ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Humility is the acknowledgement that without God you wouldn’t have made it thus far”

I consider it a privilege to have worked under the guidance of Prof. K.V. Ramesh, Head, Department of Electronics and Physics, GIS, GU for giving me the opportunity to work in his lab, for scholarly guidance, for his commitment, support, encouragement, supervision and constructive criticism throughout, which paved a way for the completion of my research within stipulated time. Personally he has been an epitome of principles, kindness and aspirations; I am deeply indebted to him.

I am indebted to University Grants Commission, Government of India for appointing me as Project Fellow to the Major Research Project No: 42-824/2013(SR) Dt.22-03-2013 and providing monetary support which made my journey very easy. The present thesis is a part of this Research Project.

I owe my indebtedness to Prof. K. Aruna Lakshmi, Principal and Prof. S.V. Rajagopal, Vice Principal, GITAM Institute of Science, GITAM University for the moral support and completion of work.

I would like to thank sincerely Prof. N. Lakshman Das, Advisor, science courses, GU for his support during my research work.

I am grateful to Dr. Ch. Ravi Shankar Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Electronics and Physics, GIS, GU for his continuous support and valuable suggestions. I am thankful to Dr. C. Kavitha, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, GIT, GU for her support and encouragement. I am very grateful and would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. P. Kanakaraju, Dr. C. Mani Kumar, Dr. G. Gopala Krishna and Dr. A. Chandra Sekhar faculty members of Department of Electronics and Physics, GIS, GU for their valuable suggestions. I am also thankful to Mrs. Md. Haleema, lab technician and Mr. Y. Anil Raju, supporting staff, Department of Electronics and Physics, GIS, GU for their kind support.

I express very special thanks to Dr. M. N. V. Ramesh, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, GIT, GU, for his constant encouragement and moral support.
I offer my cordial and profound thanks to my lab mates, Mr. C.V.S.S. Sastry, Mr. K. Brahmananda Rao, Dr. B. Rajesh Babu, Dr. M.S.R. Prasad, Mr. M. Srikanth, Mr. G. Nagesh, and my fellow research scholars, Mrs. K. Divya, Mr. Ramakrishna Jogi, Mr. K. Ravi Chandra, Mr. G. Krishnam Raju, Mr. Y.V.S. Sai Krishna, Mr. K.L.N. Rao for their help and cooperation.

I am extremely lucky to have wonderful friends, Mr. D. Easwar Rao, Mr. V.N.S. Siva Kumar and Ms. P. Srilakshmi who shared all the good and bad times of my Ph.D. research tenure and have always boosted my morale especially in times of difficulty.

I would like to thank sincerely to SAIF, IIT-Madras, Chennai for providing necessary research facilities XRD, FTIR and SEM data.

I would like to thank sincerely to DMRL, DRDO, Hyderabad for providing magnetic measurements of samples through VSM.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks and profound admiration to my grandfather Late Shri D. Venkateswara Rao, grandmother Smt. D. Dhanalakshmi, father Shri D. Sambasiva Rao, my mother Smt. D. Ramadevi, my uncle Shri D. Srinivasa Rao, my aunt Smt. D. Aruna, siblings D. Ramakrishna, D. Rajesh and D. Divya, and other family members who have always given me the courage to pursue my dreams. In fact this work became possible only because of their love, moral support and prayers for my success.

D. VENKATESH