PREFACE

West Bengal, one of the 28 states of the Union of India, came into existence on August 15, 1947. The independence of the country resulted in partitioning of original Bengal into two parts, the West Bengal, forming a state of the Indian Union and the East Bengal known as East Pakistan (later established as an independent country-Bangladesh).

West Bengal lies between latitudes 21° and 27° N and longitudes 86° and 90° E. The state is bound on north by Sikkim (another state of Indian Union), Nepal and Bhutan (two independent countries). The eastern boundary of the state is touched by Assam (another state of the Indian Union) and Bangladesh (an independent country). In the south, the sea-coast lying along the Bay of Bengal forms the boundary and in the western side lie three other states, namely, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa.

As per Indian constitution education and physical education are in the concurrent list, i.e. both of State and Union Governments responsibility. The Ministry of Education exercises control over education through Acts and regulations, which are passed by the Legislative Assembly. The minister acts through his secretariat, the directorate of education, the universities of the state, the board of secondary education, higher secondary council, higher education council etc. to fulfil educational objectives.

On the basis of national and international understanding physical education was made compulsory examination subject at the secondary stage of education in West Bengal in 1974. Unfortunately by a declaration in March, 1995, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education withdrew the status of compulsory physical education in school curriculum and made it an optional subject from class IX. Many educationists, professional organisations, training institutes were of the opinion that decision of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education was arbitrary, unscientific, ridiculous and against the collective wisdom of national and international authorities.
concerned with education. Agitation, protest rally against the decision was organised in West Bengal by various organisations, students, teachers and professionals of physical education.

The present researcher, basically a student of history, was very much interested in physical education profession. After completion of Bachelor of Education in Physical Education followed by Bachelor of Education and Master's of Education in Physical Education courses, he developed a passion for understanding the historical development of physical education in West Bengal. When he was a student of Master's course in Physical Education, the unrealistic decision of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, mentioned above, came into effect. This decision created frustration among physical education personnel all over the state. The researcher felt that in all probability the people, concerned with the said decision making were not fully aware of historical perspective and factual events relating to physical education.

At this juncture the researcher thought a thorough understanding of the historical perspective regarding the state of affairs of physical education in West Bengal must be known to all concerned. With this back drop, when selection of a topic for Ph.D. programme came up, the researcher did not hesitate to select the present problem ‘Physical Education Scenario in West Bengal from 1882 to 1982’.

It may not be out of place to mention here that as physical education is under the concurrent list i.e. both State and Central Governments are taking care for the development of physical education and sports. Central Government made several recommendations, framed rules, formed commissions, committees etc. for the development of sports and physical education. Reference of such recommendations of the Central Government has been incorporated in this thesis.

This thesis is presented in nine chapters. The first chapter i.e. introduction chapter comprised of general introduction, historical
perspective of physical education with special reference to Bengal prior to 1882. The state of affairs of physical education in last two decades of nineteenth century (1882-1900) are presented in chapter-II. Physical education in first two decades of twentieth century (1900-1920) and physical education scenario of Bengal, 1920-1932 are depicted in chapter III & IV respectively. Factual events of development of physical education for the last fifteen years (1932-1947) before independence and first fifteen years (1947-1962) after independence are highlighted in chapter V & VI respectively. Period from 1963 to 1973 has been described in chapter VII. A new dimension - 'march towards greater horizon' the period between 1974 & 1982 are presented in chapter VIII. Summary cum conclusions and recommendations are presented in chapter IX. Chapterwise reference materials are serially numbered and presented at the end of each chapter. In the list of references, relating to the Education proceedings and some letters etc., sources of the documents have not been mentioned. In all these cases, it would be West Bengal State Archives.

The present researcher will be happy if any interested investigator find this dissertation as useful in their study. The researcher also will feel pleasure if his laborious research endeavour is utilised as reference in the profession.
Map of West Bengal Showing The Districts