

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to **Dr. Chetan K. Modi**, my research supervisor, for introducing me to the captivating domain of research. His unwavering support and the considerable freedom he afforded me in exploring catalysis have been invaluable. His constructive feedback throughout my research tenure played a pivotal role in shaping this thesis. I also deeply appreciate the trust he devolved in me, allowing me a "free hand" in research, which fostered my intellectual independence. My heartfelt respect and admiration remain eternally devoted to them.

I want to convey my profound gratitude to **Prof. P. T. Deota**, Head, Applied Chemistry Department, Faculty of Technology and Engineering at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

I express sincere gratitude to the Government of Gujarat and the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, India, for their financial support through a **SHODH Fellowship Award**, enabling my dedicated pursuit of research.

I extend my profound gratitude to **Prof. P. K. Jha** from the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, and to **Dr. C. G. Limbachiya** from the Department of Applied Physics, Faculty of Technology and Engineering, both at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. Their exceptional encouragement and guidance have been invaluable in my theoretical study, and I appreciate the continuous support provided during my research journey.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to **Mr. Vishwajit Chavda**, who has not only been a wonderful companion in our research endeavors but has also assumed the role of a trusted confidant. His unwavering support, and our countless discussions throughout my research journey have been a constant source of encouragement, regardless of the time. Furthermore, I would like to express my

deepest appreciation for the unwavering friendship and support of **Mr. Navin Chaudhary** and **Mr. Rushikesh Pokar**. Their consistent presence, both in terms of financial assistance and emotional support, has been a heartwarming and integral part of my journey, making every twist and turn much more manageable and enjoyable. Additionally, I extend special thanks to **Mr. Dhaval Bhanderi** for our collaborative efforts and the countless hours spent discussing various research aspects, which provided priceless insights and fresh perspectives, profoundly enriching our shared research expedition. I want to express my sincere appreciation to **Ms. Komal Trivedi** for her support throughout my research journey. Her valuable insights and assistance, related to my research, have had an impact on my work. Similarly, I extend my gratitude to **Ms. Darshna Hirpara** for her enduring support, encouragement and helps.

My expressions of gratitude would be sorely incomplete without extending them to my fellow researchers who have shared this vibrant journey with me, Urvi Lad, Bharat Maru, Sagar Bairwa, Srujal Sonera, Vikash Ganvit, Meet Thakar. I honestly acknowledge my colleagues Mr. Darshil Chodvadiya and M. Sc. Dissertation students for their kind help and support.

I want to take this moment to extend my warm gratitude to **Mrs. Tejal C. Modi** for her helpful and unwavering support during my Ph.D. research work.

Your persistent friendship has illuminated my journey in the hostel, where bonds with Mr. Jignesh Gamit, Brajesh Bhagat, Pravin Patil, and Kuldeep Chaudhary have flourished. Together, we've shared laughter and created cherished memories, making every day a special and unforgettable one.

It's essential to fulfill my responsibility by expressing gratitude to my friends, whose insightful discussions on my research journey have brought me both joy and enlightenment. I want to acknowledge the presence of friends and supporters such as Janhvi Ingle, Sanjay Bariya, Mayur Patel, and Akash Jamdade,

all of whom have extended immense moral support and encouragement, leaving an indelible impact on my progress.

I am also grateful to Dr. Ruhi Pathan for their great support in regarding BET analysis and help during my Ph.D. work. I am sincerely thankful to Mr. Parimal Prabhat, I/C (PC&AL), Mr. Manish K. Tyagi, Scientific Assistant, and Mrs. Pragyanditi Dash, Scientific Officer, of the Heavy Water Board Facilities in Vadodara, Gujarat, India, for their valuable assistance in recording NMR spectral data. I am also thankful to Mr. Sanjeev Kane Dr. Himanshu Srivastava and Mr. U. K. Goutam for their valuable support in the analysis during my research work.

A special acknowledgement goes to **Dr. A. S. Patel**, Navyug Science College VNSG University, Surat and **Dr. Tushar J. Karkar**, JNM Patel Science College, VNSG University, Surat for their initial guidance and support in my research journey.

Most importantly, I will forever be grateful to my parents for nurturing in me the value of education, for their unwavering support even in the face of my faults and mistakes, and for being a constant source of positive energy. My mother, **Mrs. Vilasben C. Lakhani**, has consistently encouraged my pursuit of knowledge and education, while my father, **Mr. Chimanbhai S. Lakhani**, has imparted lessons on loyalty and sincerity in all my endeavors. I also want to express my appreciation for my elder brother, **Mr. Alpesh C. Lakhani**, for spreading joy and taking on responsibility at home in my absence.

I want to thank everyone who helped me, whether directly or indirectly, in completing this thesis. I'm sorry I can't name each of you one by one, but I truly appreciate all the support and help. You've been a big part of my academic journey, and I'm grateful for that.

- Pratikkumar C. Lakhani