The composition of the student’s research committee in respect of Richa Sharma was as follows:

- Dr P K Joshi (Supervisor & SRC Member)
- Dr Prateek Sharma (SRC Member)
- Dr Suresh Jain (SRC Member)
- Dr Mala Narang Reddy (SRC Member)
Acknowledgement

This piece of research that forms my PhD thesis would not have been possible alone. I could not have achieved it without the help and support of many individuals and organizations. Through this section, I acknowledge all those who have contributed in one or another ways towards the fulfillment of this work.

My first and foremost gratitude after the almighty goes to my mentor and supervisor Dr P K Joshi who had been an endless source of inspiration and motivation to me and continues to be so. He had played many important roles during this course as; a guide, a teacher, a friend and a colleague to mention a few. He is also credited with my foray into research almost 5 years ago, when he introduced me as a Master’s student to the field of remote sensing and GIS. I truly thank him for all his faith and patience that he showed through all these years along with providing constant support, guidance, encouragement and advise.

I extend my humble gratitude to Dr R K Pachauri, Dr Leena Srivastava and Dr Rajiv Seth for providing the opportunity to carry out my research at TERI University.

I am grateful to the support provided by TERI University Faculty who taught me during my Masters and during the pre-PhD course work. I am especially thankful to the SRC members, Dr Prateek Sharma, Dr Suresh Jain and Dr Mala Narang Reddy. I am also grateful to Dr Kamna Sachdev, Dr C. K. Singh, Dr Bakim Oinam and Dr Anu Rani Sharma for their constant support and motivation. I am also indebted to all those who spared their valuable time to attend my presentations and for their constructive criticisms.

I am particularly obliged to the TERI University for providing the institutional assistance for my research. I owe my gratitude to the University administration for being very helpful and kind throughout the course of my work, with a special mention of Mr. Kamal Sharma and Mr. Prem Suresh for being so helpful and patient with all the official and documentation works. I am also thankful to Mr. Ratan Jha and Mr. Umesh for providing me assistance with TERI library resources. I specially thank Mr. Vikas Bhati for facilitating my field work with such efficiency and punctuality. I would also like to thank the accounts department of TERI University. I express my sincere thanks to all the
drivers who were patient enough to bear with me the hot humid summers and cold chilling winters of Delhi during my field work. I also owe my thankfulness to Poorva, Kanishka and Sushmita for helping me with in-situ data collection.

I am indebted to the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India for giving me the opportunity to work and also providing me the financial support through the project titled “Satellite based analysis for assessing status of urban ecosystems and urban heat island phenomenon in metropolitan cities of India”. Apart from these, I extend my gratitude towards, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for providing data support for my research.

I would like to convey my appreciation to various organisations and institutions that provided me the opportunities to attain broader perspectives of research through various national and international exposures. These include, United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS, Japan), FAPESP and INPE (Brazil), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Germany), Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS, Germany) with Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and Resource Optimization Institute (ROI, India) with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K).

Newer dimensions during the course of this research were achieved through publications of various research articles in scientific journals namely Elsevier, Springer, Indian Academy of Sciences and Taylor & Francis. I am grateful to the respective journal editors and the anonymous reviewers. I also owe my gratitude to the newspaper reporters and editors from Gaurdian, Alert-Net, Mint, Business Line and Times of India for highlighting and reporting this work to the common masses.

I express my heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness to my friend and co-author Mr. Aniruddha Ghosh (soon to be Dr Ghosh), for his constant support, valuable advices and insightful discussions.

I would like to recognize the support of my friends and colleagues, Ms. Anusheema and Ms. Suhmita. I also appreciate the help by my friends Ms. Priya, Mr. Sandip, Dr Neena Priyanka and Dr Nishant towards the successful completion of this thesis. Anusheema is also duly acknowledged for putting hard work on proof reading my work. I also extend my thanks to all the students that attended classes with me during the course work and
those who attended my lectures and practical sessions which helped me attain in depth knowledge of my field.

The emotional support of my dear friends: Smita, Sonia, Pratibha, Isha, Anshu, Sreerupa, Dr Akhlaq Wani and many more are duly thanked. I thank you all for always being there. I sincerely thank all my relatives and friends for their unending support.

Finally, the most important support, inspiration and encouragement that was not noticed in academic arena but without whom, this whole journey would not have been possible, my father, Mr. Vinod Kumar Sharma. My Uncle and Aunt, who are like my second parents, Mr. Shashi Bhushan Gupta and Mrs. Shashi Bala Gupta, have proved to be invaluable in the completion of the thesis. I am also thankful to my maternal grandparents, Mr. O.P. Bharadwaj and Mrs. Sanjogita Bharadwaj for their unending love and care. I profusely thank almighty, my mother, Late Mrs. Sarita Sharma, my paternal grandparents, Late Mr. Devi Dyal and Late Mrs. Vedvati Sharma for their warm blessings.

I apologize to anyone whom I forgot to mention here and at the same time I duly acknowledge their contribution.