

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I, **Preeti Tiwari** certify that the work embodied in this thesis is my own bonafide work and carried out by me under the supervision of **Prof. Rajiv Prakash** from **July 2013 to April 2018** at the **School of Materials Science & Technology**, Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. The matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma. I declare that I have faithfully acknowledged and given credits to the research workers wherever their works have been cited in my work in this thesis. I am responsible for all the experiments and data given in this thesis. I further declare that I have not willfully copied any other's work, paragraphs, text, data, results, etc., reported in journals, books, magazines, reports, dissertations, theses, etc., or available at websites and have not included them in this thesis and have not cited as my own work.

Date:

Place: Varanasi

(Preeti Tiwari)

Certificate by the Supervisor

It is certified that the above statement made by the student is correct to the best of my knowlwdge.

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