

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

India is celebrating its fiftieth year of independence, three governments have changed in last five years, Sri Lankans are new world champions in cricket, fossil life form (?) has been found in a Martian meteorite, many of my friends have married and have started populating the country, and I have several grey hairs -it must be time to finish up! What I have been able to achieve in this project has been due to a large part to the support, advice, assistance and encouragement of advisers, colleagues, collaborators and friends. I finally have an opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to them all.

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