It would not have been possible to write this doctoral thesis without the help and support of the people around me, to only some of whom it is possible to give particular mention here.

At the outset I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof A K Singhvi whose guidance and efforts made this project possible. He gave me ample freedom to pursue this research work. It is his extensive knowledge and intuition which helped to finish the thesis from scratch in a progressive manner. His expertise, research philosophy and keenness of perfection were the source of inspiration.

I am thankful to all my collaborators, Prof R.K. Gartiya, Dr. Santa Chawla, Prof Martin Williams, Dr. Rachna Raj, Dr. Himansu Kundu, Dr. Navin Juyal, Dr. M K. Murari, and Dr. P. Morthekai. They helped me in different ways and without their help the thesis would not get this shape.

I am indebted to Prof J N. Goswami and Prof N. Bhandari for providing the meteorite samples. Thanks to Dr. Sheila Mishra for the volcanic ash samples. I thank to Prof Derek Sears for the insightful discussion on luminescence of meteorite work. I got the opportunity to learn the luminescence dosimetry from Prof. B C. Bhatt and Prof. M D. Sastry. I thank to Prof R.N. Singh for his encouragements and appreciation.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof J N. Goswami, Prof. M.M. Sarin, Prof. R. Ramesh, Prof. S.V.S Murty, Prof. R. E. Amritkar, Dr. J S. Ray, Dr. Sunil K. Singh, Dr. R. Rangarajan, Dr. Dilip Angom, and Dr. D. Banerjee for teaching the courses at the beginning.

Thanks to Prof B G. Anand Rao and Mr. V. Venkatraman for their help in spectrophotometric measurement of optical glass filters. Dr. Anil Shukla is acknowledged for his help in HPGe gamma counting. I thank to Dr. K K Marhas and Yogita for their...
help in using the high resolution microscope. I am thankful to members of next door lab, Mr N.B. Vagela and Dr. M G. Yadav for their help in emergency. The experimental work would not have been so smooth without the support from engineers Mr Pranav R. Adhyaru, Manan and Lakhun, glass blower Bankim and workshop fellows. Special thanks to Mr. Hemal, Mrs Nandini, and Mr Sunil of purchase section and Mr. Senthil in administrative section. Thanks to our librarian, supports from the computer center deserves a special mention.

The days in PRL would not have been enjoyable without presence of lab mates, Nagar, Madhav, Morthekai, Tyagi, Shinde, Chauhan, Sharma, Linto, Chitra, Ikshu, Arpan. Definitely, I got many academic helps from them but rather I would like to thanks them for providing a friendly and dynamic environment in the lab. Anusha, Perumal, Sumitra, Nupur, Nita, Parth, Kabtri, Beth visited the lab for very short period but they provided a nice ambience in the lab.

I Thank to my seniors cum friends like Sanatda, Subimalda, Rahman, Gandhi, Sumanta, Gyana, Kirpa, Bhavik, Vishal, Alok, Harindar, Manan, Brajesh, Kushwaha, Sumita, Suchita, Ramkrishnada, Ritesh and Akilesh who helped and supported at various stages. Thanks to all members of PRL volleyball tournament (PVT) who made the hotel life lively. Thanks to all friends who gave me company in the time killing bench. The research life in PRL would not have pleasant without friends like Bhaswar, Sreekanth, Tarun Jha, Shuklaji, Ashwini, Vimal, Arvind, Suman, Vineet, Ashok, Amzad, Patra, Sandeep, Anand, Pankaj, Rohit, Soumya, Suratna, Raju, Saxena, Khan, Tapas, Jayati, Maumita, Srinivas and Prasanth, Fazlul, Awasthi, Sharad.

At last I would like express my deep involvements with my family members, whose constant support helped me to reach this stage.

Md. Rabiul Haque Biswas