ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thesis was accomplished on account of the warm-hearted assistance of many people without whose encouragement and support the thesis would have not been completed. I owe a great debt to all my Dharma teachers and to all those who helped me in many other ways.

First of all, I would like to express my deep indebtedness and respect to my research guide. I find no adequate words to express my sense of deepest gratitude to my research guide, Prof. B. K. Dalai, the Former Director of CASS. He played the most critical role in the successful completion of the research study. His sympathetic encouragement, apt suggestions, innovative ideas and his kind loving compassion have always understood my difficulties and helped me to overcome those without any delay.

I respectfully express with highest modesty, sincere humility and wholehearted my gratitude to Prof. R. A. Muley, the Director of Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit and who provided all kinds of official assistance which enabled me to complete all the formalities from the day of admission to my doctoral study to the day of final submission of my thesis. I also wish to thank all the members of the staff of the libraries such as the Jayakar Library, CASS Library for allowing me to make use of reference materials and useful reading.

I would like to express my deep indebtedness and respect to my respected Masters Most Venerable Thích Quảng Ây (abbot of Thiền Bửu Temple). I would like to thank Most Venerable Thích Thiên Huệ (abbot
of Thiền Khánh Temple), Most Venerable Thích Minh Thiền (abbot of Thiền Châu Temple), Most Venerable Thích Minh Thường (abbot of Linh Sơn Temple), and Venerable Thích Lệ Tri (abbot of Long Phước Temple). They are my ideals of the Buddhist spirit of devotion for spiritual life and their direct and indirect encouragement and support have been highly invaluable during my research studies.

I am extremely grateful to University Grants Commission for awarding me the JRF scholarship during the tenure of my Ph.D. course.

My deep sense of gratitude is heart-felt to my mother and siblings. My sincere thanks are due to my supporters namely Upāsikā Ngọc Mỹ and her family and Upāsikā Diệu Đạo. I cannot forget their generous and kind-hearted financial support during the period from the beginning of the M.A in Buddhist Studies to the completion of my doctoral thesis. I sincerely thank all the Buddhists of Thiền Bửu and Long Phước Temples for their support during the critical period of my academic career.

Last but not the least, I stand obliged to all my Dharma friends who have constantly encouraged and lent me spiritual and material support in order to continue my research studies in India and complete this thesis. Their names cannot be enumerated for want of time and place and so I stand indebted to all of them forever.

Date: 25th August 2014
Place: Uni. of Pune

Research Scholar
VO TRÍ NGUYỄN
(Bhikṣu Thích Lệ Ngôn)