Acknowledgement

With utmost sincerity and pleasure I express my overwhelming gratitude to Dr. M. K. Verma for his active guidance, consistent encouragement and unflagging moral and emotional support at every stage. His logical reasoning and analytical capabilities have been of great help in this complex work. As a senior colleague also he gave me unflinching support for various departmental and institutional works.

My sincere thanks to the Director, National Institute of Technology, Raipur for granting me permission, providing necessary infrastructure and financial support to carry out the present work.

I consider myself fortunate for having been taught by some very patient, understanding, and accessible teachers. My sincere gratitude to Prof. Malay Chaudhuri, Prof. C. Venkobachar, Prof. Vinod Tare, and Prof. D. K. Ghosh at IIT Kanpur, who have shaped me as the environmental engineer.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. V. N. Mishra, Senior Scientist, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, for his help and support in collection of soil samples, laboratory facilities, literature pertaining to soils of Chhattisgarh, and lively discussions about interaction of various chemical species with soils.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Sanjay Patil, Associate Professor, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jagdalpur Centre, for consistently sharing with me his knowledge and experience about the soils of Chhattisgarh.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the person who drew my attention towards the research area in soil-metal interaction and its need in Chhattisgarh. Sincere thanks to Dr. R. K. Mishra, Retd. Prof. and Head, School of Studies in Chemistry, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur for introducing me to this wonderful world of research.

I could undertake and finish this work because of the base and background information diligently developed by perseverance of numerous researchers over the past decades. Some have been listed in references cited. To others, I express my most humble gratitude.

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. Chariyar at IIT Delhi for getting some of my samples analysed.
I am singularly fortunate in having so many sincere and trusted colleagues and friends who have helped me throughout this work. Special thanks are due for Dr. A. K. Dubey, Dr. M. L. Agrawal, Dr. G. D. Ramtekkar, Dr. U. K. Dewangan, Dr. Rajesh Tripathi, and Prof. (Mrs.) Neela Ingle for their consistent help and sharing of responsibilities. I am also thankful to Prof. M. R. Khan, Prof. Shrish Verma, Prof. Manoj Pradhan, and Dr. Shubhashish Sanyal for their encouragement and help. Special thanks are due to Prof. Anuj Sharma, my batchmate and friend, for helping me out with the materials required for the work.

I am grateful to Prof. S. K. Kharia, my teacher and Head of Civil Engineering Department for his unflinching support throughout my career. Special gratitudes are also due to Dr. Gyanendra Sen, Prof. Dinesh Chandra, and Prof. S.S. Joshi, my teachers and seniors who have consistently encouraged me to do better.

I sincerely appreciate the help received by Shri Santosh Verma and Shri Pitesh Sahu in conduction of various experiments. With all humbleness, I acknowledge the support received from my lab staff, particularly Shri V. R. Bhonsale and Shri Ganga Ram.

This work took almost five years and this indeed was a trying period for my family. My parents bore this long period of absence with smile. They were always cheerful and full of encouragement. This work would not be possible but for their blessings and support. I consider myself blessed to have parents like them. A lot of my positive qualities are because of my mother. Thanks are too little for badi mammi and bade papa for always being there for me, for Meeta, Bakul and Mauli for always being there to cheer me up. My wife Sangeeta, daughter Saloni and Sanwari (Chhoti) were denied their rightful sharing of my time for these five years when I was involved in work right from morning till late in night. But they never complained, were always full of understanding, help and support. This work is the result of sacrifices made by them. I can't express my gratitude to them in words.

Samir