Acknowledgements

This research could not have been possible without several people who helped, supported, and guided me at different stages throughout the process, from the beginning to the end. I take this opportunity to convene my regards and thanks to many people for their valuable guidance, support, and help in completing my doctoral research and thesis.

I convey my deepest regards and thanks to my supervisor, Prof. Sangeeta Sharma, for all her continued guidance, support, discussions, and encouragement in sailing me through this doctoral work to completion. Thank you, Madam, for being so patient and keeping me on track and guiding me through the drafts.

I am grateful to my DAC members, Prof. Rajneesh Choubisa and Prof. Sushila Shekhawat, for their valuable guidance, advice, discussions, and encouragement toward completing this work. Thank you for reading drafts and offering valuable suggestions.

I take this opportunity to thank the current HoD Prof. Devika Sangwan and former HoDs Prof. Gajendra S. Chauhan and Prof. Sanjiv K. Chaudhary, and all the faculty members, for their continued and valuable guidance, encouragement, and support toward my doctoral work. I am grateful to Prof. Chauhan, Prof. Chaudhary, Prof. Sunita Raina, Prof. Shekhawat, Prof. Virendra S. Nirban, Prof. Anupam Yadav, Prof. Kumar S. Bhattacharya, Prof. Pushp Lata, Prof. Kumar N. Sachadev and Prof. Tanu Shukla for their encouragement, advice, and valuable suggestions. Also, I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Raina for her valuable guidance, support, discussions, and encouragement during the initial stages of this research work.

I thank the HSS administrative staff, my doctoral colleagues, and other friends at BITS Pilani who supported and helped me in different capacities through this long process. I am also thankful to the people at ARD, AGSRD, and SWD for their continued support and guidance.

I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the Fellows of IASc, INSA, and NASI who volunteered and anonymously participated in this study, without whom this research was impossible. Thank you all for encouraging this research by sparing your valuable time filling the questionnaire and providing encouraging feedback.

I am also thankful to all the senior scientists, academicians, and science communicators who offered valuable help, guidance, and contributions in developing, testing, and piloting the survey questionnaire. Specifically, I express my gratitude to Mrs. A.A. Shiralkar, Prof. K.K. Kapoor, Mr. Naveet K. Gupta, Mr. S.P. Jnanesh, and Dr. Manoj K. Patairiya for their generous support and guidance.

I would like to thank my employer, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, for permitting me to pursue my doctoral research.

I have no words to express my gratitude for the continuous support and encouragement by my parents, family, and friends. My buddies Jnanesh, Ravi, Anupam, Omkar ji, Kaustav, and Navneet, thank you for being there with me all the time and for your support and encouragement. Thank you, Maa, for believing in me and for your love and blessings, and for always keeping me in your prayers.

Many thanks are due to my wife Madhu, son Uday and daughter Aryaa for their love and energy and forbearing me patiently through all this work.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contributions of my Bobo and Nana (my adopted parents – maternal grandparents – who brought me up since my early childhood) for initiating me into learning and supporting my higher education. Although they themselves did not have even basic literacy, they always inspired me to learn more and acquire the highest educational degree. Without their wish, blessings, and support, I could not have registered for this research degree. Bobo and Nana, thank you very much for being the motivation and reason behind this degree. I wish you were here to see this happen!

Abhay SD Rajput