ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My indebtedness is immense and I acknowledge it gladly.

As I move towards the completion of my long cherished dream of doing a Ph.D., I realize that this dream is coming true because of timeless effort, help and blessings of lot of people. It is a pleasant feeling that it is time to express my gratitude towards all of them; however, it is immensely difficult to express emotions into mere words. The same perplexity haunts my mind in penning down sincere thanks to all those to whom this present work owes its existence. I am going to try anyway and if your name is not listed, rest assured that my gratitude is not less than for those listed below. At the outset, I would like to thank the Almighty who bestowed and provided me endurance in abundance and eventually rewarded me with the completion of this work.

First and Foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Yogendra Singh, my Ph.D supervisor for guiding me throughout my stay at Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB). It was a great opportunity to work with him in this Institute. I am greatly indebted for his valuable advice in scientific discussions and supervision. I will always be grateful for his kindness and patience.

It is a great pleasure to express my deepest sense of gratitude and ineffable indebtedness to Dr. Souvik Maiti, my Ph.D co-supervisor for patronage extended to me. His meticulous and enthusiastic guidance and perpetual inspiration infused in me the spirit of confidence and dedication that helped me in treading through the topsy-turvy realms of research. His professional skills and analytical thinking have contributed majorly in design and execution of experiments. His invaluable guidance and incessant encouragement have gone a long way in the successful completion of this project. I have benefited from him not only in scientific research, but also writing skills. I strongly feel that he has helped me in inculcating a strong professional attitude. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work under his guidance.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Jens Kurreck (now at Institute of Industrial Genetics, University of Stuttgart, Germany) for his support both professionally and personally during my stay as a DAAD fellow at Institute for
Biochemistry, Free University, Berlin for six months. He was very friendly and tried to help me in sorting out all my professional and personal problems.

My acknowledgments are due to entire teaching faculty at IGIB for the help rendered whenever it was required. The intellectual simulations obtained during seminars from Dr. Beena Pillai, Dr. Munia Ganguli, Dr. Shantanu Chowdhury, Dr. Shantanu Sengupta is also worth mentioning.

I sincerely express my gratitude to Prof. Samir K. Brahmchari, DG CSIR, former Director, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology. It is my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to Dr.K.C.Gupta, Acting Director, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology for making available all the infrastructural facilities required for the successful completion of the work.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the administrative staff of IGIB for their timely help.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of IGIB PhD batch 2004. It is my pleasure to extend deep sense of gratitude to my lab mates Jameel, Harleen, Bala, Saurabh, Vaibhav, Tani and Hemant for their unforgettable help and encouragement to do my best by providing a very homely conducive environment for work. My sincere thanks to Niti for her constant support and help during my work. I am grateful to Denise, Diana, Mariola, Sonia for their invaluable professional support during my stay in Germany. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by Divya in completing a part of work associated with the thesis.

I would also like to thank all my seniors and colleagues naming Jitender, Arun, Priyanka, Anjali, Praveen, Kangkan, Rashi, Gayatri, Ram, Tanay, Mani, Mudit, Santida, Amit, Jasmine and all members of lab 308, 307, 208 for their constant support and valuable suggestions.

I consider myself blessed for having two wonderful people in my life, Kiran and Abid. Their adulation and best wishes have steered me throughout hard times. It was their support and belief in me that has always given me the confidence to move ahead and face the challenges of the research. I sincerely wish them a great career and all success in life.
I am lucky to have good friends Anupam and Monika who have made my journey easy and enjoyable.

I would like to express my love and affection to all my relatives for their unflagging love and support which has made my journey a lot easier.

The chain of my gratitude would be definitely incomplete if I forget to thank the first link of this chain, my parents, The Prime mover. I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my father and mother who formed a part of my vision and taught me the good things that really matter in life. I believe I am the luckiest one to have such great parents who are always friendly to me. They understand and shared each moment of my life. My present is just a reflection of the values and morals they have given. I thank my brother Ankit for the myriads of ways in which he has actively supported me throughout my life and to be the most helpful and trustful friend.

Last but not the least, I gratefully acknowledge University Grants commission (UGC) and German Academic exchange Service (DAAD) for Fellowship and University of Pune for my PhD registration.

I would also like to thanks anyone & everyone who has been in some way or the other attached with this thesis and has helped me in their own way to compile this report.

Thank you everyone............

(Amit Arora)