The present work entitled "An Archaeological Study of District Budaun", deals with a village to village survey of the district. It has been my endeavour to throw light on the past history and culture of the masses of the area in general. A meticulous study of findings comprising of coins, sculptures, terracottas, ceramics and other objects of archaeological importance provide a vivid and lucid picture from the proto-historic period to the advent of the Britishers in India. Ochre Colour Pottery, Painted and Plain Grey Ware, Black Polished Ware, Northern Black Polished Ware, Black and Red and Red Ware pottery have also been studied in their true perspective. My efforts have been 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 study the work has been divided into four chapters each dealing with a particular aspect. The first chapter deals with the 'General' aspect such as demarcation of boundary and administrative sub-divisions i.e. Tahsils and Blocks. It also deals with the 'Geographical Structure' of the district.

Second chapter deals with the 'Historical Background' of the district having sub-chapters A - Antiquity of Budaun and B - Political History.
Under the Antiquity of Budaun I have tried to unfold the story related to the nomenclature of the district, as revealed in Vedic Studies. According to traditions the name of Budaun has about 11 variations, these traditions push back the antiquity of the place at least to the Mahabharat age in the later Vedic Period. The presence of the well known Ochre Colour Pottery (O.C.P.) at various sites of Budaun viz. Bināwar, Chandrā Maū, Gulariā, Rafiābad and Sāndī further 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 the ancient Pāncchāla Pradesh; having its capital known as Achichhatra. The presence of O.C.P. and P.G.W. cultures corroborate the fact.

Under Chapter Third it has been my effort to illuminate the 'Monuments and Archaeological Remains' of the district. The settlements of the hoary past of the district are buried under a number of vast mounds. It would be torch bearer in the quest of our past to excavate the mounds scattered all over the district. The sites of Bināwar, Nabiganj, Mohammadpur Vihār, Bagrain, Suchauli, Sāndī& Usehat are repertoires of Ancient Indian Culture and heritage. Some buildings of Pre-medieval and Medieval Periods are still in good state of preservation.

The Fourth Chapter dealing with the 'Cultural Equipments' has been sub-divided into two parts. A - Pottery
and B - Antiquity. It is, however, very difficult to present a definite occupational strata of the sites without systematic excavations of the sites. Yet I have strived to explore the sites at length. During frequent explorations we have collected a large number of pottery fragments of Basins, Bowls, Dishes, Vases, Vessels & Jars etc.

A good number of terracotta objects, images, balls, beads, discs, dabbers, toy objects, semi precious stones viz. Quartzs and agates, bangle pieces of different materials have been collected from the various sites of the district. Perhaps sites Jagat, Mohammadpur Vihar and Unaula had been centres of terracotta and stone images. Since most of the sculpture pieces along with other artifacts have been found at these sites. Some coins have also been collected by the author. Besides these about a quintal-load of coins already found are lying sealed under the custody of the District Magistrate of Budaun in the government treasury of the district. Conspicuous among the explored coins are "punch marked" picked from Binawar and Badshahpur sites.

Three charts of varying contents have been provided for ready reference. One of them shows the names of the Archaeological sites with their location and other necessary details. It has been given in the appendix to provide an idea of archaeological personality of the region at a glance.
In the remaining two charts one provides the names of the sites having architectural remains and the other gives the names of the sites of various ceramics.

I have tried to adorn my thesis with suitable illustrations comprising of drawings, photographs and maps showing sites of archaeological interest. For the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words and proper names a chart of transliteration along with abbreviation list is incorporated. An useful bibliography has also been appended in the end of the thesis. Thus my endeavour in the following pages has been to bring to light the proto-historic background of the Ganga valley as well as to fill up the hiatus existing between the down-fall of Harappans and the emergence of N.E.P.W. cult known earlier in history as "the Dark Age". On the basis of fresh cultural material discovered during the course of exploration of this district, it can clearly be observed that there exists a complete chronological order of cultures in the area.

I am extremely grateful to the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India for allowing me to explore the sites of the District Budaun under the supervision of Professor R.C. Gaur, Chairman of the Department of History and Director of Archaeology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The field exploration was not an easy task but I tried to do
with full of my might and the inspiration of Prof. R.C. Gaur whose able guidance made it easy for me.

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The Archaeological team of the University did commendable job in undertaking the strenuous job of village to village survey to study the Archaeological remains in the scorching heat of the summer and having no facility worth naming. Professor Gaur was kind enough to help me in studying the explored material and to incorporate its results in the present thesis.

Due to paucity of time a large area of four tahsils was left uncovered by the Archaeological team of the University and I was left alone to complete the task. I must express my gratitude to my husband Dr. Mohammad Ali, Reader in Sanskrit, Kishori Raman Post Graduate College, Mathura who accompanied me and took all the pains in surveying each tahsil of the district having the sites of the archaeological importance. For reaching many of the villages there was no
approach road or conveyance facility consequently there was no alternative left except to walk on foot even up to 20 km in a day. In spite 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 whereever, I approached particularly from Messrs Munne Mian Nizami and Zia Ali of Budaun, Mohammad Mian of Arifpur Nawada, Pt. Deva Datta Sharma of Binawar, Ghulam Mustafa Khan of Arifpur Nawada, Mohammad Khan of Wazirganj, S.C. Srivastava, the B.D.O., Bisauli, Yash Kumar Gupta, the tahsildar and Shafiq Ahmad the Naib tahsildar of Sahaswan, Netaji and Mohammad Siddiq of Gunnaur, Munnalal and Kishan Lal attendants of Dataganj gave full cooperation in my exploration in the various sites of the district. I am thankful to all of them.

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ALIGARH
DATED 4-4-, 1989

(Nazhat Ara Zuberi)

(MRS. NAZHAT ARA ZUBERI)