

## *Acknowledgment*

*First and foremost, I would like to thank **The Almighty God** for his benevolent blessings and providing me the opportunity to complete this work and to be successful in my life's journey so far.*

*I would like pay my sincere regards to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Parimal H. Vyas; Dean Faculty of Science, Prof. Haribhai R. Kataria and other University officials of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for giving me opportunity to pursue my research work in this esteemed University.*

*At the outset, it gives me great pleasure to express my deep sense of esteem and profound gratitude to my research guide Dr. Rajendrasinh N. Jadeja and Co-guide Dr. Sonal I. Thakore for their inspiring guidance, never diminishing encouragement, suggestions, solving issues cropping up during the research, support and complete dedication during the progress of my work. Working with them was a great pleasure and learning experience.*

*With great reverence I express my humble wholehearted gratitude to Prof. Kauresh D. Vachhrajani, Head, Department of Environmental Studies, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing infrastructure and instrumental facilities of UV-visible spectrophotometer and AAS.*

*I would like express my deep gratitude to Retd. Head of Department, Prof. Arun Arya for his valuable support.*

*I would like to acknowledge Department of Chemistry, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for instrument facilities like TGA, FTIR and BET. I am deeply grateful to member committee of these instruments.*

*I would like to thanks Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for SEM-EDX analysis.*

*I would like show my gratitude to SAIF IIT, Bombay for solid state NMR, HR-TEM; SAIF-IIT, Chennai for VSM and Institute Instrumentation Centre, IIT-Roorkee for XPS analysis.*

*I am grateful to CHARUSAT University, Changa, Anand for XRD analysis.*

*I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards University Research Scholarship, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for financial support.*

*I would like to show my warm thank to the teaching staff of the Department of Environmental Studies Dr. Neha Singh, Dr. Bablu Prasad, Dr. Tarika Kumar, Dr. Manthan Tailor, Dr. Shilpi Jain and Dr. Shehnaz Jadeja for their kind support and suggestions while pursuing my work.*

*I would like to thanks the office staff of the Department of Environmental Studies, especially Mr. Anil Panchal, Mr. Nilesh Patil and all other non-teaching staff of the department for extending basic help for my research.*

*I am extremely grateful to research lab colleagues Ms. Himakshi Parmar, Ms. Shruti Chaudhari, Ms. Divya Patel, Ms. Foram Jadeja, Mr. Hardik Gosai, Ms. Mridu Kulwant, Mr. Narottam Priyadashi and Ms. Shagufta Siddiqui for a friendly environment, encouragement, help and support.*

*I would like to acknowledge my senior Dr. Manita Das for her help and support during my research work.*

*I would like to thank my departmental colleagues and friends, Dr. Neetu Patel, Dr. Abhay Patel, Dr. Irfan Shaikh, Dr. Kiran Nakum, Mr. Maitrey Travadi, Ms. Falguni Shukla, Mr. Pratik Nariya, Mr. Harshil Thakkar, Ms. Dayanjali Thakkar, Ms. Monika Valand, Ms. Jaya Verma, Mr. Pramod Yadava, Mr. Gurudatta Singh, Ms. Priyanshu Gupta, Ms. Disha Mehta for their generous help, cooperation and moral support.*

*Nobody has been more important to me in the pursuit of this work than the members of my family. I would like to thank my grandparents, parents and whole family for their selfless love, guidance, constant encouragement, tireless efforts and support in every path I take to achieve my goals. They are the ultimate role models.*

*I would like to thank all those whose assistance proved to be a milestone in the accomplishment of my end goal. Thank you all for supporting and guiding me to where I am today. May the Almighty God continue to bless you all!*

**Ms. Monika Yadav**