

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Getting a Ph.D is both a rewarding and a painful journey. It's like stepping up a mountain with the help of many people, one step at a time, with bitterness, hardships, frustration, encouragement, and faith. Such a task cannot be completed without the assistance of a small group of people in one's life from time to time. And now it's my chance to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of my loved ones. This thesis is the end of my journey in obtaining my PhD; however, it will be just a stepping stone for me in this vast field of research. And now it's my chance to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of my loved ones who contributed in many ways to this success and those who made it an unforgettable experience for me.

I am extremely thankful to **Dr. P. H. Soni**, my supervisor, for inspiring me to join the field of research called crystal growth. His inspired leadership, constant encouragement, and unwavering support throughout this Ph. D has greatly aided me in carrying out my research and developing the required abilities to be a successful researcher in my profession. It is an immense honour to have worked under his guidance. Without his tremendous understanding and encouragement in the past few years, it would be impossible for me to complete my study.

It gives me great pleasure in expressing my indebtedness and a deep sense of gratitude to **Prof. C. F. Desai**. I greatly benefitted from our discussions regarding research shortcomings and his critical queries and suggestions, for which I will be quite grateful. His immense knowledge and experience have encouraged me in my academic research and daily life.

I am grateful to **Prof. Haribhai Kataria**, Dean, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for valuable support. I am thankful to Head, **Prof. S. K. Mukherjee**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, for his kind help and for providing different research instruments in the department, which helped me to complete all of the characterization work efficiently and under one roof. I am also grateful to other members of the department for assisting me when needed. I express my heartiest thank to **Prof. N. L. Singh, Prof. D. K. Kanchan, Prof. M. B. Sureshkumar, Prof. M. Srinivas, Prof. P. K. Mehta, Prof. P.K. Jha, Dr. D. G. Rathod, Dr. K. R. Jotania, Dr. Keyur Vyas, Dr. Mitesh Sarkar, Dr. R. J. Makwana, Dr. Alpa Dashora, Dr. Debjani Bagchi, Dr. B. P. Shah and Mr. R. D. Chauhan** for their valuable and prompt help at various stages of my research work.

I am thankful to **Dr. Mukul Gupta** (IUC-UGC-CSIR, Indore) for providing Powder X-ray diffraction facility, **Dr. K.V.R. Murthy**, Department of Applied Physics, Faculty of Technology, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing Photoluminescence laboratory facility, **Dr. Vinay Kumar Singh**, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University of Baroda for helping with Ultraviolet-Visible laboratory facility. I would also like to thank **Dr. Sonal Thakore** for providing chemicals at an initial level of my research. Also, I want to extend my thanks to **Prof. K. D. Patel** and **Prof. G. K. Solanki**, Department of Physics, Sardar Patel University, for providing certain facilities for the characterization of my crystals.

I want to thank my research colleagues **Mr. Ketan Chaudhari** and **Mr. Nimesh Nanda**, for the wonderful time we spent together in the laboratory and other places during the work. I would also like to thank my senior, **Dr. Manish Patel**, for helping me in the initial days of research and helping me to learn few characterization techniques.

I also want to thank every non-teaching staff and workshop staff of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, for their timely help. I am also thankful to the faculty office staff for all the required help I needed.

My heartfelt thanks to my dear friends, **Hiteshkumar Yadav**, **Ratankumar Singh**, **Shilpa Bhavsar**, **Gargi Dave**, **Hiral Baraniya**, **Hena Prajapati** and my lovely brother **Aranyak Bhaumik**, to multiply my joys and divide my sorrows. Their sincere support and inspiration pushed me to complete the present work, and they deserve a huge thanks for their unconditional support during my research.

I am thankful to my friends, **Chaitanya Limberkar**, **Abhishek Sharma**, **Varsha Sharma** and **Manita Das**, for their co-operation, moral support, encouragement and valuable suggestions throughout the entire journey of my research work.

I want to thank my departmental friends **Nimesh Bhai**, **Vishwanath Bhai**, **Nishant Bhai**, **Bhargav Soni**, **Raghottam Sattigeri**, **Akash Hingu**, **Nakul Soni**, **Jolly Mary Joy**, **Sitara Menon**, and **Naresh Degda** for keeping cordial spirits and bringing joy during my research period.

I am also thankful to my loving and caring mother-in-law, **Mrs. Hina Mithani**, for helping to balance my personal and work life. Without her support, I would not have completed my PhD within a given time frame. Her helping hand and constant support made it easier for me to carry on my research work even after my marriage.

I wish my special thanks to my beloved husband, **Mr. Amol Mithani**, who played a special role during my research journey. He joined me in the last and most difficult phase of finishing this thesis. I feel honoured and admire his patience and care for all this time.

At last but most important, I am extremely grateful to my father, **Mr. Sambhaji Mahadik**, for making me understand that knowledge is power and one should never stop learning. He always believed in me and supported me in every decision of my life. I am also thankful to my mother, **Mrs. Vijaymala Mahadik**, for being a constant source of inspiration for me since childhood, being part of all my sorrows since my early childhood, and allowing me to pursue my dreams. She is the one who gave me moral support throughout my research work. I am very indebted to my parents, without whose help, I could not have finished my work. Without their sacrifices, I would not have achieved what I have in my life thus far. I lack words to express my heartfelt gratitude to my beautiful, loving and most supportive sisters, **Kalyani, Indrani, Harshini and Kamlini**, for their unwavering support and encouragement as I worked on my thesis.

Thank you very much to all who helped me directly or indirectly in various capacities.

**Mahadik Ashwini Sambhaji**