ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and above all, I praise God, the almighty for providing me this opportunity and granting me the capability to proceed successfully. This thesis appears in its current form due to the assistance and guidance of several people. I would therefore like to offer my sincere thanks to all of them.

Dr. Kaushik Nath, professor & Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, G H Patel College of Engineering & Technology, Vallabh Vidyanagar, my esteemed guide, my cordial thanks for accepting me as a Ph. D student, your warm encouragement, thoughtful guidance, critical comments during my entire research work and correction of the thesis. Your guidance helped me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I also appreciate his vast knowledge, sincerity and skill in many areas. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph. D study.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. C L Patel sir, chairman, Charutar Vidyamandal for granting me the permission for perusing Ph. D.

I am also thankful to Dr. Himnshu Soni, principal, G H Patel College of Engineering & Technology, Vallabh Vidyanagar for his constant support and encouragement throughout my research work.

I am grateful to Mr. Kishor Bajaj, MD, M/s Techno Designs (I) Ltd, Vithal Udyognagar for his outstanding support and donating experimental setup for my research work.

I am also thankful to Dr. Bharat Dholkiya, Assistant professor, Department of applied chemistry, SVNIT, Surat and Dr. Mathurkumar Bhakhar, Department of Chemical Engineering, GCET for their moral support, suggestions and encouragement during my research work.

I am also grateful to Late Dr. V. S. Patel, Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre for Applied Research and Testing (SICART) and its staff for helping me in analyzing samples of the research work.
My sincere thanks to all my colleagues and non-teaching staff for their constant support and companionship.

I am grateful to my parents Shri. Vinayak Metre and Sau. Veena Metre, my brother Vivek Metre and my sister Vaishali Shrikhande for showing faith in me. They were always supporting me and encouraging me with their best wishes.

The last but not the least I would like to thank my wife, Sonali Metre, my children, master Soham and Mitali for cheering me up and stood by me through the good times and bad.

Date: 10/8/2015
Place: V. V. Nagar