Acknowledgements

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my research guide Dr. Nityanand Singh, Head, Climatology and Hydrometeorology Division, IITM, Pune for his perennial and evolutionary guidance during the course of this research program. He showed me various ways to approach to a research problem. He taught me how to create new knowledge beyond the horizon of all existing knowledge. His deep involvement with his originality in this work helps me to raise my level of consciousness and to nourish my intellectual maturity. I am wholeheartedly grateful to Prof. B. N. Goswami, Director IITM, for necessary facilities and financial support by extending my fellowship twice, for one year each time. I wish to record my greatest appreciation to Dr. Mrs. P.S. Salvekar, Head, Academic Cell, for her kind cooperation for various administrative and technical support and guidance during the course of my Ph.D. Further, I also acknowledge the Deputy Registrar, University of Pune for the registration in the university and other administrative formalities related to my Ph.D. degree.

I would also like to thank all the research committee members for providing their valuable comments and suggestions regularly during the period of work that results in numerous improvements in the study. I would like to thank sincerely Dr. Mrs. N.A. Sontakke, Dr. Mrs. N.R. Deshpande, Mr. H.N. Singh and Mrs. Preeti Bhaskar, for their valuable suggestions and help during my thesis work. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is also thankfully acknowledged for providing necessary data sets.

Very Special thanks goes to my family members- my parents for educating me with all those aspects required to reach to this stage and for inseparable support provided to pursue my interest; my brother and In laws for their support and encouragement they have provided in my life during more difficult times.

Words fail me to express my appreciation to my husband 'Arvind' for his encouragement and love during my periods of frustrations and for always believing in me and my abilities. I would also like to express my deepest love to my son 'Aryan', who never complained in spite of not getting sufficient time from his mom in his early childhood.

I would like to thank everybody which I could not mention personally but plays an important role for realization of this thesis.

Finally I am grateful to that supernatural power we say God for his kindness and the path he has shown to me and keep sheltered my way.

"O God, Thank you so much for making my life more meaningful!"