ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to almighty God for blessing me with patience and strength for completing this thesis.

From the depth of my heart, I am indebted to my supervisor, Prof. Rajive Kumar for the encouragement, help and guidance throughout the research work. His guidance inspires me to see problems from different perspectives. It has been an honor working with him. Without his vision, deep insight, rich experience, clarity of understanding and strong analytical skills this work would not have been possible.

I am grateful to my Co-supervisor, Prof. Raghuraj Singh for his constant inspiration and motivation. His extensive knowledge regarding the subtleties of the research process and commitment to excellence has helped to shape this work.

I am obliged to Prof. Ramesh K. Garg and Prof Rajesh Kumar Bhatia for sharing their knowledge and valuable ideas with me. I am falling short of words to acknowledge the timely moral and academic help extended by them.

I am extremely thankful to Prof. S. P. Khatkar, Dean Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Maharishi Dayanand University, for giving me the opportunity to carry out the research work.

My special thanks to Er. Har Sarup Chahal, Vice Chancellor, Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science & Technology, Murthal and Maharishi Dayanad University, Rohtak. He has been a constant source of encouragement and was kind enough to extend all the support.

I find no words to express my feelings towards my parents, in-laws and all my family members for their blessings and motivation which gave me confidence and impetus to work hard. I cannot afford to ignore the patience of my wife Suman, my beloved son Srejan and daughter Smriti who missed me all the times during this span.

The chain of my gratitude will be definitely incomplete if I forget to thank all my colleagues and friends for their constant support and encouragement.

Dated: 2013
Place: Murthal

Sukhdip Singh