

*Dedicated*

*to*

*My Family and Teachers*

Without their blessing, love and encouragement  
this would not have been possible.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to record my sincere gratitude to my supervisor **Dr. M. Srinivas** for his continuous support during my Ph.D. study, for his patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. His mentorship was paramount in developing my own individuality and self-sufficiency by being allowed to work independently. In fact his inspirations and competent guidance encouraged me in my study like a veritable guide and philosopher at every stage of my research work.

My warm and grateful acknowledgements are extended to Dr. K.V.R Murthy, Applied Physics Department, Faculty of Technology, The M.S.University of Baroda for his constant encouragement, support and cooperation. Without their valuable suggestions, it would not have been possible for me to accomplish my purpose.

I convey special acknowledgement to Prof. J. P. Singh, Professor & Head of Physics Department, The M.S.University of Baroda, for their indispensable help in every respect.

I am grateful to UGC-CSR, Indore Center for providing XRD and TEM characterization facilities.

I am warmly thankful to The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for providing me infrastructure and facilities to carry out my research work.

I express my sincere obligations to the entire teaching and nonteaching staff for their kind love, support and love during my Ph.D. work at the department. I also put on record my thankfulness to my colleagues Nimesh Patel, Vishwnath Verma, Dharmendra Tawde, Devang Shah, Nikit Deshmukh, Nishant Barot and others for their support and sharing knowledge during my work.

Lastly, and most importantly, I thank my loving parents and family members for their endless love, priceless perpetual, indispensable help, support made all this possible. Words fail me to express my appreciation for my wife Deepti, whose devotion, love and continual faith in me,

have taken the load off my shoulder.

Above all, I express my profound gratitude to the almighty God for all his grace and light, which gave strength as well as inspired me throughout the work. Finally, I express my sincere thanks, to all the members who have co-operated me and helped me to complete my research work efficiently and satisfactorily.

Dhaval Modi

Date: 03/08/2015