ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my deep sense of gratitude to my respected supervisor, Prof. Pramod Chandra Mishra, Professor & Head, Department of Environmental Sciences, Sambalpur University for his excellent guidance, constant encouragement, critical scrutinization, innovative suggestions and unfailing affection during the entire period of investigation in spite of his busy schedule. He has always been a source of inspiration to me.

I am highly indebted and grateful to Er. Amalesh Kumar, my esteemed General Manager, Jagannath Area, MCL for his constant encouragement & moral support and also to the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for granting permission to undertake the work for the Ph.D. degree under Sambalpur University.

I am highly thankful to Er. Siddharth Sankar Basu, Sr. Mining Engineer in the Department of GeD, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, Bhubaneswar for his encouragement and providing invaluable inputs for the project work.

My special thanks to Er. T.K. Dash, Geomatics Division, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, Bhubaneswar for his cooperation in providing essential input information for the Project Work.

No words are great enough to express my gratitude and indebtedness to my parents and for their blessing, affection and constant encouragement, which moved me ahead.

Support and sacrifice of my wife Sweety Jha and two lovely children "Shristy and Achutam" enabled me to reach at this point of time. I owe a lot to them.

(Sambhu Jha) 15/9/2010