CONCLUSION

"An Archaeological Study of District Budaun" is the topic of my Ph.D. thesis. The purpose of the present study is to fulfill the aims and objectives of the village to village survey scheme through which a detailed survey account of the sites and monuments of archaeological importance could be found. It also provides a brief history of the area as well as an analysis of the cultural finds gathered during the course of extensive explorations.

I have tried my best to fulfill these aims and objectives. I have travelled from village to village in search of the sites of historical and archaeological importance. Archaeological remains have proved the truth of the inscriptions and legends that Budaun region had been an important centre of learning and philosophy during the Vedic Periods as it was called 'Vedā-Mayūtā.' It had dense forests ranges around its main river Ganga up till the Pre-Medieval Periods. Many kings were impressed by its beauty and richness of hunting potential and had built forts as Sahasravāhu, Ben, Vikramāditya, Yayāti, PEROZ TUGHLAQ and SYED SULTAN ALĀ-UD-DĪN etc. had built forts at Sahaswān, Bināwar, Kot-Sālvāhan, Nabīganj, Bisaull and Alāpur, respectively. These forts are still visible in the form of mounds.
The 'Donā' at Rafiābād village is said to be the Ashram of Droṇāchārya. Kushak Kherā at Suchauli village is said to be the Ashram of Vālmīki where Lava and Kusha took birth and the Sāndi mound is said to be the place where Parasurām observed penances. In this way these places have remained connected by one or the other way with some of the great luminaries of the past as well as with some of the major events of great historical significance. The sages in fact do not belong to any particular district. They are honoured and respected by all and get invitations so they travel from place to place visiting kings and commoners. That is why in this district many places are connected with them and are associated with the great Rsis as Dona (Droṇāchārya) at Rafiābād. However, one cannot depend too much on these legends prevalent in this area.

Therefore, my efforts to bring to light the archaeological importance of this limited region of Gangatic Valley, are mostly, directly to the field only though literary references have also crept in because one cannot do anything without them.

I have divided my work in four Chapters, each dealing with a particular aspect of life. The First Chapter deals with the 'General' phase of the district, demarcation of the boundaries, administrative subdivisions and geographical
structure of the district. The region being a part of the Indo-Gangatic plain, is structurally a homogeneous area. A chart showing the number of blocks as well as villages is also provided.

The Second Chapter deals with the Historical Background of the district having sub-chapters. A- Antiquity of Budaun and B- Political History. Under 'Antiquity of Budaun' a light is thrown on the nomenclature of Budaun as the cradle of Vedic studies. According to traditions the name of Budaun has about 11 variations - these traditions push the antiquity of the place at least to Mahābhārata age in the later Vedic periods. Presence of O.C.P. ware sherds at the various sites push back the antiquity of the district to the first-half of the 2nd millennium B.C.

The Political History shows that Budaun had been a part of ancient Panchala Pradesh having its capital at Ahicchatra.

Under Chapter Third my endeavour has been to illuminate the Monuments and Architectural Remains of the district. The ancient settlements of the Vedic periods are found in the forms of mounds at various places. I have explored forty two mounds which are the treasure of the past. If proper excavations are made much important and authentic information can be gathered. Binàwar, Nabiganj, Chandrà Maû, Sahaswán
and Kot-Sālivāhan are said to be the capitals of Rājā Ben, Rājā Yayāti, Rājā Chandra, Sahasra Vāhu and Sālivāhan, respectively.

Some buildings of pre-medieval and Medieval periods are still in good state of preservation.

The Fourth Chapter is related to the Cultural Equip-ments having two sub-chapters as A- Pottery and B- Antiquity.

Though it is very difficult to present a definite occupational strata of the sites without systematic excavations of the sites, yet I have explored the sites extensively. I have collected a lot of the fragments of basins, bowls, dishes, jars, vases & vessels etc. belonging to O.C.P., Black and Red P.G.W., Black Polished, N.B.P.W., Red Ware Phases. It denotes that during the dawn of civilization the people living in this region seem to have acquired considerable skill and expertise to produce such sophisticated objects. They had agriculture based economy and led a settled life. The occurrence of O.C.P. and P.G.W. at different places denote cultural contacts or trade connections among them but when and where this all took place is a moot point.

Antiquities include terracotta and stone images of deities, human figurine, heads, busts, legs, hands, discs, balls, toy objects, bulls, lions, goats & bricks of various sizes etc.
As regards the contribution of this district to the repertoire of terracotta art it is quite remarkable. Probably the tradition of ceramic art reached its apex of culmination in the field of terracotta too.

A modelled terracotta female head at Sāndī with bulging eyes peculiar of Kushāna Period is unique. A greyish sand-stone female smiling face of Jagat with particular hairdo of Gupta Period has few equals to match its beauty, grace and elegance of creation.

A terracotta lion of Bināwar is a remarkable specimen of animation in art. Discs of terracotta, pottery and P.G.W. are found in a good number with all the usual decorations. Adequate number of beads having the shapes of aricanut, drum, barrel, circular and ghat type are collected from the various sides of the district.

Probably Jagat, Mohammadpur Vihār, Unaulā had been the art centres of images in this region.

Regarding coins it is my duty to point out that a huge number of coins already found from the site Sahaswan are lying sealed under the custody of the District Magistrate of Budaun in Govt. Treasury of the district. I have explored some coins conspicuous among them are two punch marked coins
collected from Binawar and Eadshahpur. Among the various symbols of these coins a symbol of 'Three Human Figurine' is marked on them.

Three copper plates with dated inscriptions engraved in Sanskrit are also found from Arifpur Nawada a suburb of the city of Budaun in March 1978. These plates present a genealogy of the kings who ruled at Budaun during the XIth and XIIth centuries A.D.

This indicates the fact that Sanskrit was the court language at that time. People were honoured for their deeds from time to time as these plates cover a vast period of one hundred and twenty five years.

Three charts of varying contents have been provided for ready references. One chart provides the names of the sites having architectural remains. The second chart provides the names of the sites of ceramics. The third chart is most important that shows the names of the explored sites with their locations and other necessary details which gives an idea of archaeological personality of the region at a glance. It is enclosed in the end while other charts are annexed with the chapters dealing with the contents.

The thesis is suitably illustrated with line drawings, photographs and map showing sites of archaeological
importance. For the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words and proper names a chart of transliteration and an abbreviation list is incorporated. Bibliography has been annexed in the end of the thesis.

It would be better to write a few lines about the presentation of my work. Keeping in mind the convenience of the interested readers the monuments and architectural remains have been described and placed according to alphabetical and chronological order.

The ceramics are also illustrated in alphabetical order classifying these further according to the sizes of the pots in decreasing order. The only exception are the lids which have been described according to their shapes. The names of sites, blocks and tahsils from where these architectural remains, ceramics and antiquities are found have been given in the brackets as captions just below the illustrations. Charts of the found sites are annexed with the chapters. Photo plates of monuments, ceramics and antiquities are also attached accordingly.

It has been my effort to describe and illustrate the antiquities item-wise. For references where there are more than one books of the same writer, the name of one of his books is mentioned in each case as to decipher the source. As M.M.R. Bismil's book 'Tazikartul Waslin' has been mentioned
India is a vast country. The pale of her ancient culture and civilization is equally very vast and extensive. On the basis of foregoing chapters we have come to the conclusion that due to comprehensive archaeological investigations and explorations in the district it would be correct to say that this district is a rich repertoire of ancient cultural material. This consists of terracotta and stone artifacts, sculptures, earthen wares, seals, discs, beads, coins and many other objects of artistic value. This material throw a flood of light on the antiquity of the region on the every sphere of life.

Though many archaeological surveys of this district had been made earlier, yet much still remained to be done. If compared with the work done earlier, it is clear that the pioneer surveyors had innumerable limitations. They also had in their mind a very extensive area to be covered. In spite of the fact that their work howsoever superficial, is in every way commendable.

A. Cunningham had confined his attention mainly on the nomenclature, historical background and main buildings of the Sadar tahsil of Budaun. A. Fuhrer focused mainly on the buildings of Bisaull, Sahaswán along with that of the
buildings of Budaun. E. Atkinson had described Binawar but did not see towards Chandra Mau and Mohammadpur Vihar, the adjoining villages of the said village Binawar.

Thus I dare to say that a vast area of this region had remained unnoticed so far even the district gazetteer of Budaun of H.R. Nevill does not speak about the story of Sandi, Basela, Bagrain, Naita Jhuksa etc, which represent O.C.P. and P.G.W. Phases. My effort has been to unfold the pages of proto-historic periods of this region on the basis of material collected from here. These relics are the witness that Budaun had been the centre of Vedic lore. The architectural remains of Gurukul at Majia village and Ashram of Dronacharya are identifications of the fact. Presence of O.C.P., Black and Red P.G.W., N.B.P.W. and Red Ware signify the continuous inhabitation in this region from 2nd millennium B.C. to the present day. It also proves the fact that people living in this region had acquired considerable skill and had cultural and trade relations among them.

The ancient settlements are found in the forms of mounds collecting the treasure of archaeological importance in their hearts but most of them have been cut down either by the farmers or washed out due to the recurring floods of the Ganges.
On the basis of the antiquities collected from this district it can be concluded that Hindu religion was the prevailing religion in this region as the copper plates indicate that these were awarded after religious ceremonies, most of the images are of Hindu god and goddesses. No Buddhist image could be collected only one image is of Jain Tirthankar. The 'mathas' of 'Satis' indicate the presence of the 'Sati' custom in the society.

As regards the contribution of this district to the repertoire of terracotta art it is remarkable. Terracotta and stone images represent Mauryan, Gupta, Kushāna and Medieval periods with their perfection of art.

While dealing with the chapter on monuments it has been shown that the contribution of this district in the field of architecture is in no way less important as the remains of walls, forts, temples, tunnels etc. are visible at the different sites. Some are still in better state of preservation.

The tomb of Nawab-Farid-ud-Din at the bank of river 'Sot' near Sheikhpur is a rough sketch of 'The Taj' in lakhauri bricks.

Thus, if systematic excavations are made at certain sites viz. Basela, Usehat, Sandi, Mohammadpur Vihar, Unaula,
Nabiganj and Bagrain, this district would be torch bearer to the proto-historic background of the Ganga valley as well as it would fill up the hiatus existing between the downfall of Harappan and N.B.P.W. cultures. Perhaps it would link the way of Mahâbhârata up to Kaushâmbi through the remains of the old settlements lying hidden in the forms of mounds in the dense forests along the river Ganges.