

CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

I, **Rishikesh Pandey**, certify that the work embodied in this Ph. D. thesis is my own bonafide work carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh for a period from August 2009 to April 2015 at School of Materials Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University. The matter embodied in this Ph. D. thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma.

I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged, given credit and referred to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in the text and the body of the thesis. I further certify that I have not willfully lifted up some other's work, para, text, data, results, etc. reported in the journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertations, theses, etc., or available at websites and included them in this Ph. D. thesis and cited as my own work.

Date.....

Place: Varanasi

(Rishikesh Pandey)

Certificate from the Supervisor

This is to certify that the above statement made by the candidate is correct to the best of my knowledge.

(Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh)

Supervisor

(Prof. Rajiv Prakash)

Coordinator