

www.vbripress.com, www.amlett.com, DOI: [10.5185/amlett.indias.100](https://doi.org/10.5185/amlett.indias.100)
"INDIAS 2010" Special Issue Published online by the VBRI press in 2011

Dear Reader

This special issue of Advanced Materials Letters contains selected peer-reviewed papers presented in the "4th International Conference, INDIAS 2010", which was held during September 19-21, 2010 at the Nanotechnology Application Centre, University of Allahabad, Allahabad 211002, India. This conference was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), India, Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and University of Allahabad, India.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together scientists, engineers and students from universities, research institutes and related industrial companies active in the field of advanced material science, materials technologies, nanomaterials, condensed materials and solid states sciences and future activities globally. Scientific themes covered in the conference are:

- a) Modeling and theoretical research in nanoscience;
- b) Materials for energetics, magnetic data storage, security, new renewable energy technologies and photovoltaics;
- c) Multifunctional inorganic, organic and hybrid nanomaterials and nanostructures;
- d) Advanced technologies for synthesis and research of nanostructured materials, nanoparticles, thin films and coatings;
- e) Application of innovative materials in science and economics.

Nearly 300 delegates from India and Abroad (5 countries) have participated in the conference. During three days of the conference 20 invited, 60 oral reports and 105 posters were presented. One of the major emphases of this conference is on the contributed poster papers that were displayed in the evenings. The Poster Session 'A Step Towards Innovation' was held on 19th and 20th September 2010 at 'Vijyanagram Hall, University of Allahabad'. The 5 Best Posters were given an opportunity to present their work before all the delegates with an ORAL Presentation (10 min for presentation + 2 min for Q & A) in the Conference on 21st September 2010.

Reflecting the objective of the conference, papers on various advanced material science, materials technologies, nanomaterials, condensed materials and solid states sciences were presented. After the peer review processes, 12 papers were accepted for publication in this volume.

We express sincere thanks to all the members of the organizing committee, authors, and participants who have made this conference a reality and a grand success. They have worked very hard for over a year and they need to be complimented for their efforts.

With best regards



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