ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I deem it a privilege to express deep sense of gratitude to my affectionate research guide Dr. K. Sudhakar Babu, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for his inspiring excellent guidance, deep involvement, illuminating insights and above all, for his constant encouragement in completing the research work successfully.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and respects to Prof. V. Suryanarayana Rao, Chairman, Board of Studies (BOS); and Prof. K. Hussain Reddy, Head, Department of Chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for extending their timely help and providing necessary facilities in carrying out my research work.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to respected staff members – Prof. R. Srinivasulu and Prof. J. Sreeramulu, Department of Chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, for their constant encouragement and valuable suggestions.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), and all the concerned authorities of VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS), Government of India, for giving me permission to register as part – time external candidate to do my Ph. D. Programme under the able guidance of Dr. K. Sudhakar Babu, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur.
I am highly indebted to Shri Jayaprakash, Group Director, Space Ordnance Group, Dr. A. G. Rajendran, Head, Initiators & Igniters Division (IID), Dr. B. Hariharanath, and Dr. (Mrs.) K. Rani Krishnan, Scientists, Initiators & Igniters Division; Shri R. Sivaramakrishnan, Dy. General Manager; and Shri S. Natarajan - Scientist Rocket Propellant Plant (RPP), all from PRSO – Entity, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, ISRO, DOS, Government of India, for extending wholehearted support in experimental work and participation in the technical discussions during the entire course of my research work.

I wish to extend my deep sense of gratitude and sincere thanks to Dr. M. Rama Rao, Dr. K. Krishnan, Dr. (Mrs.) Korah Bina Catherine, Dr. R. Rajeev, and the entire team of Analytical & Spectroscopy Division; Dr. S. Someswara Rao, Shri K. G. Kannan, Dr. T. L. Varghese, Shri V. Saseendran, Propellant Engineering Division, Propellants, Polymers & Special Chemicals Group, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, ISRO, DOS, Government of India, for extended their wholehearted support in my experimental work and participation in the technical discussions.

My special thanks and heartfelt gratitude are due to Dr. S. Rajendran, Head, Library, and his entire team; and Shri A. Muralidhar, Scientist, Technology Transfer & Documentation Group (TTDG), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, ISRO, DOS, Government of India, who have extended all support needed to carry out my literature survey required for bringing out this thesis successfully.
I am greatly indebted to Dr. B. Sreedhar, Scientist, and Shri M. Amarnath Reddy, Inorganic & Physical Chemistry Division, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IITC), Hyderabad for their constant encouragement, and active participation in the technical discussions related to my work, and, extending all needed support in terms of TG, DTA, DSC, and TG – MS related experimental work.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to Dr. T. Ravi Shankar, Scientist, Kar Polymers, Hyderabad, for his constant encouragement, and participation in technical discussions related to my research work.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. C. Uma Shankar, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool; Emeritus Professors – Dr. S. Kelkar, Dr. M. S. Wadia, Dr. M. S. Mali Dr. S. B. Kelkar, Dr. S. J. Patil, Dr. G. C. Kulkarni, Dr. P. H. Ladwa, all belonging to University of Poona, Pune; and Emeritus Professor – Dr. P. K. Sai Prakash and Dr. Ratan Toorky, Osmania University, Hyderabad, and Dr. P. V. S. Machi Raju, P. R. Government (autonomous) College, Kakinada, for their constant encouragement and valuable suggestions during the entire course of my research work.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Ms. Sivajyothi, my co-Ph. D. Scholar; and to Mr. Hari Nagamaddaiah, Project Fellow, Dept. of Chemistry, S. K. University, Anantapur who have extended their wholehearted support in bringing out this thesis in its present form.
I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Latfa Sudhakar and, to the mother of Dr. K. Sudhakar Babu, for their great and unforgettable friendship and hospitality, and constant encouragement for my research work.

Last but not the least, I wish to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to my beloved wife, dear sons, dear daughter-in-laws, and dear grand child, and all relatives and friends who were a constant source of encouragement but for which I could not have executed this research programme successfully.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to Sri Dhanesh and all staff members of Kiran Xerox, Kakinada; and Rajesh Color Xerox & Printing, Anantapur for their wholehearted and timely assistance in printing and binding of this thesis volume in its present perfection.

M. Raja Ravindra Prasad