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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Observation of oxo-bridged yttrium in TiO<sub>2</sub> nanostructures and their enhanced photocatalytic hydrogen generation under UV/Visible light irradiations

Chandan H Ravikumar,<sup>a</sup> M. Sakar,<sup>a</sup> Ashesh Mahto,<sup>a, #</sup> Ravishankar Thammadihalli Nanjundaiah,<sup>a, #</sup> Ramakrishnappa Thippeswamy,<sup>b</sup> Sergio Ribeiro Teixeira <sup>c</sup> and R Geetha Balakrishna <sup>a, \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Centre for Nano and Material Sciences, Jain University, Jain Global Campus, Kanakapura, Ramanagaram, Bangalore - 562112, India

<sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry, BMS Institute of Technology and Management, Avalahalli, Doddaballapura Main road, Yelahanka, Bangalore -560064

<sup>c</sup> Laboratory of Thin Films and Nanostructure Fabrication (L3FNano), Institute of Physics, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, UFRGS, P.O. Box 15051, 91501-970, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

Note: #Equal contributions

\*Corresponding Author email: br.geetha@jainuniversity.ac.in

#### Highlights

- Synthesis of yttrium doped TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles (NPs) and nanorods (NRs) through a facile wet chemical method.
- The doped Y ions are found to be oxo-bridged with the host  $TiO_2$  through Y-O-Ti like formation that confirmed from their XRD and XPS studies
- The NPs of Y:TiO<sub>2</sub> showed increased photocatalytic hydrogen production efficiency
- The observed efficiency of NPs is attributed to their three-dimensional confinement

#### Abstract

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