

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xxi</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xxv</b>
<b>Nomenclature</b>	<b>xxxi</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 GENERAL.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND .....	3
1.3 MINERAL ADMIXTURES.....	4
1.3.1 Microsilica.....	5
1.3.2 Rice Straw Ash.....	6
1.4 POTENTIAL FOR UTILIZATION OF RICE STRAW ASH IN INDIA.....	9
1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE .....	10
1.6 OUTLINE AND STRUCTURE OF THESIS.....	12
1.7 CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	13
<b>2. LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 GENERAL.....	15
2.2 EFFECTS ON PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT PASTES AND MORTARS.....	16
2.2.1 Fly Ash.....	16
2.2.2 Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag.....	17
2.2.3 Metakaolin.....	19
2.2.4 Rice Husk Ash.....	20
2.2.5 Wollastonite.....	22
2.2.6 Limestone Powder.....	24
2.2.7 Sugarcane Bagasse Ash.....	26
2.2.8 Nanosilica.....	28
2.2.9 Microsilica.....	31
2.2.10 Rice Straw Ash.....	34

2.3	EFFECTS ON MECHANICAL AND DURABILITY PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE.....	36
2.3.1	Fly Ash.....	36
2.3.2	Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag.....	39
2.3.3	Metakaolin.....	42
2.3.4	Rice Husk Ash.....	46
2.3.5	Wollastonite.....	49
2.3.6	Limestone Powder.....	52
2.3.7	Sugarcane Bagasse Ash.....	55
2.3.8	Nanosilica.....	58
2.3.9	Microsilica.....	60
2.3.10	Rice Straw Ash.....	64
2.4	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	65
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATERIALS, SAMPLE PREPARATION AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>73</b>
3.1	GENERAL.....	73
3.2	MATERIALS.....	75
3.2.1	Aggregates.....	76
3.2.2	Cement, Rice Straw Ash and Microsilica.....	78
3.2.3	Mineralogical, Microstructural and Thermo Gravimetric analysis of Cement, Rice Straw Ash and Microsilica.....	80
3.3	STUDY ON PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT PASTE.....	82
3.3.1	Normal consistency.....	82
3.3.2	Initial and Final setting time.....	83
3.3.3	Soundness test.....	83
3.3.4	Mineralogical analysis.....	84
3.3.5	Marsh cone test.....	85
3.4	STUDY ON PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT MORTAR...	86
3.4.1	Compressive strength.....	86
3.4.2	Hardened density.....	87
3.5	MIX DESIGN OF M40 GRADE PAVEMENT QUALITY CONCRETE.....	88
3.6	SLUMP TEST.....	88

3.7	STUDY ON MECHANICAL STRENGTH OF CONCRETE.....	89
3.7.1	Compressive strength.....	89
3.7.2	Flexural strength.....	90
3.7.3	Split tensile strength.....	92
3.7.4	Microstructural and Mineralogical analysis.....	92
3.8	STUDY ON DURABILITY PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE.....	94
3.8.1	Air entrainment in fresh concrete.....	94
3.8.2	Saturated water absorption.....	95
3.8.3	Rate and Coefficient of water absorption.....	96
3.8.4	Chloride ion penetration.....	97
3.8.5	Acidic environment.....	98
3.8.6	Carbonation.....	101
3.9	STRUCTURAL DESIGN AND COST COMPARISON.....	103
3.10	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	103
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATERIALS PROPERTIES</b>	<b>105</b>
4.1	GENERAL.....	105
4.2	AGGREGATE.....	105
4.3	CEMENT, RICE STRAW ASH AND MICROSILICA.....	107
4.3.1	Mineralogical, Microstructural and Thermo Gravimetric analysis of Cement, Rice Straw Ash and Microsilica.....	110
4.4	CHEMICAL ADMIXTURE AND WATER.....	114
4.5	CHAPTER SUMMARY.....	115
<b>5.</b>	<b>STUDY ON PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT PASTE AND MORTAR</b>	<b>117</b>
5.1	GENERAL.....	117
5.2	MIX PROPORTIONS FOR TESTING ON CEMENT PASTE AND MORTAR.....	118
5.3	PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT PASTE.....	119
5.3.1	Normal consistency.....	119
5.3.2	Initial and Final setting time.....	121
5.3.3	Soundness test.....	123
5.3.4	Marsh cone test.....	125

5.3.5	Mineralogical analysis.....	126
5.4	PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CEMENT MORTAR.....	129
5.4.1	Compressive strength.....	129
5.4.2	Hardened density.....	137
5.5	CONCLUSIONS.....	139
<b>6.</b>	<b>STUDY ON MECHANICAL STRENGTH OF CONCRETE</b>	<b>141</b>
6.1	GENERAL.....	141
6.2	MIX PROPORTIONS FOR TESTING ON CEMENT CONCRETE.....	141
6.3	MIX DESIGN OF M40 GRADE PQC.....	142
6.4	COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH.....	143
6.5	FLEXURAL STRENGTH.....	147
6.6	SPLIT TENSILE STRENGTH.....	150
6.7	MINERALOGICAL ANALYSIS.....	153
6.8	MICROSTRUCTURAL ANALYSIS.....	155
6.8.1	SEM analysis.....	155
6.8.2	Petrography analysis.....	164
6.9	PREDICTION MODELS.....	177
6.9.1	Relationship between mechanical strength and curing age.....	178
6.9.2	Relationship between Compressive and Flexural Strength.....	180
6.9.3	Relationship between Compressive and Split Tensile Strength.....	183
6.9.4	Relationship between Flexural and Split Tensile Strength.....	186
6.10	CONCLUSIONS.....	187
<b>7.</b>	<b>STUDY ON DURABILITY PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE</b>	<b>189</b>
7.1	GENERAL.....	189
7.2	AIR ENTRAINMENT IN FRESH CONCRETE.....	193
7.3	SATURATED WATER ABSORPTION.....	193
7.4	RATE OF WATER ABSORPTION.....	196
7.5	COEFFICIENT OF WATER ABSORPTION.....	200
7.6	CHLORIDE ION PENETRATION.....	202
7.7	EFFECTS OF ACIDIC ENVIRONMENT.....	206
7.7.1	Loss of mass.....	206

7.7.2	Loss of compressive strength.....	209
7.7.3	Visual observation.....	214
7.7.4	Mineralogical analysis.....	219
7.7.5	Microstructural analysis.....	223
7.8	EFFECTS OF ACCELERATED CARBONATION CURING.....	223
7.8.1	Mechanical strength.....	228
7.8.2	Carbonation depth.....	233
7.9	PREDICTION MODELS.....	236
7.9.1	Saturated water absorption.....	237
7.9.2	Rate of water absorption.....	237
7.9.3	Coefficient of water absorption.....	239
7.9.4	Chloride ion penetration.....	240
7.9.5	Relationship between water absorption & chloride ion penetration	241
7.9.6	Acidic environment.....	247
7.9.7	Accelerated carbonation curing.....	248
7.10	CONCLUSIONS.....	249
<b>8.</b>	<b>STRUCTURAL DESIGN AND COST COMPARISON OF RIGID PAVEMENT</b>	<b>253</b>
8.1	GENERAL.....	253
8.2	STRUCTURAL DESIGN.....	254
8.3	COST COMPARISON.....	264
8.4	CONCLUSIONS.....	266
<b>9.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH</b>	<b>269</b>
9.1	GENERAL.....	269
9.2	CONCLUSIONS.....	269
9.3	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	274
9.4	SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH.....	275
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>277</b>
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>306</b>