## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Size induced ferromagnetism in pristine Indium oxide nanoparticles

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Please cite this article as: S. Qaseem, S.R. Ali, M. Naeem, S. Rizvi, Size induced ferromagnetism in pristine Indium oxide nanoparticles, <i>Applied Surface Science</i> (2015), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.apsusc.2015.01.012

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## **Highlights:**

- Pristine In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles of different diameters were synthesized
- Polycrystalline cubic bixbyite structure of In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was observed.
- The blue-shift and defect state of PL spectra confirms the finite size effect of In<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles.
- In2O3 nanoparticles exhibit room temperature ferromagnetism (RTFM) as a size of the particle decreases below a certain value due increasing concentration of surface defects
- The observed RFTM is explained within the framework of defect mediated or  $d^0$  ferromagnetism originating from defect-related hybridization at the Fermi level.

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