

Acknowledgements

This Ph.D. constitutes a three year journey, a journey at once arduous and rewarding, a journey which I could not have made alone. A huge debt of gratitude and heartfelt thanks are therefore owed to the following people:

- **Prof. Rajul Bhargava**, who has been an **exemplary guide** and who has steered and guided me through this degree with gentle wisdom and great patience;
- **Prof. Hemendra Singh Chandalia**, who has helped me, guided me and whose wisdom and support has been unfailing through years;
- **My parents, Mr.Subhash Chandra Yadav and Kailash Devi and my brother Kapil Yadav**, who have helped me weather the storms, been steadfast in their love and faith and ever ready with myriad forms of support;
- **Mr.Dwarika Prasad Sharma, my first teacher**, for his constant kindness, blessings, generosity and good counsel and concern;
- **Dr. Jyoti Pahwa and Savita Yadav**, for the strength of their love, patience and understanding, for taking interest in both my work and my wellbeing and for their strong encouragement;
- **The Central University of Haryana, all teachers and non-teaching staff, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI), New Delhi and in particular its Library In-charge Mrs.Reshma Rana Verma**, for their kindness and immense generosity;
- And at last, a **very special thank you to Mr. Atul (A.J.) Yadav, my fiancé**, whose contribution to all aspects of this Ph.D.no words could do justice to, for coming into my life, for holding my hand, lifting my spirits, and of course, for his huge doses of love and laughter;

To, all above mentioned and to the other friends and well wishers whose contributions to my work, both tangible and intangible, have been invaluable;

I thank you all deeply.

Priyanka Yadav