

## **Surfactant Modulated Aggregation Induced Enhancement of Emission (AIEE)– A Simple Demonstration to Maximize Sensor Activity**

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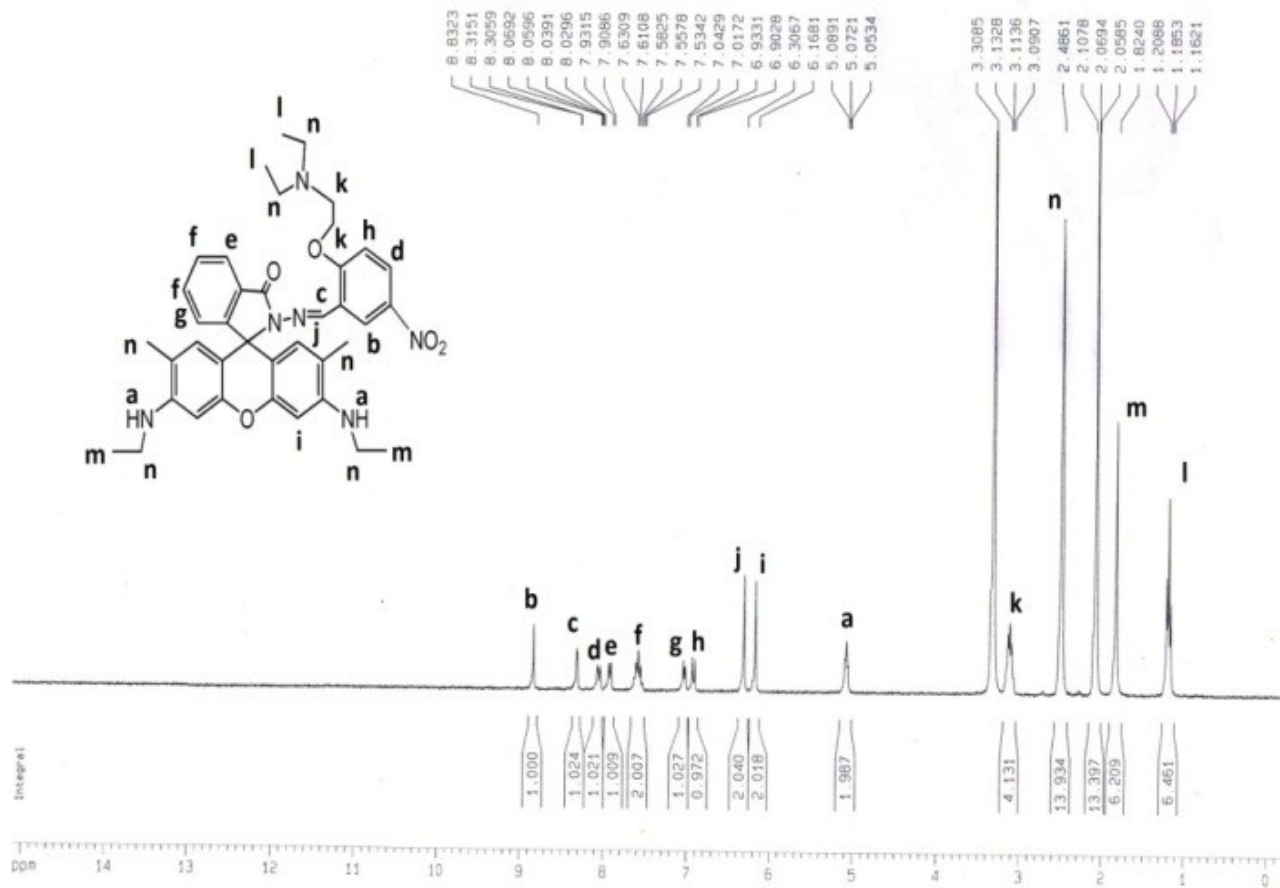


Fig. S1  $^1H$  NMR spectra of  $L^3$  in  $CDCl_3$ .

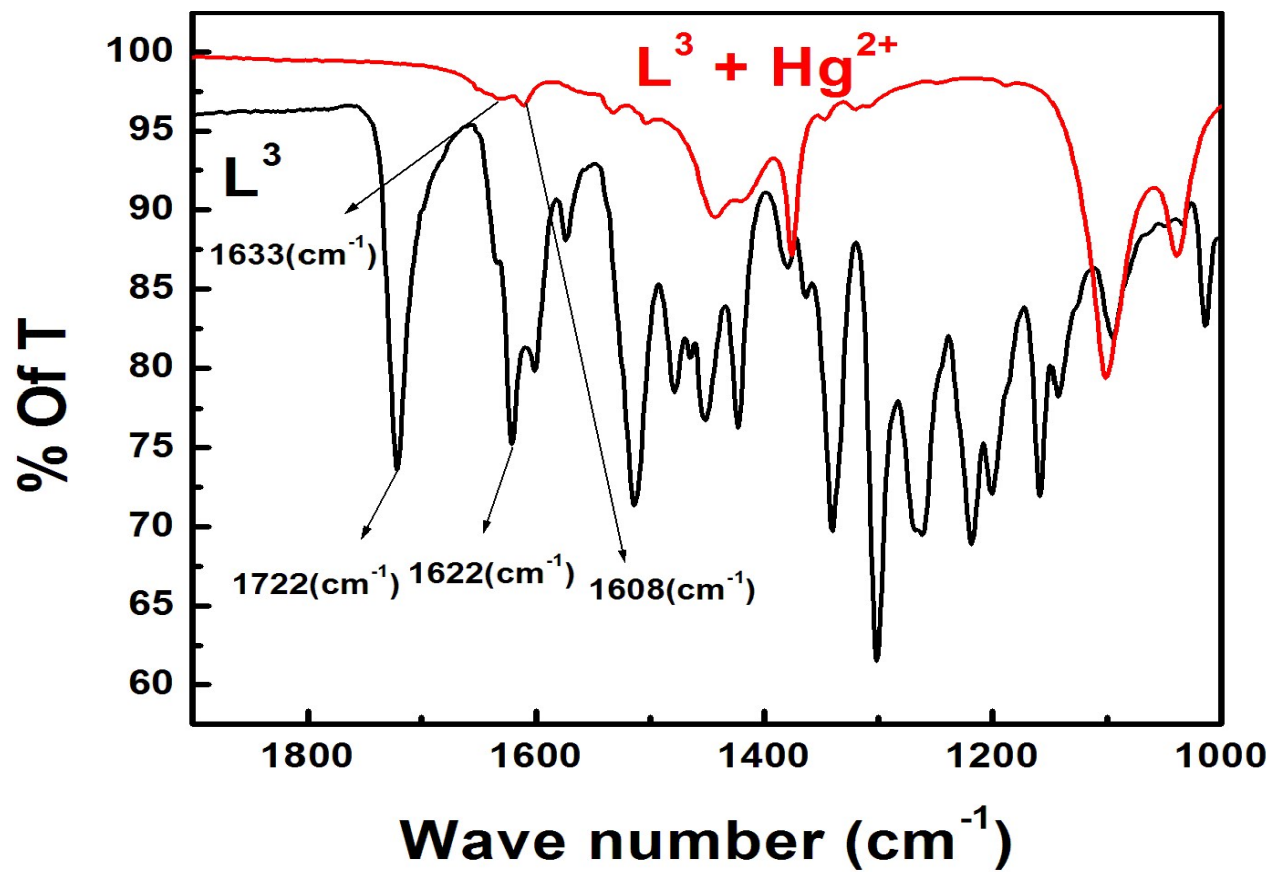
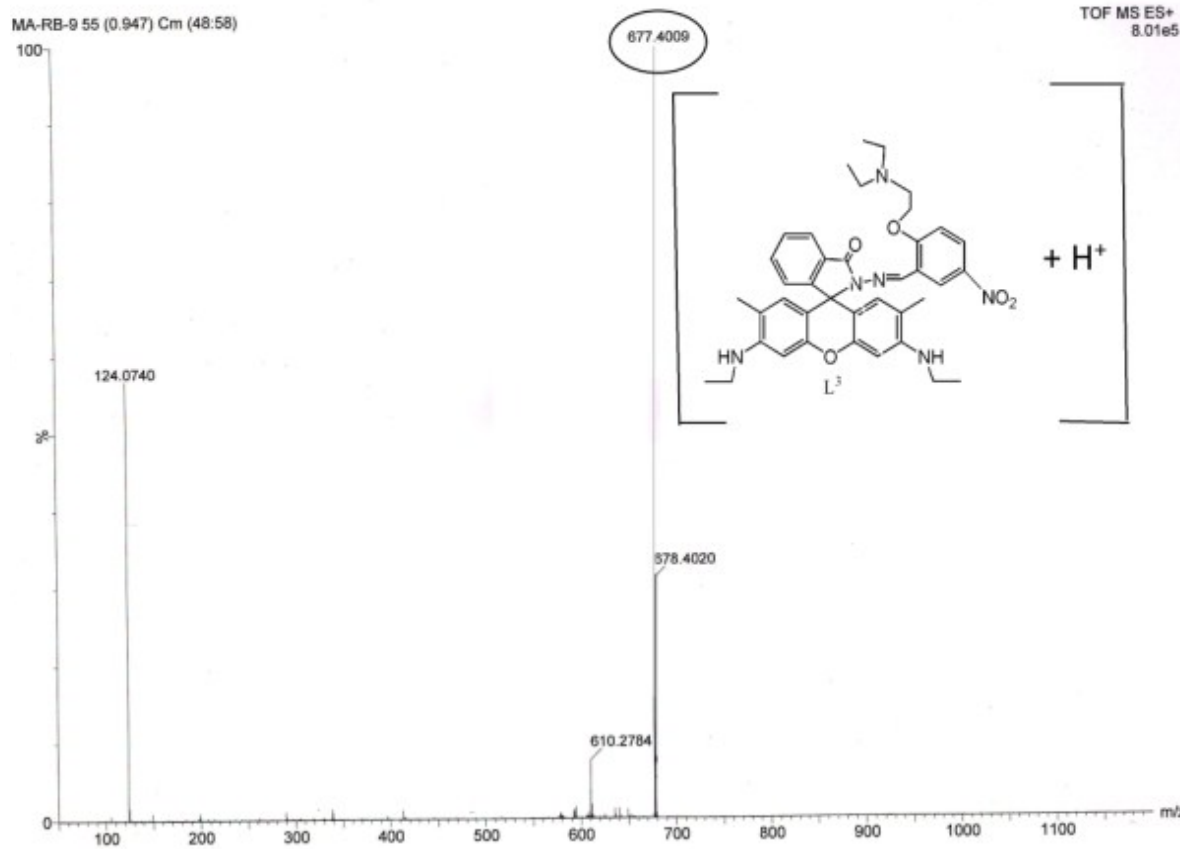
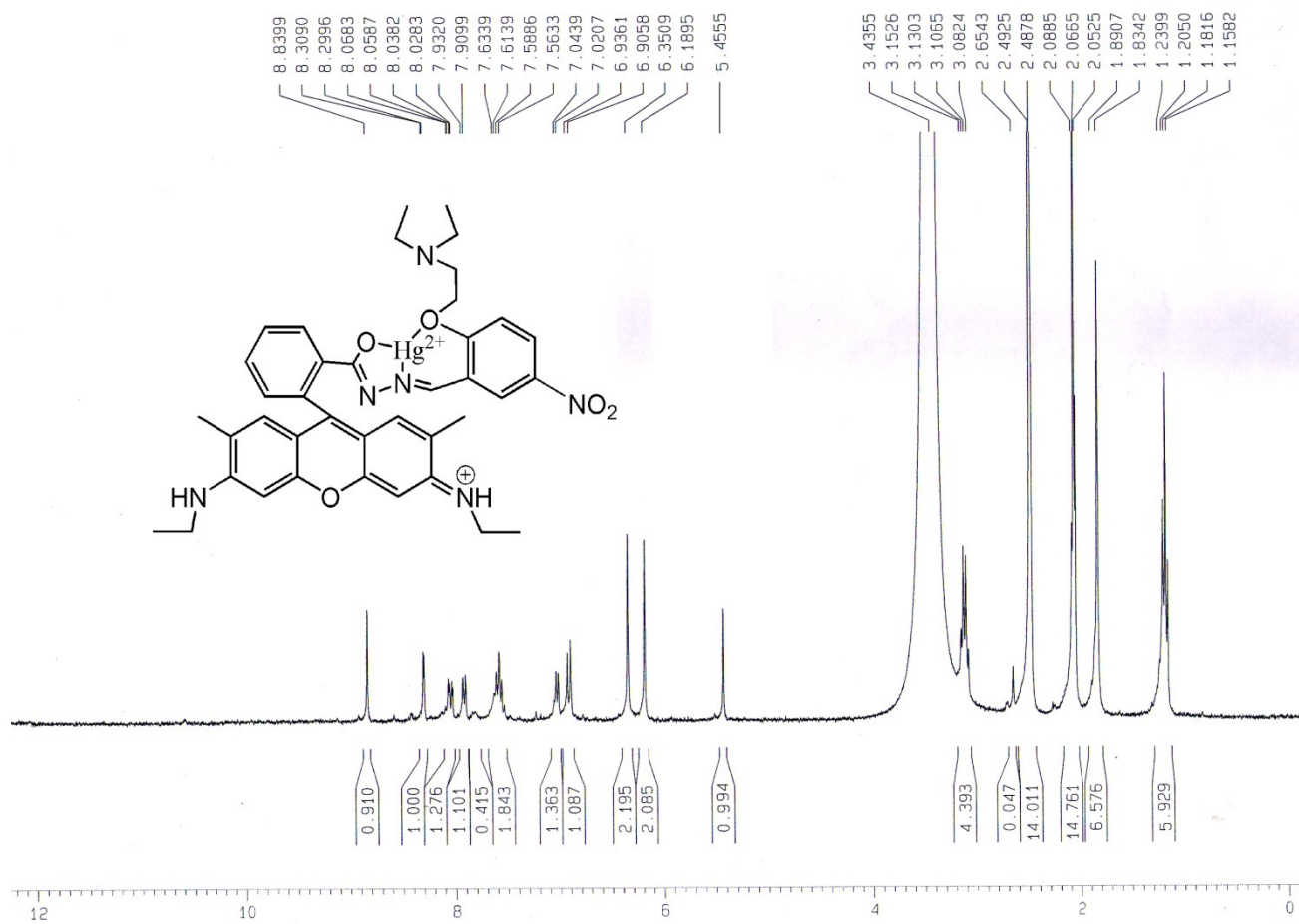


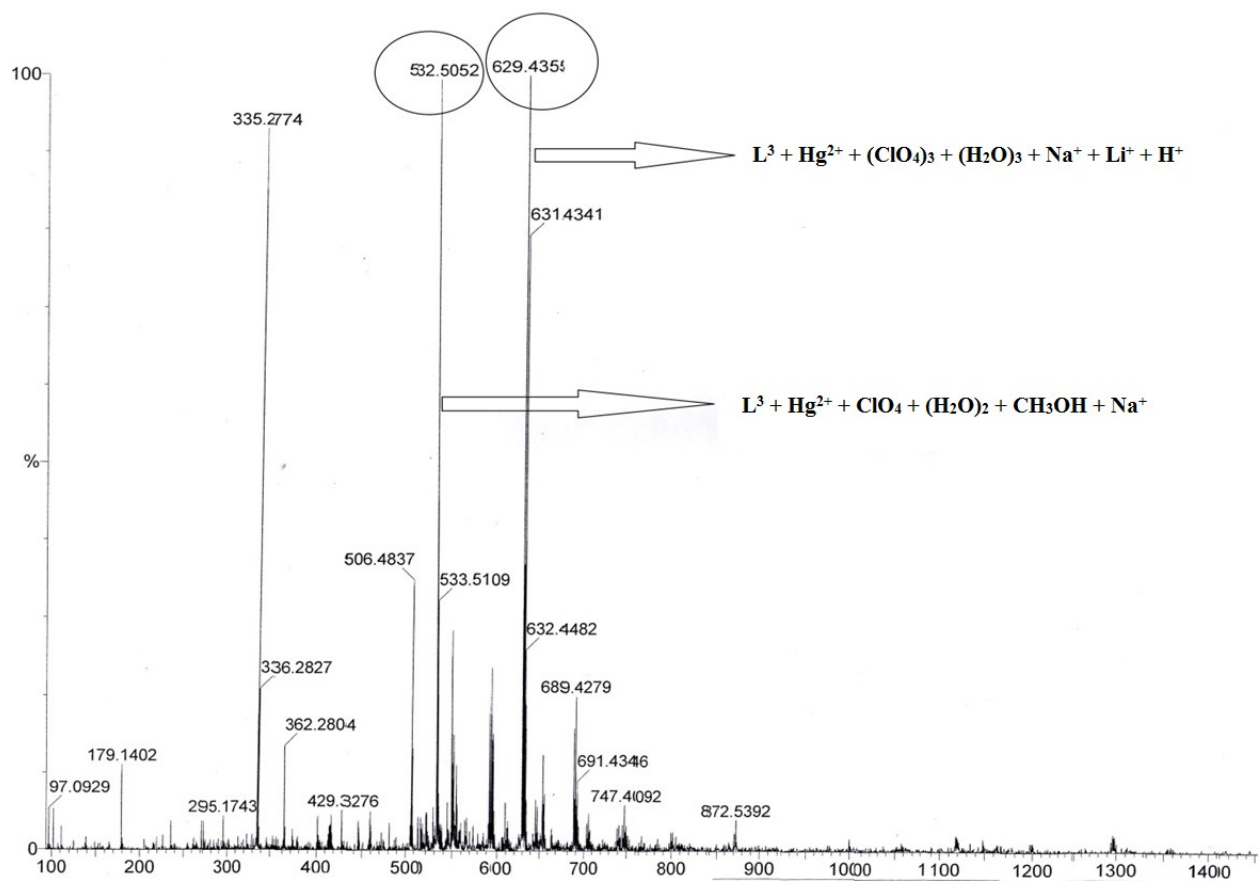
Fig. S2 IR spectra of  $L^3$  and  $L^3-Hg^{2+}$  recorded



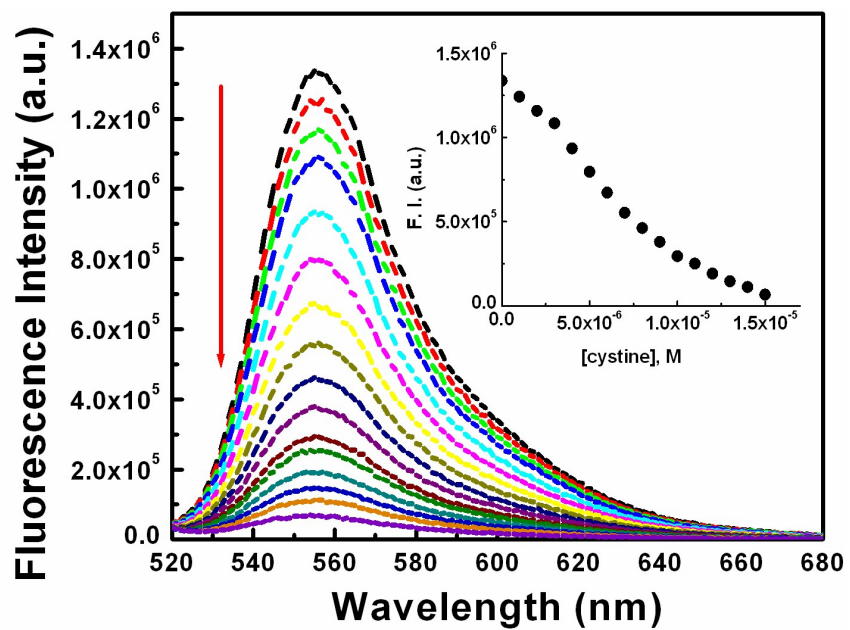
**Fig. 3** Mass spectra of L<sup>3</sup>



**Fig. S4**  $^1H$ -NMR spectra of  $L^3-Hg^{2+}$  in  $DMSO-d_6$



**Fig. S5** Mass spectra of  $L^3-Hg^{2+}$



**Fig. S6** Fluorescence quenching titration of L<sup>3</sup>-Hg<sup>2+</sup> (10 μM) complex by cystine. Inset is the plot of FI vs. [cystine].

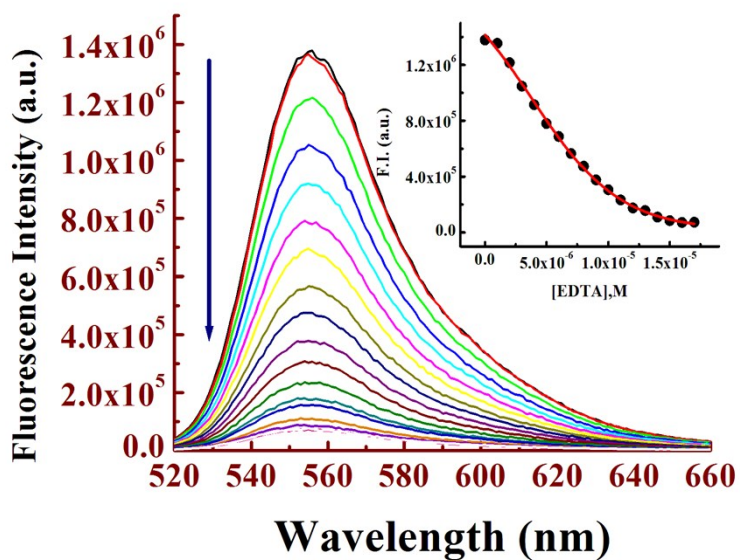


Fig. S7 (a) EDTA titration in absence of SDS. Conditions are:  $[L^3] = [Hg^{2+}] 10\mu M$ .

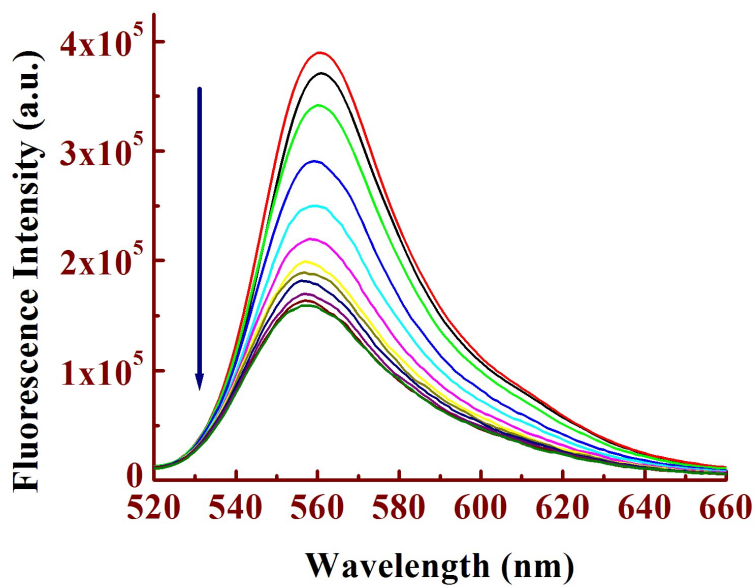


Fig. S7 (b) EDTA titration in presence of 5mM of SDS. Conditions are:  $[L^3] = [Hg^{2+}] 10\mu M$ .



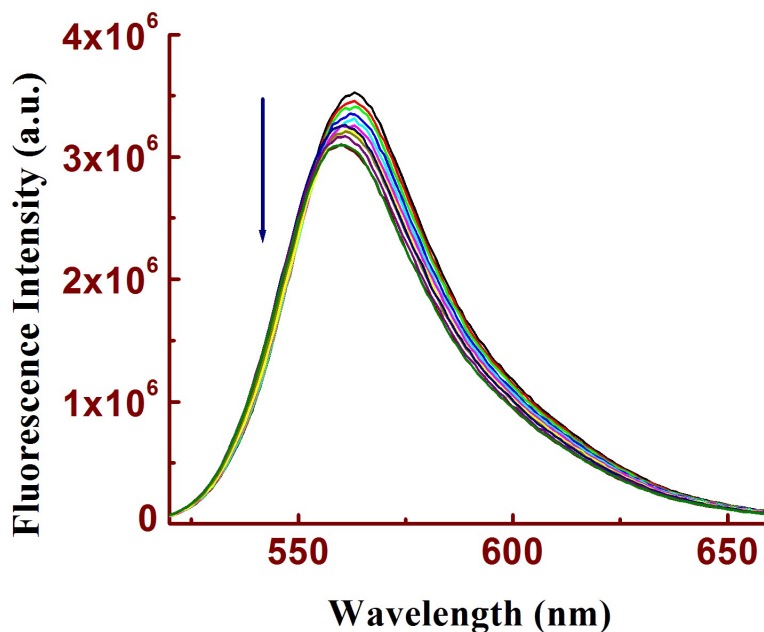


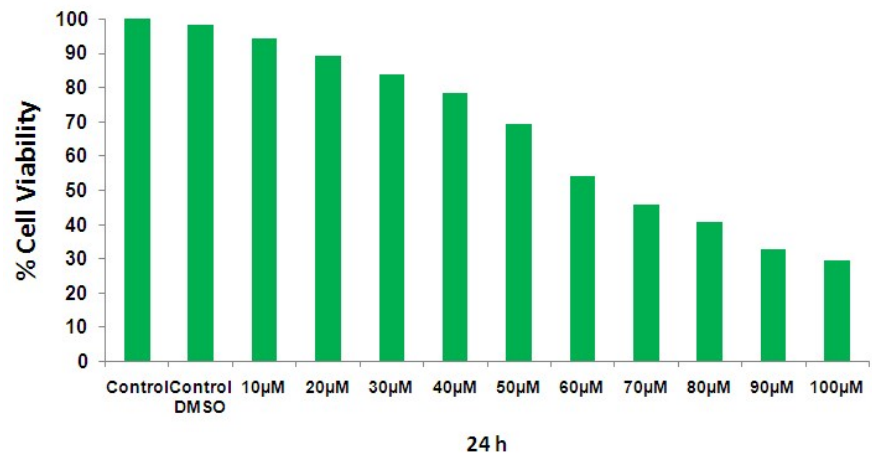
Fig. S7 (c) EDTA titration in presence of 9mM of SDS. Conditions are:  $[L^3] = [Hg^{2+}] 10\mu M$ .

### Quantum Yield Determination:

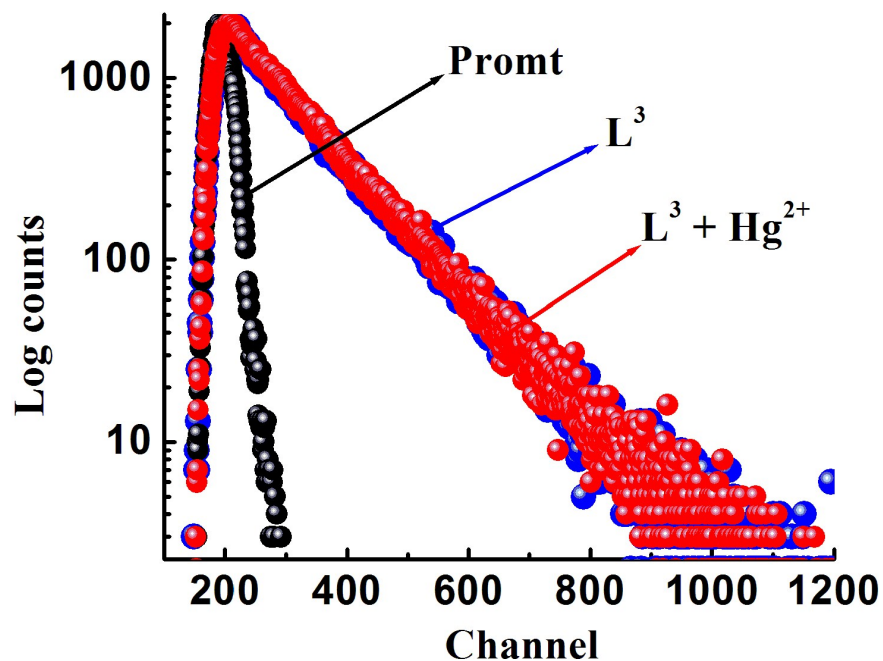
Fluorescence quantum yields ( $\Phi$ ) were estimated by integrating the area under the fluorescence

curves with the equation:  $\Phi_{sample} = \frac{OD_{std}}{OD_{sample}} \times \frac{A_{sample}}{A_{std}} \times \Phi_{std}$

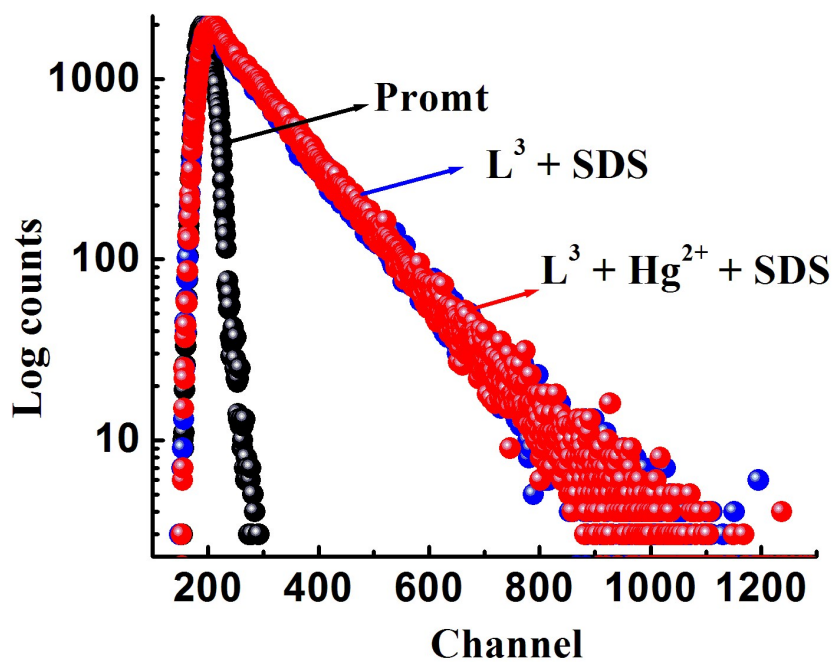
where, A is the area under the fluorescence spectral curve and OD is optical density of the compound at the excitation wavelength. The standard used for the measurement of fluorescence quantum yield was rhodamine 6G ( $\Phi_{std}=0.94$  in  $CH_3OH$ ).



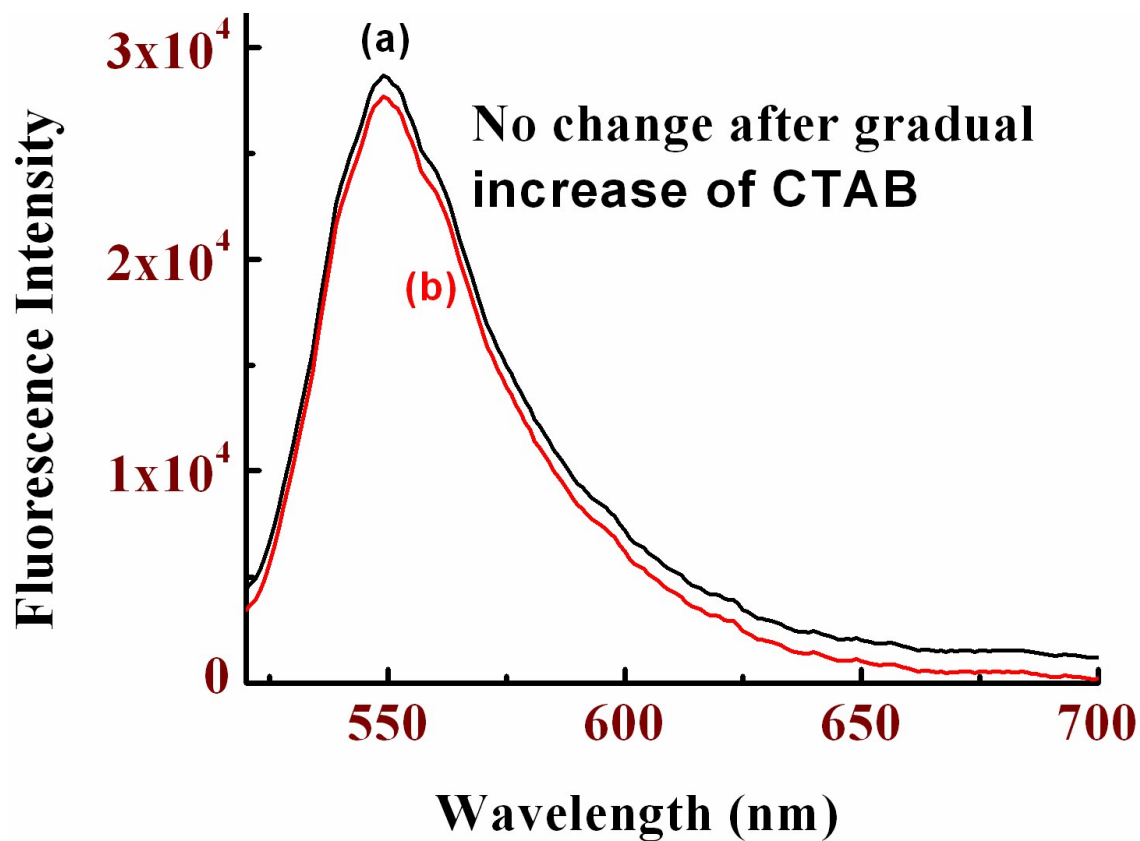
**Fig. S8** Cell viability assay performed by using ligand L<sup>3</sup>



**Fig. S9(a)** Fluorescence decay curves of free  $L^3$  ligand ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) and in presence of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (1 equivalent) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at  $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Fig. S9(b)** Fluorescence decay curves of free  $L^3$  ligand ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) and in presence of  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  (1 equivalent) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in presence of SDS of  $9 \text{ mM}$  concentration at  $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Fig. S10** Dependence of fluorescence intensity on [CTAB]. (a)  $10 \mu\text{M L}^3\text{-Hg}^{2+}$  only; (b)  $10 \mu\text{M L}^3\text{-Hg}^{2+}$  in presence of  $10 \text{ mM CTAB}$ .