ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have great pleasure in expressing my profound sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to my Ph.D supervisor Dr. P. V. Vijay Babu (Professor and Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere) for his invaluable suggestions, incredible patience, utmost care, keen interest and constant encouragement in shaping this research work and to bring it to completion.

I would like to thank Honorable Vice Chancellor Sir, Dr. R. B. Mankar for his constant support and dynamic leadership without this we would not have been able to do anything.

I am grateful to Dr. V. S. Sathe, Dr. Y. S. Mahajan, Prof. A. R. Chavan, Prof. A. M. Gugal, Dr. G. M. Deshmukh, and all staff members of Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering Department of Dr. B. A. Technological University, Lonere for providing valuable suggestions and encouraging me during completion of this research work. I am also thankful to Dr. M. S. Tandale (PG Coordinator, Dr. BATU), Dr. P. K. Brahmankar (Dean-R&D, Dr. BATU) and Prof. Y. N. Patil (Controller of Examination, Dr. BATU) for their valuable support and help.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Bhadbhade and Dr. Argade (Scientist, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune) for providing XRD, SEM, TGA, CHN, etc facility for analysis of some samples. I would like to thank Mrs. Aparna Pharande from Ashwamedh Engineers Pvt., Ltd., for providing UV/VIS Spectrophotometer facility for analysis of some samples. I am thankful to Shri. Balasaheb Wagh (President of K. K. Wagh Education Society, Nashik) and Dr. K. N. Nandurkar
(Principal, K. K. Wagh Institute of Engineering Education and Research, Nashik) for their valuable help during the work. I also acknowledge the help extended by Mr. Sandeep Borse, Mr. G. H. Kalsekar, Mr. Ashok Pawar, Mr. Dilip Bhingare, Mr. Ware in academic and non-academic issues.

I am also thankful to Mr. Prasad Kanekar, Mr. Jotiram Gujar, Mr. Sayorgkumar Taralkar, Mr. Suhas Patil, Mr. M. P. Devsarkar, Mr. S. P. Yawalkar and all my friends for their continuous encouragement and help.

I would like to thank librarians of Dr. B. A. Technological University, Lonere; Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai; National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

I am especially thankful to Dr. Vishwas G. Pangarkar, Dr. I. D. Mall, Dr. V. C. Shrivastava and Dr. Ashok Biradar for moral and kind support and suggestions during this research work.

I am very grateful to my beloved parents, my brother Sharad, my friends who have given me the moral support during my course of study. I would fail in my duties if I forget to thank my beloved wife Rupali, my son Vedant and daughter Madhura who have been a constant and continuous source of delight. I am equally thankful to the God almighty and Avdhoota's for blessing me and giving me the courage, strength, determination, health and patience for completion of this research work.

Date: 2-8-12

Place: Dr. BATU, Lonere.

(Venkat Suryabhan Mane)