ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of the dreams."
Let me take a little time to acknowledge few wonderful people who entered in my life, assisted me in weaving my dreams to reality and in process developed new dreams.

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude towards, my research supervisor, Dr. P. D. Vaidya for his unstinted guidance, inspiration and encouragement during the tenure of my Ph.D. research work. His kind nature, deep understanding of the subject, handling situations positively and utilising each and every second of life have imparted over me. It’s a matter of pride and privilege for me to be associated with him. It makes me proud to say “I am a PDV group member”. I appreciate all his contributions of time and ideas to make my Ph.D. experience productive and stimulating. His precious statement would be always there with me;

"Once you get the taste of blood (Research spark) you automatically tend to hunt for the same taste with the whole spirit, dedication and sincerity"

I am also gratified to Professor A. B. Pandit, Professor Gaikar and Professor Bhagwat for their motivation. Professor Pandit’s calm and supportive nature gave a sense of confidence while Professor Gaikar’s dialogue “work for 24 × 7 hours” has always been an inspiration for me. My sincere gratitude goes to Emeritus Professor V. V. Mahajani for his strict rules, personal examples and experiences of his life along with his constant encouragement as a coordinator of PGD-CTM first batch. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Atul Kazi, for his constant support for my development during PGD-CTM course.

I would also like to thank Professor S. S. Bhagwat; Head of Department of Chemical Engineering and Professor Anand V. Patwardhan (Surrogate mother) for extending this help in initial stages of Ph.D.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate my Research Guide Shree Dheeraj Jain for developing research interest during my master’s project training in Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC). His valuable words are always there with me;

"Be that much improving in your life that you have no time left for remembering the tough days in depression and no time commenting on others fault"

All the non-teaching staff of Chemical Engineering Department needs special recognition for their kind help. Bhamare, Paralkar and Mane have helped me in learning proper handling of analytical instruments.

I am immensely thankful to DAE-ICT for providing me financial assistance during this tenure, presentation before DAE-ICT committee and periodically report submission helped me in sorting out the data and made thesis writing much easier. I am thankful to IIT-SAIF for providing XRD, SEM and TEM analysis of samples.
I would also like to thank DST for funding me to attend ISCRE 22, Maastricht for presenting poster.

I am obliged to Parag Sutar for his path directing guidance during the initial stages of my research work. Special thank to Elizabeth Madam for her console cooperation during the end phase of my research tenure. I am grateful to Ravi Sundari, Ankush Bindwal, Suhas Jadhav, Anand Jain, Ravindra Kanawade, Mahesh Nimkarde, Abhimanyu Yadav, Ashvin Karemore for making fun-loving environment in the lab with overwhelming support. Words are not enough to thank them for all their special work and togetherness approach to change the lab environment to a stunning level. Rushikesh, Prashanti, Santosh Sirke, Vikram, Atul, Ganesh, Amit, Pushkar (RA), Santosh Jadhav, Saroj (RA), Ritesh, Aniket, Sanket (RA), Anuj, Shailesh, Nikhil, Yuvraj, Harini, Tanmay, Munmi and Devendra are acknowledged for their short, although memorable journey in the lab and would like to thank all of them for maintaining the lab culture. Best wishes to juniors Neha, Nilam, Srikanth, Sachin, Shailesh and Deepak. Thanks to Keerthna for listening and following me during her summer training program.

Ankush Bindwal was a perfect mentor for me during ISCRE 22, Maastricht visit. Special thanks to him for his support.

I would also deeply thanks Parag Sutar and Elizabeth Madam for giving me moral support during end phase (critical period) of my Ph.D.

From core of my heart I would like to thank: Vibhuti, Aditi, Priya, Mandrita, Sona and Swati for their liveliness with me in the hostel; all moments spend together will be cherished for lifetime. I would like to thank all my friends of GDY lab: Payal, Sharmaji, Ashwini, Prasad, Devendra, Kunde Sir, Godfree, Suresh; AVP lab: Yogesh and VGG lab: Yoko, D.D, Khursheed for their friendly support during my research. Bangalore trip group friends (during CHEMCON): Ganesh, Pankaj, Rani and Kiran; thanks to all of them for amusement. Special thanks to my CTM batch mates.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Dharmendra Singh because of his moral support and encouragement I entered in BARC as a project trainee. Special thanks to BARC friends Supriya, Sandeep, Arindam (Dada); who made my life easier.

I would also like to thank Suresh Bhai & Preeti Bhabhi for their homely environment during my stay in hostel.

My abilities and positive attitude towards life is all because of my parents. I also take this opportunity to appreciate my father for his kind love and unwavering support throughout my life. His constant inspiration has made me what I am today. My mother, taught me to be polite and calm in any critical situation. I would miss her through-out my future life. A mere thank is not sufficient for their unconditional love.

Finally, I thank God for giving me a wonderful platform to start my career.

Thanks to all of you for helping me directly or indirectly....

Vimita Ramjeet Dubey

December-2012