PREFACE

The present thesis entitled "History of Indian Space Research – A study" is the result of the research work carried out by me for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History. In this connection, I have made an attempt to document History of Indian Space Research under the scholarly guidance of Dr. N. Rajendran, Professor and Head, Department of History, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. I am greatly indebted to my research supervisor for his excellent guidance, suggestions, advice, and encouragement who made my life long dream a reality.

I would like to thank Dr. S. Rajendran, Librarian, VSSC and Mr. P. Rajendran, Senior Scientist, and other staff members of VSSC for their necessary guidance and help to my research work.

I am also indebted to Mr. Mohan Sundara Rajan, renowned popular science writer and Visiting Professor of Journalism, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore for his precious propositions for the perfection of the thesis.

I would like to thank the Staff Members of University of Kerala Library, State Archives of Kerala, IIT, Chennai, MIDS, Chennai, Cannemara Public Library, Chennai, Madras University Library, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai, District Library, Tiruchirappalli, Bharathidasan University Library, Tiruchirappalli.

I would like to thank my teacher Madam Mrs. S. Pushpavalli, Headmistress, D. B. T. R. National Higher Secondary School, Mayiladuthurai, for her continues encouragement during my research work.

I would like to place for reward the invaluable service rendered by Mr. S. Jennis, M.Phil Research Scholar, Department of History, and Miss. S. Devi, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, to complete my Ph.D. Thesis.

My special thanks to Mr. Murugaraj, and Mr. Ravi Kumar, Chennai. Mr. Anish Kumar, Head, the Department of English, Chimbaram Pillai College for Women, Tiruchirappalli. My co-researcher Mr. Sethuraman, and, M.Phil Research Scholars Mr. Marimuthu and Mr. Senthilkumaran, Department of History, Bharathidasan University, for their excellent cooperation and necessary help to complete my research work.

I would like to thank Mr. Abraham Luther King, Miss. Sargunavathi, Mr. Ananthavel, Mr. Karmegam, Mr. Sakthivel, and Mr. Boopathiraj for their timely help.

I would like to remember warmly my Parents: Thiru. A. Thangarasu, Tmt. T. Veeramani, my sister: Tmt. P. Saroja and my brother: Thiru. T.V. Moorthy for their encouragements throughout my academic endeavours and necessary help to complete my research work.

(T. ASOKAN)