PRE FACE

The present thesis entitled 'An Archaeological Study of District Muzaffarnagar' deals with the village to village survey of the district under the scheme of survey of Antiquarian Remains. Originally sponsored by the Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi. The purpose of the present study is to fulfil the aims and objects of the village to village survey scheme through which a detailed survey account of the archaeological sites and monuments of historical importance could be found. It has been my endeavour to throw light on the past history and culture 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 Britishers in India.

I have tried my best to fulfil the aims and objectives of the aforesaid scheme. In search of the sites of archaeological and architectural importance I have travelled widely from village to village. During the course of my exploration in the area under study 149 archaeological sites have been discovered out of them - have already been reported. My effort has been to reveal
the remains of all cultural periods as far as possible of this region on the basis of material collected from here. I have collected a lot of the fragments of basins, bowls, dishes, jars, vases and vessels etc, belonging to Late Harappan, OCP, PGW, NBPW, Black Slipped red ware of early and historic and medieval period with the help of these material an attempt has been made to assess the impact of this district on Indian art, history and archaeology and to measure its contribution to the main stream of Indian culture and civilization.

For the convenience of the study the work has been divided into six chapters each dealing with a particular aspect. The chapter I deals with the 'General' aspect such as demarcation of boundary and administrative subdivision i.e. tahsil, and block. It also deals with the geographical structure of the district i.e. physical features, geology, flora, fauna and places of interest. The chapter II on 'History' deals with the historical background of the district on the literary sources as well as the archaeological sources.

According to the tradition of Shukratal the history of the area is pushed back to the Mahabharat period. The presence of Late Harappan pottery at various sites of
Muzaffarnagar further pushed back antiquity of the district to the first half of the 2nd millennium B.C.

Under chapter III on 'Cultural Sequence & Material Evidence' deals with the field work which provides a brief description i.e. approach, cultural assemblage and other cultural finds of all the 149 archaeological sites.

The effort has been made to describe these sites tahsil and block wise alphabetically. However, photographs of mounds and antiquities related to these sites are attached accordingly.

The chapter IV on 'Chronology & Details of Cultural Equipments' deals with the chronology of the district and the illustration of the line drawings of the pottery found in the district.

The chapter V 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 tahsil and block wise alphabetically however, where ever necessary with photograph.
A useful chart recording the names of the sites (archaeological and architectural) with their location approach, river and nature as well as other details have been given in the appendices to provide an idea of archaeological richness of the region at a glance. The thesis is illustrated with necessary line drawings and photographs to provide exact idea and significance of artifacts and architectural remains and monuments. A useful bibliography has been attached in the end.

In the concluding chapter 'Conclusion' the purpose and the result of the present study has been given briefly. Here I want to add good qualities and fact are given by me as far as possible correct but for all lapses, if there is any I stand fully responsible for the same for which I crave the indulgence of the readers.

For reaching many of the villages specially in the khadar area there was no approach road or conveyance facility consequently there was no alternative left to walk on foot. Inspite of all these tedious conditions I carried on my work and surveyed the whole district even in the sultry heat of June and rainy August. I got the fullest cooperation with the local people wherever I approached.
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