Acknowledgement

"In the sciences, the authority of thousands of opinions is not worth as much as one tiny spark of reason in an individual man."

GALILEO GALILEI (1564 – 1642)

This has been an exceptionally remarkable journey and I express my sincere gratitude to **Dr. Amar Ballabh** for giving me this opportunity to learn under his valuable guidance. He has always been a source of great inspiration and his immense knowledge and continuous support have always kindled me to explore and motivated me to accomplish whatever I could during the course of my research. He has been very patient in dealing with me and my ever-so inquisitive nature. I feel extremely fortunate and I'm certain that I could not have a better mentor and advisor for my Ph.D.

I acknowledge Prof. Neelima Kulkarni, Prof. Anjali Patel, Prof. Shailesh Shah, ex-HODs; Prof. Ashutosh Bedekar, Offg. Head, Department of Chemistry for providing infrastructural and instrumental facilities. I acknowledge Alumni Association of Chemistry Department and Sudeep Pharma for research fellowship and Research and Consultancy Cell, MSU Baroda for providing funding for research work.

I acknowledge DST-PURSE for funding single-crystal X-ray diffractometer, DST-FIST for 400 MHz NMR, UGC-CAS program for polarizing microscope and UGC-XII plan grant for Gaussian 16 software and computational facilities in the Department of Chemistry at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. CIF-IISER-Bhopal, SAIF-IITB and SAIF-CDRI are acknowledged for single crystal X-ray studies, EPR, FEG-SEM and ESI-Mass analyses.

I am grateful to Dr. Vandana Rao, Dept. of Metallurgy, Faculty of Technology at MSU Baroda for her assistance in SEM and PXRD analyses; I thank Prof. Saurabh Soni and Ms. Anjali Thakkar, Sardar Patel University for helping me with the rheological studies. I am thankful to all the operators and in-charges of single crystal XRD, NMR, FT-IR, UV, PL, TGA, POM and DLS instruments. I also thank Dept. of Geology for their assistance with SEM analysis.

I gratefully acknowledge my teachers in the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Amar Ballabh, Prof. Neelima Kulkarni, Prof. Debjani Chakraborty, Prof. Padmaja, Prof. Sujit

Kumar, Prof. Prakash Samnani, Prof. Prasanna Ghalsasi and Dr. Vinay Singh for their wonderful teaching and inculcating the spirit of scientific exploration in me.

I am grateful to Prof. Neelima Kulkarni for valuable discussions and endless motivation. I thank Dr. Hemant Soni for his support throughout the research work. I am grateful to Prof. Debjani Chakraborty, Prof. Padmaja and Naman for their assistance with UV studies.

I thank my dear friends Mr. Aditya Puranik and Ms. Priyanka Salunke for a wonderful collaboration and being there with me in every situation. I am extremely thankful to my brilliant teammates, Ajay, Mayuri Di and Dr. Priyanka Yadav and lab colleagues, Sudhir, Neetu and Sanjiv Sir for their immense help and constant support in every endeavor. I thank Dr. Rina Soni, Mehta Sir, Revathi Ma'am and Rane Sir who have helped me in innumerable ways. All the staff members in the Store are highly acknowledged for their cooperation and timely help.

Last and certainly not the least, I wish to thank my entire family and my handful of friends who stood by my side in every situation. I can never forget the support and helping hand extended by Gargi and Dr. Anupama in times of need. I'm very thankful to Anand sir for being my go-to whenever I was in a tight spot.

My greatest appreciation is for my **mother** and my brother **Vibhu** for having supported me in every phase of my life. I'll forever be grateful to my Mahesh Mamaji for having guided me in every step of my life. I received immense support from all my family members, my amma, my father, masi, bua, Love bhai, bhabhi and jiju who have always believed in me. I cannot thank them enough for providing me unending inspiration. I must thank Neha di, Sheena and Manu for their affectionate and half-amused interest in my work and lots of emotional support. Without their unconditional love, none of this would be possible.

Varsha Bhardwaj