ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“Success is not the measure by the position one has reached in life, rather by the obstacles overcome while trying to succeed”.

It requires Shakespeare’s pen to write what exactly one feels. But for me, it is difficult to express humble gratitude in words to all for their co-operation during my current research crusade. If it were not their constant support, I would not have overcome all the difficulties I faced.

I had the privilege to work under Dr. S.N. Pandit and Dr. V.K. Dwivedi, my esteemed supervisors. Their monumental knowledge, expertise and lucidity of teachings have added feathers to this work. Their critical evaluation and noble guidance has indeed helped me throughout this work. A rare combination of professional acumen and selfless, gracious human demeanor, they paved the way of every stage of research for which I can be justifiably proud of.

I am sincerely thankful to Dr. P.K.S. Nain, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engg, Galgotias University Gr. Noida for providing me help that I needed in this entire work. I am profoundly indebted to him for his ebullient encouragement throughout the accomplishment of this study.

I am sincerely thankful to my colleagues and friends Dr. Pawan Arora and Mr. Shahroz Akhtar Khan for their time to time help in my entire work.

No words are enough to express what I owe to my wife—Shilpa, son-Vedant, parents, inlaws, sister and her family who have toiled a lot for building my career.

I also wish to thank my friends for their support and patience.

Finally, but all above I express my thankfulness to almighty God for his showers of blessings with which I not only completed this task but was also taught with new experiences in my life.

SUDHANSHU SHARMA