

## **CONTENTS**

List of Figures .....	I
List of Tables .....	VII

### **Chapter 1. Introduction**

1.1. Introduction.....	2
1.2. Research objective .....	2
1.3. Theoretical background .....	2
1.3.1. Nanocomposites.....	2
1.3.2. PAA (Polyacrylic acid).....	7
1.3.3. Titanium dioxide ( $TiO_2$ ) .....	8
1.3.4. Zirconium dioxide ( $ZrO_2$ ).....	10
1.3.5. Rare Earth (RE) .....	12
1.4. Literature survey .....	14
1.5. Thesis overview .....	19
References .....	21

### **Chapter 2. Instrumentation Techniques**

2.1. Introduction.....	26
2.2. X-ray diffraction (XRD) .....	26
2.3. Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDS).....	31
2.4. Particle Size Analyzer (DLS) .....	32
2.5. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).....	33
2.6. Photoluminescence Spectroscopy (PL) .....	37
2.7. UV-Vis Spectroscopy (UV-Vis).....	40
References .....	46

### **Chapter 3. $TiO_2$ : RE –Polyacrylic acid Nanocomposites**

3.1. Introduction.....	47
3.2. Synthesis of Samples .....	48
3.3. Characterization .....	52
3.3.1. Structural and Elemental properties of powder nanoparticles (X-Ray Diffraction, Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy and Particle Size Analyzer) .....	52

3.3.2. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).....	74
3.4. Optical Properties .....	80
3.4.1. Photoluminescence Spectroscopy (PL).....	80
3.4.2. UV-Vis Spectroscopy (UV-Vis).....	82
3.5. Summary.....	91
References .....	92

## **Chapter 4. ZrO<sub>2</sub> : RE –Polyacrylic acid Nanocomposites**

4.1. Introduction.....	93
4.2. Synthesis of Samples .....	93
4.3. Characterization.....	97
4.3.1. Structural and Elemental properties of powder nanoparticles (X-Ray Diffraction, Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy and Particle Size Analyzer) .....	97
4.3.2. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).....	119
4.4. Optical Properties .....	125
4.4.1. Photoluminescence Spectroscopy (PL) .....	125
4.4.2. UV-Vis Spectroscopy (UV-Vis).....	127
4.5. Summary.....	136
References .....	137

## **Chapter 5. Application**

5.1. Introduction.....	138
5.2. UV-Shielding Thin Films .....	141
5.3. Summary.....	145
References .....	145

## **Chapter 6. Conclusion and Future Scopes**

6.1. Conclusion .....	146
6.2. Lacunae.....	147
6.3. Future scope.....	148

List of Publications .....	149
List of Seminars / Conferences / Workshops.....	150