

Acknowledgment

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Ph.D. supervisor **Prof. Prafulla K. Jha**. You have been a tremendous mentor for me since my post-graduation studies. Your advice on both research as well as on my career has been priceless. I will always appreciate your efforts in encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a research scientist.

I would like to thank **Dr. Venu Mankad** for introducing and sharing her vision to me on the field of catalysis along with the great knowledge of the field of catalysis. I thank **Dr. Shweta Dabhi** for her great help in my very early months of working with computational codes and theoretical calculations.

My special thanks go to our collaborators **Prof. Krzysztof J. Kurzydłowski** (Warsaw University of Technology and Bialystok University of Technology), **Dr. Piotr Śpiewak** (Warsaw University of Technology), and **Dr. Dominik Kurzydłowski** (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, Poland) for their excellent collaboration and providing required CPU hours through computational facility available at **Interdisciplinary Center for Mathematical and Computational Modelling (ICM)**, University of Warsaw, and thereby making this thesis work possible even in COVID-19 pandemic. I am also thankful for their caring and supportive nature during my visit to Warsaw University of Technology and Bialystok University of Technology in Poland. Part of the calculations was performed on high-performance computing clusters “Sayaji” (DST-FIST program) and “Shakti” (DST-SERB grant No. SR/FTP/PS-05/2014) at the M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara.

I would like to thank **Dr. Alessandro Fortunelli** (Senior Researcher at ICCOM-CNR), for providing insights into the area of Heterogeneous Catalysis through long and fruitful discussions. I am grateful to him for ensuring my comfortable stay in Pisa, Italy while attending ISNA-2.

I thank **Prof. Jinlan Wang** (Southeast University, China) for her smooth and effective research collaboration through these years.

I am deeply grateful to **Prof. S. P. Bhatnagar**, **Prof. N. K. Bhatt**, and **Late Dr. Rajesh Patel**, Department of Physics, M. K. Bhavnagar University for growing my interest in the fantastic world of Physics. I would also like to thank **Mr. Narendrasinh Jadeja**, **Mr. Rajesh Trivedi**, **Udaybhai**, **Jagdishbhai**, and **other non-teaching staff** for their constant support and co-operation.

I would like to thank the Head of the Department of Physics, all the professors, all the teaching staff, research students, administrative staff, and non-teaching staff of the M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, for their kind support and help in every possible way during my Ph.D. study.

I especially thank all my seniors, **Dr. Satyam Shinde** , **Dr. Ankur Pandya** , **Dr. Sanjay Gupta** , **Dr. Shree Mishra** , **Dr. Nikita Shah** , **Dr. Himadri Soni** , **Dr. Nidhi Astik** , **Dr. Poorvi Bhatt** , **Dr. Swati Gahlot** , and **Dr. Swapnil Patil** for being there as a motivator as well as being supportive always. I would also like to thank **Dr. Hiral Virpura** , **Dr. Medha Pandya** , **Dr. Virbhadra Gohel** , **Dr. Vishakha Dave** , **Dr. Mudra Jadav** , and **Dr. Nishant Nayar** for their constant support and help that I can always count on.

I say thank you to my long-term and short-term lab-mates **Deepak Upadhyay** , **Sharad Babu Pillai** , **Som Narayan** , **Trupti Gajaria** , **Anjali Patel** , **Nikunj Joshi** , **Darshil** , **Raghottam** , **Madhavi** , **Archana** , **Shardul** , **Hemang** , **Alpesh** , **Bhautik** , **Maitry** , **Sourabh** , and **Shivam** for keeping the scientifically-fruitle atmosphere in our CCMP lab and fun over the years. My friends **Brijrajsinh** , **Bijali** , **Anuradha** , **Rajdipsinh** , **Jaykishansinh** , **Devrashi** , **Amardipsinh** , **Jatin** , and all my classmates for their wonderful and unforgettable friendship.

Most importantly, I will be always grateful to my parents for showing me the value of education and overlooking my faults and mistakes, and always being a source of positive energy. My mother, **Mrs. Nirmalaben A. Baraiya** has always encouraged me to pursue knowledge and education, and my father **Mr. Arunkumar C. Baraiya** always taught me lessons on loyalty and sincerity towards my work. I appreciate my younger brother, **Ravi**, for creating joy and being a responsible person at home in my absence.

This work has been financially supported by the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, through the **INSPIRE Fellowship** under INSPIRE Program (No. **DST/INSPIRE Fellowship/2016/IF160053**). This support is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I wish to thank all for their loving support and almighty God for making me capable of completing this marvelous journey.

Baraiya Bhumi Arunkumar

Date & Place: 01/09/2021, Vadodara