

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is fortunate to have **Dr. P.S. Joanna**, Professor of Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering Division, Hindustan University, as his Research Supervisor and Guide. The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude for her valuable advice, constant support and encouragement.

The author is indebted to **Dr. P.Sivakumar**, Chief Scientist, CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre, Chennai for his expert advices and suggestions given during periodic Committee Meetings. The author expresses his thanks to **Dr. L.N.Ramamurthy**, Professor Emeritus and **Dr.A.Rajaraman**, Visiting Professor, Hindustan University who spared his valuable time to give suggestions and support throughout the research work.

I am highly elated in expressing my sincere and abundant respect to the Vice Chancellor **Dr. S. Ramachandran** and **Dr.G. Ilavazhagan**, Director Research, HITS. The author is indebted to **Dr. R. Angeline Prabhavathy**, Professor & Dean (Building Sciences), Hindustan University for her valuable guidance and encouragement given throughout the period of the research work. The author is very much thankful to **Dr. JessyRooby**, Professor&Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, Hindustan University, for introducing flexibility in schedule and facilitating smooth progress of the project.

The author wishes to thank **Rev. Fr. Dr. J.E. Arul Raj**, Founder and Chairman, DMI-MMI Group of Institutions, **Rev. Sr. S. Febila**, Administrator, St.Joseph College of Engineering, for their constant encouragement. The author is grateful to **Dr. M. A. Leo Vijilious**, Principal, St.Joseph College of Engineering for giving necessary relief in the academic responsibility, enabling him to complete the thesis work.

The author expresses his thanks to his parents **Mr.K.Ravi** and **Mrs.R.Mala**, his wife **R.Saranya**, his daughter **D.Lakshithaa** and his family members for their moral support, motivation and prayers for successful completion of this research work.

**R.DIVAHAR**