ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The idea of this thesis came up in a series of discussions with my supervisor, Professor Ganganath Jha. This thesis would have been inconceivable without the scholarly guidance of my supervisor. He has not only been an intellectual powerhouse but a ‘friend, philosopher and guide’. During the long and tedious period of this thesis writing, he encouraged me with his words of wisdom and scholarly advices. I will remain forever indebted to him for his generous guidance and support.

Prof. Manmohini Kaul has always extended the helping hand and her criticisms has been insightful and thought provoking. She always helped me with getting important books and study materials for my thesis.

My special thanks to Professor Sahadevan, the chairperson of the Center for South, Central, Southeast Asian and South West Pacific Studies.

I would also like to appreciate the University Grants Commission for providing me the research fellowship (JRF). The monetary help provided by the fellowship was of immense help during the period of my study.

Last but not the least, my gratitude to the library staffs of the JNU Library and Teen Murti Library. A special thanks to my friends in Malaysia, who gave valuable inputs to my thesis. And a very heartwarming thanks to all my seniors, friends and family members for their continuous support and cooperation.