ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I deem it a matter of great pleasure in expressing profound and heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to my esteemed guide Dr. G.S. Pandey, Reader, School of Studies in Chemistry, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, for his valuable guidance, unsparing and ever available help throughout the course of this endeavour, and thereby making it possible for me to complete the research studies. I shall remain indebted to him throughout my life for his intensive care and affectionate treatment during the period of my research programme.

I express my sincere gratefulness to the former Head of the Department Professor S.G. Tandon, and the present Head of the Department Professor R.K. Mishra, for providing laboratory facilities and for their encouragements during the course of the research work.

I express my sincere gratefulness to Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur for awarding University Scholarship during the Ph.D. programme.

I am thankful to Dr. M.W.Y. Khan, Reader, School of Studies in Geology, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, for providing me facility of atomic absorption measurements. I am also thankful to Mr. Prasad Vadegaonkar, SRF, School of Studies in Life Sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur for providing facilities and assistance in the biological experiments.
I express my gratefulness to Dr. R.K. Katre, Dean, IGKV, Raipur for providing the valuable informations related to the Chhattisgarh region.

My extended gratefulness is due to my present employer Mr. P.C. Shukla (Joint President) and Mr. M.C. Gupta (Vice President), Century Cement, Baikunth, Raipur for providing sufficient period of leaves to complete the work.

I am unable to find appropriate words to express my heartfelt sentiments for my parents Shri S.N. Agrawal and Smt. Sarojani Agrawal, whose blessings and inspirations were greatly instrumental in accomplishing this work. I am also unable to find appropriate words to express my heartfelt sentiments for my uncles Shri V.N. Agrawal and Dr. G.N. Agrawal, elder brothers Shri Chandra Shekhar and Rajkumar for the same. I am also thankful to my brothers Bhanu, Pratap, Jeet and Rohit for their help and co-operations affectionately.

I also take opportunity to thank specially Mr. Anand S. Gupta and Mr. S.C. Athwani for their encouragements and sentimental supports during the period of work.

Lastly but not least my extended thanks are due to my seniors Dr. (Mrs) N. Shukla, Dr. (Mrs) G. Jallan, Dr. Shamsh Pervez, Dr. (Miss) Komal Loomba and my colleagues Dr. (Mrs) Namrata Shukla, Miss Anita Savant and Miss Y.F. Ouraishi for their wholehearted memorable co-operation during the research work.

(CHANDRA SAGAR AGRAWAL)