A long journey of many years with the extensive literature survey, continuous discussions, repeated experimental trials and extended field as well as laboratory work have resulted in this present day where I am just trying to acknowledge all those kind people who helped me to finish this Ph.D. marathon.

It is not so easy to put the kindness of people in just a few words. I know that no words can actually show my thankfulness for the concern and trust I have been showered with in this course of action. It is impossible to express my deep sense of gratitude for the lady behind this endeavor. Few people are just landmarks in life and so is she. Prof. Dhiraj Sud, Supervisor of my research work, is not only the person who has shaped this work, but her flexibility in scheduling, gentle encouragement and relaxed demeanor made for a good working relationship and the impetus for me to finish. Her simplicity and passion for the work has been the motivation for me throughout this journey. She has never judged nor pushed when she knew I needed to juggle priorities. We’ve laughed together and she’s also been kind when I needed to cry. When others doubted, she remained calm and silent believer in me. This is all her patience and trust in me that has resulted in reward of such a sweet flavored fruit. She is the one who helped me to clarify the perceptions and made me to provide a valid, scientific and technical support to the perceived challenge. I extend a very warm and loving thanks to her for all that she has done for me.

I am most grateful to Prof. H. K. Chopra, Head of Department of Chemistry, Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology for his advice and suggestions. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. B. K. Kanungo, Dr. Damanjit Singh, Dr. Rampal and Dr. Hemant for sharing the highs and lows that are inevitably linked to research process and has always been enthusiastic for any kind of help from their side.
My gratitude is also extended to two important persons who have not only provided me technical and scientific support, but they have shaped my personality in many ways. Dr. Manjinder Pal Kaur Shergill and Dr. Umesh Garg have always extended their valuable suggestions and encouragement. Both of them were the first friendly faces to greet me when I began this doctoral program and have always been a tremendous help no matter the task or circumstance. My lab mates are just awesome. Dr. Paramjit Kaur and Dr. Preeti Bansal have been very helping and cooperating in such a long association and have always given me the due advantages that I ever needed. The ‘small wonder’ of our Lab Ms. Nidhi is the sweetest and most charming person. Her vision to create urgency as and when required, her cooperation and constant motivation is just unmatchable. Abhinandan, Sunita Mittal, Garima, Ajay, Avtar and Simer has been very supportive and caring.

In no way I can express my gratefulness of my amazing family. Two most special women in my life; my mother Mrs. Sudesh Mahajan and my mother-in-law Mrs. Santosh Sharma have just played a very powerful role in this journey. Their constant support and motivation is the key behind this accomplishment. I am sincerely thankful to my father Sh. Kedar Nath Mahajan and my father-in-law Sh. Ishwar Sarup Joshi for the inspiration and guidance they always provided me. My husband Mr. Monu Joshi and of course the twinkle of my eye, my son Vyomesh are the people whose cooperation, unconditional support and care has really motivated me to achieve this task. Last, but by no means least, I thank almighty God for keeping my spirit high and showering his million dollar blessing to me in this long journey of trials and errors.

(Garima Mahajan)