ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Few days back, in a dream…

GOD: You wished to speak to me?

Me: Yes. I want to ask you something. Why do you make people do things they do not plan to do?

GOD: So that they experience things they would have missed out, had they followed just their own plans and they learn things lacking which there would be ignorance in their lives which no mask could conceal. Tell me, are you not happy with the journey I destined for you?

Me: Yes I am. But, is that all? The experiences and learnings!! I craved for more. I feel a void of discontent. Is there something that I missed during the journey?

GOD: (smiling) Yes. A realisation. Take a look back at that duration. You were blessed with a power that made your journey flourishing; that made you evolve as a human. Your hard work would have been incapable of finishing this journey fruitfully without that power. And now, you owe something to it. You missed nothing… but a realisation….

And I woke up.

Thanks to that rendezvous, I have now realised what that ‘power’ is. The power of unfailing love, care, faith, trust and goodness. And today, I take this opportunity to acknowledge and express my gratitude to the ‘sources’ of that power:

Life is about moving ahead and when we do so, we come across n number of paths leading to a particular destination. The obvious question at that time is- Which one? Many a times in such situation, we keep our fingers crossed, pray to God and take one of them. I didn’t do that. I knew which one to follow since I knew which of them had the path enlightener I had full faith in. I was lucky enough to be chosen to learn from him. He led the way and I followed. He never ceased to steer me in the right direction despite his other allegiances. He is my guide, my supervisor, Professor J. M. Khurana.
My thesis, the outcome of this journey, is the result of my will to fulfil someone’s wish. He, who is a self-made man; who taught me what determination is; who once told me that the world fears an honest man; who taught me that no work is small; work doesn’t undermine prestige, it is the absence of work that does. He is my father. But there were times when I felt exhausted, shattered and hopeless. For such times, I was blessed with an angelic mother who always told me to face the troubling situations without losing integrity and truthfulness. ‘Be what you are’ is what she told me when I started this journey. Her unconditional love and sacrifices made me what I am today. I have a wonderful sister, though elder to me, it is I who has always felt and behaved like one. Her never ending requests (and orders) for help kept me busy and active throughout. Though she never knew exactly what I was doing during this time (she told everyone I was making ‘adrak’ nanoparticles), I value her care for me and the contribution she made in her own unique way. A very pleasant change came in my life when I was more than half-way through that path. God blessed me with a partner who made all the troubles look very insignificant by his love and care. I must mention one thing here that during the testing times he took care of me the way my mother would have done. My in-laws and jiju also contributed to my work by showing much desirable patience and understanding.

During the course of this journey, I received some invaluable suggestions from Prof. D.S. Rawat and Dr. M. Nath who happened to be the members of research advisory board.

I was not moving alone on that path. I was accompanied by some very nice people: Dr. Vineet, Dr. Sanjay, Dr. Devanshi, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Bhaskar, Kanika, Archana, Anshika, Ankita, Pooja, Komal, Harjinder, Jayant and Rajeswari, who helped me, advised me and enjoyed with me. Without them, especially, Anshika, Ankita and Jayant, it would have been so dull. But without my dear friend Kanika, life during those years would have been mind-numbing and soulless. Sharing our joys and sorrows (food too) strengthened our bonding so much so that I believe it would live till eternity. We all have heard people casually saying - I’m just a call away- when actually they are not. But there is one person who indeed is. Jyoti. Despite the fact that she followed a different path, she would appear when you need her.
One should never forget to thank people who extend timely help and make our work easy. In my case, this help was provided by the technical staff, USIC, library staff and office staff, especially Mr. Baldev Singh and Mr. Amit; Dr. Chetan Sharma and Dr. K. R. Aneja, Department of Microbiology, Kurukshetra University. The financial support provided to me through the research fellowships by CSIR is greatly acknowledged.

At last, I would like to thank all these special people with this:

\begin{verbatim}
Ek rehnuma, kuch habib, kuch raqeeb mile the raah mein
Kuch apne the, kuch paraye se, chalte rahe kaarvaan mein
Thakke nahi bas chale hum, kya suboh thi kya shaam thi
Nazarein uttha ke dekha to saamne meri manzil thi...
\end{verbatim}