Preface

Our thesis entitled 'An Archaeological Study of District Muzaffarnagar' deals with the archaeology of Muzaffarnagar region based on explorations conducted by the author under the scheme Village to village Survey of Antiquarian Remains, sponsored by the Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi. The purpose of the present study is to undertake the aims and objectives of the aforesaid scheme through a detailed survey of the archaeological sites and monuments and to assess their historical importance. Broadly, an attempt has been made to throw light on the past history and cultural traditions of the area in general. A meticulous study of findings comprising coins, sculptures, terracottas, ceramics and other objects of archaeological interest provide a vivid and lucid picture from the proto-historic period to the advent of the Christian era.

I have tried my best to fulfil the aims and objectives of the aforesaid scheme. For the search of sites of archaeological and architectural importance, long distances from village to village been covered. The exploration in the area enabled us to discover of 171 archaeologically very important and rich sites. Out of them 52 sites had already been reported. During the course physical survey of various sites a lot of fragments of basins, bowls, dishes, jars vases and vessels etc. belonging to Late Harappan, OCP, PGW, NBPW, Black-Slipped ware and red ware besides the pottery of Early Historic and Medieval period were discovered and collected. With the help of these archaeological material an attempt has been made to assess the impact of this region on Indian art, history and archaeology and to measure its contribution to the main stream of Indian culture. Till recently the region had remained unexplored, and escaped the attention of the archaeologists and historians to assess its historical importance. The present thesis makes
an attempt to highlight the archaeological and historical importance of the rich source material collected by me.

The thesis, therefore, is mainly based on archaeological material, architectural remnants and cultural traditions which the author happened to discover during exploration and physical survey of the prominent areas. The information gathered further corroborated from the secondary sources, both published and those yet to be published. Thus information gathered on the basis of exploration and survey should be treated as original. The period of our study starts from the pre-historic times and comes down to the end of the medieval period. The area covered by our study is the whole of modern (present day) district of Muzaffarnagar.

For the convenience of the study the work has been divided into five chapters each dealing with a particular aspect. The chapter I deals with the Introduction aspect such as demarcation of boundary and administrative subdivision i.e. tehsil, and block. It also deals with the geographical structure of the district i.e. physical features, geology, climate, soil and places of interest. The chapter II on History deals with the historical background of the district on the literary sources as well as on the archaeological findings. The chapter III on Monuments & Other Structural Remains deals with the monuments and other structures viz. stepped well, mazar, baoli, satia, tanks etc. Some building of pre-medieval and medieval period are still in good state of preservation and some are in bad condition. The details of these have been given alphabetically tehsil and block wise. However, where are necessary with photograph. Under chapter IV on Cronology, Pottery Discription & Other Details deals with the field work which provides a brief description i.e. approach, cultural pattern and other cultural finds of all the 172 archaeological sites. The ef-
fort has been made to describe these sites alphabetically tehsil and block wise. However, photographs of mounds and antiquities related to these sites are attached accordingly. The chapter V on Chronology & Details of Cultural Equipments deals with the chronology of the district and illustration and description of the line drawings of the pottery and antiquities found in the district. In the Conclusion the result of the present study has been given briefly. A useful bibliography has been attached in the end.

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