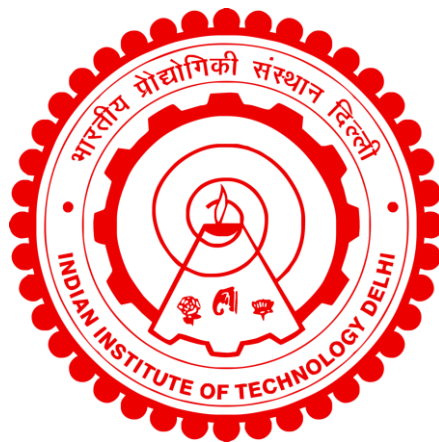


STUDIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOACTIVE POLYCAPROLACTONE BASED HYBRID NANOFIBERS

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Studies on the Development of Bioactive Polycaprolactone Based Hybrid Nanofibers

by

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Submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of

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Dedicated to ...
My Father
-who always believe in me

Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Studies on the Development of Bioactive Polycaprolactone Based Hybrid Nanofibers” submitted by Ms. Vandana Kumari to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of degree Doctor of Philosophy, is a record of bonafide research work carried out by her. Ms. Vandana diligently worked under our guidance, meeting all requirements for the submission of this thesis, which meets the standards set for a Ph.D. degree at this institution. The results included within this thesis are entirely original and have not been previously submitted, either in part or whole, to any other academic institution for the conferral of a degree or diploma.

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Abstract

Polycaprolactone is an electrospinnable polymer that holds significant importance in the healthcare field due to its biodegradable nature and biocompatibility. PCL makes an intriguing substrate for human healthcare applications because of its biodegradability and compatibility with the biological environment. The high viscoelastic properties and low melting temperature make it easy to fabricate into various shapes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved it for different biomedical applications including contraceptive devices, meniscus regeneration, dental implants, osteoinductive, vascular biomaterial, tissue engineering and wound healing.

The use of polycaprolactone (PCL) is limited by its poor hydrophilicity, lack of functional groups, and inadequate cell affinity due to the absence of cell recognition sites. Without physical, chemical, or biological modifications, PCL's effectiveness is significantly reduced, which calls for the critical need for such modifications. This can be achieved by preparing PCL biocomposites, where polysaccharide, protein and bioactive agents bring favourable physiochemical changes to allow protein adsorption, cell adherence and proliferation on its surface.

Polycaprolactone (PCL) has been electrospun with various materials such as silk, gelatin, chitosan, collagen, and hyaluronic acid for wound healing applications. However, one of the least explored combinations has been a blend of PCL with kappa carrageenan (kC). kC is a sulphated linear polysaccharide derived from red seaweeds, known for its biocompatibility, non-immunogenicity, and biodegradability. Its structural similarity to native glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) found in the skin's extracellular matrix (ECM) makes kC a candidate which can be explored and was chosen for this study. The incorporation of the anionic

surfactant sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate (AOT) to enhance the miscibility between PCL and kappa carrageenan (kC) has been explored.

In order to provide antimicrobial, antioxidant and therapeutic properties, different herbal extracts were incorporated into PCL/ kC nanofiber. The presence of several phytochemicals helps in the eradication of bacteria, providing antimicrobial properties along with antioxidant properties. It also provides medicinal properties and facilitates the healing of wounds. The herbal- extracts investigated for this study include *T. arjuna* (hydroalcoholic extract), *B. monnieri* (methanolic extract) and *C. asiatica* (methanolic extract).

This study focuses on developing a matrix by blending PCL and kC. The matrix aims to combine the mechanical strength of PCL with the cytocompatibility of kC. AOT is employed to improve the miscibility between PCL and kC while serving as a co-spinning agent. This dual role helps reduce the mean fiber diameter and minimize bead defects during the electrospinning process. The herbal drug extracts were incorporated into optimized PCL/ kC /AOT nanofibers by blending them with a polymer solution and subsequently, electrospun them. The drug release from the matrix was examined, and the release mechanism was investigated by using the Korsmeyer-Peppas (KP) model. The antioxidant and antimicrobial properties were examined to assess the potential of the drug-loaded nanofibers as a suitable wound-healing matrix. Further, the biocompatibility of nanofibers was scrutinized by the MTT assay and cell staining. The biocomposite matrix demonstrated promising potential to be used as a wound healing application.

PCL is a hydrophobic synthetic polymer with good mechanical strength. kC is a hydrophilic natural polymer with good cytocompatibility. Nevertheless, it has insufficient mechanical strength and electrospinnability. Achieving homogeneous, bead-free nanofibers by blending

hydrophobic PCL with hydrophilic kC presented a significant challenge. To enhance compatibility between these materials, a surfactant was incorporated. Simultaneously, it enhanced the physiochemical properties of nanofiber.

The herbal drugs have several medicinal properties that are suitable for wound healing, tissue engineering, and drug delivery. However, loading herbal extract without losing its bioactivity in nanofiber is difficult, as high voltage is applied to form nanofiber. Hence, the challenges in incorporation of herbal extract and its bioactivity were investigated and have been reported in the thesis.

सार

पॉलीकैप्रोलैक्टोन एक इलेक्ट्रोस्पिनेबल पॉलिमर है जो अपनी बायोडिग्रेडेबल प्रकृति और बायोकम्पैटिबिलिटी के कारण स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण महत्व रखता है। पीसीएल अपनी बायोडिग्रेडेबिलिटी और जैविक पर्यावरण के साथ अनुकूलता के कारण मानव स्वास्थ्य देखभाल अनुप्रयोगों के लिए एक दिलचस्प सब्सट्रेट बनाता है। उच्च विस्कोइलास्टिक गुण और कम पिघलने का तापमान विभिन्न आकारों में निर्माण करना आसान बनाता है। खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन (एफडीए) ने गर्भनिरोधक उपकरणों, मेनिस्कस पुनर्जनन, दंत प्रत्यारोपण, ऑस्टियोइंडक्टिव, संवहनी बायोमटेरियल, ऊतक इंजीनियरिंग और घाव भरने सहित विभिन्न बायोमेडिकल अनुप्रयोगों के लिए इसे मंजूरी दे दी है। पॉलीकैप्रोलैक्टोन (पीसीएल) का उपयोग इसकी खराब हाइड्रोफिलिसिटी, कार्यात्मक समूहों की कमी, सैल्स की चिपकने की शक्ति की अनुपस्थिति के कारण और अपर्याप्त सेल आत्मीयता के कारण सीमित है। भौतिक, रासायनिक या जैविक संशोधनों के बिना, पीसीएल की प्रभावशीलता काफी कम हो जाती है, जिसके लिए ऐसे संशोधनों की महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता होती है। इसे पीसीएल बायोकंपोजिट तैयार करके प्राप्त किया जा सकता है, जहां पॉलीसेकेराइड, प्रोटीन और बायोएक्टिव एजेंट, प्रोटीन चिपकने की शक्ति, कोशिका पालन और इसकी सतह पर प्रसार की अनुमति देने के लिए अनुकूल भौतिक रासायनिक परिवर्तन लाते हैं। पॉलीकैप्रोलैक्टोन (पीसीएल) को घाव भरने के अनुप्रयोगों के लिए रेशम, जिलेटिन, काइटोसन, कोलेजन और हाइलूरोनिक एसिड जैसी विभिन्न सामग्रियों के साथ इलेक्ट्रोइस्पिन किया गया है। हालाँकि, सबसे कम खोजे गए संयोजनों में से एक कप्पा कैरेजेनन (केसी) के साथ पीसीएल का मिश्रण रहा है। केसी लाल समुद्री शैवाल से प्राप्त एक सल्फेटेड रैखिक पॉलीसेकेराइड है, जो अपनी जैव-अनुकूलता, गैर-इम्यूनोजेनेसिटी और बायोडिग्रेडेबिलिटी के लिए जाना जाता है। त्वचा के बाह्य मैट्रिक्स (ईसीएम) में पाए जाने वाले मूल ग्लाइकोसामिनोग्लाइकेन्स (जीएजी) के साथ इसकी संरचनात्मक समानता केसी को एक

उम्मीदवार बनाती है जिसे खोजा जा सकता है और इस अध्ययन के लिए चुना गया था। पीसीएल और कप्पा कैरेजेनन (केसी) के बीच मिश्रणीयता को बढ़ाने के लिए आयनिक सर्फैक्टेंट सोडियम डाइऑक्टाइलसल्फोस्यूसिनेट (एओटी) के समावेश का पता लगाया गया है। रोगाणुरोधी, एंटीऑक्सीडेंट और चिकित्सीय गुण प्रदान करने के लिए, विभिन्न हर्बल अर्क को पीसीएल/केसी नैनोफाइबर में शामिल किया गया था। कई फाइटोकेमिकल्स की मौजूदगी बैक्टीरिया के उन्मूलन में मदद करती है, जो एंटीऑक्सीडेंट गुणों के साथ रोगाणुरोधी गुण प्रदान करती है। साथ ही, यह औषधीय गुण प्रदान करता है और घावों के उपचार में सहायता करता है। इस अध्ययन के लिए जांचे गए हर्बल अर्क में टी. अर्जुन (हाइड्रोअल्कोहलिक अर्क), बी. मोनिएरी (मेथनॉलिक अर्क) और सी. एशियाटिका (मेथनॉलिक अर्क) शामिल हैं। यह अध्ययन पीसीएल और केसी को मिश्रित करके एक मैट्रिक्स विकसित करने पर केंद्रित है। मैट्रिक्स का लक्ष्य पीसीएल की यांत्रिक शक्ति को केसी की साइटोकॉम्पैटिबिलिटी के साथ जोड़ना है। एओटी को सह-कटाई एजेंट के रूप में कार्य करते हुए पीसीएल और केसी के बीच मिसिबिलिटी में सुधार करने के लिए नियोजित किया जाता है। यह दोहरी भूमिका इलेक्ट्रोस्पिनिंग प्रक्रिया के दौरान फाइबर व्यास को कम करने और बीड बनने की प्रक्रिया के दोष को कम करने में मदद करती है। हर्बल दवा के अर्क को पॉलिमर के साथ मिश्रित करके अनुकूलित पीसीएल/केसी/एओटी नैनोफाइबर में शामिल किया गया और बाद में, उन्हें इलेक्ट्रोइस्पिन किया गया। मैट्रिक्स से दवा रिलीज की जांच की गई, और कोर्समेयर-पेप्स (केपी) मॉडल का उपयोग करके रिलीज तंत्र की जांच की गई। उपयुक्त घाव भरने वाले मैट्रिक्स के रूप में दवा से भरे नैनोफाइबर की क्षमता का आकलन करने के लिए एंटीऑक्सीडेंट और रोगाणुरोधी गुणों की जांच की गई। इसके अलावा, एमटीटी परख और सेल स्टेनिंग द्वारा नैनोफाइबर की जैव अनुकूलता की जांच की गई। बायोकम्पोजिट मैट्रिक्स घाव भरने वाले अनुप्रयोग के रूप में उपयोग किए जाने की आशाजनक क्षमता प्रदर्शित करता है। पीसीएल अच्छी यांत्रिक शक्ति वाला एक हाइड्रोफोबिक सिंथेटिक पॉलिमर है। केसी अच्छी साइटोकॉम्पैटिबिलिटी वाला एक हाइड्रोफिलिक प्राकृतिक बहुलक है। फिर भी, इसमें

अपर्याप्त यांत्रिक शक्ति और इलेक्ट्रोस्पिनबिलिटी है। हाइड्रोफोबिक पीसीएल को हाइड्रोफिलिक केसी के साथ मिश्रित करके सजातीय, मनका-मुक्त नैनोफाइबर प्राप्त करना एक महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती पेश करता है। इन सामग्रियों के बीच अनुकूलता बढ़ाने के लिए, एक सर्फैक्टेंट को शामिल किया गया था। साथ ही, यह नैनोफाइबर के भौतिक रासायनिक गुणों को बढ़ाता है। हर्बल दवाओं में कई औषधीय गुण होते हैं जो घाव भरने, ऊतक इंजीनियरिंग और दवा वितरण के लिए उपयुक्त होते हैं। हालाँकि, नैनोफाइबर में अपनी जैव सक्रियता खोए बिना हर्बल अर्क को लोड करना मुश्किल है, क्योंकि नैनोफाइबर बनाने के लिए उच्च वोल्टेज लागू किया जाता है। इसलिए, हर्बल अर्क और इसकी जैव सक्रियता को शामिल करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों की जांच की गई।

Table of Contents

Certificate	í
Acknowledgements.....	ííí
Abstract	νίí
List of Figures	xxíν
List of Tables.....	xxxíí
Abbreviations	xxxííí
<i>Chapter I: Introduction and Literature Review</i>	1
1.1 Introduction.....	3
1.2 PCL as a Biocompatible Material	4
1.3 Modification of PCL NFs by Different Techniques.....	6
1.3.1 Hydrolysis.....	6
1.3.2 Plasma.....	7
1.3.3 Immobilization	8
1.3.4 Layer by Layer coating.....	8
1.4 Modification of PCL NFs by using Biopolymers	10
1.4.1 PCL- Chitosan	10
1.4.2 PCL- Collagen.....	11
1.4.3 PCL- Cellulose Acetate	12
1.4.4 PCL- Silk Fibroin	13

1.4.5	PCL- Gelatin.....	13
1.4.6	PCL- Hyaluronic acid.....	14
1.5	Risk of Infection	16
1.6	Herbs: as a bioactive agent.....	16
1.6.1	Herbs-loaded PCL NFs.....	17
1.7	Applications of PCL Bio-composites in Human Healthcare.....	20
1.7.1	Antimicrobial materials.....	20
1.7.2	Wound Healing.....	22
1.7.3	Bone Tissue Engineering	24
1.7.4	Drug Delivery	26
1.8	Research Gap and motivation for the present work.....	28
1.8.1	Electrospinning.....	29
	(a) Working Principle.....	29
1.8.2	Kappa Carrageenan.....	30
1.8.3	Surfactant	31
1.8.4	Bioactive Properties	32
1.9	Objective of the Thesis	34
1.10	Format of the Thesis	34

Chapter II: Development and Optimization of Polycaprolactone Nanofibers.....55

2.1 Introduction..... 57

2.2	Materials and Methods	58
2.2.1	Materials.....	58
2.2.2	Rheology.....	58
2.2.3	Electrospinning of Polycaprolactone	59
2.2.4	Characterization: Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).....	60
2.3	Results and Discussion	60
2.3.1	Rheology.....	61
2.3.2	Optimization of Polycaprolactone Concentration.....	62
2.3.2.1	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	62
2.3.2.1	Mean Fiber Diameter and its Distribution	63
2.3.3	Optimization of Flow Rate.....	64
2.3.3.1	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	64
2.3.3.2	Mean Fiber Diameter and its Distribution	66
2.3.4	Optimization of Distance between Collector and nozzle.....	66
2.3.4.1	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	66
2.3.4.2	Mean Fiber Diameter and its Distribution	68
2.3.5	Optimization of Applied Voltage	69
2.3.5.1	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	69
2.3.5.2	Mean Fiber Diameter and its Distribution	70
2.4	Conclusion	71
	References:	73

<i>Chapter III: Development and Characterization of PCL- kC Nanofibers</i>	77
3.1 Introduction	79
3.2 Materials and Methods	80
3.2.1 Materials	80
3.2.2 Optimization of solvent.....	80
3.2.3 Preparation of PCL/ kC solution.....	80
3.2.3.1 Characterization of solution.....	81
3.2.3.2 Fabrication of PCL/ kC nanofibers.....	81
3.2.4 Characterization of Nanofibers	81
3.2.4.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	81
3.2.4.2 Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).....	82
3.2.4.3 Energy Dispersive X-RAY (EDX) Mapping	82
3.2.4.4 Fourier transforms infrared spectroscopy (FTIR).....	82
3.2.4.5 X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)	82
3.2.4.6 Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)	82
3.2.4.7 Wettability measurement.....	83
3.2.4.8 Water Uptake.....	83
3.2.4.9 Mechanical Strength	83
3.3 Results and Discussion	84

3.3.1	Rheological and zeta potential study of PCL/ kC solution	85
3.3.2	Morphological analysis of nanofibers and its characterization.....	87
3.3.3	Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).....	88
3.3.4	Energy dispersive X-ray (EDX) Mapping	89
3.3.5	Fourier Transform Infrared structure (FTIR).....	89
3.3.6	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	90
3.3.7	Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).....	91
3.3.8	Wettability.....	92
3.3.9	Water Uptake.....	93
3.3.10	Mechanical Properties.....	94
3.4	Conclusion	95
	References	96
	<i>Chapter IV: Development and Characterization of PCL/ Surfactant Nanofibers.....</i>	<i>102</i>
4.1	Introduction.....	104
4.2	Materials and Methods.....	105
4.2.1	Materials	106
4.2.2	Preparation of Surfactant modified PCL NFs.....	106
4.2.3	Viscosity	106
4.2.4	Zeta Potential.....	106

4.2.5	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).....	107
4.2.6	Energy Dispersive X-RAY (EDX) Mapping.....	107
4.2.7	Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).....	107
4.2.8	Wettability measurement.....	107
4.2.9	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD).....	108
4.2.10	Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC).....	108
4.2.11	Thermogravimetric Analyser (TGA).....	108
4.3	Results and Discussion.....	109
4.3.1	Viscosity.....	109
4.3.2	Zeta Potential.....	110
4.3.3	Electrospun PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 NFs.....	111
4.3.4	Energy Dispersive X-RAY (EDX) Mapping.....	114
4.3.5	Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM).....	115
4.3.6	FTIR.....	116
4.3.7	Wettability measurement.....	117
4.3.8	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD).....	118
4.3.9	Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC).....	118
4.3.10	Thermogravimetric Analyser (TGA).....	120

4.4 Conclusion	121
References.....	122
<i>Chapter V: Development, Optimization and Characterization of Hybrid PCL Nanofibers.....</i>	
<i>127</i>	<i>127</i>
5.1. Introduction.....	129
5.2. Materials and Methods.....	130
5.2.1. Materials	130
5.2.2. Optimization of AOT Concentration	131
5.2.3. Preparation of Hybrid Solution.....	131
5.2.4. Characterization of Solution Parameters including Viscosity and Zeta Potential .	131
5.2.5. Preparation of PCL/ kC/ AOT (Hybrid) NFs	132
5.2.6. Characterization of Hybrid Nanofibers.....	132
5.2.7. Preparation of Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS)	132
5.2.8 Sustainability of Hybrid Nanofiber in PBS.....	133
(a) Morphological analysis of NFs by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).....	133
(b) Energy Dispersive X-RAY (EDX) Mapping	133
(c) Measurement of pH.....	134
(d) Fourier Transform Infrared Structure (FTIR)	134
(e) XRD Analysis.....	134
5.3. Results and Discussion.....	135
5.3.1. Optimization of AOT Concentration	135

5.3.2.	Characterization of Hybrid Solution.....	136
5.3.3.	Optimization of Electrospinning Parameters.....	137
5.3.3.1.	Optimization of PCL: kC ratio by SEM analysis of Hybrid NFs.....	137
5.3.3.2.	Optimization of Distance.....	139
5.3.3.3.	Optimization of Flow Rate.....	140
5.3.3.4.	Optimization of Voltage.....	141
5.3.4.	AFM Analysis.....	143
5.3.5.	EDX Mapping.....	143
5.3.6.	FTIR Analysis.....	144
5.3.7.	XRD.....	145
5.3.8.	Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC).....	146
5.3.9.	Mechanical Strength.....	147
5.3.10.	Wettability.....	149
5.3.11.	Water Uptake percentage.....	150
5.3.12.	Sustainability of Hybrid Nanofibers.....	150
(a)	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).....	151
(b)	Measurement of pH.....	152
(c)	FTIR.....	153
(d)	X-Ray Diffraction (XRD).....	154
5.4.	Conclusion.....	155
	References.....	156

<i>Chapter VI: Drug release study of Herbal extract incorporated PCL Hybrid Nanofibers</i>	162
6.1 Introduction	164
6.2 Materials and Methods	165
6.2.1 Materials	165
6.2.2 Preparation of Herbal extracts	166
a) <i>T. arjuna</i> extracts	166
b) <i>B. momneri</i> and <i>C. asiatica</i> extract.....	166
6.2.3 Nomenclature Used in This Study for Herbal Extracts.....	166
6.2.4 Optimization of Hydroalcoholic Concentration of Herbal Extracts	167
1) Bacterial Culture Preparation.....	167
2) Colony Counting Assay	167
6.2.5 Incorporation and preparation of herbal extracts-loaded Hybrid NFs.....	168
6.2.6 Morphological Analysis of Drug loaded NFs	168
6.2.7 <i>In-vitro</i> drug loading and release mechanism	169
a) Drug loaded concentration.....	169
b) <i>Invitro</i> drug release	169
c) Drug release kinetic studies	170
6.2.8 Morphological analysis of NFs after drug release	170
6.3 Results and Discussions	171
6.3.1 Optimization of Hydroalcoholic Concentration of Herbal Extracts	171

6.3.2. Morphological Analysis of Drug loaded NFs	172
6.3.2 Drug Loaded in Hybrid NFs	176
6.3.4. In-vitro Drug release	178
6.3.5. Drug Release Mechanism - Korsmeyer Peppas (KP) models	180
6.3.6. Analysis of NFs after drug release.....	181
6.4 Conclusions.....	183
References.....	184

Chapter VII: Antioxidant, Antimicrobial and Cytocompatibility study of Herbal PCL Hybrid Nanofibers

7.1 Introduction.....	191
7.2 Materials and Methods.....	192
7.2.1. Materials	192
7.2.2. Preparation of Nanofibers	192
7.2.3. Antioxidant Activity- DPPH.....	193
7.2.4. Sterilization of Nanofibers	194
7.2.5. Antimicrobial Study:.....	194
7.2.5.1. Colony Counting Assay	194
7.2.5.2. Bacterial Cell Morphology	194
7.2.5.3. Bacterial Cell Adhesion	195
7.2.5.4. Microbial Inhibition.....	195

7.2.6. Biocompatibility of Herbal-Loaded Nanofibers	195
7.2.6.1 Cell Culturing	196
7.2.6.2. MTT Assay	196
7.2.6.3 Cell Staining by Calcein-AM and Propidium Iodide	196
7.3. Results and Discussion.....	196
7.3.1. Antioxidant Activity- DPPH	197
7.3.2. Antimicrobial Study:	200
7.3.2.1. Colony Counting Assay.....	200
7.3.2.2. Bacterial Cell Morphology	206
7.3.2.3. Bacterial Cell Adhesion	208
7.3.2.4. Microbial inhibition	210
7.3.3. Cytocompatibility	211
7.4. Conclusion	214
References.....	216
<i>Chapter VIII: Summary and Future Prospects.....</i>	<i>223</i>
8.1 Summary	225
8.2 Future Prospective	228
8.3 Conclusion	228

List of Figures

Chapter 1

Figure 1. 1 Different applications of biocompatible PCL.....	4
Figure 1. 2 Structure of PCL.....	5
Figure 1. 3 Substrate modification by Hydrolysis method	6
Figure 1. 4 Modification of substrate by Plasma treatment	7
Figure 1. 5 Modification of PCL substrate by immobilization method	8
Figure 1. 6 Modification of substrate by layer-by-layer method	8
Figure 1. 7 Modification of PCL by using different biopolymers	10
Figure 1. 8 A. Different types of phytochemicals are present in the herbal plant extract. B. Killing mechanism of bacteria, followed by phytochemicals. C. Different biomedical applications of herbal materials	15
Figure 1. 9 Different approaches by which drugs are loaded in nanofiber: A. Drug loading methods before electrospinning a. Blend electrospinning, b. multi-jet electrospinning, c. coaxial electrospinning, and d. emulsion electrospinning. B. Drug loading methods after electrospinning. C. Different types of drug release mechanisms loaded in nanofibers.	27
Figure 1. 10 Schematic illustration of fabrication of PCL based matrix to overcome its limitation by using kC (for cytocompatibility) and herbal extract (for antioxidant and antimicrobial properties).....	28
Figure 1. 11 A schematic representation of electrospinning machine.....	29
Figure 1. 12 A. The digital image of red seaweeds from which k- Carrageen is prepared. B. The chemical structure of kC.....	30

Chapter 2

Figure 2. 1 Viscosity of 6%, 10%, 12%, 14% and 16% of PCL.....	61
--	----

Figure 2. 2 SEM images of 6%, 10%, 12%, 14% and 16% of PCL at 5000 X magnifications	62
Figure 2. 3 Fiber diameter distribution of PCL at different concentration varying between 6% to 16%.	63
Figure 2. 4 Mean fiber diameter of PCL at 6%, 10%, 12%, 14% and 16 %.....	64
Figure 2. 5 SEM images of 10% PCL when flow rate is varied between 0.6 to 1.6 mL/h at 5000X magnifications	65
Figure 2. 6 Fiber diameter distribution of 10% PCL, when rate of flow varies between 0.6 ml/ h to 1.6 mL/h.....	65
Figure 2. 7 Mean fiber diameter of 10% PCL when flow rate is varied between 0.6 to 1.6 mL/h	66
Figure 2. 8 SEM images of 10% PCL when distance between collector and nozzle was varied between 8 to 20 cm, at 5000X magnifications.....	67
Figure 2. 9 Fiber diameter distribution of 10% PCL when distance between collector and nozzle was varied between 8 to 20 cm.	68
Figure 2. 10 Mean Fiber Diameter of 10% PCL when distance between collector and nozzle was varied between 8 to 20 cm	68
Figure 2. 11 SEM images of 10% PCL when applied voltage is varied between 10 to 30 kV, at 5000 X magnifications.....	69
Figure 2. 12 Fiber diameter distribution of 10% PCL when applied voltage is varied between 10 to 30 kV.....	70
Figure 2. 13 Mean fiber diameter of 10% PCL when applied voltage is varied between 10 to 30 kV.....	70

Chapter 3

Figure 3. 1 Viscosity of PCL/ kC solution at concentration of 95:05, 90:10 and 85: 15	85
Figure 3. 2 Zeta Potential of PCL/ kC solution at concentration of 95:05, 90:10 and 85: 15 .	86
Figure 3. 3 SEM images and Mean fiber diameter distribution of PCL/ kC nanofibers at different concentrations (95:05, 90:10, and 85: 15) at 500X magnifications	86
Figure 3. 4 Mean fiber diameter of PCL/ kC at different ratios: 95:05, 90:10 and 85:15.	87
Figure 3. 5 Three- dimensional AFM images of PCL and. PCL/ kC nanofibers. Average roughness (Ra) and root mean square roughness (Rq) of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers	88
Figure 3. 6 EDX mapping of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers at 10,000 X magnifications	89
Figure 3. 7 FTIR spectra of pristine kC , PCL, and PCL/ kC matrix	90
Figure 3. 8 XRD pattern of PCL and PCL/ kC matrix.....	91
Figure 3. 9 DSC thermograms of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers.....	91
Figure 3. 10 Digital images of the contact angle of A.PCL and B. PCL/ kC nanofibers	93
Figure 3. 11 Water uptake study of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers for 24	93
Figure 3. 12 Stress - Strain curves of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers.....	94
Figure 3. 13 Tensile strength, B. Breaking stress and C. Young's modulus of PCL and PCL/ kC nanofibers	95

Chapter 4

Figure 4. 1 Viscosity of PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 solutions.....	109
Figure 4. 2 Zeta Potential of PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 solutions at 5%, 10% and 15%.	110
Figure 4. 3 SEM images of PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 at 5%, 10% and 15% (Magnifications: 5,000 X).	111

Figure 4. 4 Fiber Diameter Distribution of PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 NFs at different concentrations (5%, 10% and 15%).....	112
Figure 4. 5 Mean Fiber Diameter of PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100 NFs at different concentrations (5%, 10% and 15%).....	113
Figure 4. 6 An illustration of the NFs formation. (A) the structure of PCL, AOT, and TX 100. (B) the interaction between PCL and surfactant by an alkyl chain. (C) interaction in solution, and (D) electrospinning of PCL/Surfactant.	114
Figure 4. 7 EDX mapping of PCL, 5% PCL/ AOT and 5% PCL/ TX 100 at 5000X magnifications.....	114
Figure 4. 8 A. 3D AFM images of PCL, PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100. B. Average surface roughness (R_a) and mean square roughness (R_q) of PCL, PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100.	115
Figure 4. 9 FTIR spectra of A. PCL, AOT and PC/AOT. B. PCL, TX 100 and PCL/ TX 100	116
Figure 4. 10 Contact angle of PCL, PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100	117
Figure 4. 11 XRD analysis of PCL, PCL/ AOT and PCL/ TX 100	118
Figure 4. 12 DSC analysis of PCL and PCL/ AOT NFs	119
Figure 4. 13 TGA analysis of PCL and PCL/ AOT NFs.....	120

Chapter 5

Figure 5. 1 Pictorial presentation of stability of AOT at different concentrations (5- 20%).	135
Figure 5. 2 Viscosity and zeta potential of PCL/ kC solution at different ratio, when 5% AOT was used.....	136
Figure 5. 3 SEM images of PCL/ kC (a. 95:05, b. 90:10, c. 85:15) and fiber diameter distribution of PCL/ kC (a' 95:05, b' 90:10 and c'85:15), at 500X magnifications	137
Figure 5. 4 Mean Fiber Diameter of PCL/ kC NFs at different concentrations.....	138

Figure 5. 5 SEM images (a-d) and fiber diameter distribution (a'- d') of PCL/ kC (90:10) at different distance at 500X magnifications.	139
Figure 5. 6 Mean fiber diameter of PCL/ kC (90:10) at different distance.....	140
Figure 5. 7 SEM images (a- d) and fiber diameter distribution (a'-d') of 90:10 PCL/ kC when flow rate is varied between 0.6 mL/h to 1.2 mL/h, at 500X magnifications	140
Figure 5. 8 Mean Fiber diameter of 90: 10 PCL/ kC at different flow rate varied between 0.6 – 1.2 mL/h.....	141
Figure 5. 9 SEM images (a-d) and mean fiber diameter (a'-d') of PCL/ kC at different voltage varying between 10kV- 25kV at 10KX magnification.	141
Figure 5. 10 Mean Fiber diameter of 90: 10 PCL/ kC when applied voltage is varied between 10kV to 25 kV.	142
Figure 5. 11 3D AFM images and average roughness of PCL and Hybrid NFs.....	142
Figure 5. 12 EDX mapping of PCL and Hybrid NFs at 10KX magnifications	143
Figure 5. 13 FTIR analysis of PCL and Hybrid NFs	144
Figure 5. 14 XRD analysis of PCL and Hybrid NFs	145
Figure 5. 15 DSC analysis of PCL and Hybrid.....	146
Figure 5. 16 Stress vs. strain graph of PCL and Hybrid NFs.....	147
Figure 5. 17 Pictorial presentation of Hybrid NFs peeling of from human hand, showing skin like behaviour.....	147
Figure 5. 18 Pictorial presentation of Hybrid NFs stretching in Y direction (a-c) and, after flipping the sample, stretchability in X direction (d-f).	148
Figure 5. 19 Pictorial presentation of contact angle of Hybrid NFs	149
Figure 5. 20 Water uptake percentage of PCL and Hybrid NFs	149
Figure 5. 21 SEM images of degraded Hybrid nanofibers at different time intervals of 1, 2 and 4 weeks, at 2K X and 10K X magnifications.....	150

Figure 5. 22 pH of Hybrid matrix after incubating in PBS at different time interval.....	152
Figure 5. 23 FTIR analysis of Hybrid matrix after incubating in PBS for week 1,2, and 4 ..	153
Figure 5. 24 XRD analysis of Hybrid NFs after incubation in PBS for week 1, 2, and 4.....	154

Chapter 6

Figure 6. 1 Preparation of <i>T. arjuna</i> extract from crude bark powder	166
Figure 6. 2 Digital illustration of effectivity of <i>T. arjuna</i> hydroalcoholic extract against <i>E. coli</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> by colony counting assay.....	171
Figure 6. 3 SEM images and fiber diameter distribution of TA at different concentration (5K X magnifications).....	172
Figure 6. 4 A. Viscosity and B. Mean fiber diameter (MFD) of TA at 5, 10 and 20% concentration.....	173
Figure 6. 5 SEM images and mean fiber diameter distribution of BM at different concentration (5K X magnifications).	173
Figure 6. 6 A. Viscosity and B. Mean fiber diameter (MFD) of BM at 5, 10 and 20% concentration.....	174
Figure 6. 7 SEM images and mean fiber diameter distribution of CA at different concentration (5K X magnifications).	174
Figure 6. 8 A. Viscosity and B. Mean fiber diameter (MFD) of CA at 5, 10 and 20% concentration.....	175
Figure 6. 9 Standard graph of TA prepared using UV spectroscopy at 280 nm wavelength.	175
Figure 6. 10 Standard Graph of BM, prepared using UV Spectroscopy at 280 nm wavelength.	176
Figure 6. 11 Standard Graph of CA, prepared using UV Spectroscopy at 280 nm wavelength.	176
Figure 6. 12 Cumulative drug release in vitro from TA NFs	178

Figure 6. 13 Cumulative drug release in vitro from BM NFs.....	178
Figure 6. 14 Cumulative drug release in vitro from CA NFs.....	179
Figure 6. 15 Images, SEM images and FDD of TA NFs before and after drug release.....	181
Figure 6. 16 Images, SEM images and FDD of BM NFs before and after drug release.	182
Figure 6. 17 Images, SEM images and FDD of CA NFs before and after drug release.	182
Chapter 7	
Figure 7. 1 Antioxidant activity of TA, BM and CA at 5, 10 and 20% concentration.....	197
Figure 7. 2 Pictorial presentation of DPPH dye reduction by A. PCL, PCL/ kC and Hybrid NFs. and B. TA at different concentrations (5, 10 and 20%).....	198
Figure 7. 3 Pictorial presentation of DPPH dye reduction by A. BM and B. CA at different concentrations (5, 10 and 20%).	198
Figure 7. 4 Images of PCL, PCL/ kC and Hybrid NFs treated <i>S. aureus</i> colony, examined by colony counting assay.	199
Figure 7. 5 Images of PCL, PCL/ kC and Hybrid NFs treated <i>E. coli</i> colony, examined by colony counting assay.	200
Figure 7. 6 Colony reduction (%) of <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> by PCL/ kC and Hybrid NFs.....	200
Figure 7. 7 Images of <i>S. aureus</i> strain treated with 5, 10 and 20% of TA, examined by colony counting assay.	201
Figure 7. 8 Images of <i>E.coli</i> strain, treated with 5, 10, and 20% of TA NFs, examined by colony counting assay.....	201
Figure 7. 9 Colony reduction (%) of <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> by 5, 10 and 20% TA NFs	202
Figure 7. 10 Images of <i>S. aureus</i> strain treated with 5, 10 and 20% of BM, examined by colony counting assay.....	202
Figure 7. 11 Images of <i>E. coli</i> strain treated with 5, 10 and 20% of BM, examined by colony counting assay.....	203
Figure 7. 12 Colony reduction (%) of <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> by 5, 10 and 20% BM NFs.....	203

Figure 7. 13 Images of <i>S. aureus</i> strain treated with 5, 10 and 20% of CA, examined by colony counting assay.....	204
Figure 7. 14 Images of <i>E. coli</i> strain treated with 5, 10 and 20% of CA, examined by colony counting assay.....	204
Figure 7.15 Colony reduction (%) of <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> by 5, 10 and 20% CA NFs.....	205
Figure 7. 16 <i>S. aureus</i> morphology analysed by TEM images after treating with PCL, PCL/ kC, Hybrid, TA, BM and CA NFs.	205
Figure 7. 17 <i>E. coli</i> morphology analysed by TEM images after treating with PCL, PCL/ kC, Hybrid, TA, BM and CA NFs.	206
Figure 7. 18 Killing mechanism of bacteria by Hybrid NFs.....	207
Figure 7. 19 <i>S. aureus</i> adhesion on the PCL, PCL/ kC, Hybrid, TA, BM, and CA NFs at 5000X magnifications.....	208
Figure 7. 20 <i>E. coli</i> adhesion on the PCL, PCL/ kC, Hybrid, TA, BM, and CA NFs at 5000X magnifications.....	209
Figure 7. 21 Microbial inhibition analysis of Hybrid, TA, BM and CA NFs	210
Figure 7.22 Relative cell viability of the cells on the NFs by MTT assay. Statistically significant difference of NFs as compared to control (tissue culture flask), were expressed as *(p < 0.05, **p<0.01, and *** p<0.001).....	211
Figure 7. 23 Fluorescence microscopy images of NIH3T3 cells stained by Calcein- AM/ PI dyes.. All photographs have been taken at 200 × magnification.	213
Figure 7. 24 Bright field images of samples, showing the morphology and proliferation of cells on NFS and TCF (control).	214

List of Tables

Chapter 1

Table 1. 1 Herbs incorporated PCL Biocomposites for wound healing.....	15
--	----

Chapter 2

Table 2. 1 Optimized parameters of electrospinning	55
--	----

Table 2.2 Optimized electrospinning parameters, optimized value and results.....	71
--	----

Chapter 3

Table 3. 1 Solubility of PCL and kC in different solvent.....	84
---	----

Table 3. 2 Thermal and Crystalline properties of PCL/ kC and Hybrid matrix.	92
--	----

Chapter 4

Table 4. 1 Melting temperature, heat of enthalpy and percentage of crystallinity of electrospun PCL and PCL/ AOT NFs as measured by DSC	119
---	-----

Chapter 5

Table 5. 1 Concentration of polymer and surfactant used to prepare Hybrid solution.....	131
---	-----

Table 5. 2 Thermal properties of PCL/ kC and Hybrid matrix	146
--	-----

Table 5. 2 Mechanical study of Hybrid NFs	148
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Chapter 6

Table 6. 1 Drug loaded in 1cm ² of NFs.....	177
--	-----

Table 6. 2 Drug Release by Korsmeyer Peppas (KP) models.....	180
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Abbreviations

AOT	Surfactant (bis (2-ethylhexyl) sulfosuccinate)
BM	<i>Bacoppa monnieri</i>
CA	Cellulose acetate
CA	<i>Centella asiatica</i>
CFU	Colony forming unit
Col	Collagen
CS	Chitosan
DCM	Dichloromethane
DLS	Dynamic light scattering
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
DPPH	Diphenyl picrylhydrazyl
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
ECM	Extracellular matrix
EDX	Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDD	Fiber Diameter Distribution
FESEM	Field emission scanning electron microscopy
FTIR	Fourier transform-infrared spectroscopy
Ge	Gelatin

kC	kappa Carrageenan
MFD	Mean Fiber Diameter
MTT	(3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide)
NFs	nanofibers
PBS	Phosphate Buffer solution
PCL	Polycaprolactone
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PLA	Polylactic acid
PVA	Polyvinyl alcohol
PVP	Polyvinylpyrrolidone
Ra	Average roughness
Rq	Root mean square roughness
<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
SF	Silk Fibroin
TA	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>
TEM	Transmission electron microscopy
TX 100	Triton X 100
XRD	X-ray diffraction
ZOI	Zone of inhibition