lasting impact among the listeners. He knows how to own a stage, whether it's addressing the rural crowds or heads of the state. His command over language and pitch variations helps him anchor emotions and influence decision-making with elegance. When it comes to slaying the opposition with his verbatim, his aura is unmatched as he often uses political satire. One of his famous phrases as he quoted before election while addressing the crowds -

“Cats are distributing blankets to the mice” -- indicates his mastery over the language.

The government at central as well as state level is fully committed towards the education of females. “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” with other schemes is the biggest initiative of the government in this direction. The government is coming forward to promote the female counterparts through concession, training programmes as well as other modes in their policy. Kishor Barman is an ardent champion of women's empowerment and social equality. By bringing the aforesaid concept of “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” and understanding the necessity of Women's college in his constituency, Shri Barman with help of the government has taken an initiative to make Women's college in Nalchar. The decision of establishing the Women's college was not an overnight one. Shri Barman, after electing as an MLA, has raised this issue by realizing the necessity of it because the region was facing many challenges, particularly the alarming rates of child marriage and female student dropouts. Tripura's Sepahijala district has historically grappled with high instances of early marriages which force many girls to abandon their education prematurely. Economic hardship often drives these families to marry off daughters early, viewing them as financial liabilities rather than potential earners. Though there is a college in Sonamura, but the guardians are in awe of sending their daughters to the college due to the “Love Jihad”. By creating a dedicated higher education institution locally, Shri Barman with the help of the government aims to break this cycle, offering young women accessible avenues for economic empowerment and incentivizing families to delay marriage in favor of long-term educational attainment. This initiative underscores a holistic effort to transform the region's social fabric by turning education into a viable, protective alternative to early domesticity.

As a minister of Higher Education, Shri Barman has attended many seminars where he spoke about the implementation of National Education Policy-2020 in the North Eastern region. In an interview with Sansad Tv, he shared the State's transformative journey under the NEP -2020 and how Tripura is aligning rapidly with the national vision. Shri Barman chaired the North East Education Conclave, 2025 in Guwahati. Highlighting the importance of alignment between state and central initiatives, he asserts that “The North East has immense potential to emerge as a model for holistic education reform under NEP- 2020”.

While addressing a key discussion at the State Panchayat Raj Resource Centre, Panchayat Minister Kishor Barman emphasizes People's Plan Campaign to strengthen rural governance. The Minister said the People's Plan Campaign, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision of empowered Panchayats, aims to strengthen grassroots democracy by involving citizens, elected officials, and local groups in preparing inclusive, participatory Panchayat Development Plans to align local needs with national goals, fostering self-reliant villages and better governance. Shri Barman described the active participation of Panchayat representatives and departmental officials as a significant step towards strengthening Tripura's Panchayat Raj system, adding that the state is steadily emerging as a model for Panchayat governance at the national level.

IV. Conclusion:

Tripura, one of the finest states in the North Eastern region of India, has produced so many leaders. But the most relevant name in the recent political scenario of Tripura is Shri Kishor Barman who is known for his organized way of living and visionary leadership. Great leaders are not born; they are built by daily choices, habits and mindset. One constant trait of Shri Barman that has stood throughout his career is his strong leadership in the face of grave adversity. He stands out as a perfect democrat. He possesses the capacity to dissent with things which are deterrent in the progress of the “Rashtra”. He doesn't allow the noise of others to box him from the vision required to responsibility. In a period of suspicion cynicism and criminality in politics, while bringing the relish of cut and thrust of verbal rapiers, Shri Kishor Barman brings glamour, honor and dignity to politics of Tripura. In the current political scenario of Tripura, the present paper is a relevant one.

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