SOURAV LAHA

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Academic Profile

Department of Chemistry, National Institute of Technology Durgapur (NITDurgapur), India

Areas of interest:

- Solid state chemistry.
- Materials chemistry.
- Transition metaloxides, halides, chalcogenides.
- Exploration of new for efficient energy and environmental applications.
- Exfoliation of layered transition metal oxide to nanosheets.
- Electrocatalytic water splitting and CO₂ reduction.
- Supercapacitive and pseudocapacitive energy storage.

Positions and Affiliations:

Assistant Professor June 2022–Present

Place of work: Department of Chemistry, National Institute of Technology Durgapur (NIT Durgapur), India

Ramanujan Fellow

December 2021-June 2022

Place of work: Department of Humanities and Sciences, Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy, Visakhapatnam, India

Postdoctoral Fellow

February 2017-October 2021

Place of work: Department of Nanochemistry, Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research (MPI-

FKF), Stuttgart, Germany

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Bettina V. Lotsch

Doctoral work (Integrated PhD)

August 2010–December 2016

Place of work: Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit (SSCU), Indian Institute of Science (IISc),

Bangalore, India.

Supervisor: (Late) Prof. J. Gopalakrishnan and Prof. S. Natarajan

Thesis Title: Exploring transition metal oxides towards development of new functional materials: Lithium-ion battery cathodes, inorganic pigments and frustrated magneticperovskite oxides

Pre-doctoral:

Obtained Master of Science (Integrated PhD, Chemical Sciences) from IISc, Bangalore in 2016.

MS Project (January 2010–June 2010):

Supervisor: (Late) Prof. J. Gopalakrishnan and Prof. Srinivasan Natarajan

Dissertation Title: "New inorganic chromophores based on chromium and manganese"

Obtained B.Sc. (first class) from Bankura Christian College (The University of Burdwan)in 2008.

Subjects: Chemistry (Honors), Physics and Mathematics (subsidiary subjects),

Bengali, English and Environmental science.

Teaching Experience:

Postgraduate:

- § Organometallic and Bioinorganic Chemistry (Spring, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp
- § Group theory, Applied Electro Chemistry and X-ray structure analysis (Autumn, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp.
- § Spectrophotometric Estimation of Cations and Anions (Laboratory, Autumn, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp.

Undergraduate:

- § Chemistry of elements and Radioactivity, (Spring, Instructor) at NIT Dgp
- § Chemistry in Solution and Solid State Chemistry (Autumn, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp.
- § Atomic Structure and Chemical Bonding (Autumn, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp.
- § Quantitative Estimation of Metal ions in Mixture (Laboratory, Autumn, Co-instructor) at NIT Dop.
- § Engineering Chemistry (B. Tech.), (Spring, Co-instructor) at NIT Dgp
- § Chemistry Laboratory (B. Tech.), (Autumn and spring, Instructor) at NIT Dgp.
- § Nuclear, Wind and Geothermal Energy (Spring 2021-2022, Co-instructor) at IIPE, Visakhapatnam.

Awards and Recognitions

- Selected for Ramanujan Fellowship, awarded by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, August 2021.
- Received Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart scholarship for Postdoctoral position (February, 2017–January, 2019).
- Invited to Universidad Complutense and Universidad CEU San Pablo, Madrid, Spain (EU) to work with Prof. M A Alario-Franco and Prof. F. García-Alvarado's research group at for seven months in 2012.
- ❖ Joint Admission to M.Sc. (JAM)–2008, conducted by Indian Institute of Technology(IIT).
- Integrated Ph.D-2008, conducted by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

Projects:

Ongoing:

Start-up Research Grant (SRG), SERB, DST, India (September 2023) Project titled 'Transition metal oxide nanosheets for efficient and cost-effective green hydrogen production'. Total sanction amount: Rs. 33,00,000/- (Rupees thirty three lakh only).

Completed:

Ramanujan Fellowship (SERB) at IIPE Visakhapatnam (December 2021- June 2022), Total sanctioned amount: Rs. 1,19,00,000/- (Rupees one crore nineteen lakh only).

Research Experiences:

- Inorganic solid state synthesis: Trained in carrying out inorganic reactions using high temperature ceramic method, solution combustion method, sol-gel method forthe synthesis of solids, solid state metathesis reactions, hydrothermal techniques and high throughput synthesis. Also acquainted with sealing evacuated quartz ampoules and handling air sensitive samples in Schlenk line and in glove box.
- Exfoliation of layered materials to nanosheets: Familiar with aqueous exfoliation and intercalating alkali metal ions in layered halides and sulfides underinert atmosphere.
- Electrochemistry: Trained in assembling CR2032 coin-cells and testing.
- Catalysis: Experienced in Electrocatalysis and Photo-electrocatalysis employing Autolab,
 Pine and Ivium electrochemical workstations with both dimensionally stable electrodes and rotating disc electrodes.
- Computational methods: Acquainted with (i) analyzing PXRD data applying 'X'Pert
 Highscore' software, (ii) Rietveld refinement applying 'GSAS-EXPGUI' software, (iii)
 structure-drawing applying 'Diamond' software, simulation of PXRD patterns applying
 'Powdercell' software (iv) analysis of XPS data with by weightedleast-squares fitting method
 employing CasaXPS software.
- X-ray diffraction: Used powder X-ray diffraction technique extensively during Ph.D. and postdoctoral fellowship.
- **UV-Vis and Photoluminescence:** Trained in handling UV-Vis and photoluminescence machine to study luminescence behavior of inorganic oxides.
- **SEM and EDX analysis:** Have hands-on experience to handle FEI ESEM Quanta200 to record SEM images and EDX spectra of non-volatile inorganic compounds.
- Other Techniques: Trained in Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), Infrared spectroscopy (IR), magnetic measurementsusing PPMS and Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).

List of Publications:

- "Prussian Blue Analogues with Na₂Ni_xCo_yMn_zFe(CN)₆-Multimetallic Structures as Positive and Hydrogen Vanadate as Negative Electrodes in Aqueous Na-Ion Batteries for Solar Energy Storage Applications" Pappu Naskar, Biplab Biswas, **Sourav Laha***, Anjan Banerjee*, *Energy Adv.*, **2024**, (Accepted) DOI: 10.1039/D4YA00178H.
- "Exfoliated Cobalt Doped Manganese Oxide Nanosheets: Efficient and Stable Electrocatalyst for Hydrogen Evolution Reaction in Alkaline Medium" Phulladweepa Patra, Sourav Laha*, Somnath Ghosh*, ACS Appl. Energy Mater., 2024, (Accepted); DOI: 10.1021/acsaem.3c03022.
- "Calcium Based Metal-Organic Framework: Detection and Idiosyncratic Removal of Copper by

- Nano-particles Deposition" Pallav Mondal, Bhaskar K. Brahma, Joydeep Ray, Jyothirlatha V. N. Kasu, Avishek Gangopadhyay, Subarna Samanta, **Sourav Laha***, Utpal Adhikari*, *Chem. Eur. J.*, **2024**, (*Accepted*); *DOI:* 10.1002/chem.202400587.
- 4. "Acoustic Shock Wave-Induced Solid-State Fusion of Nanoparticles: A Case Study of the Conversion of One-Dimensional Rod Shape into Three-Dimensional Honeycomb Nanostructures of CdO for High Performance Energy Storage Materials" Sivakumar Aswathappa, Lidong Dai, S. Sahaya Jude Dhas, S. A. Martin Britto Dhas, Sourav Laha, Raju Suresh Kumar, Abdulrahman I. Almansour, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2024, 63, 576-592.
- 5. "An Enduring Na-Ion Solar Battery Configured with Na₂Co_{0.5}Ni_{0.5}Fe(CN)₆ Positive and NaTi₂(PO₄)₃ Negative Electrodes in Na₂SO₄-SiO₂ Hydrogel Electrolyte" Pappu Naskar, Shubhrajyoti Mondal, Biplab Biswas, **Sourav Laha***, Anjan Banerjee*, *J. Electrochem. Soc.*, **2023**, *170*, 090535.
- "Low Cost & Quasi Solid State Na₂Mn_{0.5}Ni_{0.5}Fe(CN)₆//Na_xFe₂O₃ Hybrid Na-Ion Batteries for Solar Energy Storage" Pappu Naskar, Shubhrajyoti Mondal, Biplab Biswas, **Sourav Laha***, Anjan Banerjee*, *Sustainable Energy Fuels*, **2023**, 7, 4189-4201.
- 7. "Resonant Inelastic X-ray Scattering from Electronic Excitations in α-RuCl₃ Nanolayers" Z. Yang, L. Wang, S. Laha, D. Zhao, M. Luo, A. Güth, T. Taniguchi, K. Watanabe, B. V. Lotsch, J. H. Smet, M. Minola, H. Gretarsson, B. Keimer, *Phys. Rev. B*, **2023**, *108*, L041406.
- 8. "The Weyl Semimetals MIrTe₄ (M = Nb, Ta) as Efficient Catalysts for Dye-sensitized Hydrogen Evolution" Manisha Samanta, Hengxin Tan, **Sourav Laha**, Hugo Alejandro Vignolo-González, Lars Grunenberg, Sebastian Bette, Viola Duppel, Peter Schützendübe, Andreas Gouder, Binghai Yan, Bettina V. Lotsch, *Adv. Energy Mater.*, **2023**, *13*, 2300503.
- "High-Performance and Scalable Aqueous Na-Ion Batteries Comprising a Co- Prussian Blue Analogue Framework Positive and Sodium Vanadate Nanorod Negative Electrodes for Solar Energy Storage" Pappu Naskar, Subhrajyoti Debnath, Biplab Biswas, Sourav Laha*, Anjan Banerjee*, ACS Appl. Energy Mater., 2023, 6, 4604-4617.
- 10. "Sonication-Assisted Liquid Exfoliation and Size-Dependent Properties of Magnetic Two-Dimensional α-RuCl₃" Kevin Synnatschke, Martin Jonak, Alexander Storm, **Sourav Laha**, Janis Köster, Julian Petry, Steffen Ott, Beata Szydłowska, Georg S. Duesberg, Ute Kaiser, Rüdiger Klingeler, Bettina Lotsch, Claudia Backes, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, **2023**, *56*, 274001.
- 11. "Morphology Matters: 0D/2D WO₃ Nanoparticle-Ruthenium Oxide Nanosheet Composites for Enhanced Photocatalytic Oxygen Evolution Reaction Rates" Hugo A. Vignolo-González, Andreas Gouder[†], **Sourav Laha**[†], Viola Duppel, Sol Carretero-Palacios, Alberto Jiménez-Solano, Takayoshi Oshima, Peter Schützendübe, Bettina V. Lotsch, *Adv. Energy. Mater.*, **2023**, 13, 2203315. († These authors contributed equally)
- 12. "Rare-earth (Nd and Eu) Induced Structural Transformation and Optical Properties of Brownmillerite-type Sr₂ScGaO₅ Oxide" Tanmay Rom, **Sourav Laha***, Srushti Gadiyaram, Pradip K. Maji, Avijit Kumar Paul*, *J. Solid State Chem.*, **2023**, 317, 123696.
- 13. "Origin of Oscillatory Structures in the Magnetothermal Conductivity of the Putative Kitaev Magnet α-RuCl₃" J. A. N. Bruin, R. R. Claus, Y. Matsumoto, J. Nuss, **S. Laha**, B. V. Lotsch, N. Kurita, H. Tanaka, H. Takagi, *APL Mater*, **2022**, 10, 090703.

- 14. "Proximate Ferromagnetic State in the Kitaev Model Material α-RuCl3"
 H. Suzuki, H. Liu, J. Bertinshaw, K. Ueda, H. Kim, S. Laha, D. Weber, Z. Yang, L.Wang, H. Takahashi, K. Fürsich, M. Minola, B. V. Lotsch, B. J. Kim, H. Yavas, M. Daghofer, J. Chaloupka, G. Khaliullin, H. Gretarsson, B. Keimer, *Nat. Commun.* 2021, 12, 4512.
- 15. "Towards Standardized Photocatalytic Oxygen Evolution Rates using RuO₂@TiO₂ as a Benchmark" Hugo A. Vignolo-González, **Sourav Laha**, Alberto Jiménez-Solano, Takayoshi Oshima, Viola Duppel, Peter Schützendübe, Bettina V. Lotsch, *Matter* **2020**, 3, 464–486.
- 16. "Magnetic Frustration in Partially Ordered Double Perovskites Ln₃Ni₂RuO9 (Ln = La, Nd)" S. Laha, J. Gopalakrishnan, S. Natarajan, J. Romero de Paz, E. Solana-Madruga, A. J. Dos Santos-García, S. García-Martín, O. Fabelo, E. Morán-Miguélez, R. Sáez-Puche, *J. Alloys Compd.* 2019, 806, 1509–1516.
- 17. "Ruthenium Oxide Nanosheets for Enhanced Oxygen Evolution Catalysis in AcidicMedium" **Sourav Laha**, Yonghyuk Lee, Filip Podjaski, Daniel Weber, Viola Duppel, Leslie M. Schoop, Florian Pielnhofer, Kathrin Müller, Ulrich Starke, Karsten Reuter, Bettina V. Lotsch, *Adv. Energy Mater.* **2019**, *9*, 1803795 (**Frontispiece**).
- "IrOOH Nanosheets as Acid Stable Electrocatalyst for the Oxygen Evolution Reaction" Daniel Weber, Leslie M. Schoop, Daniel Wurmbrand, Sourav Laha, Filip Podjaski, Viola Duppel, Kathrin Müller, Ulrich Starke, Bettina V. Lotsch, J. Mater. Chem. A 2018, 6, 21558–21566.
- "Bottom-up Formation of Carbon-Based Structures with Multilevel Hierarchy from MOF– Guest Polyhedra" Tiesheng Wang, Hyun-Kyung Kim, Yingjun Liu, Weiwei Li, James T. Griffiths, Yue Wu, Sourav Laha, Kara D. Fong, Filip Podjaski, Chao Yun, R. Vasant Kumar, Bettina V. Lotsch, Anthony K. Cheetham, Stoyan K. Smoukov, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2018, 140, 6130–6136.
- 20. "Color Tuning in Garnet Oxides: The Role of Tetrahedral Coordination Geometryfor 3d Metal Ions and Ligand–Metal Charge Transfer (Band-Gap Manipulation)" Anupam Bhim, Sourav Laha, Jagannatha Gopalakrishnan, Srinivasan Natarajan, *Chem. Asian J.* 2017, 12, 2734–2743 (Cover Feature, highlighted in Chem Viewsmagazine).
- 21. "Unique Colours of 3d Transition Metal Substituted Lyonsite Molybdates and Their Derivatives: The Role of Multiple Coordination Geometries and Metal–Metal Charge Transfer" **Sourav Laha,** Srinivasan Natarajan, Jagannatha Gopalakrishnan, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2016**, 3883–3891.
- 22. "Stabilization of Tetrahedral (Mn⁵⁺O₄) Chromophore in Ternary Barium Oxides as a Strategy towards Development of new Turquoise/Green Colored Pigments" **Sourav Laha**, Subramani Tamilarasan, Srinivasan Natarajan, Jagannatha Gopalakrishnan, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2016**, *55*, 3508–3514.
- 23. "YIn_{0.9}Mn_{0.1}O₃-ZnO Nano-Pigment Exhibiting Intense Blue Color with Impressive Solar Reflectance" Sheethu Jose, Anaswara Jayaprakash, **Sourav Laha**, S.Natarajan, K. G. Nishanth, M. L. P. Reddy, *Dyes and Pigments* **2016**, *124*, 120–129.
- 24. "Exploring the Colour of 3d Transition-Metal Ions in Trigonal Bipyramidal Coordination: Identification of Purple-Blue (CoO₅) and Beige-Red (NiO₅) Chromophores in LiMgBO₃ Host" Subramani Tamilarasan, **Sourav Laha**, Srinivasan Natarajan, Jagannatha Gopalakrishnan,

- Eur. J. Inorg. Chem. 2016, 288-293.
- 25. "Li₂MnO₃: A Rare Red-Coloured Manganese(IV) Oxide Exhibiting Tunable Red– Yellow– Green Emission" S. Tamilarasan, **Sourav Laha**, S. Natarajan J. Gopalakrishnan, *J. Mater. Chem. C* **2015**, *3*, 4794–4800.
- 26. "Oxygen-participated Electrochemistry of New Lithium-rich Layered Oxides Li₃MRuO₅ (M = Mn, Fe)" **S. Laha**, S. Natarajan, J. Gopalakrishnan, E. Morán, R. Sáez-Puche, M. Á. Alario-Franco, A. J. Dossantos-García, J. C. Pérez-Flores, A. Kuhn, F. García-Alvarado, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2015**, *17*, 3749–3760.
- 27. "Green Colored Nano-Pigments Derived from Y₂BaCuO₅: NIR Reflective Coatings"S. Jose, A. Prakash, **S. Laha**, S. Natarajan, M. L. P. Reddy, *Dyes and Pigments* **2014**, *107*, 118–126.
- 28. "Li₃MRuO₅ (M = Co, Ni), New Lithium-Rich Layered Oxides Related to LiCoO₂: Promising Electrochemical Performance for Possible Application as Cathode Materials in Lithium Ion Batteries" **S. Laha,** E. Morán, R. Sáez-Puche, M. Á. Alario-Franco, A. J. Dossantos-Garcia, E. Gonzalo, A. Kuhn, S. Natarajan, J. Gopalakrishnan, F. García-Alvarado, *J. Mater. Chem. A.* **2013**, *1*, 10686–10692.
- 29. "New Rocksalt-Related Oxides Li₃M₂RuO₆ (M = Co, Ni): Synthesis, Structure, Magnetism and Electrochemistry" **S. Laha,** E. Morán, R. Sáez-Puche, M. Á. Alario-Franco, A. J. Dossantos-Garcia, E. Gonzalo, A. Kuhn, F. García-Alvarado, T. Sivakumar, S. Tamilarasan, S. Natarajan, J. Gopalakrishnan, *J. Solid State Chem.***2013**, *203*, 160–165.
- 30. "Ba₃(P_{1-x}Mn_xO₄)₂: Blue/Green Inorganic Materials Based on Tetrahedral Mn(V)" **Sourav Laha**, Rohit Sharma, S. V. Bhat, M. L. P. Reddy, J. Gopalakrishnan, S. Natarajan, *Bull. Mater. Sci.* **2011**, *34*, 1257-1262.

Presentations

Oral presentations:

- Prussian blue analogues to oxides: Exploration of transition metal-based materials for efficient and cost-effective energy applications, A short-invited talk given in a national conference on 'Recent Trends in Chemical Science and Technology (RTCST-2024)' By IIT-Patna, 1st – 2nd March 2024.
- 2. New Energy Materials Based on Transition Metal Oxides: Lithium-ion BatteryCathodes and Electrocatalysts for Water Oxidation, An invited talk given in an international webinar on 'Sparking Factes of Chemistry', 27th February 2021 at Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu, India.
- 3. Exploring Transition Metal Oxides Towards Development of New FunctionalMaterials: Lithium-ion Battery Cathodes, Inorganic Pigments and Frustrated Magnetic Perovskite Oxides, Thesis colloquium on 2nd June, 2016 at Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, IISc, Bangalore.
- 4. On the Synthesis of Li₃M₂RuO₆ (M = Co, Ni) and Their Structural, Magnetic and Electrochemical Characterization, A talk given in *VII eme Rencontre Franco-Espagnole sur la Chimie et la Physique de l'Etat Solide*, 14th June, 2012 inParis, France.
- 5. Synthesis of Perovskite Related Solids by Metathesis Reactions: SomeSurprising Results, A talk given in Unit day and in-house symposium, 15th December, 2011 at Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, IISc, Bangalore.

Poster presentation:

- 1. 'Iridium Oxide and Ruthenium Oxide Nanosheets for Enhanced Oxygen EvolutionCatalysis in Acidic Medium'
 - By **Sourav Laha**, Daniel Weber, Yonghyuk Lee, Filip Podjaski, Leslie M. Schoop, Karsten Reuter and Bettina V. Lotsch in European Materials Research Society Spring meeting 2019, 27th 31st May, 2019 in Nice, France.
- 2. 'Tailored 2D electrocatalysts for hydrogen and oxygen evolution in acidic media' By Sourav Laha, Filip Podjaski, Daniel Weber, Leslie M. Schoop and Bettina V. Lotsch in Scientific Advisory Board Meeting 2018, 12th 14th November, 2018 at Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart, Germany
- 3. 'Ba₃(P_{1-x}Mn_xO₄)₂: Blue/Green Inorganic Materials Based on Tetrahedral Mn(V)' by Sourav Laha, Rohit Sharma, S. V. Bhat, M. L. P. Reddy, J. Gopalakrishnan and S. Natarajan in Unit day and in-house symposium, 20th November, 2010 at SolidState and Structural Chemistry Unit, IISc, Bangalore.

Conferences and Workshops:

- 1. National conference on 'Recent Trends in Chemical Science and Technology (RTCST-2024)' By IIT-Patna, 1st 2nd March 2024.
- 2. International Conference on "Frontiers in Solid State Research" Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, 17th 18th July, 2019 in Stuttgart.
- 3. European Materials Research Society Spring meeting 2019, 27th 31st May, in Nice, France.
- 4. Scientific Advisory Board Meeting 2018, 12th 14th November at Max PlanckInstitute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart, Germany.
- 5. JSPS Core-to-Core Workshop "Novel Quantum and Functional Materials" Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, 07th 09th August, 2017 in Stuttgart.
- 6. International Conference on "Directions in Materials Science" Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, 30th Nov 01st Dec, 2013 in Bangalore,India.
- 7. VII eme Rencontre Franco-Espagnole sur la Chimie et la Physique de l'Etat Solide,13th 15th June, 2012 in Paris, France.

Extracurricular Activities

- Member of the 'Convocation Committee' of the first convocation of IIPE, Visakhapatnam (held on 21st January 2022).
- Conducted regular group seminars at Department of Nanochemistry, MPI-FKF.
- Regularly participate in endurance running (10 Km, half marathon, marathon) and triathlon events.
- Served as convener Swimming Club, IISc (2014-2016).
- Successfully organized, participated and won medals in different sports events such as

athletics, swimming and triathlon at IISc.

- Served as a student representative at SSCU, IISc (2011-12) and as a member of governing body of Students' Council, IISc (2014-15).
- ❖ Volunteered in many IISc events including convocations.

References

1. Prof. S. Natarajan

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