Acknowledgement

This thesis has seen the light of day mainly because of the constant backing of my Guide and the encouragement by my family, especially my father.

I am indebted to my supervisor Prof. R.C. Sharma, who has been a constant source of encouragement throughout my association with him. He has in his usual quite and calm manner always guided me, whenever there have been doubts. His wife Mrs. Nassera Sharma, has also been very kind and generous to me and I would like to thank her for that.

The POG Department has always been a much liked place and I would like to thank Dr. S.S. Deora, Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, D.D. Tripathy, and the students of Political Geography, who have always advised and helped me throughout my association with them. The CIPOD faculty and staff have also been very helpful and forth coming in times of need. Dr. Kanti Bajpayee has been very nice and has helped correct a few misconceptions and doubts. Dr. Amitabh Mattoo, has been a good Chairperson. Mr. Khullar, Mrs. Bhagwati and Krishan have always been helpful and forthcoming throughout my association with the centre and I am thankful to them.

I take this opportunity to remember my late friend Pranab, who was always ready to help. I am very grateful to god to have given me friends like Joginder, Soumendu, Suman, K2, Percy, Disha and Ashutosh, who have been great company and source of knowledge throughout my association with them. I have been very lucky indeed to have been helped by friends whenever I have been down and in need. Deepika, Feroze, Arnab, Janardan, Meena, Chander, Anshuman, Mithilesh, Nivedita and Birender have been always been by my side and helped me whenever the need has arisen.

My stay in JNU has brought me in contact with many people- students, teachers, hostel workers, dhabha workers and other staff. It has been very nice to have known most of them. It has been a great experience to have studied in JNU and to have interacted with some very bright people, most of my batchmates have left JNU or are in the process of leaving, after having finished their education. I thank them for their association and wish them all the best in their respective careers and in life.

I am grateful to Mithilesh, Deepika and DD, who have helped me with the submission of my thesis. I am also grateful to Mr. Chatti Yadav and Ashok, who have helped me with logistic and manpower support.

My family has been a constant source of encouragement and support and this work would not have been possible had they not supported me in my endeavor. Seema has been a pillar of strength and has given me constant support throughout.

I may have missed out a few people, who have directly or indirectly helped me with my thesis. I am grateful to all these people and wish them all the best in Life.