

## Chapter: II

### Profile of Jaipal Singh Munda

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This chapter is based on the life of Jaipal Singh Munda. It is divided into several parts which are based on the periods of Munda's life. It is essential to evaluate his life as he was kept aside by our history/ historians. He was one of the most important figures in India during Indian independence struggle. He wrote his autobiography in 1968-69, but it was published in 2004 by Rashmi Katyayan. Further, Researcher gives the short description about him in these points:

#### **Age of Education, Games and Jobs (1903-38)**

##### **Family:**

Jaipal Singh Munda was a great personality of Adivasi in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in India. He was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1903 in Pahantoli, Takra, Ranchi (Now Jharkhand). His childhood name was Pramod Pahan, son of Amru pahan and Radhamuni. He was from middle class Adivasi family. He had an elder sister kistomani and two younger brother Jaishri and Raghunath and four others. Distance of Pahantoli was quarter of a mile from Takra. It was dominated by Pahan's and all five houses were of his family. His father was youngest. Takra had been almost completely converted to Christian of the Anglican Communion. His family was also converted into Christen Community. There was a church and a primary school.

##### **Education:**

Jaipal Singh Munda got his primary education in his village where Lucas, a kind heart teacher taught him Hindi, Arithmetic and English. The condition of his education was very miserable. The Adivasi students were feared by the missionaries. But, his dedication and

interest of learning was very much, so he got good education. He writes about his primary education that

I went to the Takra School. Lucas master, a kindly teacher, taught me Hindi, and Arithmetic, and a few words of English like 'thank you', 'Good morning' and 'Good bye'. My cousins also went to school but they were not regular in their attendance. They had to shepherd the cattle every now and then. There was also the fear that the missionary school might convert them. (Jaipal Singh Munda 4)

Jaipal Singh Munda's father decided to admit him to Saint Paul's school, Ranchi. It was a missionary school. There his mother used to come once a week to see him and cook mutton curry for him, because he was very close to his mother. When he went to *Melas* (festivals), his mother used to give him some money to buy sweets. Here, Munda meets first time to Canon Cosgrave. Canon was a missionary and principal of St. Paul's school, where he completed his primary education. Munda was very intelligent student in maths and English. He had versatile personality, so his teacher Cosgrave decided that he would go to England and take Munda with him for higher education. Because Canon had retired from the post of principal and he was going to England. This news spread everywhere. Munda was so much dedicated to study, so he went to England with his teacher without any permission of his parents. He could not go home to Takra to get permission from his parents; it was a turning point of Munda's life.

Jaipal Singh Munda and Canon travelled to Calcutta by train. Canon bought a grey suit for him, before that he had never wore a suit before. Then they went to Bombay from Calcutta by train. Finally they reached at Victoria Terminus and then they went to Gridley's Bank to get the tickets for the voyage. There Munda had first experience of boat. He finds different facts which he had earlier about red sea and other geographical arena. Finally they reach at the shore of England. Everything was affected by First World War. Munda was

surprised when he saw first two white girls who were coolies. Three sisters were appointed there for serving Munda, all the three were most generous to him.

Canon already decided to send him to St. Augustine's college for further study for priesthood. Jaipal Singh Munda writes that "The canon sent me to St. Augustine's college, Canterbury, for priesthood. Bishop Arthur Mesac knight, formerly in Rangoon and one of the Bishop Auckland lambs, was the warden. Roberts, later Bishop of Singapore, Babcock senior and Bhyth were the teachers." (Jaipal Singh Munda 19) But his intelligence provided him good opportunities. After two terms, Bishop Knight decided to send him to Oxford with forty pounds scholarship. He got many other helps from the university and missionary committee. Jaipal Singh Munda write about his admission in the Oxford that:

After two terms Bishop Knight decided to send me to oxford. He wrote to Dr. James, president of St. John's College. I had not matriculated. I prepared for responsions. I fluked through! Bishop Knight shocked me by awarding me the Hertfordshire scholarship of the value of forty pounds. The Foresters bore most of my oxford bills. Lucy Sutherland glass sent me regularly fruit from Darlington and five pounds per month. (Jaipal Singh Munda 19)

Jaipal Singh Munda was only Asian who was staying in the Oxford's hostel. He chose economics for his higher education (M.A.) and got good position (Gold medal) in the class. Here, he achieved eminence publicity of his life. Munda joined many students unions, associations and debate societies like *MAJLIS*, *Student Christian Movement* and *Cambridge Crocodiles* in his Oxford student life. He has many friends like Lilamani Naidu, daughter of Sarojni Naidu, Verrier Elwin who became principal of Wycliffe College and author, Nawab Patodi, cricketer, Prince of Norway, Olaf a sportsman, Dowdell, Burns Austin Tennis blue and others. Here, his life was very common, but after his selection in ICS, his life changed

totally. He got many opportunities including hockey. Finally, he started his life as a sports person and civil servant.

### **Games:**

Sports life of Jaipal Singh Munda started with education. He had much interest in games since childhood, but he got his sportsman identity in the Oxford. One day he saw a notice on notice board for hockey trial. It was an opportunity where he could enter in games. It was not easy for him to get the chance, but he got it. He wrote about it:

A notice is put up at the concierge's entrance inviting freshmen, fresher, to indicate their choice of games. I lacked courage to put in his name. No sports master had recommended me for the freshmen's trial for the Varsity team... I asked the hall porter, Henry, what to do. Sir, you go to G.R.F. Turner in the turl and he will fix you up. (Jaipal Singh Munda 20)

Jaipal Singh Munda was successful by following Henry advice's, when he met Turner. How he was selected for his university hockey team. It was an interesting story of Munda's sport life. He went to Turner and requested him. But, Turner did not consider his request. After this he offered him ten shillings for playing hockey. Turner was surprised to see Jaipal Singh Munda's interest in hockey; he selected him in University team. He played very well, scored two goals at half time. This is how he got his permanent ticket to his sports life. As he puts it here:

I went to Turner. I took him to the Golden Cross and stood him beer after beer and gave him my subscription of ten shillings for the Isis Hockey Club. 'Play tomorrow for Oxfordshire against the Varsity occasional at Balliol ground'. He did not ask me my position of play, but put me at centre half. Bill Blake from Pietermatizberg, a cricket and hockey Blue, was on the line watching the game. I had scored two short

corners, at half time he came to me and asked me, why did you not put your name for the fresher's trial? After the match, I found on the notice board: Representative colours have been awarded to Jaipal Singh Munda. (Jaipal Singh Munda 21)

After it, Munda's future was secure in games. He got half blue and then finally full blue in hockey from Oxford University. He was first and only Indian who won this award. People were mad behind his hockey.

Jaipal Singh Munda was playing many games after this success, like Football, Riding, Tennis, Cricket and Rugby. He writes, "One medal gives you all the others. I got colours for football, tennis and rugby." (Jaipal Singh Munda 22) He got blue in cricket as he was a good player of cricket too. He played cricket with Dileep Singh and Nawab Patodi, but Jaipal did not like much cricket. He shared intimate relationship with both and they remember him throughout their life. He writes:

Coming from the Jharkhand jungle I could have got a cricket Blue and Hockey Blue. I could see the ball seconds before anybody else. But the first two terms kept me to hockey and the summer I could not deny myself to serious studies. The immortal Ranji's nephew Duleep Singh ji never forgave me for despising cricket. I did play sometimes for the college and once for the Darlington team. I had not the benefit of the expensive and intensive coaching by the professional Duleep Singh and Pataudi. I like watching the games but I do not like fielding the whole day. (Jaipal Singh Munda 22)

Now, Jaipal Singh Munda got wide publicity not only in Europe but also in whole world. His friendship was increasing day by day like Prince of Norway, Olaf who was Cricket Blue, Bill Blake was a Cricket and Hockey Blue, Burns Austin was Tennis Blue, Colin and Niger Kirkpatrick were Hockey Blue and others. He was already playing for many clubs and many university teams like *Isis club*, *Wimbledon club*, *Varsity club*, *Cambridge*

*team* and *Oxford team*. He won eminence publicity and fame which provided him a golden opportunity. He becomes captain of Indian hockey team for Amsterdam Olympic in 1928. At that time he was already selected for ICS. He writes about this event:

One early evening, two Britishers, Colonel Bruce Turnbull and major Ricketts, both of the Indian army, called me at the church imperial club. Turnbull was Secretary of the Army Sports Board in India and Ricketts was his lieutenant. Turnbull's brother was chief of the London metropolitan police. I stood them drinks. They told me the Indian hockey team was coming the following week on its way to Amsterdam. 'We want to you to captain the team.' I agreed, but told them I would have to get leave from the Indian office for absence during term time. I did not get leave! I decided to defy the ruling and take the consequences. (Jaipal Singh Munda 36)

Jaipal Singh Munda was greatly impressed by Major Dhayan Chand and Shaukat Ali both were part of Indian hockey team. He called Dhayan chand, 'lance naik' in the Indian hockey team. He helped them in shopping and in finding restaurant for Indian food. Munda has good knowledge about grounds in Britain so it helped Indian hockey team to get familiar with grounds before tournament. His experiences about that were rewarded with victory of Indian hockey team. That is how Indian team got its first gold medal in hockey in the time when India was a colony of Britain. It was a victory of freedom from the shackles for colonizers hegemony. It brought proud to India worldwide. Munda beautifully narrates this moment in his autobiography:

They started calling me captain although the formal election had not taken place. Shaukat Ali and Dhayan chand arrested my attention. Shaukat was in the Calcutta customs and was in my views, the versatile hockey player. He played marvellously in any position. Dhayan chand was a lance naik in the Indian army team. We played several matches in London against clubs and made-up national teams like the Anglo-

Irish. We beat the whole lot of them badly. Dhayan chand scored almost astronomically. Ours last engagement was for the folk stone Easter festival. The weather was wonderful and the ground suited us. The Rossalians we beat eighteen love! Ours best match was against England. We won four love! The French team threw their sticks at half time and returned home. Mansergh the best English center forward asked me to agree to an extra match against a selected eleven. I had already been elected the Olympic captain. I agree. We beat Mansergh's team three love!

The British and French press predicted in no uncertain words that the hockey gold medal at Amsterdam would be ours. Great Britain did not enter a hockey team. Twenty-eight love, an average of more than five goals per match. India was the champion. On my return to London, a cable came from Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, congratulating me, personally. (Jaipal Singh Munda 37)

After this victory, Munda left his ICS job and he was thrown out of hockey team in final game. He faced racial discrimination in the Hockey Olympic in 1928. He was eliminated from the team before final match. Major Dayan Chand wrote honestly about Munda that he was really a good sportsman but he faces racial discrimination by Indian hockey team committee and its manager. But till now he did not get right position. Now it is necessary of us to explore his contribution in games and other remarkable achievements. He is only known by a few. After the 1928 Olympic, where he had to undergo racial discrimination he carry forward his efforts towards games i.e. Rugby, Football, Cricket, Bird shooting, Horse riding, Athletes and Polo etc. After that he got a job as a professor in Africa where he participates in horse race and gets winning award. Such things make him a real hero and father of Indian games. He served as a member of several sports committees before and after independence and established many clubs as:

- Founder member of BCCI

- Founder of Mohan Bagan Hockey Club
- President of Chota Nagpur Hockey Association.
- President of Delhi Cricket Association
- President of Delhi Hockey Association
- President of Delhi Football Association
- President of Delhi flying Club
- President of Delhi Zim-khana club, Golf club, Fishing Club.
- Member of Indian Olympic Committee, Indian Olympic Association, All India Council of Sports and National Sports Club of India, etc.
- He was the also an editor. He wrote articles on games for many world reputed magazines like *Isis Journal (London)*, *The Hindu* and *The Time*.
- He wrote and presented report of Olympics committee members in the parliament

He was a real hero of Indian games who taught Indian to play and win. He stands as a father of Indian sports life. It is essential to know facts related to his life as our history have forgotten one of our real hero in the dark shade of elitism.

### **Jobs:**

Jaipal Singh Munda was an extraordinary student; he had good knowledge of history, languages and science. He qualified ICS exam (Indian Civil Service). He was only one and first Indian who got three hundred marks out of three hundred in ICS interview. He wrote about his ICS exam:



I had stay to one year extra as probationer for the Indian Civil Service. Candidates from the Indian competition had to do two year at oxford, Cambridge, Dublin or London to be brainwashed to the British realm. Indian history and Britain, one Indian language, Indian penal code, riding and general knowledge made the course. Sir Viser Fitzgerald, Dewhurst and Williamson, all retired from the ICS were in command. Your mother tongue you were not allowed to take as an Indian language. Mundari being my mother tongue. I chose Hindi which I think I knew better then Dewhurst, former united provinces civilian. I got on well with him and felt sorry for him. Why? His wife used to beat him once a week and he would apologise to us for his disconcern. One woman demonstrator used to turn up once a fortnight to teach how to pronounce Indian words. We were told to bring mirrors with us so that we could see how to twist our tongue to produce sounds correctly. The British probationers were hopeless with aspirate and dental retroflex consonants. The woman made me demonstrate the sounds. She was the examiner at the final examination: she gave me maximum marks! In viva voce also the civil service commissioners awarded me the full three hundred after gruelling questioning lasting fifty-two minutes. (Jaipal Singh Munda 30)

ICS was first job of Jaipal Singh, but he didn't join ICS, because of his sports sprit. He joins Indian Hockey Team in 1928 and he became first captain of Indian hockey team in Amsterdam Olympics. After Olympic Munda was jobless and faces racial discrimination in the last matches. Major Dhayan chand gives some description in his autobiography *Goal* about the discrimination. Munda was a talented and knowledgeable person, so he got a high rank job in the Burma Oil Company (B.O.C.). He was first Indian who got such high rank job in the colonial era. He came to Calcutta. He wrote about his Burma Oil Company's life that:

A new life started. To make sure I arrived at Britannic house in Fens bury circus on time. I started one hour earlier. Britannic house is the London office of the Anglo-

Persian Oil Company, A.P.O.L. and B.O.C. Burma Oil Company. They became part of Burma-shell after the amalgamation of A.P.O.C., B.O.C. and Tank Storage Company of India. Hence my job was with Burma-shell oil storage and Distributing Company of India Limited. (Jaipal Singh Munda 44)

Jaipal Singh Munda was enjoying his job and told his friends about his salary and compared it with ICS officers. During his job he met Tara Majumdar, grand-daughter of Womesh Chandra Banerjee, a founder president of Indian National Congress, 1885. Tara fell in love with Munda. They spend good time together. They shared close relationship with viceroy and governor of India. Both married off and immediately their marriage Munda lost his job in B.O.C. because of the discriminatory behaviour of his colleagues. So once again he decides to go to London along with Tara to meet Cannon.

After few years, he got a job of professor in the Achimota College Africa where he taught English, Economics and Political Science. He won several prize in Africa too in games. After sometime he was rewarded with appointment letter of the then education minister of India (Girja Shankar Bajpai). It filled with joy and excitement to return to his motherland. He was appointed as a vice principal of Rajkumar College, Raipur. Smith Pearse was principal of same college, he send him some details and photographs of the college. He writes:

A cable came from Girja Shankar Bajpai, secretary of education, health and lands, offering me the principalship of Rajkumar College, Raipur. I again stumbled on my feet. Three weeks later Principal of Rajkumar College, Smith Pearse, sent me photographs of the College. Tara was overjoyed (Jaipal Singh Munda 72).

Only royal families and upper caste students were enrolled in Rajkumar College. He had hundred percent result in his subjects. He writes about college:

Once again I was an educationist. I was told to introduce the English public school to Rajkumar College. There were seventy-four students, all Rajkumar excepting Abraham, the son of the sessions Judge. Each prince-ling had his own retinue, his separate kitchen and a private tutor, and some had guardians, all British.

My bungalow was huge. Four princelings stayed with me but they had their own cooking arrangements. They, however, ate at the same table with me. Each of them paid two hundred and fifty rupees per month for privilege of staying with me. Some of them had cars in the town. There was a temple and a small hospital. The staffs on the whole were competent. There was a large guest house for the visiting rajahs and VIPs. Play grounds were well kept. Some princelings were allowed horses of their own (Jaipal Singh Munda 77).

It was good job for Munda. He was living with his students of Rajkumar College Raipur. But again after few years, he faced racial discrimination. Nobody liked an Adivasi to become principal of Rajkumar College; so they mistreated him. He faced discrimination by Smith, Reggie Hind and also compel him to pay extra charges. He protested against injustice and extra charges in the name of facilities. It led to the reason of his transfer to college to move to Bikaner, a princely state in western India. As he writes:

I took the senior classes in English, history, economics and political science. Smith Pearse used to come to watch my teaching. One day he made a fool of himself in not understanding the difference between productive and not-productive services. This was the beginning of my transfer to Bikaner as colonisation minister and Revenue commissioner under the mighty Andhataji Ganga Singh with Sir Kailash Haksar as my prime minister. Sir Kailash Haksar was Ratan Nehru's father-in-law. (Jaipal Singh Munda 78)

Finally, Munda was debarred from Rajkumar College due to his Adivasi identity which people with royal habitant did not accept. Albeit he was a real academician and multitalented person even though, he had to undergo to racial discrimination. He had got near ten jobs in a short span of his life.

After this, Munda became Foreign and Railway Minister in the Bikaner state in the British government. He meets many people in Bikaner state like Andhataji, Maharaja of Bikaner state, Ratan Nehru, Kailash Haksar's son-in-law. Kailash Haksar was Prime minister of Bikaner state, and Tom Foy was engineer and Tejbhai was the palace spy. Munda was very honest and hard-working. In his first year of job he collected two crores rupees of the arrear that was due on the people. He visited rural areas where a canal construction work was on progress. He found a lot of corruption in the state. He decides to announce names of people indulge in corruption on public podiums. All dignitaries such as Prime Minister, ministers and officers were involved in these scams. He provides a detailed account of it in his autobiography:

Famine conditions were annual. Andhataji was an uncanny expert. He knew every village and every file. Tejbhai was another encyclopaedia, but he was corrupted. He would hide files if the parties concerned did not pay enough. My mission was also to reduce corruption. You cannot root out corruption in India. A very rich Bikaneri from Calcutta had been elected a member of the assembly. There was an election petition against his election. The charge was that he had locked up three of the twelve voters. He hired a barrister from Calcutta, a personal friend of mine. He called at my house. I refused to see him. I asked Tejbhai to give me the relevant file. 'The file is missing; perhaps, it has gone to Andhataji.' I knew he was telling a lie. I suspected him. A telephone message from the palace commanded me to see Andhataji. Before going there, I saw sir Kailash. 'You are right, but do not forget, you are in a princely state. (Jaipal Singh Munda 89)

Again, Jaipal Singh Munda's honesty was rewarded with transfer. He opens relevant files and name of corrupted persons. Andhataji promoted his salary and his position, so all ministers and officers were against him. He lost his fifth job and got next job in the house of Maharaja Hari Singh, king of Jammu & Kashmir. He writes about this accident that:

Andhataji promoted me and appointed me as foreign secretary! This created enemies. Sardar K.M. Pannikar, then in Patiala service, worked through Sri Sikandar Hyat Khan chief minister of the Punjab, against my appointment. Sir Kailash advised me to quit and go with him to Kashmir as tutor to Maharajah Hari Singh's son, Karan Singh. (Jaipal Singh Munda 99)

Jaipal Singh Munda was very intelligent and had wide knowledge of many subjects and languages. He had many popular friends in India and outside which helped him out to find new job every time. He worked hard everywhere and rewarded with discrimination. Finally, he decided to enter in politics and joined Adivasi movement. He denied proposal of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, again for a job and enters in politics. In his first phase of life his achievement were rewarded with discrimination. His second phase of life begins with Munda as a freedom fighter and elected member of constitution assembly.

### **Age of National Freedom Movement (1939-46)**

Jaipal Singh Munda was great leader of Adivasi in the Indian national movement like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, L.B. Shastri, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad and many others. Munda like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was fighting with Britishers and National Congress Party. He was famous in the world. In the national freedom movement every Indian wanted to be free from the shackles of colonial rule. Nehru and Gandhi were leaders of Hindu, Mohammad Ali Jinnah was Muslim leader and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was

Dalits leader as where as Jaipal Singh Munda was leader of Adivasi in the national freedom movement and Constituent Assembly of India. But, in the present; only a few people know about the Munda and his contributions.

Further, Jaipal Singh Munda met with his friends Maurice Hallet Governor of Bihar and Robert Russell, Chief Secretary of Bihar. They suggest him to work for his people instead of wasting time with congress. That conversation left a mark on his mind to join politics for the cause of Adivasi in 1938. He recollects his teacher words:

I called at Government House. His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallet invited me to tea. He knew my strong points and also my weaknesses but our association had been intimate. It was he who had enabled me to go to Raipur. 'Don't waste your time with Congressmen. Go to Ranchi. There is an Adivasi agitation just started. You have wandered round the world in all sorts of good jobs. Do something for your people in memory of Canon.' He offered to nominate me to the Bihar Legislative Council. I declined the kind gesture. In the evening I called on the Chief Secretary Robert Russell. Russell also encouraged me to take charge of the Adivasi movement. 'Have you sufficient funds to last? There will be no money there. Where will you stay?' (Jaipal Singh Munda 95-96)

This led him to enter in politics for Adivasi movement. In initial stage of the movement he met leaders who have already started fighting for Adivasi. They appointed him president of Adivasi movement and Adivasi Sabha. He made a significant change in the name of Adivasi Sabha to Adivasi mahasabha. He writes about first meeting of Adivasi leaders:

De moulder had collected Adivasi leaders to meet me. Rai sahib Bandiram Oraon, Paul Dayal, Igenes Beck, Theble Oraon, Theodore Surin, Julius Tigga, and a dozen others were there. They requested I become president of the Adivasi Sabha they had

just started. 'Adivasi ki jai; jai Adivasi' was the salute. I agreed to preside over the conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1939. (Jaipal Singh Munda 98)

Munda sought permission from his wife and mother to join Adivasi movement. His mother granted him permission but they did not get clearance from the other side. His mother-in-law (daughter of Womesh Chandra Benerjee, president of Indian National Congress) did not permit him as his whole movement means against congress. His wife said that 'Darling, do what will make you happy.' And his mother reacted like 'Do what you would like, but expect no thanks.' He organised a conference of Adivasi which was attended by more than one lakh Adivasis. He narrates his first conference of Adivasi:

I stayed at the Bengal Nagpur Railway hotel. There was speculation over my venture. The commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of police came to see me to find out if I were a Bolshevik! 'The Governor himself has blessed me. Why all this enquiry?' Rajendra Babu and other Congressmen announced I would not stay long in the movement. Staying in an expensive hotel and used to comfort, how could I work in the jungle fortresses? They were mistaken.

The January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was a revelation. It was held in the Adivasi Bhavan just below the Ranchi Lake. There was a procession through the main road. I was mounted on an elephant of the Thakur Saheb of Jaria. About one lakh people attended the conference. I spoke first in English, written speech for the pressmen, then in Hindi, Sadani and in my mother tongue Mundari. This was my triumph. People had walked hundreds of miles for the conference and they were accommodated in the mission compounds. The shops were happy; they benefited from the shopping. The Adivasi Sabha was rooted. I made a change and called it Adivasi Mahasabha. (Jaipal Singh Munda 98-99)

Now, Jaipal Singh Munda started Adivasi movement with more energy. He was working for Adivasi rights with awareness of the congress as its opposition. He decided to take a different road to free Adivasi from the shackles of racial discrimination. The district board of elections came two months later. He decided to put up candidates only for Singhbhum and Ranchi districts. Adivasi Mahasabha won in both handsomely. It won 16 seats out of 25 the district board elections, Ranchi and 22 out of 24 seats in Singhbhum. It was his first political victory over a national party. Victory of Munda came to congress party as a big shock because it was first ever open challenge to congress by any other political party. It appears as a great revolution in Indian politics. Congress decided to vanish Munda's political movement with their new launched organisation *Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh*. Rajendra Prasad and other congressmen decided that the annual *All India Congress Committee* should be held in Ramgarh, Ranchi to vanish Munda's movement in the presence of their national leaders such as Gandhi, Nehru, Sardar Patel and others. But anyhow, it was their unsuccessful attempt. He writes about it:

Two days later the Congress session began. Gandhi ji came to Ranchi. I had organised a hartel against his visit. All the shops were closed. There was not a crowd to hail him. He never forgave me. Soon after Rajen Babu delivered his address as chairman of the reception Committee, it rained cats and dogs and the Congress camp was washed off. The whole thing had to be abandoned.

Three days later we held the Adivasi Mahasabha. The attendance was good. Adivasi had walked hundreds of miles to come to their show...the Adivasi movement spread like a prairie fire. It spread to Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. I was in demand everywhere (Jaipal Singh Munda102).

It was the first moral victory for Munda. He was not happy with the conduct of the government. So he decided to detach himself from the government. Munda started freedom



movement for Adivasi who were continuously exploited by Aryans, Mogul and Western hegemony. He was main leader of Adivasi, as well as Gandhi, Nehru and National Congress Party were starting freedom movement for Hindus, Muslim League was starting for Muslims and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was starting for Dalits.

Munda was the voice of Adivasi in the national freedom movement. He worked for the awareness of the Adivasi. First time, in order to awake the Adivasi, he published a weekly magazine named *Adivasi Sakam* in 1940. He published 2000 copies of this magazine amongst he kept 500 copies for cities, 1500 for rural areas. Later, he got reprinted its 5000 copies. In that magazine, he wrote about the culture, tradition, folk and rights of Adivasi. He also put forward the problem of exploitation by the handfuls. He tried to make them aware of their rights. His magazine played a pivotal role in his movement for the awareness of Adivasi. Before that magazine, he wrote articles for newspapers on the games held in London. He also wrote for many magazines and newspapers like *ISIS journal* (England), *Searchlight*, *Indian Nation*, *Abua Jharkhand*, *Jharkhand Time*, *Times of India* and *Hiranagpur*. He writes about his writing and *Adivasi Sakam* that:

In 1940, I realised the pen might be mightier than the sword. I started a four page weekly, *Adivasi Sakam*, in English, Hindi and Mundari. Most of the space was taken up by English. I was difficult of my written Hindi. My mother tongue, Mundari, I put in to offset English, for the villages. I began with two thousand copies, five hundreds for Jamshedpur and Ranchi and fifteen hundred for villages. The circulation was free; I called not be bothered getting *Adivasi Sakam* registered or for subscribe. I calculated that one copy per village was good enough. I wrote everything myself, which took up a couple of days of my time. (Jaipal Singh Munda 115)

After publishing *Adivasi Sakam*, Munda established *Adivasi Labour federation* and *Poor Labour Association* with Brij Mohan in the March 1947 in Ranchi, Bihar (now Jharkhand). On the one hand these organisation spread awareness of their rights and on the other hand it provided employment to the oppressed. But in some ways his plan fails due to the intimacy between congress and businessmen in Bihar. Congress and Tata shared good relationship which led them to exploit Adivasi rather providing them jobs. Adivasi were very poor and unskilled and it led them to exploitation by company raj and business men. Due to poor skills about the functioning of machines in factories many labourer had lost their body parts as well as their land. Because after all, factories needs huge land which can be attain through land which is occupied by Adivasi. So they started them to snatch away their land. Munda offers an account of it:

Employment was the hardest problem for Adivasi. At Jamshedpur, for fifteen years, I saw enough of it. Adivasi lands were acquired and my people made landless. Most Adivasi were unskilled labour with one foot in their paddy fields. Technicians, the few that were came from Ranchi. For unskilled labour there was no competition except when famine conditions in Chhattisgarh brought in thousands willing to work for anything and any amount. The contractors, without any conscience, took full advantage of the plethora of labour...I opened an office in my residence where coolies and rajah could come to have their applications written. The rush became so great that I put a fee of one rupee for each applicant. This had no deterrent effect. Something like forty percent got jobs on my recommendation (Jaipal Singh Munda 109)

On the one side, Munda was busy with Adivasi issues, problems and their rights and on the other side; he shared close relationship with Britishers and Indian Nationalists. He was directly involved in the Second World War with England. He sent seventy-two hundred Adivasi soldiers for Second World War. National Congress Party also favoured England and

Subhash Chandra Bose favoured Germany in World War. He writes about this event:

The 1939 war gave me opportunity to show my strength and following. The Congress boycotted the war effort; I supported it wholesale. Seventy-two hundred Adivasi joined the combatant and non-combatant forces. Indebtedness disappeared from the area. Fighting and serving overseas was enlightenment which helped the movement (Jaipal Singh Munda 104).

Jaipal Singh Munda was an international personality, but he was totally ignored by the Indian history, not only Munda but also all the Adivasi. He became the voice of Adivasi. He demanded a degree collage for Adivasi. He put his demand of a separate state for Adivasi where they could save their culture, language, literature and generations before the Constituent Assembly. But Congress Party turned down his demand. On the side, he was a true nationalist, so he did not demand for separate nation like Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Naga Adivasi nationalist Phizo. These issues will be discussed in detail in third chapter.

### **Age of Constituent Assembly (1947-50)**

Jaipal Singh Munda was big name during national freedom movement and in Indian politics. Some of his candidates contested election of constituent assembly. He became member of Constituent Assembly in 1946. During this Adivasi became major affair of India. Everyone in the constituent assembly was conscious of saving their identity. Nehru for Hindu, Jinnah for Muslims, Ambedkar for Dalit rights. Similarly, Munda was voice of Adivasi. Munda decides to put up his own candidates in the election the legislature. He shares his experience about these elections and reaction of Rajendra Prasad.

In 1946 came the election to the legislatures. I put up candidates and we did well. I myself lost. Rajen Babu's henchmen murdered seven Adivasi at Tapkara on March 2<sup>nd</sup> on a market day as they were going home. The polling was a few days later. I could have won, but I retreated from the fight. We had however, more than enough

M.L.A as to send me to the Constituent Assembly and the Provisional Parliament. I have been in parliament ever since 1946. The Adivasi cause became an all-India affair. More so, when Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the real pilot of the constitution took me under his wing and saw through the Schedules for safeguards for Adivasi. (Jaipal Singh Munda 104)

Jaipal Singh Munda and Bonifash Lakda were elected from Adivasi Mahasabha and Takker Bappa and Devendra Samant were elected by the National Congress Party for Adivasi rights in the Constituent Assembly. But Munda was only person who raised the voice for Adivasi rights in the Constituent Assembly. He explains term and Adivasi identity; which was well known in ancient time but Munda used it first time in Constituent Assembly.

He was against the term Schedule Tribe given by Dr. Ambedkar and Constituent Assembly. He explains that Adivasi are native of this country so you cannot define them in certain elite terms. Their culture and traditions are totally different from others. He dissents against it when Adivasi were included in categories as such backward and uncivilized. He provides a detailed account of Adivasi, its background in the Constituent Assembly. He says:

Sir I rise to speak on behalf of millions of unknown solders yet very important of unrecognised warriors of freedom, the original people of India who have variously been known as backward tribal, primitive tribal, criminal tribal, and everything else, sir I am proud to be a jungli. As a jungli, as an Adivasi, I am not expected to understand the legal intricacies of the resolution. But my common sense tells me that every one of us should march in that road to freedom and fight together. Sir, if there is any group of Indian people that has been shabbily treated it is my people. They have been disgracefully treated, neglected for the last 6000 years. The history of the Indus Valley civilization, a child of which I am, shows quite clearly that it is the new comers— most of you here are intruders as far as I am concerned— it is the new

comers who have driven away my people from the Indus Valley to the jungle fastness ... The whole history of my people is one of continuous exploitation and dispossession by the non-aboriginals of India punctuated by the rebellions and disorder, and yet I take Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at his word. I take you all at your word that now we are going to start a new chapter, a new chapter of independent India where there is equality of opportunity, where no one would be neglected.

(Debates of Constituent Assembly of India 19/12/1946)

The above mentioned speech was delivered by Munda in the Constituent Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1946. In the speech, he talks about the identity of Adivasi and their origin. He was very hopeful for a better future of Adivasi. But Adivasi didn't get their identity and rights. They were cheated by the Constituent Assembly. In the next speech, on 14 September 1949, he again raised the voice for favour to Adivasi languages. He wanted to include of three Adivasi languages *Mundari*, *Gondi* and *Uraob* in the list eight Schedule. But their requests and demands were turn down by the Constituent Assembly. Hindu and other mainstream classes identify them as unknown language for communication and teaching. Munda stand forever with Adivasi rights. He demands a separate state for Adivasi where they can live their natural life in order to save their culture(s), language(s), literature(s), tradition(s) and other things which are part of their everyday life. He was not satisfied of the decision of Constituent Assembly, but was in an agreement that in near future condition of Adivasi would improve and develop. After, Indian independence he chooses a democratic way for the better of his community.

### **Age of After Independence (1950-70)**

After independence, Jaipal Singh Munda was elected for Member of Parliament four times and became first Deputy Chief Minister of Adivasi. After freedom, he carries forward his Adivasi movement. But steps taken by government led him to the frustration because his

all demands were ignored by government that led him to form his own political party *Jharkhand Party* which was a transformation of *Adivasi Mahasabha*. This party gives a political face to the Adivasi movement. Munda became very active in politics and demanded equal rights for them. Now, he opens the door of his party for Non-Adivasi people. *Jharkhand Party* won major seats against Indian National Congress. It won thirty two seats of Assembly and four seats of Parliament in the 1952 and it won thirty four seats of Assembly and five seats Parliament in the 1957 and it won twenty two of Assembly and five of Parliament in the 1962. He represented his constituency in parliament for four times and always stood with the Adivasi.

Jaipal Singh Munda also put forward the demand of Jharkhand as a separate state for Adivasi in 1954. The main reason behind his demand was that the unfair investment of government fund allotted to Bihar. In 1954, State Re-Organisation Commission sent a committee to Bihar to look into the matter. He felt cheated by commission and his demands were completely turned down.

Finally 1963 Jaipal Singh Munda decided to join congress and he became first Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar from Adivasi community in independent India. But it ruined his life as he took this without any consent from his party. It caused down his popularity among the Adivasi. He himself was ashamed of it. His Adivasi movement causes him with separation with his first wife. His second wife seems responsible for this step as she was not as faithful as his first wife. He narrates his last election and its reaction by his family:

The mid-term elections in Bihar were a severe challenge to my Jharkhand leadership, in most of my former colleagues deserted me and declared them as having revived the Jharkhand party. For quarter of a century I had fought successfully the Congress party and it was uphill work facing Adivasi whom I had made hostile. 'All these years you told us to vote against the Congress: now, you ask

us to vote for it', I could not run away; I had to meet the challenge of my former colleagues. On an average, I motored every day two hundred and fifty miles addressing five public meetings. The Prime minister, the minister of Tourism, the minister of Railway and the Congress president also toured Jharkhand and I had to escort the first two. The results were not too good. (Jaipal Singh Munda 155)

Jaipal Singh Munda was an international personality, led Indian hockey team in Amsterdam Olympic to win its first gold medal; second he was an international teacher and last he gave freedom speech in USA. He addressed many universities abroad on the Adivasi conditions and issues. He write about the American tour that, "I visited twenty-two of the major universities and addressed students on India's most ancient millions, Adivasi. Some Indian students were also in the audience. Even anthropologists did not ask me awkward questions. I went to see the Niagara Falls." (Jaipal Singh Munda 178) Munda got respect of *Guard of Honour* in the USA. It was the best time of his life. He writes about this event that:

The biggest surprise awaited me in Oklahoma City. At the airport there was a guard of honour. There were six motor bicycles escorting me to the hotel. All traffic was stopped. A lunch was given in the country club where I was presented with an expensive Red Indian headgear and made honorary pelichi (Chief) of the Chickasaw Nation. At Norman, eight mile away, I was given the freedom of the City by the woman mayor. The Americans can afford to be genuinely generous. (Jaipal Singh Munda 179)

Jaipal Singh Munda was really great person. His death was a top secret, along with Subhash Chandra Bose's. Only a few knows about his death. He was totally ignored by Indian history, literature, administration, journalism, sports history and politics. In the last, he announces that he will rejoin Adivasi movement with more energy and new ideas. He also knew about his wife's conspiracy for him. He went to tour of Europe after getting discharge

from hospital. He writes about his last time with second wife that:

My physical condition worried my wife. She made arrangement to have me in a Calcutta Nursing Home. I was there one whole month and no one, not even my son in Bombay or my nephew, a District Magistrate was allowed to see me. I did not like the nursing home, but my wife's conspiracy with doctors was such that I could not escape. No one was told where I was; no one must see me!

My oxford compeer, the metropolitan of India, rang up the governor of West Bengal asking where I was in Calcutta. The police discovered me. The metropolitan accompanied by a senior police officer came and rescued me from the nursing home and took me to 51 Chowringhee, Known up to 1918 as the palace. I stayed there many times and the metropolitan did everything to fatten me. My wife was confounded. (Jaipal Singh Munda 156)

Here comes a big question that why did Jahan Ara hide Jaipal Singh Munda from his friends and politicians? Ram Dayal Munda writes that, "The decision of second marriage of Jaipal Singh Munda was wrong and it became cause of his unsuccessful life." (Qtd. in Pankaj 95) Further, Ashwani Kumar Pankaj gives a new name for this marriage. He writes about this marriage: "It was 'The Jahan Ara Policy of Nehru' that spread and so much spread that take down of Jaipal Singh and Jharkhand Movement. Jahan Ara took its profit till the end of her life. She awarded Cabinet Minister by the Congress Party till the 1966 to 1972." (Pankaj 100)

In the last, Jaipal Singh Munda went to Calcutta to meet Tara, his first wife. But after his meeting very next day he died on March 20, 1970 in unknown conditions. His most demand was completed in November, 2000 when Jharkhand as a separate state came into being which had larger population of Adivasi. So far, conditions of Adivasi remain unchanged. He always stood for Adivasi rights and their *Jal, Jungle Aur Jameen* (water, forest and land). But he could not save their natural recourses. He stands forever with Adivasi



in the future, because Jaipal Singh Munda was not only a name of person but also a name of consciousness and ideology of Adivasi. His life left a big question on the nation. It is essential to have further work on account of his life, his efforts towards marginalised, his achievements and his ideas as they open up many secret doors of Indian history and politics. He had a separate identity during Indian independence movement and after independence. It is pertinent to compare his life and deeds with others nationalists which may draw us to have a close scrutiny about the importance and characteristics of nationalist/ national movements. It is also true that he was an international personality who served Adivasi across the globe. Today, his autobiography has a great importance in the fields of literature, history, society, economy and politics of India. Researcher will try to analyse above points of his life and autobiography in next chapter.

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