PREFACE

The study examines Mahatma Gandhi’s presence in Punjab during his life and subsequent to it. In order to identify this simple question it is essential to understand a broader perception of Mahatma Gandhi and his influence on Punjab and Punjabis. Analytical works as of Bipan Chandra, Erik Erikson, Judith M Brown, Rajiv Lochan and Ravinder Kumar on Gandhi inspires to better understand Gandhi and the Gandhian Movements in the context of Punjab. Extensive research work and innumerable expert opinions on Gandhi’s life and ideas necessitates an independent inquiry before forming any opinion regarding his approach.

To substantiate my argument I took different viewpoints primarily from The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, *The Tribune, The Times of India, The Civil and Military Gazette* and the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers. The period of the study covers different phases of Gandhi’s progression, advancement of his movements and extends up till the lives of his likeminded associates from the erstwhile Punjab. A broad outline is in relevance to Gandhi’s progression and his special endeavors in the case of Punjab during the significant developments. The chapters are framed to have a basic understanding of Gandhi in the context of Punjab. Punjab during the period of Rowlatt Satyagraha and Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy; Khilafat and Non-cooperation Movement; Gurudwara Movement has been studied at length. Few individual cases are studied so to have a basic idea of Gandhi’s influence on the Punjabis. I visited Gandhi Samarak Bhawan sec-16, Chandigarh so to observe Gandhi’s presence among Gandhians as well as the society linked with the samarak in the present times. Interaction while interviewing some of the Gandhians provided me with a comparative understanding of the past and the present developments of Punjab. I got an opportunity to interview Prof. V. C. Nanda who is a Rtd. Professor, Department of Maths, Panjab University; a convener Azadi Bachao Andolan Chandigarh unit; an active member of Lala Lajpat Rai Thinkers Forum; member of Gandhi Samarak Bhawan and a Gandhian in spirit. Through Prof. Nanda I got a chance to
meet Sunderlal Bahuguna and his wife at Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Chandigarh in the last week of November, 2010. They both were the spirit behind Chipko Movement which is an exemplary movement in concern to the environment. He is among few Gandhians who with his determination, dedication and devotion is trying to influence the society in a Gandhian way. Prof. V. C. Nanda also introduced me to Shri Umendra Dutt who is an initiator Kheti Virasat Mission, Jaitu, Faridkot. It is an ongoing movement to aware the farmers against the negative aspect of government policies. He is basically working to aware the Punjabis for organic farming and food security. He is greatly inspired by the Gandhian ideas and his movement is gradually gaining strength. For my field work I visited Kasturba Seva Mandir and had a personal interview with Mr. Yogesh Kumar who is a secretary Kasturba Seva Mandir Trust, Rajpura. It is Community Development initiative of Bibi Amtul Salaam who was an ideal worker of Gandhi. Some portions of the study are published in the form of research papers while working on the thesis.