Acknowledgement

My gratitude is towards my supervisor, Dr Yogesh Sharma, for suggesting this research topic and for being a constant source of advice and motivation. I am also grateful to the University Grants Commission for awarding me a Junior Research Fellowship that enabled me to pursue research without any financial difficulties.

I would like to thank the staff of the following libraries for their cooperation—Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, Delhi University Library, National Archives, of India, Archeological Survey of India, Indian Council of Historical Research, Central Secretariat Library, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Centre de Sciences Humaines all in New Delhi, and the National Library, Kolkata. My close friends Uma Shankar Pandey, Vaibhav Sharma and Osamazaid Rahman were always willing to help in several ways.

Sandip Kumar