ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author expresses his deep gratitude to Dr. S.K. Sharma, Professor of Civil Engineering, Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh, for his valuable guidance in the preparation of this work, and useful suggestions toward the improvement of the script.

The author bows in reverence to all those Engineers, Scientists and Mathematicians who have left their footprints in the field, and made the path easier to tread.

The author is also grateful to all those friends and colleagues who extended their co-operation and help.