Acknowledgements

My first and foremost thanks go to my parents who have nurtured my dreams to pursue the academic career against many odds and gave me the first lesson to think independently. From them I learnt to experience the social world critically and in the process, the first seed of my interest to the ‘world of news’ was sown at a younger age. This elementary interest grew stronger with time and more particularly when my elder brother joined the news media as a journalist. I owe a lot to him also for his deep analytical understanding of both politics of news and news of politics, which helped me to explore the media-politics interface in newer ways.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dipankar Sinha, whose academic mentoring provided me the lens to look beyond the ‘conventional’ scope of Political Science and tread into the terrain of mediated politics. His patient guidance and support made it possible for me to pursue my research in this vibrant field of political communication.

I learnt many things from my family members, friends and colleagues who enriched me with important inputs and insights on politics and media. My work has greatly been shaped by the thoughts of the ‘common men’ beyond formal sources.

For the newspaper archive and reference materials, I am thankful to the staffs in the newspaper section of the National Library, Ganashakti Library and the University library, who greatly helped me with their prompt and professional service. My sincere thanks go to the media personnel, scholars and the leaders of the Left Front parties, with whom I had the chance to interact with, for their crucial insights and opinions about the media-politics interface. Despite their busy schedule they shared with me the valuable ‘insider’ views.

This work would remain unfulfilled without the solicitude of a supportive husband, Abhijit, who might truly be called a co-traveller in my life in all senses. My last life support is Ahel, my son, to whom I owe my strength and who enriches me with the new generational gaze in understanding the ever-expanding space of the mediated social lives.