Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I would like to express my deeply felt gratitude to my mentor Dr. Malayendu Saha, Professor of Commerce, University of Calcutta, who ably guided the transformation of this work from abstract thoughts to thesis and instigated me throughout to explore my academic area of interest in the field of capital market. His simplicity, modesty and humbleness and sense of warm-hearted affection for his students have been a source of inspiration for me and my work. For this, I feel very fortunate to have him my supervisor and will remain indebted all through my life. His guidance, devotion for the subject along with soulful insight on the topic is truly inspirational and is indeed a lesson for me to emulate.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to my friend Dr. Abhijit Kundu for his valuable and constructive advice and necessary inputs from time to time. His assistance can never be forgotten. I would like to offer my special thanks to him. I would like to express my greatest respect to all the teachers in the Department of Commerce, University of Calcutta. I am particularly grateful for the advice and assistance given by Dr. Tanupa Chakraborty and Dr. Jadav Krishna Das.

I, most respectfully acknowledge my indebtedness to all the sources that I have used extensively in this research work. Thanks are also due to the librarian and the staff of the Central library, University of Calcutta, British Council Library at Kolkata, The National Library and Dr. B.C.Roy Memorial Library of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata for allowing me to use their vast repository of resources.

I also take this opportunity to sincerely acknowledge the support and encouragement that I have received from my well wishers, my friends and colleagues particularly from Dr. Anup Kr. Sahoo, Sri Sudip Sarkar, Smt. Shreea Chakraborty, Sri Srijit Mitra and Sri Arkadip Basu for helping me in some way or the other for the completion of the thesis.

Last but not certainly least, I must acknowledge the contribution and support of my near and dear ones over the last few years who always stood by me during this quest. I express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents and my wife Tithi for their untiring help and support. I must also mention the encouragement received from my parents-in-law and from my only sister. Without their cooperation and patience, this study would not have seen the light of day. Above all, I bow to the God, the Almighty, for His showers of blessings throughout my research work and bestowing me the capability to proceed successfully.

Gautam Das