# Brief Academic Profile of Dr. Anil Kumar, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee



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- 3. Institution Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
- 4. Gender (M/F/T) M
- 5. Category Gen/SC/ST/OBC Gen
- 6. Whether differently abled  $(\frac{Yes}{No})$  No

#### Academic Achievements

- 7. Academic Administrative Experience:
	- Professor & Head, Department of Chemistry (May 2013 to February 2016) Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee-247667, Uttarakhand, INDIA.
	- Founder Head, Centre of Excellence Nanotechnology (June 2006 to Dec. 2011), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee-247667, Uttarakhand, INDIA.

#### 8. Professional Recognition/ Award/ Prize/ Fellowship received by the applicant:

#### A-a. Professional Recognition



# b. Other Award/Prize/Fellowships



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#### (B). Recognitions

- Our innovation on "Nitrogen doped Reduced Graphene Oxide (N-rGO) for High-Performance Supercapacitor" contributed by Anil Kumar and Sahil Thareja has been identified by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) among the notable innovations from IIT Roorkee during 2021.
- Ph.D. Thesis Supervised: "Synthesis of N-Doped Reduced Graphene Oxide and its Nanohybrids as Electrode Material(S) for Electrochemical Applications – An Analysis of the Role of different Aqueous Electrolytes on their Supercapacitive Performance" by Sahil Thareja, fetched INYAS National Research Excellence Award 2021 and among the Best Thesis in Electrochemistry.
- Member of International Scientific Committee, Trombay Symposium on Radiation and Photochemistry-2022, and Chaired a Session in this Prestigious Conference on  $12^{th}$  January 2022.
- Delivered an Invited Lecture as a Resource Person in the Orientation Program to **B.Tech 1st year Students (Freshers)** as per **MHRD Guidelines** at NIT Kurukshetra on "Role Of Basic Sciences to The Development of Advanced Technology" on 9th August 2019.
- The paper, entitled "High Performance Symmetric Supercapacitor based on Nitrogen doped Reduced Graphene Oxide" by Sahil Thareja and Anil Kumar, presented by Sahil Thareja won the Best Poster Award in DAE-BRNS sponsored conference on Electrochemistry in Industry, Health and Environment-2020 (EIHE-2020) held during  $21-25$ <sup>th</sup> January 2020, BARC, Mumbai, India.
- Invited for several conferences abroad and in India as an Invited Speaker / Organizing Committee Member.
- The paper, entitled "Synthesis of Glucose-Mediated Ag-γ-  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  Multifunctional Nanocomposites – A Study of their Catalytic and Antibacterial Activities" by Mandeep Kaloti, Anil Kumar and N.K. Navani, presented by Mandeep Kaloti won the Second-Best *Poster* Award in International Conference on Advanced Materials for Energy, Environment and Health (ICAM-2016) held during  $04-07<sup>th</sup> March 2016$ , IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India.
- Our paper, entitled "Viscoelastic Properties of Superparamagnetic 5′-Adenosine Monophosphate Mediated Porous β–FeOOH Hydrogel – Its Loading, and Release Capabilities" by Anil Kumar and Sudhir K. Gupta and presented by Sudhir K. Gupta won the

Best Poster Award in 9<sup>th</sup> India Japan Bilateral Conference (BICON-2014) on Advanced Material Science and Engineering.

- Honorable Guest,  $2<sup>nd</sup>$  International Conference & Exhibition on Materials Science and Engineering, October 07-09, 2013, Las Vegas, USA.
- Expert, Annual Review Committee, Radiation and Photochemistry Division, BARC, Mumbai, March 2012 and June 2008.
- Member, Expert Committee, CSIR (SRF/RA) during 2018 & 2008-10.
- Two of our research papers on 'Nanotechnology Aspects' have been listed/selected under the most accessed papers in the first quarter in 'Langmuir' (2007) and 'Nanotechnology' (2009).
- 'Synthesis of  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Ag$  Core Shell Nanocomposites' by Anil Kumar and Aditi Singhal and presented by Ms. Aditi Singhal, won the Second Poster Prize in "Nanomaterials and Devices Processing and Applications" (NADPA 2008).
- Member, DST (New Delhi), National Management Committee for the National Centre for Ultrafast Processes, Univ. of Madras during 1999-2003.

#### (C). Professional Activities:

- Elected Member, American Chemical Society (ACS), USA (1982); Member (2007 onwards contd.).
- Fellow, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK, 2018 onwards
- Member, Mirror Committee on Nanotechnology, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, 2007 2014.
- Member, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, USA (1981).
- Life Member, Indian Society for Radiation and Photochemical Sciences (ISRAPS), Mumbai (1999).
- Elected Member, Life Member, Indian Chemical Society, Kolkata.
- Life Member, Chemical Research Society of India, Bangalore.
- Life Member, Indian Association of Solid State Chemists and Allied Scientists (ISCAS).
- 9. Teaching & Research Experience (Please see parts  $A$  to J)

#### Areas of Academic Interest:

 Molecular Spectroscopy, Kinetics and Photochemistry, Radiation Chemistry, Nanoscale materials, Chemical Thermodynamics, Surface Chemistry and General Physical Chemistry.

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We have made several *innovative contributions to the teaching and research* in the areas related to Physical Chemistry. In particular, we have developed teaching curriculum on kinetics, photo- and radiation chemistry, spectroscopy, nanoscale materials, supramolecular chemistry, thermodynamics, surface chemistry and undergraduate physical chemistry, and have been instrumental in developing several advanced research facilities at the institute as a faculty as well as being the Founder Head, Centre of Excellence - Nanotechnology and Head, Department of Chemistry.

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## (B) Response Report of the Courses Taught during Autumn 2019- Autumn 2022

### (C) Research Publications in Journals / Presented in Conferences:

Total number of Publications in SCI Journals: 98

Refereed Journals – Total 99 [ACS 21 (02 in JACS); RSC 24; Elsevier 18; Wiley 05; IOP 03; Springer 04; Taylor & Francis 01; Indian Journals 08; Others 15]

**Total Citations** as per Google Scholar Data (*Excluding Self-Citations*) (Approx.): 1999 (~1700); hindex 24; i10-index 56. Citation Last 05 Years since 2017 (as per Google Scholar data) > 683; h-index 14; i10-index 22.

### Some Highlights of our Research Work

- We have taken several *research initiatives* at IIT Roorkee (erstwhile UOR). Some of these also got recognition globally as is reflected by citations (approx.) of our papers in: different books  $(35)$ ; important international journals such as: Angew. Chem. /Nature – including Scientific Reports and Nature Nanotechnology (12); ACS (>157); RSC (>120); Elsevier/Springer/Wiley  $($ >560); and other journals as well as thesis  $(370)$ , excluding self-citations as per google record.
- Most of our research work, contributed in India after joining faculty position, is *primarily* carried out at UOR/IITR and has authorship(s) with my students (largely with 2 authors).
- Many of our Ph.D. students, willing to visit abroad, got *fellowship(s)* in good institutions and after returning back several of them are occupying good *teaching/scientific* positions. My first student has held/holding key position(s) in pharma/chemical industries.
- Since last 20 years, we have mainly focused on *greener* nano-technological approach to *design* new biocompatible materials for their multifunctional applications. Our recent publications and *research projects* (ongoing/completed) also reflect these *objectives*. During about last 5.5 years, *i.e.* from (2016 to present), we have published about 16 papers in *International Journals* of repute with an *average impact factor* of  $> 5.0$ , which indicates the **importance of our work** in the context of current scientific importance.

 (D). List of Research Papers Published in the Area of Nanotechnology/Nanochemistry (Note: Since 1985 we are mainly working on Nanomaterials related to Energy Applications and publishing this work in fairly high impact journals with an **average impact factor of**  $\sim$  5.7).

Total Paper Published in this Area – 68 Nos.

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## (E). Patents: Patent granted: 02; Patents filed - 01

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(F). Sponsored Research Projects: 8 Nos. as P.I. + 1 Departmental Project at S.No. 7, worked as P.I. in one of the areas. Handled, Contributed & Defended one of the Identified Thrust Area in this Project; Total Projects = 9

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## (G). Book Chapters Contributed – 02:

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# (H). Details of Ph.D. Theses Supervised: Completed (22) + In progress (02). During last 3 years Ph.D. awarded (04)

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# (I). Book Chapters Contributed – 02:

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(J). Conferences: Proceedings 03 (S. Nos. 32, 42 &  $66$ ) + 88 (Abstracted)/Invited Talks/Symp./Meetings. Total = 92; Last 03 Years -14 Nos.

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# (K). **Complete List of Publications (98) in SCI Journals:** (In descending order of publication) Total Papers in Peer Reviewed Journals 99

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#### (L). Major Innovative Achievements in Research – In chronological Order

### (a). Analysis of the catalytic role of  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  in initiating certain redox reactions

In a series of papers on this issue, the species of silver were generated chemically, radiolytically and electrochemically and then investigated their reactions kinetically on early as well as longer time scales.<sup>1-11</sup> Initial work on this area was carried out at Rad. Lab., Univ. of Notre Dame, USA in collaboration mainly with renowned Radiation Chemist, Prof. P. Neta. These investigations led to establish some *long debated issues* on catalytic role of Ag<sup>+</sup> in a number of redox reactions in aqueous medium.

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It also led us to realize the importance of zero valent Ag (now known as Ag nanoparticles) in catalysis and led us to submit a proposal to DST, New Delhi in 1984 incorporating this and other literature ideas.

### (b). Initiation of Research in the Area of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

We had been among the **early workers, who have initiated work on nanomaterials in India**. In our first research proposal entitled. "Catalytic Action of Colloidal Microelectrodes in Photoinduced Chemical Reactions," submitted to DST, New Delhi in 1984. The photocatalytic work using colloidal solution of metals and semiconductors as photocatalyst(s) was proposed. After it was sanctioned, however, it could not be taken up as we got an offer from West Germany to collaborate with a pioneering worker, Prof. A. Henglein, Hahn-Meitner, Institut, Berlin as Guest Scientist to carry out a research project in the related area.

### (c). Synthesis and Analysis of Optical Properties of Semiconductor NPs/QDs – Effect of chemically stored charge carriers on the charge dynamics

In our early investigations with **Prof.** A. Henglein at HMI, Berlin on colloidal nanoparticles, the effect of chemically stored charge carriers on the optical and photophysical properties of some colloidal semiconductor NPs ( $CdS$  and  $PbO<sub>2</sub>$ ) was examined.<sup>12-14</sup> Such a situation is often encountered in studies on nanomaterials involving intense light sources like lasers and high energy radiation beam. In the experiments with CdS NPs the excess electrons and holes were injected into the particles radiolytically / photolytically. It exhibited *non-linear optical* effect. The accompanied optical and emission changes were also monitored using **combined photo- and radiation chemical** techniques,  $^{12,13}$ revealing an interesting charge carrier dynamics in irradiated semiconductors.

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## (d). Synthesis, Analysis and Enhancement of Physicochemical Features of Nanomaterials for Multifunctional Applications

#### (i). Photocatalytic Action of Semiconductor Microelectrodes

In a subsequent work through a DST project awarded in 1989, colloidal particles of CdS semiconductor were employed as photocatalyst(s) in context of developing *efficient solar energy conversion systems*.<sup>15-19</sup> The photogenerated electron-hole pairs were exploited to perform *redox* reactions at the interface of semiconductor nanocrystallites by using a variety of redox couples such as aromatic amines and indoles in aerated aqueous medium under *visible light irradiation* and carried out extensive mechanistic analysis involving the interfacial interactions and intermediates, which are very well cited.

S.No. Reference *Citations*\*

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### (ii). Improvement in Photocatalytic Action and Charge Separation in Illuminated Surface Modified and Binary Semiconductor Components

In other DST project awarded in 1994, surface of these particles were modified chemically by coating with Cd(OH)<sub>2</sub> and coupling of two semiconducting components like CdS-Ag<sub>2</sub>S, CdS-TiO<sub>2</sub> were synthesized and identified by analyzing their characteristic absorption and emission, particle size, emission lifetime and redox reactivity.<sup>20-27</sup> Coating of  $Cd(OH)_2$  on Q-CdS produced composite particles with enhanced photostability ( $\Phi_{\text{cds}}$  <0.002), luminescing efficiency and emission lifetime.<sup>20-</sup>  $2<sup>1</sup>$  These particles were highly selective in initiating the photoinduced reactions of solutes like certain indoles and nucleic bases. Relaxation kinetics demonstrated that there is a distribution of charge carriers to various depths on the surface of  $Cd(OH)_2$  - coated Q-CdS. Shallowly trapped hole affects the oxidation by intercepting the bulk solute *via* H-bonding interaction involving -OH of Cd(OH)<sub>2</sub> layer of CdS and certain functional group(s) of the additives. Deeply trapped hole remains inaccessible for the additives present either on the surface or in the bulk.

Doping of Ag<sup>+</sup> to Q-CdS generated microheterojunctions consisting of CdS - Ag<sub>2</sub>S phases and doping of metal ions to oxygenated  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  suspensions also increased the reactivity of holes.<sup>23</sup> The coupling of  $Cd(OH)_2$  - coated Q-CdS with colloidal TiO<sub>2</sub> in aqueous medium removes and the illumination of these composites under visible light improved the charge separation leading to the enhanced reactivity of e-h<sup>+</sup> pair. The activation of both  $Cd(OH)_2$ -coated Q-CdS and TiO<sub>2</sub> with certain transition metal ions and then coupling them with their respective non-activated component produces an efficient photocatalyst in certain cases.<sup>24</sup> The catalytic action of  $Ag^+$  is understood in terms of the positive redox potential of Ag<sup>+</sup>/Ag couple, which serves to intercept the conduction band electron by reducing the  $e^-$  -  $h^+$  recombination.

Nucleic bases were observed to stabilize Q-CdS clusters effectively. Their capping improved the photocatalytic activity at the interface significantly.<sup>25-27</sup> A few of these nanosystems could be recycled several times without any significant loss in reactivity.

Some research work addressing the environmental issues using  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  suspensions in aqueous medium was also undertaken. Mechanisms of these reactions were analyzed,<sup>28,29</sup> which are largely accepted by readers.

![](_page_50_Picture_302.jpeg)

23	Anil Kumar and A.K. Jain, J. Photochem. Photobiol. A:Chem. 156, 207-218	26
	$(2003)$ .	
24	Anil Kumar and S. Mital, J. Colloid Interface Sci. 240, 459-466 (2001).	16
25	Anil Kumar and S. Mital, Photochem. Photobiol. Sci. (commun.) 1, 737-41	15
	$(2002)$ .	
26	Anil Kumar and S. Mital, J. Colloid Interface Sci. 265, 432-438 (2003).	08
27	Anil Kumar and S. Mital, Int. J. Photoenerg. $6(2)$ , $61-68$ (2004).	12
28	Anil Kumar and N. Mathur, J. Colloid Interface Sci. 300, 244-252 (2006).	<i>110</i>
29	Anil Kumar and S. Mathur, Appl. Catal. A: Gen. 275,189-197 (2004).	65

(iii). Enhancement of Electronic Properties and Photophysics of Quantized II-IV and IV-VI Semiconductors

 An interesting achievement was made by carrying out bio-molecule(s) mediated synthesis of II-VI and IV-VI semiconductor nanostructures in quantum-confined region.30-43 In a DST project funded under nanomission, interfacing of Q-ZnS with PbS and Q-PbS with ZnS has been utilized to produce tailored PbS nanocomposites with tunable electronic properties.<sup>30</sup> The separation of charge is enhanced in case of PbS/ZnS core-shell particles. The deposition of Q-ZnS layer as shell at the interface of Q-ZnS/PbS produces ZnS/PbS/ZnS nanocomposites.<sup>31,32</sup> The addition of  $Zn^{2+}$  further improves the charge separation in this system.

In our original work published in Langmuir (letter), RNA-capped Q-Pb $S<sup>33</sup>$  were produced in face centered cubic phase, which displayed excitonic features with relatively a strong narrow emission band (FWHM 70 nm) at 675 nm under broad excitation range extending from 330 to 620 nm. In the presence of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  these particles produced fluorescent  $\text{Zn/PbS}$  (PbS+  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ) supernanostructures.<sup>31</sup> We also demonstrated the nucleation and growth of templating  $Q$ -CdS NPs,<sup>32</sup> CdS/ZnS nanotubes<sup>35</sup> to create novel nano- and micro assemblies. In other interesting work we have fabricated GMP-mediated nanowires<sup>34</sup> with increased separation of charge. During last two years we had synthesized fluorescing CdSe nanostructures,<sup>42,43</sup> and exhibited rectifying behavior. These nanohybrids were exploited for sensing of toxic metal ions like  $Hg^{2+}$  up to 100 pm.<sup>43</sup>

Lately we have succeeded in the synthesis of dual fluorescing PbSe nanostructures having a wide absorption range covering UV-visible-NIR region (200–1200 nm) of varied morphologies.<sup>36-42</sup> The excess metal ions such as  $Mg^{2+},^{41}$  and  $Zn^{2+38}$  present on the RNA strand induces polarization in the PbSe through Se to result in varied supramolecular interactions by replacing  $Pb^{2+}$  among different building blocks to produce *porous and honeycomb like morphologies* in the process of self-assembly. The poor NIR absorption and fairly intense fluorescence in the wavelength range of  $850-1100$  nm of the as synthesized PbSe nanohybrids and relatively higher red  $(\sim 300 \text{ ns})$ , and NIR lifetime (31.8 ns) as compared to those of organic fluorescent dyes (<1.5 ns) shows the potential of these materials to serve as an effective tool for the fluorescence imaging of body fluids and tissues in the NIR region, where tissues do not absorb.

From this work we have established that the specific RNA sequence is not required for mediating the synthesis of fluorescing II-VI (CdS, ZnS, CdSe) and IV-VI semiconducting nanostructures. Apart from that their growth and change in morphologies, their optoelectronic behavior could be controlled quite effectively. Lately, their sensing applications are being performed.<sup>41-43</sup> We have recently developed *widely explored intense white emission* from *CdSe based* nanostructures. 44

We have also contributed a review article on **biotemplated inorganic nanostructures** published in Chemical Reviews comprising semiconductor(s)/metal(s) nanosystems mediated by nucleic acids and their optical, photophysical and magnetic properties.<sup>45</sup> This review is well cited.

Some work was also contributed on bare Fe and Mn doped CuO semiconducting nanostructures<sup>46,47</sup> of varied morphologies and observed their enhanced optical, magnetic, ferroelectric and dielectric behavior.

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## (iv). Mechanistic Analysis of Charge Separation Dynamics and Photophysics of Metal-Semiconductor binary Nanohybrids

 In Ag/CdS nanocomposites the content of Ag was noted to modify the nature of surface interaction between the two components by influencing the emission behavior and charge carrier dynamics in a complex scheme.48,49 At low molar ratio of Ag:CdS an enhancement in fluorescence is observed which has been attributed to the excited state charge transfer interaction between the two components. Relaxation kinetics of charge carriers of CdS also revealed the formation of transitory CT complex between excited CdS and Ag, in which the extent of electron transfer is controlled by the amount of Ag. With biotemplated Ag/CdS nanocomposites<sup>50</sup> an enhancement in the intensity of emission of bare CdS by about 7 folds associated with an increase in the separation of charge. This mechanism, proposed for the first time, is well cited.

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## (e). Iron Oxide Based Nanosystems for Multifunctional Applications

## (v). Development of Iron Oxide based Nanostructures and Nanohybrids

Iron oxide based magnetic nanostructures due to their wide ranging multi-disciplinary applications are being considered to be important being environmentally benign, biocompatible and cost effective. In a CSIR sponsored project we have developed several iron oxide based nanosystems in beta phase in different morphologies exhibiting superparamagnetic behavior.<sup>51-54</sup> For the first time silver iron oxide ( $AgFeO<sub>2</sub>$ ) NPs<sup>51</sup> in β- phase depicted a narrow size distribution and the water soluble core-shell nanostructures consisting of colloidal Ag in the core and iron oxide hollow nanotubes in the shell.<sup>52</sup> The binary and ternary nanohybrids of iron oxide with other semiconducting (CdS) and metal  $(Ag)$  NPs<sup>53</sup> have also been synthesized and analyzed the dynamics of charge carriers in the irradiated systems.

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# (vi). Biotemplated colloidal β–FeOOH Nanohybrids & Hydrogels – their Formation, Loading and Release Capabilities

In other project biotemplated colloidal  $\beta$ –FeOOH nanostructures by the hydrolysis of FeCl<sub>3</sub> using adenine,<sup>55</sup> 5'–AMP<sup>56</sup> and 5'–GMP<sup>57</sup> biomolecules as template(s). In these nanostructures,  $\beta$ –FeOOH displays enhanced optical and magnetic features as compared to that of bare β–FeOOH, which are fairly different to those of α–Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, β–Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, γ–Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> and γ–FeOOH. Bare β–FeOOH exhibits the formation of nanorods, whereas in the presence of biotemplates it showed the biomolecule dependent change(s) in the morphology by converting nanorods to quantum dots. The extent of interaction of biomolecule with Fe<sup>3+</sup> controlled this conversion and follows the order:  $5'-AMP > 5'-GMP > adenine$ . These templates have also been found to form hydrogels with β–FeOOH. In view of the template like  $5'$ -GMP /  $5'$ -AMP and β-FeOOH being biocompatible and the hydrogels being superparamagnetic, we have explored their viscoelastic properties, loading and release capabilities in the context of their possible biomedical applications.<sup>58</sup> In our recent work we have achieved remarkable success in developing hitherto unreported  $5'-CMP$  molecule based smart hydrogels.<sup>59-61</sup> The high porosity, surface area, % swelling, and loading and release performance of the hydrogel indicate its potential for drug delivery and other biological / biomedical applications.

![](_page_53_Picture_268.jpeg)

55	Anil Kumar and S. K. Gupta, J. Nanopart. Res., 15:1466, 1-16 (2013) (DOI   15	
	10.1007/s11051-013-1466-z).	
56	Anil Kumar and S. K. Gupta, Green Chem., 17, 2524–2537 (2015).	19
57	Anil Kumar and S. K. Gupta, J. Mater. Chem. (B), 1, 5818-5830 (2013).	15
58	Anil Kumar and S. K. Gupta, J. Phys. Chem. (B), 118, 10543-10551 (2014).	-11
59	Anil Kumar and Priyanka, New J. Chem. 43, 14497-15013 (2019).	07
60	Priyanka and Anil Kumar, ACS Omega, 5, 13672-13684 (2020).	04
61	Priyanka and Anil Kumar, Dalton Trans. 49, 15095-15108 (2020).	$\overline{a}$

(vii). Greener Protocols for gamma Iron Oxide ( $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) based Nanosystems - their SERS, Biological and Catalytic Applications

Some nanocomposites/nanohybrids of iron oxide like glucose mediated and chitosan mediated silver coated γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> like Ag–γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>60</sup> and Ag–γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>@Cs<sup>61,62</sup> have been explored for their catalytic, SERS and antibacterial activities using the model dye(s) and bacteria, respectively. The superparamagnetic behavior of as synthesized binary nanocomposites at room temperature with high value of saturation magnetization makes them highly suitable for usage as catalyst, allowing their convenient recyclability. All the components of the as synthesized nanocomposite(s) being biocompatible, environmentally benign, demonstrating effective catalytic, SERS and antibacterial activities qualify them as a greener nanosystems(s) with multifunctional applications. The catalytic reduction of certain dyes investigated kinetically at their interface followed Langmuir-Hinshelwood's mechanism. Further work on these nanosystems is in progress.

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### (viii). Greener Protocols for Synthesis of Reduced Graphene Oxide (rGO) – Supercapacitor and SERS Applications

Lately, we have synthesized ultra-thin<sup>63</sup> and a few layer(s) thick N-functionalized graphene sheets<sup>64-</sup>  $67$  employing mild/environmental friendly reducing agents for the effective reduction of GO under mild experimental conditions in aqueous medium. The higher nucleophilicity of the malonic acid is observed to be more effective for the efficient reduction of GO to produce thin graphene sheets. The judicious control of pH of the reaction mixture brings a change in the morphology of graphene into nanoribbons<sup>68</sup> involving supramolecular interactions among the residual functionalities of reduced GO and malonic acid besides controlling the *nucleophilicity* of the later. The changed morphology of graphene exhibit improved characteristic features for the high performance supercapacitor applications.<sup>68</sup> The functionalization of N-doped graphene (GRH-Gly) with Ag NPs further enhanced the multifunctional features as regards to its conductivity, surface area and SERS.<sup>68</sup> In our recent work we have succeeded in extending the potential window of symmetric supercapacitor to remarkably high *value of 2.5 V* with significantly *higher energy density* at *power density*.<sup>69</sup> These systems are found to be with relatively better conducting with fairly high value of specific capacitance at higher current densities, exhibiting potential for supercapacitor applications.<sup>62-68</sup> Water-in-Salt like electrolyte enhance the cell voltage to 2.7 V.<sup>70</sup> Further work on making devices using *environmentally benign* 

materials, electrolytic components and protocols is in progress. A patent on enhanced features of these materials has been filed two years back. Lately, based on rGO, we have developed an efficient humidity sensor $^{71}$  and a non-enzymatic electrochemical sensor for certain biomolecules.<sup>72</sup>

![](_page_55_Picture_299.jpeg)

\*Note - The citations shown above are as per Google Scholar Data including Self-citations.

In summary, we have made several innovative contributions to the research in the area of *Physical* Chemistry covering wide ranging topics on chemical kinetics, photochemistry/ radiation chemistry, and nanochemistry.

#### (M). Details of M.Tech. /M. Phil. Supervised (21):

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(N). Details of M.Sc. Project supervised (40):

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#### (O). Any other Information (about 500-600 words):

I have been among the early contributors on nanoscience/nanotechnology in India, who has initiated research in this area, as is also evidenced from our published research work/presentations/proposals submitted to DST, New Delhi. Our first research project on these systems was sanctioned as early as in 1985 by DST *vide letter* D.O. No. 23(1P-20)/84 dated Dec. 10, 1985, but could not be taken up at that time as I received an offer to join as a Guest Scientist at Hahn-Meitner-Institut, Germany with pioneering Radiation Chemist, Prof. A. Henglein on radiation chemical aspects of nanomaterials and worked there till 1988. Thereafter, we initiated work on synthesis and photochemistry of metal and semiconductor nanosystems at IIT Roorkee mainly through projects funded by the DST, New Delhi. Our research work on these as well as earlier systems was recognized by The National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, India and was Elected as Fellow of this prestigious academy in 2003.

Over the years, we have *addressed a number of issues pertaining to research* on *nanomaterials* and contributed immensely to their synthetic protocols. Apart from these, I have been instrumental at IIT Roorkee in establishing a Centre of Excellence-Nanotechnology and also introduced a new teaching program for M.Tech. (Nanotechnology), which is still running successfully.

Lately, increasing environmental issues have necessitated to develop newer materials following greener protocols. In this context, during last one and a half decade our research has focused on developing *greener/biocompatible nanohybrids* and integrated nanostructures with *enhanced multifunctional features*, addressing some *environmental issues*. Specifically, biopolymers and their components/ other biocompatible molecules have provided the *novel capping agent(s)* for growing different greener nanohybrids of semiconductors (II-VI/IV-VI /iron oxide(s)/oxyhydroxide(s) semiconductors/metal(s)) with  $ID / 2D / 3D / 9$  *orous nano-architectures*. These researches include semiconductor(s)/metal(s) and their nanohybrids with excellent photophysical/ photochemical, catalytic behavior as well as designing of smart hydrogels.

In recent years, we have fabricated some newer electrode materials,  $viz.$  **ultra-thin** /  $a few layer(s)$ thick N-functionalized reduced graphene oxide (rGO) sheets, nanoribbons, and Ag-coated rGO, employing mild/environmental friendly *reducing agents* for the reduction of GO in *aqueous medium* for devising efficient supercapacitors. Lately, we have succeeded in *extending the potential window of* symmetric supercapacitor to fairly high value of 2.5 V with significantly high energy density@power density. These systems exhibited *better conductivity* with fairly high value of *specific capacitance at* higher current densities. Water-in-Salt like electrolyte has further enhanced the cell voltage to **remarkably high** at 2.7 V. A patent on enhanced features of these materials has been filed *three years* **back** and last year on their sensing capabilities. This work has been *identified* by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) among the **innovations from IIT Roorkee during 2021**. We also got one **patent granted in 2022** on the related work.

Most of our work in the area of nanoscience/nanotechnology is published in *International* Journals of repute with an average impact factor of  $> 5.7$ , indicating the importance of our work in the context of current scientific importance. Out of 22 Ph.D. students, I have supervised so far,  $18$ students have carried out their research on nanosystems including 2 students in the broad area of present ongoing work.

In our ongoing research, we aim to develop innovative *functionalized greener nanostructures* as electrode material(s) and optimization of their electrochemical performance in *aqueous electrolyte(s)* to fabricate *high-voltage* supercapacitor to act as *efficient energy storage device(s)*. Besides, being **environmentally benign** and functionalized, these nanohybrids are also expected to be suitable for selective electrochemical sensing with lower limit of detection, hydrogen storage and electro-catalytic applications.

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