

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I whole-heartedly express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my research supervisor **Dr.M.Alagar**, Asst. Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemical Engineering, Anna University for his invaluable guidance, keen interest and constant encouragement during the course of the present investigation.

I am profoundly indebted to **Dr.V.Mohan**, Dean of Technology, Anna University for his unstinted support and encouragement in carrying out the research work.. With great pleasure, I wish to record my thanks to **Dr.M.Rajendran**, Professor and Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, Anna University for providing me an opportunity to work in this department.

I would like to make a special word of reference to **Dr.R.M.V.G.K.Rao**, Deputy Director, FRP-Pilot Plant, National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement during my stay at NAL, which have enabled me to complete the work. I thank **Mr. M.R.Narasimha Swamy**, Head, Technical Secretariat, NAL, Bangalore and **Dr. T.S. Prahlad** Director, NAL Bangalore for permitting me to carryout a part of my research work at NAL, Bangalore.

I would like to extend my thanks to Research Scholars, **Mr.S.Anandakumar**, **Mr.K.P.O.Mahesh**, **Mr.K.Dinakaran**, **Mr.A.Anand Prabu**, **Mr.S.S.M.Abdul Majeed**, **Mr.Suresh Chandrakumar** and other Research Scholars, Department of Chemical Engineering for their cooperation in completing this work. I express my thanks to Research Scholars **Ms.Vanaja** and **Mrs.Sandhya Rao**, Scientists **Mr. Ganesh** and **Mr. Udaya Kumar** of NAL, Bangalore, for their timely help and constant encouragement during the period of my stay at NAL.

I thank **Anna University** for having provided the opportunity and necessary facilities for carrying out this research programme and I thank **CSIR** (Council of Scientific Industrial Research) – New Delhi - INDIA for the award of **Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)**.

Finally, I whole-heartedly express my thanks to my parents, brother, sisters and other family members for their encouragement and constant moral support.

**A. ASHOK KUMAR**