ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

There is God, or the Almighty one from whom everything emanates, by whom everything is maintained and by whom everything is merged to rest. I am highly thankful to God for providing me with courage, inspiration and ability to work.

I heartily take this golden opportunity to express my heartiest gratitude and deep sense of indebtedness to my mentor and guide, highly esteemed Dr. S. M. Deshpande, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Geology, Institute of Science, Aurangabad whose polished thoughts, knowledgeable guidance, invaluable suggestions, amiable association and timely co-operation have continuously encouraged throughout my endeavors in framing my thesis. My acknowledgements fall short of his efforts.

I also extend my sincere thanks to the Dr. (Mrs) H. J. Wankhede, Director, Dr. R.A. Satpute, Dr. M. A. Sonar, Dr. A. N. Dongre, P. D. Shinde, Institute of Science, Aurangabad and all those who are directly or indirectly provided desired help for successful completion of this research work.

I express my most sincere thanks to Dr. D. B. Panaskar, Director, School of Earth Sciences, S.R.T.M. University, Nanded, Shri Manohar Dupare, G. D. Mahajan, GSDA, Aurangabad for their kind assistance and collection of the references. I am also obliged to Dr. N. P. Aher, Shri. Adesh Goje, C. S. Patare for their kind assistance and encouragement. I offer special thanks to Prof. S. R. Kunde, Shri Vyas, of Kunde Coaching Classes, took personal interest in helping me in preparation of maps and figure.

I am soulfully grateful to Sharad, Bhagwat, Ravi, Sagar, Dinesh, Amit, Prashant, Santosh, Vikas, Jagdish, Moshin, Kishor, Nilesh, Satish, Shubham, Chetan, Niraj, Ajinkya, Pritam, Pradip, Rupesh, Mahesh, Pilu and all my friends, who have been a constant companion with the essence of marvelous support throughout the work, which made the dream come true and all those who are directly or indirectly provided desired help for successful completion of this research work.

Let me at the very out-set, express my gratitude to all my wishes and supporters, who inspired me during the entire course of work. Finally, I would like to profusely thank my parents and my brother for inspiring and motivating me all the time.

Last but not the least, I am thankful to all those who have helped me in whatsoever manner during this work, whom I might have missed inadvertently ……..

Kailash R. Aher