I know this is the most read page of any thesis and is the toughest part of the thesis to narrate.

This thesis is the account of my work in the field of Environmental Microbiology, carried out at Lab 207, B&D School of Biosciences, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar. Most ahead of all from which I have received thankless help, I stand with folded hands before that Invisible Power who is Omniscient. I soulmately express my deepest gratitude to Him for providing me strength in my arms, will in my mind, humbleness and determination to move forward in all circumstances, always filled with optimistic thoughts, with vigor of which I could venture towards the completion of another phase of my life. I humbly consider the accomplishment of this work, as an achievement which could not have been possible without His authority.

I have come to Lab 207 to get doctorate degree; will be going with more important aspects of life – Survival of the Fittest. Thesis building is not just getting results, publishing research, getting fellowship, but it is a far more (beyond) the expectation that we have dreamed during beginning.

The journey of this thesis has been challenging and learning experience of my life till date. I would like to thank all those who helped me in a big and small way to overcome the obstacles and to stay focused throughout the tenure of my doctorate work.

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I have certainly realized that for success of any project, besides true, hard, sincere and intellectual efforts, one should have real passion for our work.

I find myself fortunate to work in Lab 207, which has not only provided opportunity to learn science, but has touched all sphere of my life, my ever evolving thoughts and made me actually what I am today.

Kunal Jain