DECLARATION

1 hereby declare that the thesis entitled "Self-Assembly of Structurally Diverse Phosphomolybdates: Synthesis, Structure and Properties", submitted to the University of Calicut in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry is a bonafide research work done by me under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Jency Thomas, Assistant Professor, Research & PG Department of Chemistry, St. Thomas College (Autonomous), Thrissur, Kerala.

I further declare that this thesis has not previously formed the basis of any degree, diploma or any other similar title.

Jisha Jose

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"There's nothing more calming in difficult moments that knowing there's someone fighting with you" - Mother Teresa

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MANANTHAVADY



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not words, but to live by them.

John F Kennedy

PREFACE

Phosphomolybdate (PMO) is an important sub-class of Polyoxometalates (POMs). This phosphorous and molybdenum containing heteropolyanions comprise of a distinguished family with versatile structural features and promising applications. The counter cations of these anionic clusters can be metal ions, metal complexes or protonated organic moieties. The Phosphomolybdates are widely classified into various types. Among these, Strandberg-type $\{P_2Mo_5O_{23}\}^{6-}$, Keggin-type $\{PMo_{12}O_{40}\}^{3-}$, Wells Dawson-type $\{P_2Mo_{18}O_{62}\}^{6-}$ and as fully reduced cluster $\{P_4Mo_6O_{31}\}^{12-}$ are the predominant types. Since they are supramolecular materials they can self-assemble into tuneable size and shape with varying dimensionality. In this thesis, seven novel Strandberg-type PMOs and one copper based Keggin-type solid have been reported along with their characterization and related physico-chemical properties. Ammonium Phosphomolybdate (APM) which is a Keggin-type PMO was synthesized along with its two composites with polyaniline and poly (N-methylaniline), namely APM/PAni and APM/PNMAni respectively. APM was found to be a good ion-exchanger to remove cationic dye-stuffs from its aqueous solution with high efficiency and appreciable reusability. The Cr(VI) removal efficiency of APM and its composites have been investigated and APM/PNMAni was observed as a good candidate for the same.

Two synthetic methods have been used in the thesis namely, solvent evaporation technique and hydrothermal technique. In the first method, P and Mo precursors along with organic moiety and metal chlorides were taken in the form of clear aqueous solution and kept undisturbed for the self-assembly process. The slow evaporation of the solution at room temperature resulted in crystallization of PMO based solids. In the second method, a hydrothermal bomb was used; which is a sealed Teflon container. The reaction

was carried out under autogenous pressure and the precursors were added along with water. A temperature range from 100-180°C was selected for a time span of 3 days. The slow cooling of the apparatus was allowed for the crystallization of solids.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. Chapter I comprises of a brief introduction to the work, giving emphasis to the synthetic routes, different classes of PMOs based on their structural features and properties along with their important applications. A literature survey on the research carried out in this area for the past decade was carried out and systematically tabulated.

In chapter II, two new Strandberg cluster (referred to as {P₂Mo₅}) based PMOs namely, {H-2*a*3*mp*}₅[{PO₃(OH)} {PO₄}Mo₅O₁₅], and {H-2*a*4*mp*}₅[{PO₃(OH)} {PO₄}Mo₅O₁₅]. 6H₂O were synthesized *via* solvent evaporation technique using 2-amino-3methylpyridine (2*a*3*mp*) and 2-amino-4-methylpyridine (2*a*4*mp*) respectively. These solids formed a supramolecular framework stabilized by hydrogen bonding interaction between cluster anions and organic moieties. CH...*π* interactions between the organic moieties reinforced the crystal packing. The electrochemical behaviour of the synthesized solids was explored by means of three electrode system using 1 mM K4[Fe(CN)₆] in 0.1 M KCl as supporting electrolyte. In addition, the optical band gaps of the solids were also calculated using ultraviolet-diffused reflectance spectroscopy data. Cyclic voltammogram of both the solids showed reversible waves corresponding to Mo^{VI}/Mo^V electron process. The optical band gap energies of the solids showed slight difference on account of their difference in the nature of the ligands.

In chapter III, self-assembly of molybdate and phosphate precursors in the presence of zinc ions and organic ligands *viz*. benzimidazole (*bimi*), 4-aminopyridine (4-*ap*) and pyrazole (*pz*), has been carried out under hydrothermal condition. The crystallization of

Strandberg cluster based solids $\{Hbimi\}_5[HP_2Mo_5O_{23}].5H_2O, \{Hbimi\}_6[P_2Mo_5O_{23}].H_2O, \{4-Hap\}_4[H_2P_2Mo_5O_{23}].2H_2O, \{4-Hap\}_5[HP_2Mo_5O_{23}] and \{Hpz\}_6\{Zn(pz)_4(H_2O)_2\} [\{Zn(pz)_2P_2Mo_5O_{23}\}_2].8H_2O$ was observed. The chapter highlights the structural differences in the supramolecular isomers; and the effect of supramolecular isomerism and nature of ligands on the optical band gap energies (Eg) of the synthesized solids.

In chapter IV, an attempt was made to crystallize phosphorous and molybdenum precursors in the presence of $MCl_2.xH_2O$ (M = Co, Ni, Cu and Zn) with pyrazole to form PMO solids of varying dimensionality. The solids obtained were: $\{Hpz\}_{6}\{Zn(pz)_{4}(H_{2}O)_{2}\}[\{Zn(pz)_{2}P_{2}Mo_{5}O_{23}\}_{2}].8H_{2}O, [\{Cu(pz)_{4}\}_{2} \{H_{2}P_{2}Mo_{5}O_{23}\}].H_{2}O,$ ${Ni(pz)_4}[{Ni(pz)_4}_2{H_2P_2Mo_5O_{23}}]_2$ $[{Ni(pz)_4} {Ni(pz)_4} (H_2O)]$ $\{HP_2Mo_5O_{23}\}]_2.$ 14H₂O, $[Ni(pz)_4Cl_2],$ ${pz}_{2}[{Co(pz)_{4}}_{5}$ $\{P_2Mo_5O_{23}\}_2].6H_2O$ and $[{Cu(pz)_2}_4]$ {CuMo₁₂O₃₈(OH)₂}].8H₂O. Among these, the last solid is a rare example of copper based Keggin cluster. Except for this solid, which was synthesized using hydrothermal method; all other solids were obtained via solvent evaporation method. The magnetic properties of the solids were investigated using Guoy Balance.

In chapter V, synthesis, characterization and dye removal efficiency of ammonium phosphomolybdate (APM) which is a Keggin-type solid has been discussed. It was concluded that APM could be effectively used as an ion-exchanger to remove cationic dye-stuffs from aqueous solution. The dyes used for investigation were methylene blue, malachite green, methyl red and eosin. The influence of parameters such as nature of light, amount of APM, contact time and pH on dye removal efficiency was investigated.

In chapter VI, the synthesis and characterization of two composites of APM with polyaniline and poly (N-methylaniline), namely APM/PAni and APM/PNMAni respectively have been summarised. The difference in band gap energy in APM upon the

formation of the composite was investigated, and the capacity of these composites in the removal of hexavalent chromium from aqueous solution was explored. It was concluded that APM/PNMAni could effectively reduce harmful Cr(VI) to environmentally benign Cr(III).

Chapter VII concludes the entire work and emphasizes the future scopes of PMO based hybrid solids.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1. APM	Ammonium phosphomolybdate
2. APM/PAni	Ammonium phosphomolybdate/polyaniline composite
3. APM/PNMAni	Ammonium phosphomolybdate/poly(N-methylaniline)
	composite
4. APS	Ammonium persulphate
5. BET	Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
6. BVS	Bond valence sum
7. CTAB	Cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide
8. CV	Cyclic voltammetry
9. DDW	Double distilled water
10. DMF	Dimethyl formamide
11. DMSO	Dimethyl sulphoxide
12. DPC	Diphenyl carbazide
13. EDAX	Energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy
14. EY	Eosin
15. FESEM	Field emission scanning electron microscope
16. FTIR	Fourier Transform Infrared
17. GCE	Glassy carbon electrode
18. JCPDS	Joint committee on powder diffraction standards
19. MB	Methylene blue
20. MG	Malachite green
21. MR	Methyl red

22. ORTEP	Oak ridge thermal ellipsoid plot
23. PAN	Polyacrylonitrile
24. PAni	Polyaniline
25. PMA	Phosphomolybdic acid
26. PMMA	Polymethylmathacrylate
27. PMO	Phosphomolybdate
28. PNMAni	Poly(N-methylaniline)
29. $\{P_2Mo_5\}$	$\{P_2Mo_5O_{23}\}^{6-1}$
30. $\{PMo_{12}\}$	$\{PMo_{12}O_{40}\}^{3}$
31. {P ₄ Mo ₆ }	$\{P_4Mo_6O_{31}\}^{12\text{-}}$
32. POM	Polyoxometalates
33. PXRD	Powder X-ray diffraction
34. rGO	Reduced graphene oxide
35. SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
36. TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
37. TMC	Transition metal complex
38. UV-DRS	Ultraviolet-Diffused reflectance spectroscopy
39. UV-Vis	Ultraviolet-visible
40. 2 <i>a</i> 3 <i>mp</i>	2-amino-3-methylpyridine
41. 2 <i>a</i> 4 <i>mp</i>	2-amino-4-methylpyridine
42. bimi	Benzimidazole
43. 4- <i>ap</i>	4-aminopyridine
44. <i>pz</i>	Pyrazole

45. 0-D Zero dimensional
46. 1-D One dimensional
47. 2-D Two dimensional
48. 3-D Three dimensional

ABSTRACT

Polyoxometalate (POM) is an important class of early transition metal-oxygen clusters with plenteous intrinsic structures and widespread applications. Phosphomolybdate (PMO), a prominent sub-class of POMs, has been attracting the attention of researchers on account of their versatile building blocks and controllable architectures. Supramolecular self-assembly is a powerful tool to create PMO solids with attracting properties. Important factors affecting the self-assembly process are nature of organic moiety, temperature, pH of the medium and nature of metal ions. Owing to the controllable external factors, the self-assembly can lead to the formation of supramolecular aggregates with varying size and dimensionality such as one dimensional chain, two dimensional sheets and three dimensional networks. Moreover, nitrogen donor ligands and their pH related nature play a vital role in the crystal engineering. They have the capability to form complex with metal centres or undergo protonation. Recently a new trend of designing composite materials of PMOs with suitable substances like polymers has been observed.

In this thesis, various novel PMOs with varying structure and dimensionality have been synthesized. The characterization of the synthesized solids was done successfully by single crystal X-ray diffraction, powder X-ray diffraction, fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and thermo gravimetric analysis. The behavior and dynamics of these solids on account of their non-bonding interactions involved in the self-assembly process and affecting factors have been illustrated. Some predominant properties of the synthesized solids like optical band gap energy, magnetic properties and electrochemical properties were investigated. Ammonium phosphomolybdate (APM), a member of Keggin-type PMO was synthesized and characterized. Its ability to remove cationic dye-stuffs from aqueous solutions was explored. Two unique composites of APM with

polyaniline and poly(N-methylaniline) *viz*. APM/PAni and APM/PNMAni were synthesized and characterized. Moreover, APM/PNMAni composite was found as a good candidate to reduce environmental pollutant Cr(VI) to Cr(III) from contaminated aqueous solution.

TABLE OF CONTENT

	CONTENTS	Page No.
	List of Tables	xix
	List of Figures	xxi
	List of Schemes	xxix
Chapter I	Introduction and Review of Literature	1-39
	Summary	1
I.1	Introduction	2
I.2	Types of PMO clusters	4
I.2.1	Strandberg-type cluster {P ₂ Mo ₅ O ₂₃ } ⁶⁻	4
I.2.2	Keggin-type cluster {PMo ₁₂ O ₄₀ } ³⁻	5
I.2.3	Wells Dawson-type cluster {P ₂ Mo ₁₈ O ₆₂ } ⁶⁻	6
I.2.4	Fully reduced cluster $\{P_4Mo_6O_{31}\}^{12}$	7
I.3	Classification of PMO cluster based solids	9
I.3.1	Class I	9
I.3.2	Class II	14
I.3.3	Class III	16
I.3.4	Class IV	19
I.4	Structural features in PMO cluster based solids	21
I.4.1	Supramolecular isomerism	21
I.4.2	Aggregation of water clusters	22
I.4.3	Porosity	23
I.5	Synthetic strategies	24
I.5.1	Solvent evaporation technique	24
I.5.2	Hydrothermal synthesis	25
I.6	Applications of PMOs	25
I.6.1	Biomedicinal applications	25
I.6.2	Applications in catalysis	27
I.6.3	Applications in magnetism	29
I.6.4	Electrochemical applications	30
I.7	Motivation for the present study	31

R	eferences	33
Chapter II	Role of supramolecular interactions in crystal packing	41-67
	of Strandberg-type cluster based hybrid solids	
	Summary	41
II.1	Introduction	42
II.2	Experimental Section	43
II.2.1	Synthesis	43
II.2.2	Characterization	44
II.2.2.1	X-ray crystallographic studies	44
II.2.2.2	Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)	44
II.2.2.3	Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy	45
II.2.2.4	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)	46
II.2.2.5	Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	46
II.2.2.6	Cyclic voltammetric studies	46
II.2.2.7	Band gap energy calculations	46
II.3	Results and Discussion	47
II.3.1	Crystal structure of 1 and 2	47
II.3.2	Analysis of solids 1 and 2	54
II.3.3	Electrochemical behavior	59
II.3.4	Band gap energy calculations	60
II.3.5	Chemistry of Formation	63
II.4	Conclusions	64
	References	65

Chapter III Supramolecular isomerism in {P2M05} cluster based 69-111 solids

	Summary	69
III.1	Introduction	70
III.2	Experimental Section	71
III.2.1	Synthesis	71
III.2.2	Characterization	72

III.3	Results and Discussion	72
III.3.1	Crystal structure of 3	74
III.3.2	Crystal structure of 4	77
III.3.3	Crystal structure of 5 and 6	82
III.3.4	Analysis of solids 3-6	93
III.3.5	Band gap energy calculations	101
III.3.5.1	Effect of ligands on band gap energy	101
III.3.5.2	Effect of protonation on band gap energy	104
III.3.6	Chemistry of Formation	106
III.4	Conclusions	108
	References	110
Chapter IV	Metal pyrazole complex incorporated PMO cluster	113-143
	based solids	

	Summary	113
IV.1	Introduction	114
IV.2.	Experimental Section	119
IV.2.1	Synthesis	119
IV.2.1.1	Solvent evaporation method	119
IV.2.1.2	Hydrothermal synthesis	120
IV.2.2	Characterization	121
IV.2.3	Magnetic susceptibility measurements	122
IV.3	Results and discussion	122
IV.3.1	Crystal structure of 7	122
IV.3.2	Crystal structure of 8	124
IV.3.3	Crystal structure of 9	124
IV.3.4	Crystal structure of 10	126
IV.3.5	Crystal structure of 11	127
IV.3.6	Crystal structure of 12	128
IV.3.7	Analysis of solids 7 and 12	131
IV.4	Magnetic properties	139
IV.5	Conclusions	140

	References	142
Chapter V	Removal of cationic dyes from water using APM	145-172
	Summary	145
V.1	Introduction	146
V.2	Experimental Section	150
V.2.1	Synthesis of APM	150
V.2.2	Synthesis of dye solutions	150
V.2.3	Treatment of dye-contaminated water	150
V.3	Characterization	151
V.4	Results and discussion	152
V.4.1	Characterization of APM particles	152
V.4.2	Treatment of dye contaminated water	154
V.4.2.1	Effect of nature of light	154
V.4.2.2	Effect of contact time	157
V.4.2.3	Effect of amount of APM	158
V.4.2.4	Effect of nature of dye	159
V.4.2.5	Influence of pH	161
V.4.2.6	Reusability of APM	161
V.4.2.7	Adsorption capacity of APM	163
V.4.2.8	Mechanism	164
V.5	Conclusions	168
	References	169
Chapter VI	Investigations using composites based on APM	173-200
	Summary	173
VI.1	Introduction	174
VI.2	Experimental Section	178
VI.2.1	Synthesis of APM/Polymer composite	178
VI.2.2	Synthesis of polymers	178
VI.3	Characterization	179

VI.4.2	Characterization of APM/PNMAni	180
VI.5	Electrochemical behavior of composites	183
VI.6	Optical band gap energy (Eg) determination applying	
	Kubelk- a–Munk (KeM or F(R)) function in Tauc method	185
VI.7	Removal of Cr(VI) from aqueous solution	189
VI.7.1	Procedure for Cr(VI) removal	190
VI.7.2	Cr(VI) removal studies using the components of	
	composites	190
VI.7.3	Effect of amount of PNMAni	191
VI.7.4	Effect of contact time	192
VI.7.5	Cr(VI) removal using APM/PNMAni	193
VI.7.6	Proposed mechanism for Cr(VI) removal	194
VI.8	Conclusions	197
	References	198
Chapter VII	Summary and Conclusion	201-202

Publications and Conference presentations

LIST OF TABLES

Table No	TITLE OF TABLE	Page No
110.	CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	110.
I.1	Class I solids wherein PMO clusters are covalently linked to TMCs	11
	extending into multi-dimensions	
I.2	Class II solids having discrete PMO clusters with TMCs as counter	15
	cations	
1.3	Class III solids in which PMO clusters derivatized by TMCs	17
I.4	Class IV solids having coordination polymers incorporating PMOs	20
СНАРТ	TER II: ROLE OF SUPRAMOLECULAR INTERACTIONS IN C	RYSTAL
PAC	KING OF STRANDBERG-TYPE CLUSTER BASED HYBRID SO	DLIDS
II.1	Crystallographic details for 1 and 2	45
II.2	Hydrogen bonding interactions in 1	48
II.3	Hydrogen bonding interactions in 2	51
II.4	OO interactions in 2	54
II.5	Table tabulates the irrespective, allowed indirect and allowed direct	62
band gaps of 1 and 2		
CHATER III: SUPRAMOLECULAR ISOMERISM IN {P2MO5} CLUSTER		
	BASED SOLIDS	
III.1	Crystal and Refinement Data for Solids 4-6a	73
III.2	H-bonding interactions in 3	74
III.3	H-bonding interactions in water tetrameric unit of 3	76
III.4	H-bonding interactions in 4	81
III.5	CH π interactions in 4	81
III.6	H-bonding interactions in 5	83
III.7	OO interactions in 5	85
III.8	H-bonding interactions in 6a	88
III.9	CH π and π π interactions in 6a	88
III.10	H-bonding interactions in 6b	91
III.11	Table tabulates the irrespective, allowed indirect and allowed direct	103
	band gaps of 1, 2, 3 and 6a	

III.12	Table tabulates the irrespective, allowed indirect and allowed direct	104
	band gaps of 5 , 6a and 6b	
III.13	Ligands and their pKa values	107
CHA	APTER IV: METAL PYRAZOLE COMPLEX INCORPORATED	PMO
	CLUSTER BASED SOLIDS	
IV.1	Table summarizing pyrazole incorporated TMC in PMO cluster	115
	based solids reported in literature during the past decade	
IV.2	Classification of Solids 7-11	117
IV.3	Crystal and Refinement Data for Solids 7, 9 and 12	121
IV.4	BVS calculations of 12	129
IV.5	The summary of thermal degradation analysis of 7, 9 and 10	139
СНАР	TER V: REMOVAL OF CATIONIC DYES FROM WATER USIN	IG APM
V.1	Table summarizing the results obtained using APM for degradation	148
	of dye-stuffs	
V.2	Absorbance of MB solution upon treatment with APM at 660 nm	155
	after 1 hour of irradiation under different conditions	
V.3	Absorbance of MB solution upon treatment with APM at 660 nm	158
	upon varying time of contact	
V.4	Absorbance of MB solution upon treatment with APM at 660 nm	163
	after each cycle	
V.5	Textural parameters of APM before (I) and after (II) the treatment	164
	of dye-stuffs	
СНАЕ	TER VI: INVESTIGATIONS USING COMPOSITES BASED O	N APM
VI.1	A preview of PMo ₁₂ based composites reported in the past decade	175
VI.2	Weight % of elements present in APM/PAni from EDAX	182
VI. 3	Weight % of elements present in APM/PNMAni composite	182
VI.3	Table tabulates the irrespective, allowed indirect and allowed direct	188
	band gaps of APM, APM/PAni and APM/PNMAni	

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	TITLE OF FIGURE	Page No.
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION		
I.1	(a) Ball-and-stick (b) polyhedral view of Strandberg-type anion	6
I.2	(a) Ball-and-stick (b) polyhedral view of α-Keggin anion	6
I.3	(a) Ball-and-stick (b) polyhedral view of Wells Dawson-type anion	8
1.4	(a) Ball-and-stick representation of top view of basic structural unit of	8
	${P_4Mo_6O_{31}}^{12-}$ (b) polyhedral view of ${P_4Mo_6O_{31}}^{12-}$. (c) Side view and	
	(d) top view of hourglass-type $\{M(P_4Mo_6O_{31})_2\}$	
1.5	(a) Figure showing coordination of $\{P_2M_{05}O_{23}\}^{6-}$ cluster anion with	10
	Cu(1) and Cu(2). (b) 1-D chain in $[H_3O]_2[Cu_2(Pyim)_2(H_2O)_3]$	
	$[P_2Mo_5O_{23}].6H_2O$	
1.6	Ball-and-stick and polyhedral representation of $[Cu(L)_2(H_2O)_2]_2H_2$	15
	$[P_2Mo_5O_{23}]$.2CH ₃ OH (<i>L</i> = pyridine-2-carboxamide)	
1.7	1-D chain of Mg[Cu(bim)(H2O)]2[P2M05O23].4H2O which depicts the	17
	linkage of Mg^{2+} ion through the oxygen atoms of the $\{P_2Mo_5\}cluster$	
	anion	
1.8	1-D chain formed in [Cu ₃ (4,4'-bis(pyrazol-1-ylmethyl)biphenyl) ₃]	20
	[PMo ₁₂ O ₄₀]	
I.9	Supramolecular isomerism exhibited by $(imi)(Himi)_2[{Cu}(imi)_2]_2$	23
	$H_2P_2Mo_5O_{23}$]	
I.10	Decameric water cluster in $(Himi)_3[{Cu(imi)_3(H_2O)_2} {HP_2Mo_5O_{23}}].$	23
	3H ₂ O	
I.11	{PMo12} clusters are linked by ammonium ions through H-bonding	24
	interaction to form porous 2-D sheet in ammonium phosphomolybdate	
CHAP	FER II: ROLE OF SUPRAMOLECULAR INTERACTIONS IN CRYS	STAL
PACKING OF STRANDBERG-TYPE CLUSTER BASED HYBRID SOLIDS		
II.1	An ORTEP view of (a) 1 and (b) 2	48
II.2	(a) 1-D chains in 1 mediated by OO interactions between terminal	49
	oxygen atoms O22 and O23 of phosphate groups of neighboring cluster	
	anions. Formation of 1-D chains is also facilitated by CHO	
	interactions mediated by {N1N2} moieties. (b) H-bonding interactions	

	exhibited by $\{HP_2Mo_5\}$ cluster anion in 1 . (c) Formation of zig-zag 2-D	
	sheet through CHO and $\pi \dots \pi$ interactions between neighboring 1-D	
	chains	
II.3	(a) CH π and π π interactions form a octameric unit. (b) Crystal	50
	packing in 1 is facilitated by CH π interactions between neighboring	
	sheets. (c) CPK representation of 1 showing solvent accessible voids	
II.4	(a) Dimeric unit in 2 wherein $\{HP_2Mo_5\}$ cluster anions are linked	52
	through H-bonding mediated by {N7N8} moiety. The pentameric water	
	cluster is anchored to the dimer through OO interactions. (b) The	
	pentameric water cluster in 2. (c) Dimer units linked through water	
	clusters to form 1-D chain propagating along b axis. The 1-D chains	
	result in voids which are occupied by {N9N10} moieties	
II.5	(a) The connection between chains through H-bonding interaction	53
	(N6H6BO16: 2.127(5) Å) and CH π interactions to form a sheet. (b)	
	CH π interactions in 2. (c) Neighboring 2-D sheets are further linked	
	by lattice water molecule, O1W to form a 3-D supramolecular network	
II.6	FTIR Spectra of (a) 1 and (b) 2	55
II.7	SEM images of (a) 1 and (b) 2	55
II.8	TGA curve of 1 and 2	56
II.9	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 1	57
II.10	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 2	58
II.11	(a) Cyclic voltammogram for 1 and 2 in the presence of 1 mM	60
	$K_4[Fe(CN)_6]$ in 0.1 M KCl with a scan rate of 50 mVs ⁻¹ (b) Comparison	
	of voltammogram of $2a4mp$ with bare GCE and solid 2	
II.12	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) F(R) versus hu(eV), (c)	61
	$(F(R)h\upsilon)^{1/2}$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)h\upsilon)^2$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ for 1	
II.13	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) $F(R)$ versus $hv(eV)$, (c)	62
	$(F(R)h\upsilon)^{1/2}$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)h\upsilon)^2$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ for 2	
CH	ATER III: SUPRAMOLECULAR ISOMERISM IN {P2MO5} CLUSTE	ER
	BASED SOLIDS	
III.1	(a) $\{HP_2Mo_5\}$ anion shows extensive H-bonding interaction with the	75
	five $(Hbimi)^+$ moieties. (b) The dimeric units are connected by $\{N1N3\}$	
	moiety to form ladder-like 1-D chains propagating along a axis. (c)	

	View along <i>a</i> axis showing the connection between one 1-D chain with	
	six others. (d) H-bonding interactions exhibited by lattice water	
	molecules	
III.2	(a) $\pi \dots \pi$ interactions between {N10N12} and {N13N15} moieties. (b)	76
	CH π and π π interactions between {N1N3}, {N4N6} and {N7N9}	
	moieties forming a hexameric unit	
III.3	(a) ORTEP view of 4 . (b) 1-D chains formed via H-bonding interactions	78
	mediated by protonated {N5N6} moieties. (c) NHO interactions	
	mediated by {N7N8} moiety link neighboring 1-D chains to form a 2-D	
	corrugated sheet. (d) View along a axis showing the crystal packing of	
	2-D corrugated sheets	
III.4	(a) While three of the $(Hbimi)^+$ moieties viz. {N5N6}, {N7N8} and	79
	{N9N10} are linked to each other though CH π interactions; {N3N4}	
	and {N11N12} merely form a dimer as seen in (b). (c) The H-bonding	
	in 1-D chains of 4 is reinforced through CH π interactions	
III.5	The packing of 1-D chains is also facilitated through $CH\pi$	80
	interactions. CH π interactions mediated by {N7N8} moieties favors	
	the crystal packing in 4	
III.6	ORTEP view of (a) 5 and (b) 6a	83
III.7	(a) NHO interactions mediated by $\{N1N2\}$ and $\{N5N6\}$ moiety link	85
	$\{H_2P_2Mo_5\}$ cluster anions to form 2-D sheet through N-HO	
	interactions (2.069(3)-2.208(3) Å). The third $(Hampy)^+$ moiety viz.	
	{N7N8} is encapsulated in the voids of 2-D sheet through N-HO	
	interaction (2.286(4) Å). (b) View along b axis	
III.8	(a) Figure showing packing of sheets. Two of the sheets are connected	85
	via H-bonding interactions mediated by $\{N1N2\}$ and lattice water	
	molecule, O1W. The voids formed as a result of crystal packing of 2-D	
	sheets are occupied by {N3N4} moieties and lattice water molecule,	
	O2W shown in brown and pink color respectively. (b) CH π	
	interactions between {N5N6}, {N3N4} and {N1N2}	
III.9	(a) H-bonding interactions between $(4-Hap)^+$ moieties and $\{P_2Mo_5\}$	86
	cluster anions forming 1-D zig-zag chains in 6a . (b) View along <i>b</i> -axis	
III.10	(a) The 1-D chains are connected through H-bonding interactions	87

	mediated by {N5N6} moieties to form 2-D corrugated sheet having	
	voids. (b) Figure showing 2-D corrugated sheet having voids are	
	occupied by {N1N2} moieties CH π and π π interactions between	
	$\{N1N2\}$ and $\{N3N4\}$ moieties form a tetrameric unit. (c) Three of the	
	2-D corrugated sheets. Each sheet exhibits H-bonding interactions with	
	neighbouring sheets through {N1N2} moieties accommodated in its	
	voids. The tetramers are connected through $CH\pi$ interactions	
	mediated by {N5N6} moieties belonging to neighboring 2-D corrugated	
	sheets	
III.11	(a) CH π and π π interactions between {N1N2} and {N3N4}	89
	moieties form a tetrameric unit. (b) The tetramers are connected through	
	CH π interactions mediated by {N5N6} moieties	
III.12	(a) Figure showing the formation of dimeric unit in 6b . (b) Each of the	90
	dimeric units is connected via H-bonding interactions to form 1-D	
	chains	
III.13	Figure showing two 1-D chains connected via H-bonding mediated by	91
	$\{N9N10\}$ moieties. The inter-chain voids are occupied by $\{N3N4\}$ units	
III.14	(a) The {N3N4} units in inter-chain voids are part of interpenetrating 2-	93
	D sheets perpendicular to sheet shown in Figure III.13. The lattice water	
	molecules along with $\{N3N4\}$ units act as nodes connecting the	
	interpenetrating sheets. Inter-sheet spaces are occupied by $\{N1N2\}$ and	
	{N5N6} moieties (π π : 3.550 Å) which are anchored to lattice water	
	molecule O5W. (b) Figure showing the two sets of interpenetrating	
	sheets	
III.15	FTIR spectrum of (a) 3 and (b) 4	94
III.16	FTIR spectrum of (a) 5 and (b) 6a	94
III.17	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 3	95
III.18	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 4	96
III.19	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 5	97
III.20	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 6a	98
III.21	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 6b	99
III.22	TGA of 4 , 5 and 6 a	100
III.23	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) $F(R)$ versus $hv(eV)$, (c)	102

	$(F(R)hv)^{1/2}$ versus $hv(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)hv)^2$ versus $hv(eV)$ for 3	
III.24	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) F(R) versus hv(eV), (c)	103
	$(F(R)h\upsilon)^{1/2}$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)h\upsilon)^2$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ for 6a	
III.25	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) F(R) versus hv(eV), (c)	105
	$(F(R)hv)^{1/2}$ versus $hv(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)hv)^2$ versus $hv(eV)$ for 5	
III.26	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) F(R) versus hv(eV), (c)	106
	$(F(R)h\upsilon)^{1/2}$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)h\upsilon)^2$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ for 6b	
CH	APTER IV: METAL PYRAZOLE COMPLEX INCORPORATED PM	0
	CLUSTER BASED SOLIDS	
IV.1	Statistical analysis of TMC incorporated PMO cluster based solids	118
	reported in literature during the last two decades	
IV.2	(a) Transition metal substituted Keggin type polyanion by replacing the	119
	central atom and (b) transition metal substituted Keggin type	
	phosphomolybdate by replacing one of the addenda atoms	
IV.3	1-D chains in 7	123
IV.4	(a) Octahedral $\{Zn(pz)_4(H_2O)_2\}^{2+}$ complex links 1-D chains along with	123
	six $(Hpz)^+$ cations to form 2-D sheets (H-bonding interactions are shown	
	in dashed red lines). (b) View along <i>a</i> axis	
IV.5	3-D crystal packing is facilitated by CH π interaction between	124
	neighboring sheets	
IV.6	Zig-zag chains in 8 connected by Cu1 to form 3-D structure of 8	125
IV.7	(a) Asymmetric unit in 9. (b) Tetrameric cluster unit forming 2-D sheet	126
	as shown in (c)	
IV.8	Six coordinated nickel complex of $[Ni(pz)_4Cl_2]$, 10	127
IV.9	(a) Co1 and Co2 complex units covalently link {P ₂ Mo ₅ } clusters into 2-	128
	D sheets. (b) Co3 complex units connect the sheets to form a double	
	sheet	
IV.10	Keggin type polyanion which contains copper as the central atom. Two	130
	protonated terminal oxygen atoms (O6) are shown in cyan	
IV.11	2-D sheet formed connecting polyanions via copper- pyrazole	130
	complexes	
IV.12	The hexameric water cluster in which the OO interactions shown in	131
	solid red lines	

IV.13	FTIR of (a) 7 and (b) 8	132
IV.14	FTIR of (a) 9 and (b) 10	132
IV.15	FTIR of (a) 11 and (b) 12	132
IV.16	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 7	133
IV.17	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 8	134
IV.18	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 9	135
IV.19	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 10	136
IV.20	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 11	137
IV.21	Simulated and Experimental PXRD of 12	138
IV.22	TGA of 7 , 9 and 10	139
СНАР	TER V: REMOVAL OF CATIONIC DYES FROM WATER USING A	APM
V.1	(a) Indexed PXRD pattern (b) FTIR spectrum (c) SEM image and (d)	154
	TGA curve of as-synthesized APM particles	
V.2	UV-Vs spectra of (i) original solution of Methylene Blue (MB) having	156
	$pH = 5.0\pm0.1$ and (ii) MB solution obtained after treatment with APM	
	followed by exposure to dark, sun light or UV for 1 hour. Figures in the	
	inset represent the original solution of MB (Bottle A) and filtrate of	
	Bottle A obtained after treatment with APM followed by exposure to	
	dark, sun light or UV for 1 hour (Bottle B-D) respectively	
V.3	The PXRD pattern of APM before (a) and after treatment with MB	156
	solution collected from (b) Bottle B (c) Bottle C and (d) Bottle D	
V.4	Figure in the inset shows the results obtained for time bound	157
	decolourization of MB (pH = 5.0 ± 0.1).(i) Original dye solution (ii) Dye	
	solution immediately after adding APM. (iii)-(vii) Filtrate collected after	
	0, 15, 30, 45 and 60 minutes respectively	
	(a) and (b) Represent the corresponding UV-Visible spectra of original	
	MB solution i.e. Bottle (i) and filtrate of Bottles (iii-vii) respectively	
V.5	Figure showing the decrease in intensity of absorbance peak of MB	159
	solution ($\lambda_{max} = 660$ nm) upon increasing the amount of APM	
V.6	UV-Visible spectra of 25 mL of 10^{-5} M dye solution having pH =	160
	5.0 ± 0.1 of (a) MB (b) MG (c) MR and (d) EY before (coloured curve)	
	and after (black curve) treatment with 0.125 g of APM. Figure in the	
	inset shows (i) original dye solution (ii) dye solution immediately after	

	adding 0.125 g of APM (iii) filtrate of Bottle ii immediately after 5	
	minutes of stirring	1
V.7	(a) and (b) Dye solutions of MR at pH above and below 5 respectively	162
	with (i) original dye solution (ii) dye solution immediately after adding	1
	0.125 g of APM (iii) filtrate of bottle (ii) immediately after 5 minutes of	1
	stirring. (c) and (d) UV-Visible spectra of dye solutions (i) and (iii) of	1
	MR shown in Figure 7a and 7b respectively.(e) and (f) Structure of MR	1
	at pH above and below 5 respectively	1
V.8	The adsorption/desorption isotherm of APM which resembles that of	164
	Brunauer's Type I isotherm	1
V.9	(a) Crystal structure of APM. The lattice water molecules have been	165
	omitted for clarity. (b) Ion-exchange between $\mathrm{NH_{4^+}}$ ions and cationic	1
	dye moieties	1
V.10	Figure showing the PXRD pattern of (a) as-synthesized APM (b) APM	166
	obtained after 1st cycle of treatment with MB solution (c) APM obtained	1
	after 16 th cycle of treatment with MB solution	1
V.11	Release of ion-exchanged dye moieties in solution upon treatment with	167
	$1M NH_4Cl$ and NH_3 solution. (a) Ion-exchange mechanism for MR. (b)	1
	Ion-exchange mechanism for MB and MG	1
CHA	PTER VI: INVESTIGATIONS USING COMPOSITES BASED ON A	PM
VI.1	(a) FTIR spectrum of APM/PAni composite (b) PXRD pattern of (i)	181
	APM (ii) APM/PAni-composite (iii) PAni (c) SEM image and (d)	1
	EDAX spectrum of APM/PAni-composite	1
VI.2	(a) FTIR spectrum of APM/PNMAni (b) PXRD pattern of (i) APM (ii)	183
	PNMAni and (iii) APM/PNMAni-composite (c) SEM image and (d)	1
	EDAX of APM/PNMAni-composite	1
VI.3	(a) CV of bare GCE and APM coated on GCE. (b) CV of APM/PAni	184
	and APM/PNMAni coated on GCE	1
VI.4	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) $F(R)$ versus $hv(eV)$, (c)	186
	$(F(R)hv)^{1/2}$ versus $hv(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)hv)^2$ versus $hv(eV)$ for APM	
VI.5	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) F(R) versus hu(eV), (c)	187
	$(F(R)h\upsilon)^{1/2}$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)h\upsilon)^2$ versus $h\upsilon(eV)$ for	
	APM/PAni	

VI.6	Plots of (a) Reflectance versus wavelength (b) $F(R)$ versus $hv(eV)$, (c) $(F(R)hv)^{1/2}$ versus $hv(eV)$ and (d) $(F(R)hv)^2$ versus $hv(eV)$ for	188
	APM/PNMAni composite	
VI.7	The UV-Vis spectra for Cr(VI) removal by PAni, PNMAni and APM;	191
	along with 2 ppm Cr(VI) solution	
VI.8	The UV-Vis spectra for Cr(VI) removal by PNMAni with varying	192
	amount	
VI.9	The UV-Vis spectra for Cr(VI) removal by PNMAni at different time	193
	intervals	
VI.10	The UV-Vis spectra for original Cr(VI) solution and for the solution	194
	obtained after adding APM/PNMAni at pH = $1-5 \pm 0.5$	
VI.11	UV-Vis spectra of (a) ammonium heptamolybdate solution and (b)	197
	filtrate collected during composite formation after stirring one hour	

LIST OF SCHEMES

Scheme	TITLE OF SCHEME	Page
No.		No.
I.1	Scheme showing a few examples of isopolyanions and	3
	heteropolyanions of molybdenum	
III.1	Scheme showing the experimental procedure to crystallize solids 3-7	72
IV.1	Scheme showing the experimental procedure to crystallize solids 7-	120
	11	
VI.1	Procedure for the synthesis of APM/PAni and APM/PNMAni	178
VI.2	The scheme for the removal of Cr(VI) using poly(N-methylaniline)	195
VI.3	Scheme showing the mechanism for reduction of Cr(VI) to Cr(III)	196
	using APM/PNMAni composite	