ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis is ultimate product of my arduous and long journey to obtain my goal. Its completion would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of numerous people which includes my well wishers, friends and various institutions. It is a pleasant task to express my thanks to all those who contributed in many ways to the success of this study and make it an unforgettable experience for me.

At this moment of accomplishment, first of all I bow my head humbly before the Almighty Allah. The most beneficent, the most merciful, who blessed me with the patience to embark upon this huge task. Almighty Allah’s mercy was with me throughout my life, without Allah’s blessings this work could not have seen the light of the dawn.

I express deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness to my supervisor, Dr. Iftekhar Ahemmed (Associate professor), Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. He has helped me at each and every part of my research work with patience and enthusiasm. I am highly indebted to him for inspiring guidance, affection, generosity, support and everlasting enthusiasm throughout the tenure of my research work. Under his guidance, I successfully overcame many difficulties and learned a lot. I appreciate all his contributions of time and ideas to make my research experience productive and stimulating. I am also thankful for the excellent example he has provided as a successful person with his achievements.

I am indebted to Prof. Arif Hameed, Chairman, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his co-operation, guidance and support during the course of my study. I also extend my profound thanks to all other teachers of the department, whose valuable guidance and good wishes helped me considerably in the pursuit of my work.

I extend my deep appreciation to my friends Farooq, Mehraj, Afad, Mubashir, Manzoor, Ashraf, Ferdous, Nazia for their co-operation and encouragement during the entire research period especially for the help they provided at the final stage of the work. Research scholars of the department especially Aijaz, Mudasir, Rameez, Muzamil, Javeed, Waseem also deserve thanks for encouraging me in bringing this thesis to fruition.
My parents deserve special mention for their continuous support and prayers. My father, Mohd Abdullah and my mother Mrs. Zaina, in the first place are the persons who put the fundamentals to my rearing character, showing me the joy of intellectual pursuit ever since I was a child and sincerely raised me with their caring and gentle love. Without their blessings, inspiration, motivation and understanding it would have been impossible for me to complete my research work. I can not skip thanking to my beloved sisters Haleema, Gowhara, Mudasira for their everlasting love and prayers that really gave me the strength to complete this arduous task. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not put on record my wholehearted gratitude to my brothers Mohd Ashraf and Shafeek for the unconditional support and co-operation that always helped me in combating the hurdles which came during the course of this research and kept me at my work. I also express my heartfelt thanks to my brother-in-laws, whose love and care has always been a constant pillar of strength throughout my academic pursuit.

At the last moment of completion of the thesis, I do not know how to begin with saying thanks to my supportive, encouraging and patient wife, Sufia, whose faithful support during the final stages of the preparation of this thesis is so appreciable. I thank her for everything, for being so understanding and for putting up with me through the toughest moment of my life. Special thanks to my sweet daughter Suzain, for being patient enough to bear the pain and separation due to my time commitment for writing this thesis.

I am grateful to staff members of the libraries of Kashmir University, Jammu University, Jammu and Kashmir Archives, Jammu and Kashmir Secretariat, Pahari Cultural Welfare Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Research And Cultural Foundation, Jammu And Kashmir Gujjar Desh Charitable Trust, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, Nehru Memorial Library, Trimurti Bhavan, Delhi for their generous assistance, co-operation and for extending all possible help and kind support in providing me access to all the relevant material from time to time.

Finally, I am very much indebted to all those who have been directly or indirectly been associated towards the completion of the present work.

Javeed Ahmad Bhat