ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without my close association with many peoples who were always there when I needed them the most. I take this opportunity to acknowledge them and extend my sincere gratitude for helping me make this thesis a possibility. At this moment of accomplishment, first of all I would like to pay the homage to the founder of Banaras Hindu University, **Pandit Madan Mohan Malvia ji**, who made this glorious temple to realize spiritual, technical and scientific knowledge about this vast existing universe.

I embrace the opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor **Dr. Rajiv Prakash**, Professor, School of Materials Science & Technology (SMST), IIT (B.H.U.), Varanasi for his constant guidance, valuable suggestions and kind encouragement during my association with his research group. His encouragement, constant support, intellectual stimulation, perceptive guidance, immensely valuable ideas, and suggestions from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. His scholarly suggestions, prudent admonitions, immense interest, constant help and affectionate behavior have been a source of inspiration for me. His suggestions will remain with me as an inexhaustible source of scientific learning throughout my life.

I would like to express my sincere and whole hearted gratitude to **Prof. D. Pandey** (Institute Professor), **Prof. P. Maiti, Dr. C. Rath, Dr. C. Upadhyay, Dr. B. N. Pal, Dr. A. K. Mishra, Dr. Sanjay Singh, and Dr. S. K Mishra** SMST, IIT-BHU, Varanasi, for discussion during seminars and valuable suggestions given by them. I am especially thankful to **Dr. A.K. Singh**, Coordinator, SMST, IIT-BHU, Varanasi for valuable suggestions during my research work. I am much grateful to **Dr. Ashish Kumar Singh, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Dr. Shri Ram Singh,** visiting faculties, SMST, IIT-BHU, Varanasi for their time to time help and support. I am cordially thankful to **Dr. Neeraj Giri** for fruitful discussions regarding XRD. I am indeed obliged and sincerely thankful to my RPEC member **Prof. S. Jit**, Department of Electronics Engg., IIT- BHU for his guidance and untiring attention right from the inception to the successful completion of assigned research work. I owe a great deal of appreciation and gratitude to **Dr. S. K. Singh** (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics, IIT-BHU) for his valuable suggestions. Most of the results described in this thesis would not have been obtained without a close collaboration with few laboratories. I am thankful to **Prof. Ranjan Singh** and his student **Dr. Ranjana Singh** (Department of Physics, Institute of Science, BHU) for providing facilities like PL, Raman, and important discussion/suggestions during my research work.

I am thankful to the unknown reviewers who have rejected my papers several times in some of the international conferences and journals. The comments that they provided helped to polish our articles in better shape. But the bigger and nobler cause of thanking them is that the rejections have equipped me with high level of patience and helped me a lot to exercise/implement my spiritual thoughts in practice.

My acknowledgement will never be complete without the special mention of my lab seniors who have taught me the lab culture and have lived by example to make me understand the hard facts of life. I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Arun K. Singh**, **Dr. Akhilesh K. Singh, Dr. Swati Mohan, Dr. Bhawna Gupta, Dr. Monika Srivastava, Dr. Leela Joshi, Dr. Rajiv K. Pandey, Dr. Uday P. Azad, Dr. Shashi Tiwari, Dr. Gopal Ji, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Dr. Madhu Tiwari, Dr. Kashish, and Dr. Preeti Tiwari** SMST, IIT-BHU, Varanasi for their encouragement and valuable suggestions during my research period. My sincere thanks to my senior **Dr. Ashish Kumar** for his motivation and throughout support from the initial days of my PhD.

My heartfelt thanks to my fellow class mates and lab mates **Anand**, **Snadeep**, **Satyaveer**, **Bahrti**, **Priyanka**, **Anupma**, **Aparna** and **Richa** for always being there and bearing with me the good and bad times during my wonderful days of Ph.D. Also I am thankful to my juniors of lab specially **Vinita**, **Nandlal Rajak**, **Chandrajeet**, **Vineet**, **Ravi Prakash**, **Nikhil**, **Anirudha**, **Bishnu**, **Ajay**, **Subhajit**, **Priya**, **Shweta**, **Saurabh** for their all kind of support. I can see my thesis in the good shape because of his help in formatting the entire thesis.

I am cordially thankful to **Prof. K. Kaneto**, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Osaka Institute of Technology, Osaka, and our collaborators **Prof. S. S. Pandey**, KIT Japan for giving valuable suggestions in organic electronic work. The motivational support by Late **Prof. W. Takashima** in past years is highly acknowledged. It's my fortune to gratefully acknowledge the support of some special individuals. Words fail me to express my appreciation to **Zahoor Alam** (Department of Chemical Engineering), **Dr. Umakant Yadav** (Department of Zoology, BHU), **Dr. Chandan Kumar & Praveen K. Sahu** (Dept. of Electronics Engg.) for their support, generous care and the homely feeling at hostel. Their association has made my stay in IIT (BHU) a pleasurable and memorable experience. My outing and shopping with them will be etched permanently in my memory. They were always beside me during happy and hard moments to push me and motivate me. My fast friends **Nirmal Mallick**, **Keshav Kumar** my junior cum collegue **Mr. Dharmndra K. Singh** (Assistant Professor, Dept. of ET, HBTU Kanpur), **Vishwas Acharya**...the list is endless thanks to one and all.

I sincerely thanks to administration of **Harcourt Butler Technical University**, Kanpur for Their support by granting me 40 days leave to submit my PhD-thesis.

I am also thankful to all, to whom I could not mention here who helped me directly or indirectly throughout the work. I am thankful to all non-teaching staff of the Department Mr. Ashwani Sonkar (Jr. Asstt.), Mr. Dharmendra Yadav, Mr. Awanish Tripathi, Mr. Mohd. Waris Ansari, Mr. Amod Pandey, Mr. A. K. Rai, Mr. Sudhakar Sing, Mr. K. Ram (Ex-Bade babu), A. Sharma, Mr. S. Dubey, Mr. S. R. Tiwari, Mr. M. Patel, Mr. Dinesh (sweeper) and Mr. Jaslal (gardener) their cooperation at all levels. I am highly thankful to Mr. Shiv Charan Saroj, Mr. Anirban Bhattacharya, Mr. Santosh Patel, Mr. Prem, and all other staff members of Central Instrument Facility IIT-BHU for providing me the kind support

I express my indebtedness to my grand parents **Smt. Panna Devi** and **Late Sri Harishnakar Singh** my parents **Smt. Sushila Devi** and **Sri Ramesh Chandra Singh** my brothers **Dhirendra** and **Shivprakash** and my wife **Namrata** (**Goldi**) for their love, affection and support during every moment in my life.

I gratefully acknowledge the MHRD, Govt. of India for providing me the necessary funding and fellowship to pursue research work.

This work would not have been possible without the grace of the "Lord Mahadev and Lord Sankat Mochan".

(Manish Kumar Singh)