

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Through this page, I offer my salutation to **Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Ji**, the creator of this pious seat of learning.*

*It is indeed my proud privilege to express my deep sense of gratitude, respect, indebtedness and sincere regards to my **Supervisor Prof. Monoj Kumar Mondal, Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi** for his excellent supervision, skilled and valuable guidance, stimulating discussion, unfailing support, immense help, and constant encouragement over entire period of my association with him. I am proud to have a teacher like him who is always motivative and supportive, even in most adverse situations. In fact, he has been a source of inspiration for me to have an optimistic approach in life and do my best.*

*I pay my sincere thanks to HOD, **Prof. P. K. Mishra** and Ex HOD, **Prof. A.S.K. Sinha**, Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, IIT (BHU) for providing necessary facilities.*

*From the depth of my heart I would like to express my gratitude and special thanks to RPEC members **Prof. A. K. Verma**, Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, IIT (BHU), and **Dr. Abha Mishra**, School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU) for appropriate suggestions and kind cooperation extended by them. I am also thankful to all the faculty members of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, IIT (BHU) for their support and encouragement.*

*I would like to express my thanks to **Dr. Dalia Dasgupta Mandal** (National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, West Bengal) for cultivating the seed of research in me. Her dedication to research work is a constant source of inspiration for me.*

*I owe my sincerest thanks to **Central Instrument Facility Centre, Sophisticated Laboratory and Energy Resources Laboratory, Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology and School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU)** for providing the necessary facilities.*

*I would like to extend my thanks to **National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms, Pune, India** for providing the fungal cultures and **Sewage Treatment Plant, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi, India** for providing the sludge sample.*

*I am highly obliged to express my appreciation towards my seniors **Dr. Meghna Kapur, Dr. Vaishnava Raghunath Chelluboyana, Dr. Shalini Shrivastava, Mr. Mahendra Ram, Dr. Rupika Sinha, Dr. Devendra Kumar Singh and Dr. Sukhendra Singh** for their affection and support during my research work.*

*I have been highly blessed with a friendly and cheerful group of fellow research scholars. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to especially, **Mr. Goutam Kishore Gupta, Dr Deepika Kushwaha, Mr. Shailesh Kumar, Mr. Anuj Kumar Prajapati, Mr. Diwakar Pandey, Dr. Ipsita Chakravarty, Mrs. Neha Agarwal, Mrs. Namrata Yadav, Ms. Debanshee Dutta and Ms. Urvashi Arora**, who directly or indirectly supported my research work. Their companionship and lively discussions in and outside the laboratory were great source of inspiration.*

*I am also grateful to the non-teaching staff member **Mr. Dayaram Singh Yadav** for his support and cooperation during my research work.*

*Words plunge insufficient to express my regards and deep emotions to my father **Shree Ramendra Singh** and mother **Smt. Rajkumari** for being the source of unconditional love and inspiration to move on the way to my goal of achieving higher education. Their everlasting encouragement, patience, sacrifice and blessings have brought me up to this stage. Parents being earthly God deserve much more than what I can express in words.*

*I am deeply indebted to my brothers **Mr. Pankaj Kumar** and **Mr. Kamaldeep** for their everlasting affection and encouragement. I would like to express my deep gratitude to my friends **Mrs Priya Malik** and **Ms Richa Verma** for stand by me in every thick and thin throughout this journey.*

*I take this occasion to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by **Ministry of Human Resource and Development** in the form of Teaching Assistantship.*

Again, I wish to express a word of thanks to all those hands that helped me in some way or the other in pursuing my research work and for the completion of thesis. I apologize unreservedly for any mistakes, omissions or failure to acknowledge fully.

*Finally, I bow my head humbly before the almighty **God** without whose consent and blessings, this work would have been impossible.*

Date:

Place: IIT (BHU), Varanasi

(Renu Bala)