

Declaration

I affirm that this Thesis entitled “Politics of Tribal development: Organizing Adivasi movements in Dooars and Terai region of North Bengal since 2007” being submitted to the University of North Bengal, for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science is a record of my research work, it has not previously formed the basis of award of any degree, diploma, association, fellowship or other similar title or recognition. Moreover, I undertake that the Thesis is free from plagiarism and all copyrighted materials are duly cited.

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CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Thesis entitled "POLITICS OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT : ORGANISING ADIVASI MOVEMENTS IN DOOARS AND TERAJ REGION OF NORTH BENGAL SINCE 2007" submitted by Miss Purnima Roy in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of North Bengal has neither been published previously, nor submitted for any degree of this University or any other University. She has fulfilled all the requirements of Ph.D regulation of this university, for the submission of this thesis. The thesis is a product of the candidate's own investigation. She has completed the work under my guidance and supervision.


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POLITICS OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT: ORGANIZING ADIVASI MOVEMENTS IN DOOARS AND TERAI REGION OF NORTH BENGAL SINCE 2007 A Thesis Submitted to the University of North Bengal For the Award of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science BY PURNIMA ROY SUPERVISOR PROF. SOUMITRA DE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE NORTH BENGAL UNIVERSITY 2023

1 Chapter - 1 Introduction 1.1. Background of the Study: India is the seventh-largest country by area, the second most popular country with over 1.3 billion people, and the most popular democracy in the world. We can find different communities in India; the tribal community is one of these. The tribal population is an integral part of India's social framework and has the second-largest concentration of the population. The tribal population in India is considered to be the oldest population over 84 million people according to the 2001 census. They are mainly living in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and West Bengal. The tribal people in India are considered the earliest inhabitants of the country. They generally used to live in forest hills and were known by different names like Adimjati (Primitive people), Janajai (Folk people), Adivasi (First Settlers), and Anusuchitjanajati (Schedule Tribes). Among these names, Adivasi is the most commonly used term now while Anusuchit Janajati, or schedule tribe is the constitutionally accorded name that covers all the tribes in India. Most of the tribal resident is known as the indigenous population of our state. They are seen in more or less each state of India. For centuries, they have been living an undemanding life base on the natural environment and have developed culture patterns friendly to their physical and social surroundings. The Schedule Tribes people at 83,580,634 constituting 8.2 percent of the total people of India in 2001 census, along with Gujarat, in the West of Rajasthan and Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the Union Territories of Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep. A few numbers of tribal people are living in the state of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. And major tribal populations are in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in India. The scheduled tribes may culturally be divided into two broad categories in West Bengal; they are Proto-Australoid and Mongoloid. The plains tribals are Santhal, Oraon, Munda, Bhumijās, Koras, Lodhas, Mahals, Malpaharis, etc. in general possess Proto-Australoid.

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