PREFACE

Even though, as a student of Anthropology, I was interested in the cultural development of man during the prehistoric period, I got more attracted to this discipline by my appointment as the Museum Supervisor of the Anthropological and Ethnological Museum of the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1972. Further incentive to this study of different prehistoric antiquities came to me when I was deputed to attend a Short Term Course in Museology at National Museum, New Delhi and later to attend a Summer School in Archaeology directed by Professor H.D.Sankalia at Deccan College, Poona. I also participated in the excavations at Bhimbetka which were directed by Dr.V.N.Misra of the same institute. In addition to these, my involvement in the teaching programme related to Prehistoric Archaeology in the Department helped me to make a critical study of the Indian Stone Age.

While all these years I was in search of a suitable problem for my research project, opportunity came to me through my association with several field expeditions of the Department of Anthropology to various parts of western sub-Himalaya in course of its phased research programme on history and antiquities of Early Man in Śivalika. From my own experiences in the field I noted that of all the major Himalayan river valleys that of the Sutlej was the least investigated archaeologically even though it abounds in other types of palæoanthropological data. In order to
undertake systematic investigations in the area, which constitutes the subject matter of the present study, I was primarily encouraged and helped by Professor S.R.K. Chopra, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Zürich), F.N.A.Sc., Chairman/Head of the Department of Anthropology and the Field Director of the project, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He has not only been my constant source of inspiration throughout the period of this work but also has been very kind in providing material and moral help which I needed to complete this work.

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Baldev Singh Karir