

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am thankful to **Prof. L. J. Parekh** for providing uninhibited freedom, constant encouragement and constructive criticism throughout the course of this research work. Thanks are also due to **Prof. S. D. Telang**, Head, Department of Biochemistry for making available all the departmental facilities.

I acknowledge the constant encouragement, inspiration and planning of this work by **Dr. G. Naresh Kumar**, Reader, Department of Biochemistry and **Dr. G. Archana**, Lecturer, Department of Microbiology. Thanks are also due to **Dr. K. Narayanaswamy**, Product Manager, WIPRO Biomed for being a source of inspiration and motivation. Special acknowledgement is due to **T. N. C. Hemamalini** for her help in isolation of the high potency P solubilizing bacteria reported in this study and to **Mr. Nawaz Seikh** for his help in analysis of organic acids by HPLC. Thanks are also due to **Mr. R. Karunakaran** for his help throughout this work.

I also acknowledge University Grants Commission, New Delhi for research fellowship. Last but not the least, thanks are due to all the **teaching and non-teaching** staff of Department of Biochemistry and to all the **M.Sc. students** who worked in our laboratory.

**(Gyaneshwar Prasad)**