ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with high regards and profound respect I owe a deep sense of sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. M. Lakshmi Kantam, Deputy Director, Head, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Division, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, for her stimulating guidance, persistent inspiration and extending all the support as and when needed throughout my doctoral research.

I take this opportunity to thank the director Dr. J.S. Yadav, IICT for providing sophisticated laboratory facilities and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India for financial support. I express my sincere thanks to Mrs. C.B. Lakshmi, Head, RMA.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Ajayan Vinu, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Materials Science (NIMS), Japan, for his valuable suggestions and constant encouragement during my research period in NIMS. I also wish to thank NIMS for providing me with international research internship and sophisticated laboratory and analytical facilities.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. B. Sreedhar for his very valuable suggestions and constant help, Dr. K. Rajender Reddy, Dr. K. Jeevaratnam, Dr. B. R. C. Reddy, Dr. A. Srinivas Rao, Dr. K. Vijaya kumar, Dr. Rajiv Trivedi, Dr. M. Mohan Rao, Dr. G. Sarala Devi, Dr. H. Maheshwaran, Dr. P. R. Likhar, Dr. K. Bhanuprakash, Mrs. V. Swapna and eminent scientists from IICT, Hyderabad for their constant help and valuable scientific discussions. I thank Mr. A.V. Srihari, Mr. T. Jayaraj, Balraj, Ashok, Swadeep, Narender and Narsingh for extending the helping hand whenever required during my research. I wish to express my special thanks to my seniors Dr. Ch.Venkat Reddy, Dr. B. Neelima, Dr. N. Sailendra Kumar, Dr. B. Veda Prakash, Dr. A. Ravindra, Dr. V. Swarna Jaya, Dr. Ujjwal Pal, Dr. Neha Y. Hebalkar, Dr. B. Purna Chandra Rao, Dr. Y. Aparna for their constant help and valuable suggestions throughout my doctoral research.

My sincere thanks to my seniors and colleagues P. Surendra Reddy, M. Amarnath Reddy, C. Uma Maheshwari, P. Radhika, L. Chakrapani, Dr. T. Ramani, Dr. K. Mahender, Dr. K. B. Shiva Kumar, S. Venkateshwar Rao, S. Radhika, K. Rajgopal, N. S. Sekhar, L. Prashanth, M. S. Subhas, P. Srinivas, Dr. D. Neelapriya, Dr. Ch. V. Rajashekar, V. Balasubramanyam, R. Sudharshan Reddy, Dr. G. Gopikrishna, Dr.
Sarabindu Roy, Dr. Moumita Roy, R. Arundhati, Soumi Laha, Jagjit Yadav for their help in doing my research.

I also appreciate the cooperation and assistance rendered by M. Madhavi, P. Saiprathima, Srinivas, S. Vanaja, B. Phanikumar, M. Venkateswar, Keya Layek, S. Priyadarshini, P. Silviya Reeta, Satyanarayana, G. Satish, R. Arunkumar.

A special thanks is due to my teacher Mr. Biswajit Dey Choudhury, who played an important role in shaping my vision towards my goal and taught me to work sincerely towards it. Further, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my teachers and Professors for their moral support throughout my academic career. I wish to thank my friends Debjani, Bikash, Sudip, Shohini, Suhita, Chaitali, Zaad, Ishani, Sambuddha, Priyanka, Sujit, Sandeep, Debaditya, Agnelo, Srikar, Pranjal, Chithra, Tamil Selvan, Logudurai, Kalyani, K. K. R. Dutta, Karthikeyan, Hamid, Leila, and others for their constant encouragement.

I acknowledge the help provided by the staff of analytical, library, stores, purchase and glass blowing sections.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude for my mother Indrani Chakravarti, my grandfather Prof. Amrita Ranjan Chakrabarti, my grandmother Madhavi Chakrabarti and my father Sumantra Chakravarti who formed a part of my vision and taught me good things that really matters in life. They still provide a persistent inspiration for my journey of life. I wish to thank my best friend and life partner Samit Kumar Dutta, who was the source of constant encouragement and inspiration. I also thank my aunt Debjani Lahiri and uncle Dr. Ranabir Lahiri for their support. Last but never the least; I acknowledge all my family members for supporting me throughout.

Once again I thank all named and unnamed who have been associated during my part of research work.

Rajashree Chakravarti