ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work has been made possible with the cooperation of many people. I am indebted to all of them. However there are certain people who have not only helped me in completing this work but have been the pillars of strength through out my life. Whatever little I have achieved in life would not have been possible without their selfless love and untiring support.

First and foremost, my sincerest gratitude towards my esteemed Supervisor, Professor Pushpesh Pant whose richness and deep understanding of the subject brought great commitment and considerable conceptual insights to this work. In the midst of vast literature that I had to wade through, it was his positive and patient guidance that enabled me to carve out a suitable framework for the study. He dedicated himself to bring out the best out of me and without his ceaseless inspiration and unending support I would not have ventured into this difficult field. He has been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration.

I am also grateful to my co-supervisor Professor Bharat Desai, who has meticulously gone through the work and had very patient hearing towards my queries on the subject and constantly provided moral support while enquiring about the progress of my research work from time to time.

I would also like to extend my thankfulness to the faculty and staff members of our division.

Words would not be able to express the contribution of my family members without whom this work would have not seen the light of day especially my eldest brother Sh. Chhati Yadav. He has been a father figure, friend, philosopher and guide rolled into one for me. My bhabhi Smt. Asha Yadav, who nurtured and cared for me as a mother. This work is a culmination of her constant prayers and blessings. I owe a great deal to my brothers
Kedar and Ashok, the times I spent with them are the most cherished moments of my life.

It is also an occasion to remember the near and dear ones who have lent a helping hand in many ways to finish this mammoth task, especially Dr. Inderjit, Dr. Manjeet, Dr. Parvez, Dr. Mukesh, Dr. Sanjay Bhardwaj Atul, Aseem, Rahul, Kataria, Balu, Manish, Ashsis, Vidhan, Thakur, Yogesh Dahiyia, Brijkishore, Sanjeev, Seemaji, Shanu Bhai, Sanjay Rana, Sarvan, Om, Avilash Roul, Nitin, Nikoo, Chaman, Prakash, Zia, Vishal, Chaitu, Khalid, Deepak, Inderpal, Sayeed, Balu

I am also thankful to library staff members of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Library, New Delhi, Institute of Defence and Strategic Analysis, New Delhi, American Centre Library, New Delhi; Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, who have extended full cooperation in furnishing the relevant information and research material and allowed me to use valuable resources to carry out the research work.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank my beloved Bhavnita, whose constant prodding and prompting (though it got on to my nerves sometimes) forced me to gather steam and finish this work. But for 'her', I might not have been able to conclude this work for a long-long time.

CHANDER BHAN YADAV