

## Preface

The present thesis *Leadership and Protest Movement Dynamics: A Study in the Context of Gorkhaland and Kamtapuri Movements in West Bengal* is a qualitative research about significance of historical practices of leadership in determining the objectives, goals, ideological grounding, strategies, and tactics of the movement. In other words, it is about how leadership influences protest movement dynamics. The work examines the nature of leadership in the two protest movements in North Bengal region of West Bengal: the Gorkhaland Movement in Darjeeling Hills and the Kamtapur Movement in Terai and Dooars region of North Bengal, both of which are fighting for territory based recognition by way of creation of separate states. It is also interesting to note that both the movements under study have a fairly long history having traversed a long journey, involving multiplicity of actors, with frequent changes in objectives, strategies and techniques of protest, led at different times by different types of leadership. This long history permits us to evaluate the role played by the movement leadership in defining the objectives of the movement and designing its protest framework and strategies. Such a study is desirable as it enables a rereading of the political leadership involved in the movement and helps analyse the ways and means of addressing the issues by the state for political stability and development.

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