A number of philosophical institutions are preaching spirituality in India. Radha Soami Satsang Beas is one among them. The foundation of Radha Soami Satsang was laid by Soami Shiv Dayal in 1861 in Agra, his philosophy was brought to Punjab by one of his disciples Jaimal Singh who chose a place on the banks of river Beas for his settlement. The centre established by Baba Jaimal Singh at Beas eventually came to be known as Dera Baba Jaimal Singh. Beginning from wild grassy area of a few square yards, this centre is now spread over 5,000 acres. Over 30,00,000 devotees from all over the world have been initiated by Dera Beas Masters into Radha Soami Philosophy. To accommodate so many devotees, basic facilities had to be provided which converted this place into a well planned ‘autonomous’ township. The present study aims to discuss various stages of the growth of this sacred centre.

This study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with historical background of the Radha Soami Satsang; the second with the foundation and growth of Beas centre, popularly known as Dera Beas. Third chapter throws light on the growth in the number of its followers and places of congregation in India and abroad. In the fourth chapter, an attempt has been made to explain the administrative structure of Dera Beas, fifth chapter deals with social activities undertaken by the centre. Sixth chapter discusses the literature published by this centre. The findings of these chapters have been summed up in the Conclusion. In addition, important information and some lists have been given in the Appendices. The non-English terms have been explained in Glossary at the end.

The study is based mainly on the primary sources, including the Beas Archives’ records, Dera magazines, Reports, Dera Publications, Government records besides secondary works. Stay at Dera Beas for months together and visits to different centres helped me in collecting first-hand information from the sewadars and officials working there who provided me valuable information other than related to finances.
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