

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgments . . . . .	iv
List of Figures . . . . .	v
List of Tables . . . . .	vii
Preface . . . . .	viii
Chapters:	
<b>1. Introduction . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Brief review . . . . .	1
1.2 Aim of the Work . . . . .	14
1.3 Summary of the Work . . . . .	15
<b>2. Accelerating Universe in Modified Theories of Gravity . . . . .</b>	<b>17</b>
2.1 Introduction . . . . .	17
2.2 The Field Equations in Modified Gravity . . . . .	20
2.3 Cosmological Solutions in Modified Gravities . . . . .	21
2.3.1 <i>Case I</i> $f(R) = R + \alpha R^2 - \frac{\mu^4}{R}$ . . . . .	22
2.3.2 <i>Case II</i> $f(R) = R + b \ln(R)$ . . . . .	28
2.3.3 <i>Case III</i> $f(R) = R + m e^{[-nR]}$ . . . . .	29
2.4 Discussion . . . . .	32
<b>3. Viscous Cosmologies with Variable <math>\Lambda</math> in Higher Derivative Gravity . . . . .</b>	<b>34</b>
3.1 Introduction . . . . .	34
3.2 The Field Equations in Higher Derivative Gravity . . . . .	37
3.3 Cosmological Solutions in the presence of Viscosity . . . . .	38
3.3.1 <i>Eckart theory</i> ( $\tau = 0$ ) . . . . .	39
3.3.2 <i>Truncated Israel-Stewart theory</i> ( $\epsilon = 0$ ) . . . . .	41

3.3.3	<i>Full Israel-Stewart theory</i> ( $\epsilon = 1$ )	48
3.4	Discussion	52
4.	<b>Viscous Cosmologies with Variable <math>G</math> and <math>\Lambda</math> in <math>R^2</math> Gravity</b>	54
4.1	Introduction	54
4.2	Gravitational Action and Dynamical Equations	56
4.3	Cosmological Solutions	58
4.3.1	<i>Power-law model</i>	59
4.3.2	<i>Exponential models</i>	62
4.4	Distance Modulus Curves	64
4.5	Discussion	67
5.	<b>Cosmological Models with Variable Gravitational and Cosmological Constants in <math>R^2</math> Gravity</b>	68
5.1	Introduction	68
5.2	Gravitational Action and Field Equations	70
5.3	Cosmological Solutions	71
5.3.1	<i>Radiation Dominated Universe</i> ( $p = \frac{1}{3}\rho$ )	71
5.3.2	<i>Matter Dominated Universe</i> ( $p = 0$ )	74
5.4	Discussion	76
6.	<b>Brane-World Cosmology with Viscosity and Gauss-Bonnet term</b>	78
6.1	Introduction	78
6.2	Field Equations in Brane-World Gravity	80
6.3	Cosmological Solutions	83
6.3.1	<i>Truncated Israel-Stewart (TIS) Theory</i> ( $\epsilon = 0$ ) :	83
6.3.2	<i>Full Israel-Stewart (FIS) Theory</i> ( $\epsilon = 1$ )	85
6.4	Stability Analysis of the Equilibrium Points	87
6.4.1	<i>RS brane regime with GB terms</i>	87
6.4.2	<i>RS brane regime without GB terms</i>	88
6.5	Discussion	90
7.	<b>Concluding Remarks and Future Work</b>	92
	Bibliography	96