Acknowledgement

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many people who were always there when I needed them the most. I take this opportunity to acknowledge them and extend my sincere gratitude for helping me make this Ph.D. thesis a possibility. At first the person who made the enormous difference in my life, my Guide, Dr. Anil Ghanwat. He has been there, in front of my eyes for since last eight years when I was admitted to M.Sc., motivating and inspiring every bit of me towards new possibilities in life. He has been a living role model to me, taking up new challenges every day, tackling them with all his grit and determination and always thriving to come out victorious. It’s his vigor and hunger to perform in adverse situation, which has inspired me to thrive for excellence and nothing less. During my initial days I was apprehensive about my decision to join an alien field, where things were new to me. Dr. Anil Ghanwat came to my rescue with his intelligent ideas, thought provoking discussions and comprehensive understanding to help me sail through the initial fumbling. His attitude of living every moment as it comes, making serendipitous observation and converting them to new possibilities, correlating ideas and understanding the obvious has helped me come a long way and will always guide me in future. He made me realized what I had only heard, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. I will never find words to tell what I owe to him, and if I start doing it, I would not know where to stop...thanks for everything Sir...to me, professionally; you are “perfection personified”. I also express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Ghanwat madam for moral support. I would also like to extend my love to Vishakha and Atharva, their kids, who have been so close to me and have helped me to revive the child hidden in me.

I am very much grateful to Prof. Dr. N. N. Maldar, Vice- Chancellor, Solapur University, Solapur for always being so helpful and motivating.

My special words of thanks should also go to Dr. P. P. Wadgaonkar (Scientist, NCL Pune), for always being so kind, helpful and motivating. He has taught me another aspect of life, that, “goodness can never be defied and good human beings can never be denied”. He always discussed with me about my research progress and given directions to my thoughts. His constant guidance, cooperation and support have always kept me going ahead. I owe a lot of gratitude to him for always being there for me and I feel privileged to be associated with a person like him during my life. Thanks are also
extended to all administrative staff of Solapur University, Solapur for their help. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. S. V. Lonikar, Prof. P. G. More, Dr. R. B. Bhosale, Shri. S. N. Shringare, for their guidance and faith. They gave constant encouragement, support and moral boosting throughout the course of my Masters and Ph. D. work.

My special words of gratitude to Sakharam Dongare, Vithal Gugwad for all their personal and professional help that they have extended to me throughout. I enjoyed the personal discussion with them and the time I spent with them during festive seasons. My sincere thanks to Dr. Hemant Chavan for being with me as an elderly figure throughout. His scientific inputs, personal helps and friendly nature has always made me feel at ease with him and I could always look back on him for any support during my course of Ph.D. I also gratefully acknowledge Dr. Dattakumar Mhamane for his constant advises, friendly nature and elderly support, which made a lot of difference to me. The constant motivation and support from Dr. V. P. Ubale is also gratefully acknowledged. I would like to acknowledge all the teachers I learnt from since my childhood, I would not have been here without their guidance, blessing and support. My special thanks to my friends Dr. Mukund Mali and Dr. Mohsin Tamboli for their love and constant literature support. My acknowledgement will never be complete without the special mention of my labmates and colleagues who have taught me the lab culture and have lived by example to make me understand the hard facts of life. I would like to acknowledge Mr. Vishal Kadam, Ravi Patil, Yuvraj Patil, Bharat Kashid, Balasaheb Dongare, Jagdish Mahindrakar, Pravin Salunkhe for all their support and motivation during the days of my stay in the lab. My heartfelt thanks to my department colleagues and good friends Mr. Pravin Bhale, Yoginath Mule, D. G. Raut, Sachin Shirame, Sandeepkumar Hiremath, Datta Survase, Aslam Tamboli, Kiran Patil, Mahesh, Gawali madam, Diwate madam, Shri. V. D. Kadu etc. for always being there and bearing with me the good and bad times during my wonderful days of Ph.D. Our association goes a long way since days of post-graduation and they have been with me ever since then as a friend, a companion, a roommate and department colleagues. I would also like to thank all my classmates, seniors and juniors from School of Chemical Sciences, Solapur University Solapur, for all the love that they have showered upon me. I would like to acknowledge my friends for their moral support, motivation and have extended their helping hands without fail, which drives me to give my best; Prakash, Hanumant, Audumbar, Anil, Laxman, Nagesh, Lingraj,...the list is endless...thanks to one and all. My special gratitude to childhood best friends from my village Namdeo, Samadhan, Manoj, Navnath, Rushi, Nathaji, late
Yallappa for being with me in thicks and thins of life, I find myself lucky to have friends like them in my life. My sincere thanks to all nonteaching staff of School of Chemical Sciences, I would like to thanks Mr. Vaibhav Kasegoankar, Mr. Netaji Mane, Mr. Pote, Mr. Survase, Kalshetti kaka, Mr. Bhorkade for moral support and making the endless facilities available during the research work. I would like to acknowledge Dr. Makarand, Mr. Pawar, from Instrumentation Centre, Solapur University for their assistance with NMR, IR, XRD, TGA, DSC measurements During the course of my work, I had the pleasure of working with several M.Sc. project students, Vishal, Suryakant, Miss. Rajashree, Miss. Salunkhe, Mr. Chilgunde, Adlinge, Matadevru, Valsange .Their assistance during the presented work is gratefully acknowledged. I would like to thank all my staff collegues and seniours from D.K.A.S.C., College Ichalkaranji Mr. Y. B. Gurame, B. C. Patil, K. Y. Mane, S. R. Kulkarni, P. M. Patil madam, Dr. Tapase madam, Nilesh, Pradeep, Vikas, Damodar, Sudhir, and Sourabh for valuable support for valuable support.

I thank the Almighty for giving me the strength and patience to work through all these years so that today I can stand proud with my head held high. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the people who mean world to me, my parents, uncleaunty, my brothers and sisters. I extend my respect to my parents specially my brother Bapu for endless support and for showing faith in me and giving me liberty to choose what I desired. I don’t imagine a life without their love and blessings. Thank you Bapu, Dada, Akka, Tai, Vahini, Bhau and my neice Gouri and nephews Ashutosh, Rohan, Gourav, Aniket. I consider myself the luckiest in the world to have such a supportive family, standing behind me with their love and support. I extend my respect to Ombase family from Solapur for endless delicious food, support and for showing love & faith. Above all, I would like to thank my wife Mrs. Monika for her everlasting encouragement, constructive support and patience at the final stages of my doctoral study. I owe her everything for love, care and being my best friend. I am deeply thankful to all my friends and relatives whose names are not mentioned here. You were always with me and made finest years of my life. Immense thanks for your love care and inspirations during my Ph.D.

Place: Solapur
Date: Sanjay S. Ankushrao