Acknowledgements

The author expresses sincere gratitude to his guides Dr. A. K. Verma, Professor & Head of department of Structural Engineering, B.V.M. Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar and Mrs. Darshana R. Bhatt, Associate professor, Structural Engineering department, B.V.M. Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar for their precious guidance, advice, and encouragement throughout the research program.

The author would also like to extend hearty thanks to Dr. S.V. Vaishnav, Retired Head of Structural Engineering Department, B.V.M. Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar; Dr. Dinesh Shah, Associate Professor, SVIT, Vasad; Prof. Urmil Dave, Associate Professor, Nirma University, Ahmedabad and Prof. Jayesh Pitroda, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department, B.V. M. Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar, whose timely and persistent guidance has played a key role in making this dissertation a success. The initial help provided by Mr. K. K. Shah & Mrs. Bhavna Shah is worth noting.
Sincere thanks to Dr. V.S. Patel, Director, SICART and Dr. F. S. Umrigar, Principal, B.V. M. Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar.
The author is thankful to Mr. Kamlesh Warrior and Mr. Jaimith Patel at the BASF Construction Chemicals India Ltd. And Mr. Chirag Patel, Design Cell, Vallabh Vidyanagar for supplying chemical admixtures and to Mr. Nikhil Solanki for Fly Ash. Thanks to Mr. Umesh Soni, Manager, Technical Services, Ambuja cement, Ahmedabad for his moral and technical support. The author is grateful to Er. Ramesh Fefar, Jt. Director, Gujarat Engineering Research Institute (GERI), Vadodara and Er. Rajesh Joshi for their support in providing laboratory for partial casting and testing of specimens.
Special thanks to all of my colleagues, all post graduate research assistants and BVM laboratory staff (Ishwarbhai, Shamjibhai & Prakashbhai) for their great help in experimental investigation.
Special thanks to MY FAMILY members, my wife Arti and daughters Niyati-Reety for their everlasting love and sacrifices. Without their support, I would not have been able to accomplish my dreams. Thanks to all MY FRIENDS who have directly or indirectly provided their unerring support throughout the course of this work.

Nanak Pamnani
Research Scholar, SICART
Sardar Patel University,
Vallabh Vidyanagar