ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest sense of gratitude and indebtedness to my beloved teacher, research supervisor and philosopher Prof. B.S. Sherigara, Vice-Chancellor and former Professor of Industrial Chemistry, Kuvempu University, for his able guidance, affectionate encouragement, excellent advice, blessings and caring throughout this study. I always feel fortunate and honored that I have been his student and have taken advantage of his wisdom during these years. Professor is not only a mentor, but also a role model to me.

I express my sincere gratitude to my Research Co-Guide Dr. H.S Bhojya Naik, Reader and Chairman, Department of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Industrial Chemistry, Kuvempu University for his continuous encouragement, fruitful discussions and useful suggestions.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere respectful thanks to my teachers of Department of Industrial Chemistry and Chemistry, Dr. K, Vasantakumar Pai, Dr. K Venugopala Reddy, Dr. H.M. Vagdevi, Dr. Yadav. D. Bodke, Dr. P. Vasudava Nayak, Dr. V.P. Vaidya, Dr. J. Keshavayya, Dr. T.V. Venkatesh, Dr. Y. Arthoba Naik and Dr. K.M. Mahadevan.

Many thanks and heartfelt appreciation to: Dr. B.E. Kumaraswamy, Lecturer, Department of Industrial Chemistry, Dr. Y. Shivraj, Lecturer, Govt Science College, Chikballapur and Dr. Ronald J. Mascarenhas, Professor, St. Joseph’s College, Bangalore, for sharing their expertise with suggestions thereby helping me to improve my work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. M. Sudarsanan and Dr. P. Venkataramani, former Heads, Analytical Chemistry Division, BARC, Mr. Ashish Satpati, Dr. R.S. Chitre, Scientific Officers of Analytical Chemistry Division and other scientific officers for allowing
me to carry out a part of my research work at Analytical Chemistry Division, BARC, also for their discussion and useful suggestions during my training programme.

It's my dispensation to thank Prof S. Sampath, Professor, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Division, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for discussion, suggestion and extending his laboratory facilities to carry out part of my research work.

I express my beholden thanks to Dr. B. Jayaram, Director, Central Coffee Research Institute, Balehonnur, Karnataka, Mrs. Maria Violet D'Souza and other scientific officers of CCR, for extending their laboratory facilities to carry out heavy metal detection related experiments.

I am obliged to Dr. H.M. Mahesh and Jayadev, Department of Electronics, Kuvempu University, for their help and deliberations in carrying out physical vapor deposition related experiments at their laboratory.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. H. Jayadevappa, Dr. B. Eshwarappa. It has been a pleasure in interacting with my research colleagues, Dr. G.P. Mamatha, Dr. S. Prasanna Kumar, Dr. C.S Sanmathi, T.E. Musturappa, Dr. S. Vijay Kumar, Ahmed Al-Qahtani, P. Prabhakara Verma, G. Vinod, P. Suresh Babu, R. Raghavendra Naik, E. Niranjana, Dr. D.B. Arun Kumar, Dr. M. Raghavendra, Dr. M.N. Kumaraswamy, Dr. B.P. Nandeshwarappa, Dr. M.C Prabakar, Dr. S. Ramesh, C.N. Sudhamani, Dr. H.P. Sachin, Dr. Ganesh Acharya, Dr. B.M. Kiran, B.M Praveen, Roopa, Umesh Chandra, Chitravathi, Rukka, Ongera, Department of Industrial Chemistry and Chemistry, Kuvempu University.
I express my sincere gratitude to UGC, New Delhi and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, for providing me Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship to carry out my research work.

I thank the staff of the Kuvempu University Library, for providing useful information for my research work. I extend my thanks to the office and technical staff of the Industrial Chemistry and Chemistry Departments for their help during my research programme.

I am deeply and forever indebted to my beloved parents, Smt. Subbalaxmi and late Sri B.C. Venkatesh, for their love, support and encouragement throughout my entire life. I am also very grateful to my only sister Shobha and brother-in-law M.P. Shivaprasad, my brothers Thulasinath and Raghavendra for their love and care.

I owe a debt of thanks and high regards to Smt. Jayashree Sherigara for her affectionate encouragement.

Finally, I thank all those who helped me directly or indirectly to complete this work.

Sampangi Venkatesh Lokesh