ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Thesis is by far the most significant scientific accomplishment in my life and it would be impossible without people who supported me and believed in me.

The output of this Ph.D. work is a subset of the major R&D project sponsored and funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS) under National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). I am thankful to the authorities of NRDMS-DST, Government of India for providing necessary input, data products for completion of my research work.

I take great pleasure in expressing my sincere gratitude to my respected supervisor and Principal Investigator of this major R&D project Dr. M. Anji Reddy, Professor and Director, JNTUH, for his valuable guidance, suggestions and cooperation extended throughout this work, without which this thesis would not have been a success.

I am grateful to Dr. M. Lakshmi Narasu, Director of Institute of Science and Technology, Dr. Ch. Shasikala, Associate Professor and Head Centre for Environment, Dr. V. Hima Bindu, Associate Professor, and Dr. T. Vijaya Lakshmi, Assistant Professor, Centre for Environment, JNTUH, Dr. Siva Sankar Asadi, Assistant professor, Vignan University, Guntur, Dr. R. V. R. K. Chalam, Principal of Chaitanya Engineering College, Karimnagar for their kind cooperation and help extended throughout this project work.
I am very much thankful to the authorities of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad for providing the University Full-Time fellowship for three years for successful completion of this research work.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my friends D. Sudhakar, Vamshi Krishna Reddy & K. Santhosh Kumar for their help during the field work and data collection.

I am grateful to Mr. Kamal, Proprietor, Ementrix Technologies, Hyderabad and my best friend’s kavita, Gayathri, Kezia, Elender Reddy, Ramakrishna and Srialtha for their kind cooperation and help extended to develop the website for this research work.

Lastly, and most importantly, I wish to thank my parents for their love and support. They born me, raised me, supported me, taught me, and loved me. Particularly to my sister & brother-in-law, Thirumal & Indu and their children Arundhati & Adithya for their cooperation and help extended throughout the period. To them I dedicate this thesis.

GANTA RAJANI