CONTENTS

| CHAPTER NUMBER | TITLE | PAGE NUMBER |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | Abstract | i |
| | List of Figures | v |
| | List of Table | X |
| | List of Abbreviations | xii |
| | CHAPTER I | |
| | INTRODUCTION | |
| 1.1 | Introduction to Nanotechnology | 1 |
| 1.2 | Nanomaterials | 2 |
| 1.3 | Synthesis of Nanoparticles | 3 |
| 1.3.1 | Top Down Approch | 4 |
| 1.3.2 | Bottom Up Approch | 4 |
| 1.4 | Properties of Nanomaterials | 5 |
| 1.4.1 | Optical properties | 6 |
| 1.4.2 | Structural Properties | 7 |
| 1.4.3 | Electrical Properties | 7 |
| 1.4.4 | Mechanical Properties | 8 |
| 1.4.5 | Magnetic Properties | 9 |
| 1.4.6 | Thermal Properties | 10 |
| 1.4.7 | Chemical Properties | 10 |
| 1.5 | Application of nanotechnology | 11 |
| 1.5.1 | Drug Delivery | 11 |

| 1.5.2 | Diagnostic Techniques | 12 |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1.5.3 | Antibacterial Treatment | 12 |
| 1.5.4 | Sensing | 12 |
| 1.5.5 | Dye Sensitized Solar cells (DSSCs) | 13 |
| 1.5.6 | Nanoparticle Fuel | 15 |
| 1.5.7 | Electronic | 15 |
| 1.5.8 | Hydrogen Fuel cells | 16 |
| 1.6 | Review of Literature | 16 |
| 1.7 | Characterization Techniques | 19 |
| 1.7.1 | X-Ray Diffraction | 19 |
| 1.7.2 | Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy | 20 |
| 1.7.3 | Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy | 21 |
| 1.7.4 | Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis | 22 |
| 1.7.5 | High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy | 22 |
| 1.7.6 | Raman Spectroscopy | 23 |
| 1.7.7 | Solar Simulator | 24 |
| 1.7.8 | UV- Vis Spectroscopy | 25 |
| 1.8 | Materials | 26 |
| 1.8.1 | Nickel Oxide | 26 |
| 1.8.2 | Yttrium Oxide | 27 |
| 1.8.3 | Tin Oxide | 28 |
| 1.8.4 | Solanum Procumbens | 29 |
| 1.8.5 | Solanum Torvum | 30 |
| 1.8.6 | Artabotrys Hexapetalus | 30 |

| 1.8.7 | Galinsoga Parviflora | 31 |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1.8.8 | Jasminum Grandiflorum L | 32 |
| 1.9 | Scope of the Work | 32 |
| 1.9.1 | Methodology | 33 |
| 1.9.2 | Organization of Thesis | 34 |
| | References | 36 |
| | CHAPTER II | |
| PREPAR | RATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAI | PHENE |
| | OXIDE NANOSHEETS | |
| 2.1 | Introduction | 43 |
| 2.2 | Materials and Methods | 44 |
| 2.2.1 | Materials | 44 |
| 2.2.2 | Synthesis of Graphene oxide nanosheet | 44 |
| 2.2.3 | Natural Dyes Preparations | 44 |
| 2.2.4 | Preparation of DSSCs | 45 |
| 2.2.5 | Characterization Techniques | 45 |
| 2.3 | Results and Discussion | 46 |
| 2.3.1 | XRD, FTIR and Raman Analysis of GO nanosheet | 46 |
| 2.3.2 | FESEM, HRTEM and EDX analysis of GO nanosheet | 47 |
| 2.3.3 | UV-Vis Spectral nalysis | 49 |
| 2.4 | Conclusion | 52 |
| | References | 53 |
| | | |

CHAPTER III

SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXIDE / NICKEL OXIDE NANOCOMPOSITES FOR DYE SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL APPLICATION

| 3.1 | INTRODUCTION | 55 |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 3.2 | Materials and Methods | 55 |
| 3.2.1 | Materials | 55 |
| 3.2.2 | Synthesis of GO / Nio nanocomposites | 56 |
| 3.2.3 | Characterization techniques | 56 |
| 3.3 | Results and Discussion | 56 |
| 3.3.1 | XRD analysis | 56 |
| 3.3.2 | FTIR Spectral Analysis | 58 |
| 3.3.3 | Raman Spectroscopy | 58 |
| 3.3.4 | FESEM | 59 |
| 3.3.5 | EDX Analysis | 60 |
| 3.3.6 | HRTEM Analysis | 62 |
| 3.3.7 | Selected Area Electron Diffraction Analysis | 63 |
| 3.4 | Conclusion | 63 |
| | References | 64 |
| | CHAPTER IV | |
| | ATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHE | |
| YTTRIUN | M OXIDE NANOCOMPOSITES FOR DYE SENSITI | ZED SOLAR |
| | CELL APPLICATIONS | |
| 4.1 | INTRODUCTION | 65 |
| 4.2 | Materials and Experimental | 66 |
| 4.2.1 | Materials | 66 |

| 4.2.2 | Preparation of Yttrium oxide Nanocomposites | 66 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.2.3 | Preparation of GO / Y ₂ O ₃ nanocomposites | 66 |
| 4.2.4 | Characterization Techniques | 66 |
| 4.3 | Results and Discussion | 67 |
| 4.3.1 | XRD analysis | 67 |
| 4.3.2 | FTIR analysis | 68 |
| 4.3.3. | Raman SPectroscopy | 69 |
| 4.3.4 | FESEM | 70 |
| 4.3.5 | EDX Analysis | 71 |
| 4.3.6 | HRTEM Analysis | 73 |
| 4.3.7 | Selected area electron diffraction analysis | 74 |
| 4.4 | Conclusion | 74 |
| | Reference | 75 |
| | | |
| | CHAPTER V | |
| | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXII | |
| | | |
| OXIDE | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXII NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN D SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL | YE |
| OXIDE 3 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXII NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN D SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION | YE 77 |
| 5.1 5.2 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN DESENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments | YE 77 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN DESENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials | 77 78 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 5.2.2 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN D SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials Synthesis of GO / SnO ₂ nanocomposites | 77 78 78 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 5.2.2 5.2.3 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN D SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials Synthesis of GO / SnO ₂ nanocomposites Characterization techniques | 77 78 78 78 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 5.2.2 5.2.3 5.3 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN DESENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials Synthesis of GO / SnO ₂ nanocomposites Characterization techniques Results and Discussion | 77 78 78 78 78 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 5.2.2 5.2.3 5.3 5.3.1 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN DESENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials Synthesis of GO / SnO ₂ nanocomposites Characterization techniques Results and Discussion XRD analysis | 77 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 |
| 5.1 5.2 5.2.1 5.2.2 5.2.3 5.3 | ION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF GRAPHENE OXID NANOCOMPOSITES AS COUNTER ELECTRODE IN DESENSITIZED SOLAR CELL INTRODUCTION Materials and Experiments Materials Synthesis of GO / SnO ₂ nanocomposites Characterization techniques Results and Discussion | 77 78 78 78 78 78 |

| 5.3.6 | HRTEM | 84 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.3.7 | Selected area electron diffraction analysis | 85 |
| 5.4 | Conclusion | 86 |
| | Reference | 87 |
| | | |
| | CHAPTER VI | |
| | ICY STUDIES OF SOLANUM PROCUMBENS (SP) | |
| | M (ST), ARTABOTRYS HEXAPETALUS (AH), GA | |
| | A (GP) AND JASMINUM GRANDIFLORUM L (JG TIZER IN PT FREE GRAPHENE OXIDE, GRAPHE | |
| | OXIDE AS COUNTER ELECTRODE FOR DYE SI | |
| MORE | SOLAR CELL APPLICATIONS | |
| | | |
| 6.1 | INTRODUCTION | 88 |
| 6.2 | Materials and Experiments | 89 |
| 6.2.1 | Natural Dye Preparation | 89 |
| 6.2.2 | Preparation of DSSCs | 90 |
| 6.2.3 | Characterization Technique | 91 |
| 6.3 | Results and Discussion | 91 |
| 6.3.1 | UV- Vis Analysis | 91 |
| 6.3.2 | Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy | 93 |
| 6.3.3 | Efficiency Studies | 95 |
| 6.4 | Conclusion | 101 |
| | References | 102 |
| | | |

81

83

5.3.4

5.3.5

FESEM

EDX Analysis

CHAPTRE VII

ROLE OF GRAPHENE OXIDE / YTTRIUM OXIDE NANOCOMPOSITES AS A CATHODE MATERIAL FOR NATURAL DYE (SOLANUM PROCUMENS (SP), SOLANUM TORVUM (ST), ARTABOTRYS HEXAPETALUS (AH), GALINSOGA PARVIFLORA (GP), AND JASMINUM GRANDIFLORUM L (JG)) SENSITIZED SOLAR CELL

| 7.1 | INTRODUCTION | 104 |
|-------|----------------------------------------|-----|
| 7.2 | Materials and Experiments | 105 |
| 7.2.1 | Natural Dye Preparation | 105 |
| 7.2.2 | Preparation of DSSCs | 105 |
| 7.2.3 | Characterization Technique | 106 |
| 7.3 | Results and Discussion | 106 |
| 7.3.1 | UV- Vis Analysis | 106 |
| 7.3.2 | Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy | 107 |
| 7.3.3 | Efficiency Studies | 109 |
| 7.4 | Conclusion | 114 |
| | References | 115 |

CHAPTER VIII

PLATINUM FREE GRAPHENE OXIDE/SnO₂ NANOCOMPOSITES AS A COUNTER ELECTRODE FOR NATURAL DYES (SOLANUM PROCUMENS (SP), SOLANUM TORVUM (ST), ARTABOTRYS HEXAPETALUS (AH), GALINSOGA PARVIFLORA (GP), AND JASMINUM GRANDIFLORUM L (JG)) AS A SENSITIZER FOR SOLAR CELL APPLICATIONS

| 8.1 | INTRODUCTION | 117 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|
| 8.2 | Materials and Experiments | 118 |
| 8.2.1 | Natural Dye Preparation | 118 |
| 8.2.2 | Preparation of DSSCs | 118 |

| 8.2.3 | Characterization Technique | 119 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 8.3 | Results and Discussion | 119 |
| 8.3.1 | UV- Vis Analysis | 119 |
| 8.3.2 | Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy | 121 |
| 8.3.3 | Efficiency Studies | 123 |
| 8.4 | Conclusion | 128 |
| | References | 129 |
| | CHAPTER IX | |
| | SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSION | |
| 9.1 | Fabrication of graphene oxide nanosheets as a counter electrode for Pt free natural dye sensitized solar cell application | 132 |
| 9.2 | Synthesis and characterization of graphene oxide / nickel oxide nanocomposites for dye sensitized solar cell application | 133 |
| 9.3 | Preparation and characterization of graphene oxide / yttrium oxide nanocomposites for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 133 |
| 9.4 | Preparation and characterization of graphene oxide / tin oxide nanocomposites as counter electrode in dye sensitized solar cell | 134 |
| 9.5 | Efficiency studies of Solanum Procumbens (SP) as a sensitizer in Pt-free graphene oxide /metal oxides (NiO, Y_2O_3 and SnO_2) counter electrode for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 134 |
| 9.6 | Efficiency studies of Solanum Torvum (ST) as a sensitizer in Pt-free graphene oxide / metal oxides (NiO, Y_2O_3 and SnO_2) as counter electrode for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 136 |
| 9.7 | Efficiency studies of Artabotrys Hexapetalus (ah) as a sensitizer in Pt-free graphene oxide /metal oxides (NiO, Y_2O_3 and SnO_2) counter electrode for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 137 |

| 9.8 | Efficiency studies of Galinsoga Parviflora (GP) as a sensitizer in Pt-free graphene oxide /metal oxides (NiO, Y ₂ O ₃ and SnO ₂) counter electrode for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 138 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 9.9 | Efficiency studies of Jasminum Grandiflorum L (Jg) as a sensitizer in Pt-free graphene oxide /metal oxides (NiO, Y_2O_3 and SnO_2) as counter electrode for dye sensitized solar cell applications | 139 |
| 9.10 | CONCLUSION | 140 |
| | LIST OF PUBLICATIONS | 141 |
| | PAPER PRESENTED IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES | 142 |