ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praises to the God, the most merciful and beneficent whose benedictions made me capable to face all obstacles and accomplish this task inspite of all constraints.

Words are inadequate in translating deep sentiments of gratitude to my respectable, sagacious, eminent and honorable supervisor Prof. K.G. Varshney, Ph.D., D.Sc., Emeritus Fellow & Ex-Chairman, Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India. It is a great honour and privilege to work under his apt and melliferous guidance. He always inspired me in my extra curricular activities. His rich blend of knowledge and experience, erudite direction, perpetual interest, enlightening discussions, incessant encouragement, painstaking efforts and amicable nature helped me a lot in the preparation of this work. My vocabulary is inadequate to express my emotions, regards and sincere thanks towards him.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ali Mohammad, Chairman, Department of Applied Chemistry, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for his wholehearted interest, encouragement and for providing necessary research facilities throughout my research work. His suggestions, fruitful discussions and constructive criticism, have always helped me in building up this work.

I owe a word of thanks to Prof. A. K. Singh, Department of Chemistry, I. I. T., New Delhi, India, for providing some necessary instrumental facilities. I record my special thanks to Prof. Milan Drabik, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia and to Prof. S. C. Mojumdar, Centre for Biocomposites and Biomaterials Processing, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, 33 Willccoks St., Toronto, Canada, for their kind help & useful suggestions during the
TGA/DTA studies on the materials under investigation. Thanks are also due to the Institute Instrumentation Center, I. I. T. Roorkee, India for providing X-ray diffraction spectra, to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India, for Scanning Electron Microscopic study and to the Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Lucknow, India for providing C, H, N analysis.

I would like to extend my heartiest indebtedness, that naturally sprouts from the core of my heart to respected Mrs. Nirmal Varshney, my sister Mrs. Krati Goyal, my brother-in-law Mr. Dev Suman Goyal and my brother Mr. Amar Goyal, who have been the strong pillars of moral support and encouragement for me throughout this period.

I am profoundly thankful to my Seniors Dr. Vandana Jain & Dr. Puja Gupta, and my fellow worker Ms. Amita Somya, and other colleagues in the Department for always extending their overwhelming support and encouragement. Thanks are also due to whole of the non teaching staff of the Department for their timely help and cooperation.

Last but not the least, I shall fail in my duties if I do not mention the sustained interest, unfailing and ever enduring affection shown towards me by my parents, to whom I deem the credit for their affection and courtesy.

ARUN AGRAWAL