## **Acknowledgements**

Primarily, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Dr. KR Krishnamurthy and Dr. BV Kamath, who constantly encouraged, inspired & guided me right from the beginning of this work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the management of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Dr. M. Ravindranathan and Dr. AB Halgeri, DGM (R & D) for having permitted me to carry out my research work at its research centre.

I am deeply thankful to Drs. D. Rajeshwer, AG Basrur, GS Rao, DT Gokak and Dr. Jaganath Das, scientists at the research center, for all the help rendered to me in each and every step of my work right from literature survey to compilation of the thesis. I also gratefully acknowledge the keen interest they took in my work and the useful suggestions they gave me whenever I needed one.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. S. Unnikrishnan for help rendered to me in TPD studies and Dr. KV Rao for his help with XRD data.

Thanks are also due to Mrs. Sangita N Rathod, Mr. Pankaj R. Chavda, Mr. Jiten T Vora, Mr. Krusang N Shah and Mr. BM Patel for helping me out with various characterization studies.

I am indebted to Mr. Robin Antony, who helped me in the final stages of compilation.

At the Chemistry Department of MS. University of Baroda, I profusely thank the Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. AC Shah and Head, Department of Chemistry, Prof. AK Rakshit, for their kind co-operation throughout.

There were so many people who did so many things to help me out at critical times. In this short space, it is just impossible to acknowledge all of them individually. I thank all of you, my friends and colleagues, who have been always with me, in times of need.

Finally, I am indebted for ever to my parents for moulding me to what I am today. I also thank my sister Jackline and my wife Anita for beng at my side when I needed them.