

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

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## CERTIFICATE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

I certify that Mr. Badal Roy has prepared the Ph.D. thesis titled "*Traditional Games, Sports, and Amusements in Twentieth-Century North Bengal: A Historical Perspective*" for the award of Ph.D. degree from the University of North Bengal, under my supervision. He has carried out the work at the Department of History, University of North Bengal. The thesis is the result of his investigation and neither the thesis nor any part thereof has been submitted for any other degree of this or any other university.

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## PREFACE

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Since the last half of the twentieth century, history has undergone a remarkable paradigm shift. Historians of this age have altered their attention from the stereotypical narratives of conquerors and statesmen to the lives of the ‘footmen’ of society, i.e. the common men who are the real makers of history. Accordingly, simpler aspects of popular life began to find expression through the skillful pen of historians.

Thus gradually, we find the emergence of unexplored areas of research like the history of criminology, history of fairs and festivals, history of performing arts, history of epidemics, history of environment and woods, etc. The present study on Traditional Games, Sports, and amusements in twentieth-century North Bengal: A Historical Perspective is also an attempt to be part of this new trend of history.

In the context of the research, the foremost hurdle was how to bring traditional games into the focus on mainstream historical study. My idea was to project these games as imperative tools to discern different historical developments of this region.

However, as this study progressed, it becomes apparent that besides being important historical tools, games themselves generated historical knowledge. Throughout this thesis, my focus always has to highlight the varied facets of Traditional Games, Sports, and Amusements as significant historical knowledge and aspects.

**Date: 27/02/2021**

**BADAL ROY**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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This work came out with a keen interest in the ‘traditional games and society’ in modern times, especially in the Northern part of West Bengal, keeping the modern trends in historical writings in view. In North Bengal now we find a special emphasis on the games played earlier now being changed in some of its features; the play is introducing certain rules and regulations through different associations and clubs are racking their brains to make the games more sophisticated and disciplined. So my attempt in the thesis is to show how the games were played in the earlier stage and how they have been changed into modernized sports and games. The paper intends to look back to know the history and culture of the regions in their pure form and spirit so that the changes in culture and traditions could not force them to uproot the people from their own culture and tradition.

The present work has been undertaken to examine the role of the sports works and some amusements of North Bengal, a particular geographical area both in the pre-partition and post-partition periods. As the researcher is a permanent inhabitant of this region and most of the researcher's personal and official assignments are confined to the jurisdiction of this region, the researcher became very much interested in the regional traditional games and sports works and some amusements of this region. The majority of the people of this area having almost similar dialect and culture have proved to be a great advantage during the twentieth-century of the researcher's intense investigation.

I am fortunate enough to have the guidance of Dr. Sudash Lama, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of North Bengal, a very progressive and proficient

supervisor, who, despite his busy academic and social engagements and responsibilities, carved out long hours to lend me persistent guidance. I wish to express heartfelt and sincere gratitude for his active supervision and constant help, encouragement, advice, and patience throughout my research work. The present work also benefited from the comments, insights, and co-operation and support of my professors such as Prof. Anita Bagchi, Prof. Bijoy Kumar Sarkar, and Prof. Ratna Ray Sanyal, Prof. Ananda Gopal Ghosh, Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Mr. Varun Kumar Roy, Dr. Sankar Kumar Das (Bankura University), Prof. Rup Kumar Barman, (Jadavpur University), Professor Anil Sarkar (Kalyani University).

I would like to express my gratefulness for the co-operation and valuable suggestions made by Prof. Mahendra Nath Roy (N.B.U.), Prof. Dipak Kumar Roy (Raiganj University), Dr. Tahiti Sarkar (N.B.U.), Dr. Malay Saha (N.B.U.), Dr. Amrita Mondal (N.B.U.), Dr. Varma Priyadarshini (N.B.U.), Dr. Dipshikha Acharya (N.B.U.), Dr. Debojit Dutta (Jadavpur University), Dr. Tirthankar Ghosh (Kazi Nazrul University), Dr. Parimal Roy (N.B.U.), Sri Debeshis Bhattacharya (N.B.U.), Prof. Karubaki Dutta (N.B.U.), Sri Amrit Kr. Shil (P.B.U.), Sri Chancal Adhikary (Kurseong College), Dr. Diganta Chakraborty (A.C. College), Dr. Dilip Kr. Dey (Principal Munshi Premchand Mahavidyalaya), Prof. Boria Majumdar, Prof. Koushik Bandhpadhaya (W.B.S.U.), Dr. Girija Sankar Roy, Dr. Bimalendu Majumdar, Sri Umesh Sharma, Sri Dilip Barma, Prof. Nikhilesh Roy (N.B.U.), Dr. Sudip Khashnabis, Sri Anandamoye Barman, Dr. Ujjal Bhui (N.B.U.), Sri Subhra Chattapadhaya, Sri. Nagendranath Roy, Sri. Deblal Singha and my dear friends, elder brothers, namely Sri.Tapas Biswas, Mr.Tushar Kanti Barman, Mr. Shubham Dey, Sri. Manoranjan Sarkar, Mr. Nabiul Islam, Sri. Madhusudhan Paul, Smt.

Banani Sarkar, Mr. Biswajit Kar, Mr. Mahamudul Hussain, Dr. Musaraf Hossain (N.B.U.), Mr. Sanjay Narjinary, Sri. Prasenjit Roy, Sri Narayan Roy, Sri. Pabin Saiba, Mr. Arun Ghosh, Smt. Mampi Barman, Mr. Jhon Biswas, Mr. Ankan Roy, Mr. Arka Acharya, Sri. Sudip Bhattacharya, Sri. Dipankar Sarkar, Mr. Prasenjit Paul, Sri. Prabhat Poddar, Mr. Pradip Mondal, Mr. Rajat Tamang, Mr. Anurag Chaudhury, Mr. Pankaj Singha, Mr. Satyajit Sarkar, Mr. Priyankar Roy, Sri. Anil Singha, Sri. Sanjay Singha, Sri. Anup Sarkar, Sri. Dilip Singha, Sri. Kalyan Singha, Sri. Swapan Singha, Mr. Pratap Singha, Dr. Nitish Roy, Mr. Pintu Majumdar, Sri. Uttpal Majumder, Mr. Manik Podder, Dr. Gouri Dey, Sri. Sujit Barman, Mr. Susanta Shakhari, Mr. Milon Roy, Mr. Rohit Roy, Mr. Biswajit Roy, Mr. Amit Roy, Mr. Kalipada Barman, Mr. Rabindra Barman, and especially my dear Brother Sri. Goutam Roy and Respected sir Dr. Sanjay Roy.

In this study, I have accumulated debts to many persons and a good number of Libraries of North Bengal; side by side I have also collected some relevant information from the Central Library of North Bengal University and Seminar Library of the Department of History of the same University. I am grateful to all of them. I have benefitted from many other sources in preparing this thesis. I am extremely grateful to the learned scholars, academicians, and authors whose work I have extensively consulted during my research work. I would express my sincere thanks and gratefulness to all of them. This work could not have been possible without the co-operation of a large number of persons from various fields.

I pay my deepest regard to my grandfather Sri. Dharakanta Adhikary and Grandmother Smt. Sujani Adhikary, who is above seventy years of age, had been inspiring me for this work since its beginning. I must also acknowledge my gratefulness to

my father Sri. Nripendra Roy, aunty Smt. Sumitra Chattapadhaya Adhikary, Smt. Minati Roy Adhikary and Smt. Kajal Barman Adhikary, Smt. Bani Singha Roy. At last, I would like to thank my entire family members, whose unconditional love and support is the pillar of my pursuit.

**Place: N.B.U.**

**Date: 27-02-2021**

**Badal Roy**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATION**

### **Abbreviation**

### **Meaning**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| T.G.S.A.     | : Traditional Games, Sports and Amusements                                  |
| U.N.E.S.C.O. | : United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization           |
| M.I.N.E.P.S. | : Ministers and Senior Officials in charge of Physical Education and Sports |
| B.C,         | : Before Christ   |
| A.D.         | : Anno Domini   |
| I.M.F.       | : International Monetary Fund   |
| W.W. E .     | : World Wrestling Entertainment   |
| Fig.         | : Figure  |
| O.M.E.P.     | : Organization Mondiale pour Education Prescolaire                          |
| W.O.E.C.E.   | : Word Organization for Early Childhood Education                           |
| N. B. U.     | : North Bengal University   |

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