ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is a result of collective endeavour, support, and persuasion of my teachers, family and friends. I take this occasion to express my thanks and gratitude for their faith and belief in me.

My Supervisor Dr. Yogesh Sharma deserves special thanks for his support and guidance throughout the period of research. Without his encouragements and constant inputs of ideas this work would not have taken shape.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the staff of the archives and libraries I have visited in pursuance of this research. The staff of Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai, National Archives of India, New Delhi, the Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, The library of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, the Central Library of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, The DSA Library of the Centre for Historical Research, and the Exim Bank Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, deserves special thanks for all their support during the period of research.

Ruchika deserves special thanks for painstakingly going through my work, for her valuable inputs, for bearing with my thoughts and ideas and for pushing me hard as always for finishing this work on time. My friends Pawan, Sajjan, Swasti, and Uma Shankar deserve special thanks for their much needed and invaluable support and encouragements during the time of writing this thesis. I also thank Anand, Asheesh, Manoj, Rakesh and everyone else who have made my stay in Jawaharlal Nehru University, a wonderful life enriching experience.

In the end, I express my love and gratitude to my parents and my brother Himanshu, who have always stood by me and supported me in almost all my endeavours. This work is dedicated to their love and the faith they have in me.

The errors and failures of this dissertation are all mine

Vijayant Kumar Singh