ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This PhD thesis is the culmination of a few years of fervent learning and research experience. Throughout these years, I have received a lot of support from many people who have contributed to its completion in many ways: spiritual, psychological, scientific, financial and technical for making it an unforgettable experience for me. At the end of my thesis, it is a pleasant task to express my thanks here.

With great pride, I have the privilege to acknowledge deep sense of gratitude, indebtedness and heartfelt thanks for my revered guide Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Post Graduate Department of Geology, University of Jammu, who has spared no pains in imparting his scholarly and inspiring guidance, enlightening discussion, valuable suggestions and perfect guidance in completing this work.

I am highly thankful to Prof. R K Ganjoo, Head of the Department of Geology, University of Jammu for providing the necessary facilities required during the completion of this work. Thanks are due to all the teaching staff, Prof. C S Sudan, Prof. M A Malik, Prof. G M Bhat, Prof. A S Jasrotia, Prof. S K Pandita, Dr. Varun Parmar, Dr. S N Kundal, Dr. Yudhbir Singh, and Dr. Rajwant, of the Department for their cooperation and time to time suggestions as and when needed.

Most of the results described in this thesis would not have been obtained without a close collaboration with few laboratories. I am greatly indebted to Sh. K T Ramchandran (Executive Secretary), Dr. M D Sastry (Head of Research and Development), Mrs. Silvia Scqueire (Senior Gemmologist), Mr. Mahesh Gaoankar, Mrs. Seema Athavale, Mr. Sandesh Mane (Research Fellows) of Gemmological Institute of India, Mumbai for providing analytical facilities. I am also thankful to Prof. Rajnikant, Department of Physics, University of Jammu for XRD facility. I owe a great deal of appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Dr. P. P. Khanna, and Dr. N. K. Saina, and at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun for Raman Probe and geochemistry of the rock.

I record to my admiration for the help extended by my seniors and colleagues, particularly Dr. Sukh Chain Sharma, Dr. Ravinder Singh Manhas, Miss Rajni Magotra, Mr. Vipen Katoch, Mr. Stanzin Namga, and Mrs. Neha Arora, Research Scholar’s of the Economic Geology Research Group (EGRG), Department of Geology for their valuable help and providing a stimulating and fun filled environment during my submission days.

Help received from the non teaching staff of this Department is also acknowledged. In particular, I am highly thankful to Dr. A K Sahni, Smt. Radha Bharti, Dr. B A Lone, Sh. Sudesh Sharma.

I am indebted to many Research Scholars and colleagues of the department for their support and encouragement. My thanks go in particular to Dr. Naveen, Dr. Ajay K, Mr. Mateen, Mr. Rahul, Mr. Deepak, Mr. Shiv, Miss. Meera, Mrs. Monika, Miss. Shewata, Miss. Neha, Mr. Sandeep, Mr. Gyan, Mr. T. Jigmet, Mr. Arjun, Mr. Waquar, Mr. Rigzin, Mr. Gulzar.

It’s my fortune to gratefully acknowledge the support of a special individual, Dr. G. A. Mukhtar (Chief Geologist, JKSPDC). Words fail me to express my appreciation to my colleagues Mr. Vishal Atray and Mr. Rajnesh Kundal for their constant moral support. My appreciation also goes to the whole staff of the Geological Wing, JKSPDC.

Words are short to express my deep sense of gratitude towards my following friends, Mr. Parshotam, Mr. Rajdeep, Mr. Sanjeev, Mr. Vijay, Mr. Varun Vara, Mr. Davinder, Mr. Brahm Singh.

I am also very much grateful to all my family members and relatives for their constant inspiration and encouragement. I sincerely acknowledge the constant support and love I received from my sisters and their spouses & kids all throughout my life. I am thankful to the family of my Parent-in-laws, who have been continuous support to me in the form of prayers and best wishes. Besides this, several people have knowingly and unknowingly helped me in the successful completion of this thesis.

Last but not least, I would like to pay high regards to my mother Smt. Shankri Devi for her sincere encouragement and inspiration throughout my life. My special acknowledgement goes to my wife Mrs. Ishya Shan. Her support, encouragement, quiet patience and unwavering love were undeniably the bedrock upon which the past 3 years of my life have been built. Being the part of EGRG, she was with me as a researcher, besides executing the management of our household activities. My last affectionate words goes for “YESHU”, my baby boy, who has been the light of my life for the last nine months and who has given me the extra strength and motivation to get things done. I owe everything to them.

For any errors or inadequacies that may remain in this work of thesis, the responsibility is entirely my own.

At the end, I thank the Almighty for giving me moral strength and courage to carry out my work.

Surjeet Singh Shan
Jammu. 25/09/2014