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The present dissertation titled 'Art & Cultural Traditions of Sutradharas of Bengal', is a product of the survey of literature, coupled with the opportunities of conducting field work in the different districts of West Bengal.

My personal interest concerning the Sutradharas has a brief history of its own. As I was born and brought up in a village among the members of the Sutradharas in rural West Bengal, I got an inspiration to know their arts and crafts more thoroughly and if possible, to try to cover a brief report of their arts and crafts and to reveal the truth underlying that, when the Sutradharas are practically entrusted with the task of preserving and continuance of the religious tradition of the Hindus — why they are considered to occupy an inferior position in the caste hierarchy, or that, if at all our scholars and countrymen feel proud of their artistic contribution, why they are now passing through a state of poverty, frustration and pessimism. However, I am glad to see my desire, at least, partly fulfilled.

In connection with my present research, I would recall the love and sympathy of my respected teachers of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, as
they did a lot to shape my career in many ways. Side by side, I should convey my hearty regards to Dr. Kalyan Kumar Gangopadhyaya, as on many occasions kindly he suggested to take up a research project, that would not only reveal in outline the artistic contribution of an artisan community like the Sutradharas for instance, in the past and explore the impact of history on these artisans, but would also highlight, in effect to such consequences, how they are trying to orient their artistic mind to a new direction.

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Tamluk.

KAMAL KUMAR KUNDU