

**Morphological adaptability through structural alterations in AIE active novel chemosensor
with Al(III), Fe(III), and gas phase/aqueous phase TNP recognition ability**

Pranabendu Das^b, Manik Das^a, Raju Biswas, Soumik Laha, Bidhan Chandra Samanta^c, ^e Tithi Maity^{a*}

^a Department of Chemistry, Prabhat Kumar College, Contai, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, 721404, India

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, India

^cIndian Institute of Chemical Biology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

^eDepartment of Chemistry, Mugberia Gangadhar Mahavidyalaya, Purba Medinipur, India

Email: titlipkc2008@gmail.com

Fig. No.	Index	Page

		Number
Fig. S1	Uv absorption spectra of H₂L	S5
Fig. S2	FTIR Spectrum of H₂L	S5
Fig. S3	Mass Spectrum of H₂L	S6
Fig. S4	Fluorescence spectra of H₂L in different solvents from non-polar to protic solvents to investigate the ESIPT process	S6
Fig. S5	TEM image of the probe in 7:3 DMSO-water mixture	S7
Fig. S6	Change of absorption spectra of H₂L (2×10^{-6} M) in different DMSO – H ₂ O solvent mixtures.	S7
Fig. S7	DLS spectral analysis of H₂L	S8
Fig. S8	Change of absorption spectra of H₂L as a function of time (a) in DMSO – H ₂ O (9:1 v/v) solvent (b) in AIEE solvent	S8
Fig. S9	Change of Emission intensity of H₂L and H₂L – Al(III) adduct as a function of pH in DMSO – H ₂ O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer solution (b) Change of Emission intensity of H₂L and H₂L – Fe(III) adduct as a function of pH in AIEE solution	S9
Fig. S10	Change of emission intensity of H₂L (3×10^{-6} M) in the presence of several cations (1×10^{-5} M) (a) in DMSO – H ₂ O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer media at pH 7.4 upon excitation at 370 nm (b) DMSO – H ₂ O (3:7 v/v) AIEE media upon excitation at 375 nm	S9
Fig. S11	The plot of Emission intensity vs concentration of metal ion to determine the LOD value for (a) H₂L – Al(III) and (b) H₂L – Fe(III) adducts	S10
Fig. S12	(a) Stern-Volmer plot in determining quenching constant after the introduction of Fe(III) to H₂L . Binding constant determination plot for (b) H₂L – Al(III) adduct and (c) H₂L – Fe(III) adduct from fluorescence spectral data.	S10

Fig. S13	reversibility experiment of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ (a) by alternative addition of Al(III) and NaF in DMSO – H ₂ O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer media (b) by alternative addition of Fe(III) and SHMP in AIEE solvent.	S11
Fig. S14	Change of Emission intensity of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ – Al(III)/Fe(III) adduct in the presence of several competitive cations in (a) DMSO – H ₂ O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer solution (b) AIEE solvent	S11
Fig. S15	Change of fluorescence spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ after separative addition of different NACs in AIEE solvent.	S12
Fig. S16	LOD determination plot for TNP from the linear fitting plot of Emission intensity vs concentration of TNP	S12
Table S1	Sensing parameters of several literatures reported Schiff base probe with cations or TNP sensing ability	S13
Fig. S17	Time-resolved fluorescence decay of probe $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ in the presence and absence of Fe (III) and TNP	S16
Table S2	Different parameter values during lifetime experiments of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ in the presence and absence of Fe(III) and TNP	S16
Fig. S18	MASS spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ – Al(III) adduct	S17
Fig. S19	MASS spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ – Fe(III) adduct	S17
Fig. S20	Job's plot for the determination of 1:1 stoichiometry complexation of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ and (a) Al(III) (b) Fe(III) and (c) TNP	S18
Fig. S21	DFT optimized electronic structure of (a) $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ (b) $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ - Al(III) Complex (c) $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ - Fe(III) Complex (d) $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ - PA adduct	S18
Fig. S22	HOMO-LUMO energy gap for $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$, $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -Al(III), $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -Fe(III), $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -TNP	S19
Fig. S23	DFT optimized electronic spectra of the Probe and the probe analyte complexes	S19
Fig. S24	Frontier Molecular Orbital images of the probe $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ and the Probe analyte complexes	S20
Table S3	Selected Bond distance and Bond angles of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$, $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -Al(III) complex, $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -Fe(III) complex and $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ -TNP adduct in the	S20

	ground state geometry	
Table S4	Molecular Orbital involved the Major Electronic Transitions with Osc. Strength of H_2L , $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Al(III)}$ Complex, $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Fe(III)}$ Complex and H_2L -TNP adduct	S21
Table S5	Measured amount of Al(III) concentration in market-available drug samples along with a comparison with HPLC method	S21
References		S22

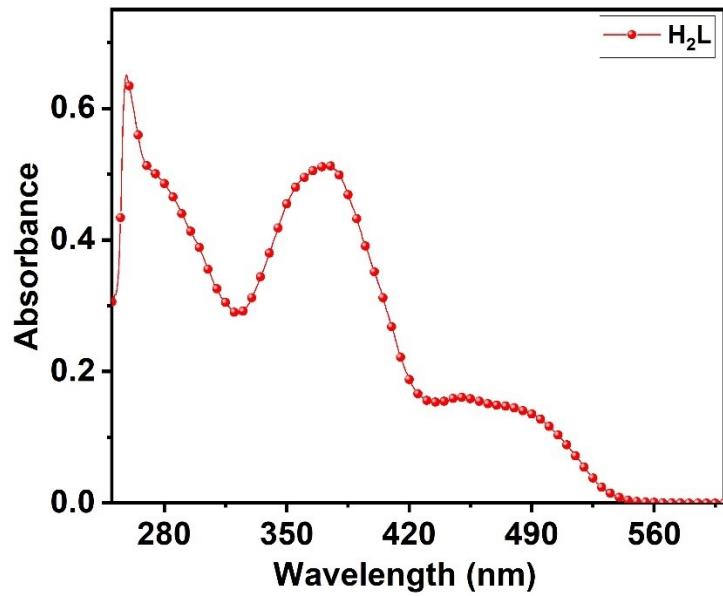


Fig. S1: Uv absorption spectra of the probe H_2L

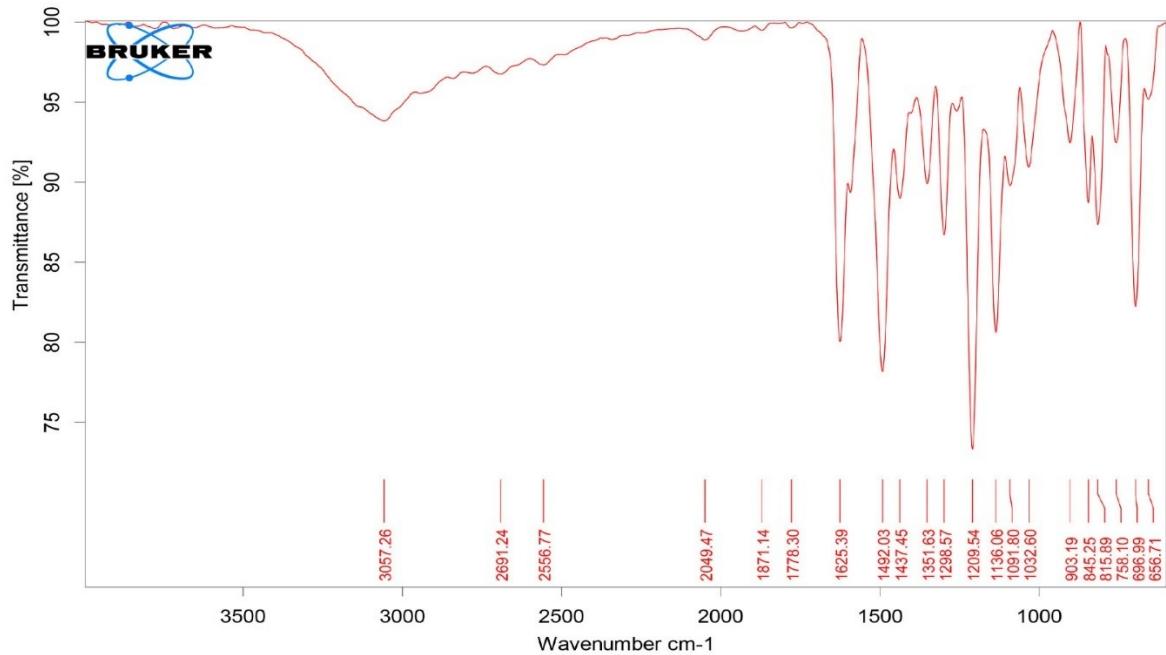


Fig. S2: FTIR spectra of H_2L

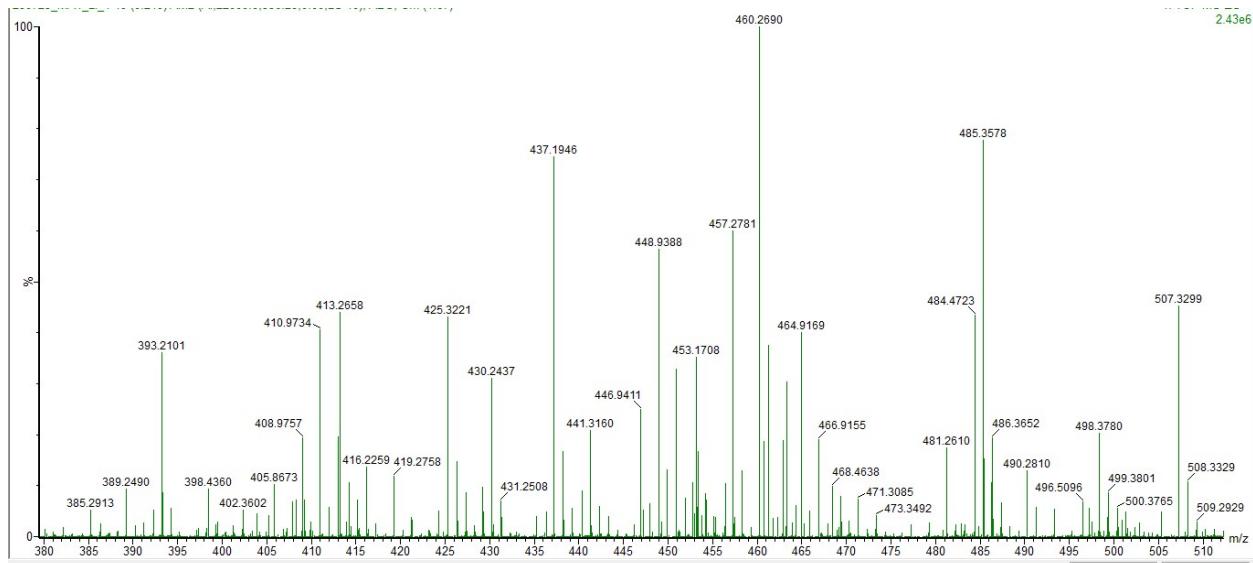


Fig. S3: Mass Spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$

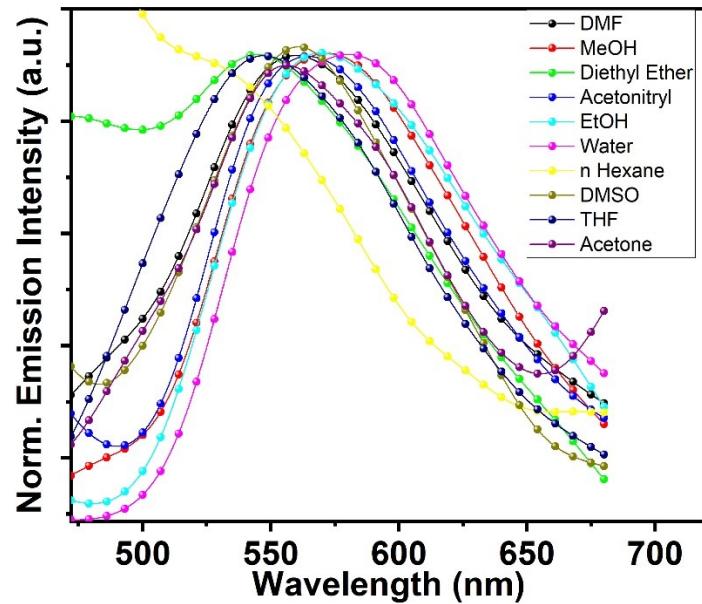


Fig. S4: Fluorescence spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ in different solvents from non-polar to protic solvents to investigate the ESIPT process

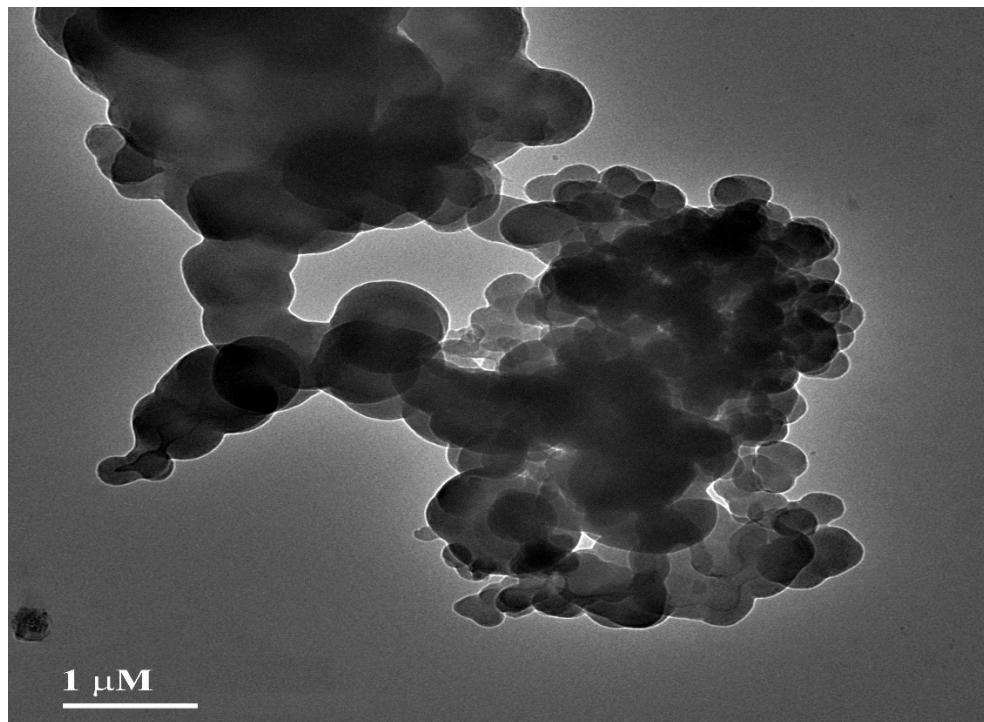


Fig. S5: TEM image of the probe in 7:3 DMSO-water mixture

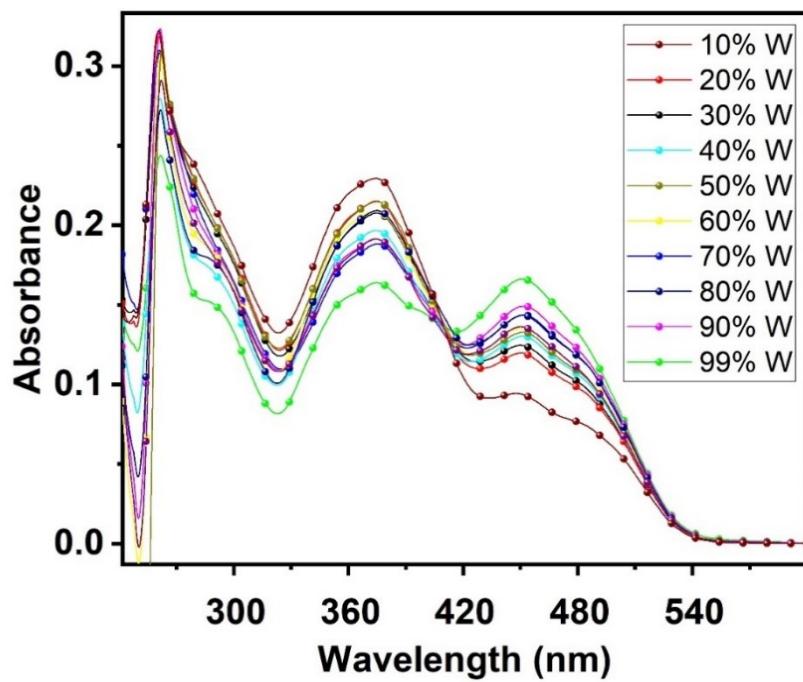


Fig. S6: Change of absorption spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ ($2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$) in different DMSO: H_2O mixtures.

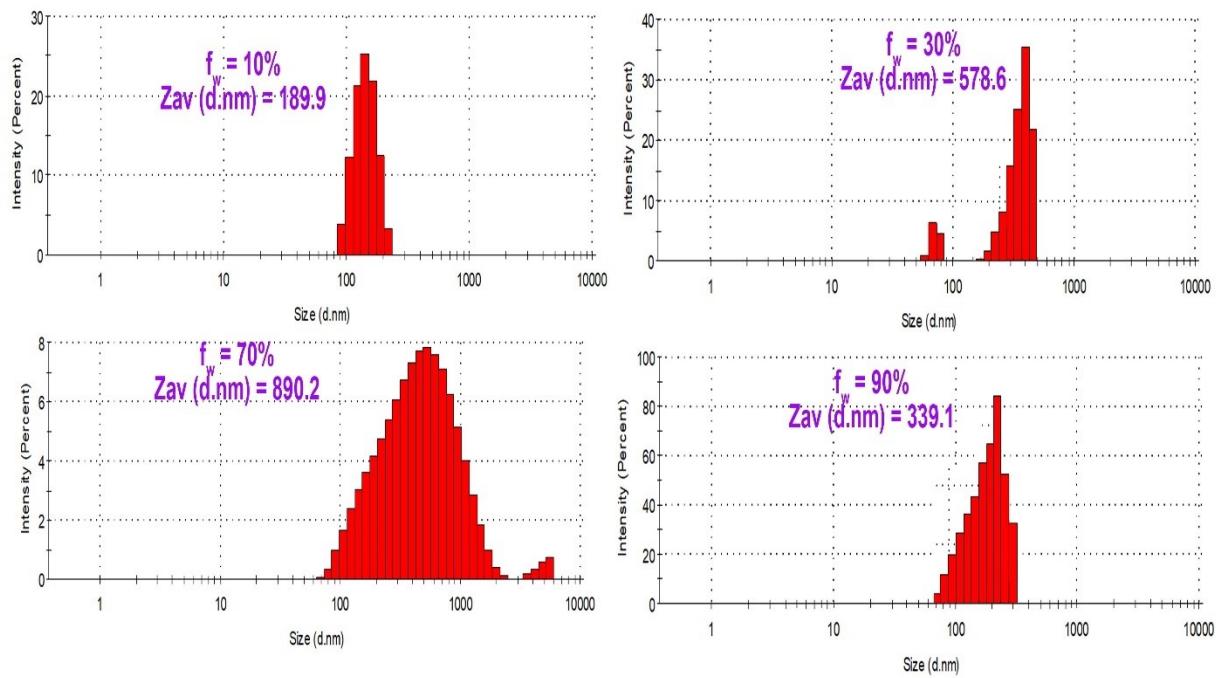


Fig. S7: DLS spectral analysis of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$

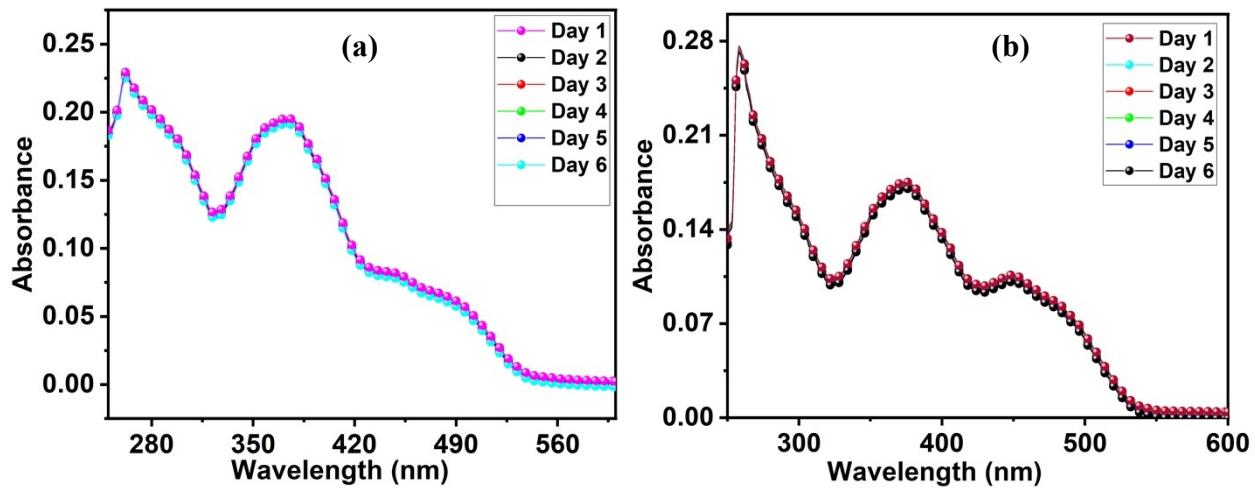


Fig. S8: Change of absorption spectra of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ as a function of time (a) in $\text{DMSO} - \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (9:1 v/v) solvent (b) in AIEE solvent

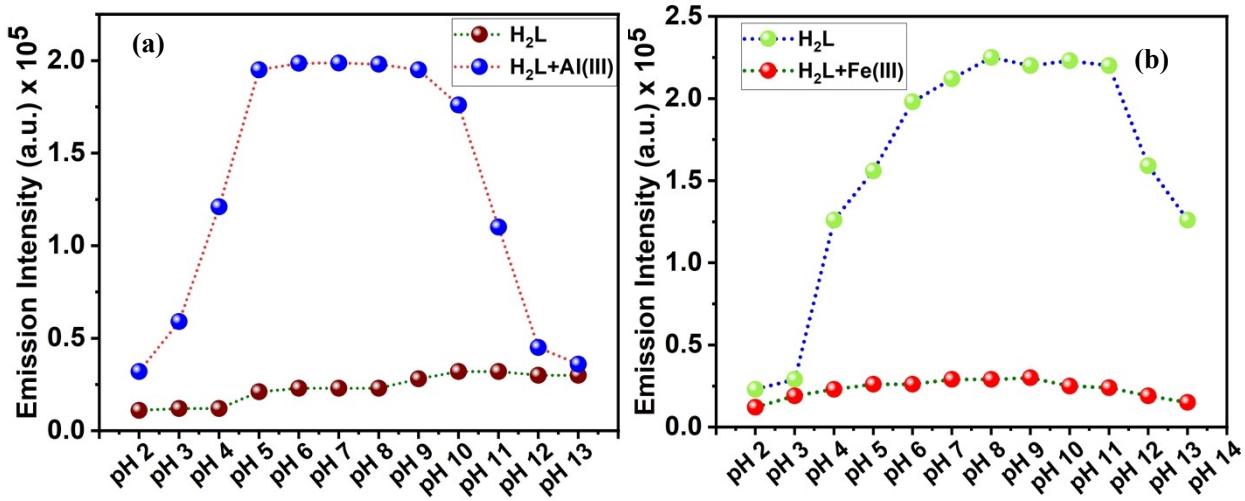


Fig. S9: (a) Change of Emission intensity of H_2L and $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Al(III)}$ adduct as a function of pH in DMSO – H_2O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer solution (b) Change of Emission intensity of H_2L and $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Fe(III)}$ adduct as a function of pH in AIEE solution

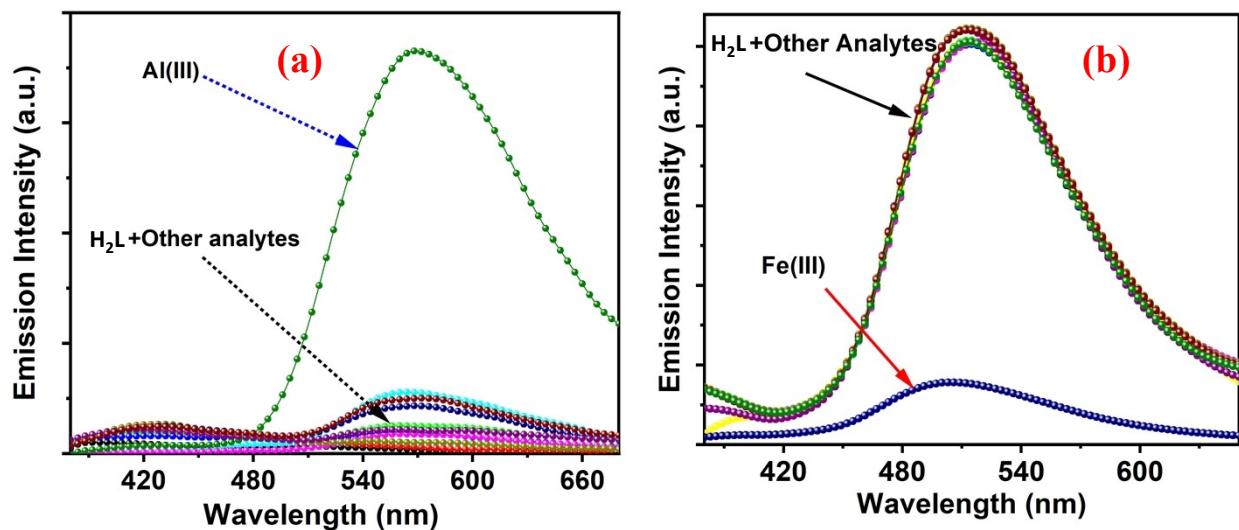


Fig. S10: Change of emission intensity of H_2L (3×10^{-6} M) in the presence of several cations (1×10^{-5} M) (a) in DMSO – H_2O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer media at pH 7.4 upon excitation at 370 nm (b) DMSO – H_2O (3:7 v/v) AIEE media upon excitation at 375 nm

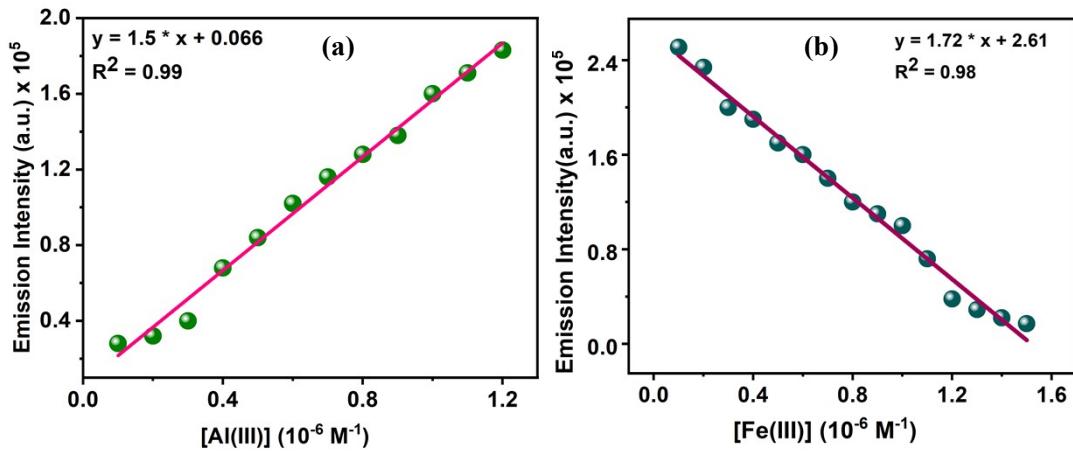


Fig. S11: Plot of Emission intensity vs concentration of metal ion to determine the LOD value for (a) $H_2L - Al(III)$ and (b) $H_2L - Fe(III)$ adducts

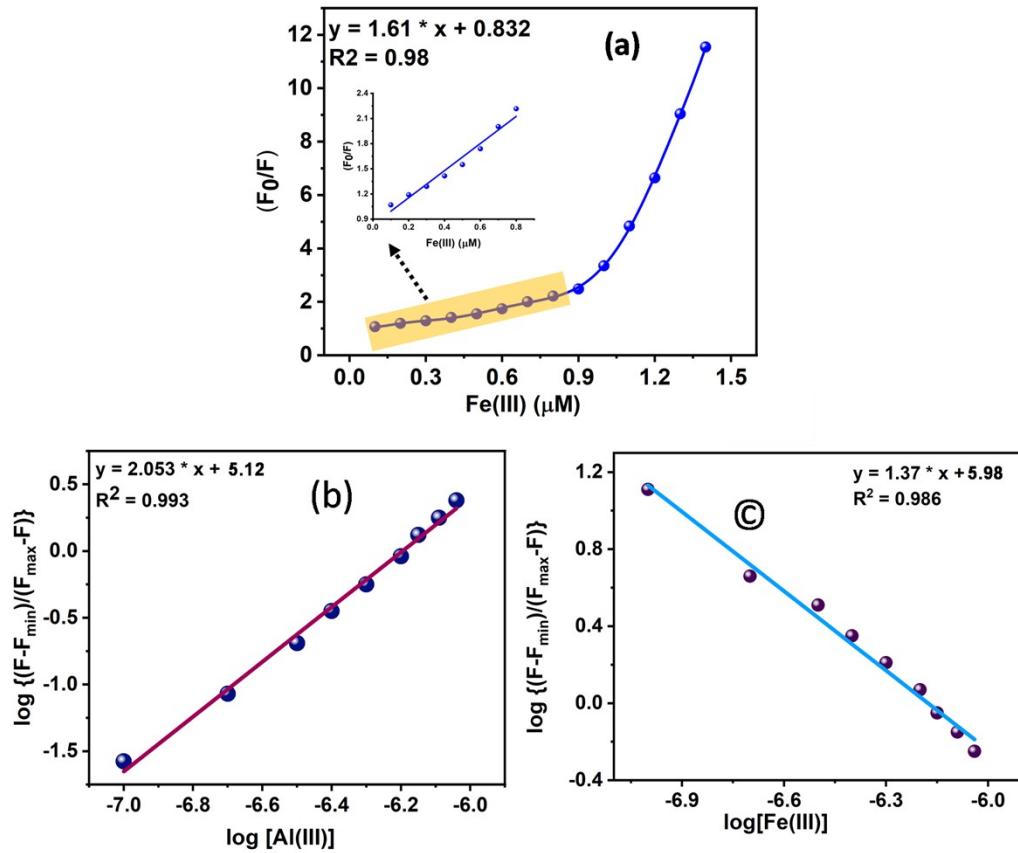


Fig. S12: (a) Stern-Volmer plot in determining quenching constant after the introduction of $Fe(III)$ to H_2L . Binding constant determination plot for (b) $H_2L - Al(III)$ adduct and (c) $H_2L - Fe(III)$ adduct from fluorescence spectral data.

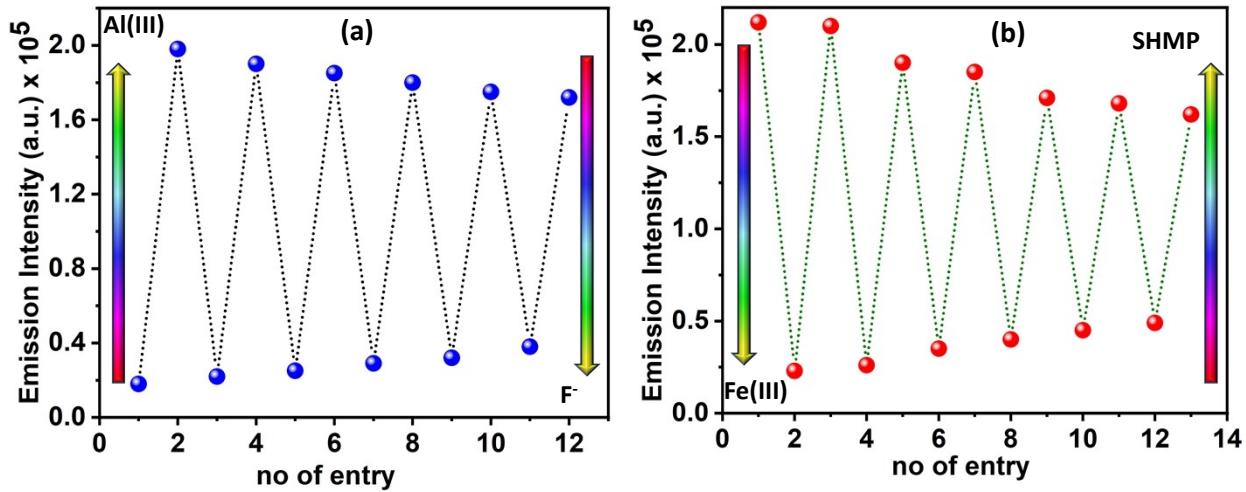


Fig. S13: reversibility experiment of **H₂L** (a) by alternative addition of Al(III) and NaF in DMSO – H₂O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer media (b) by alternative addition of Fe(III) and SHMP in AIEE solvent.

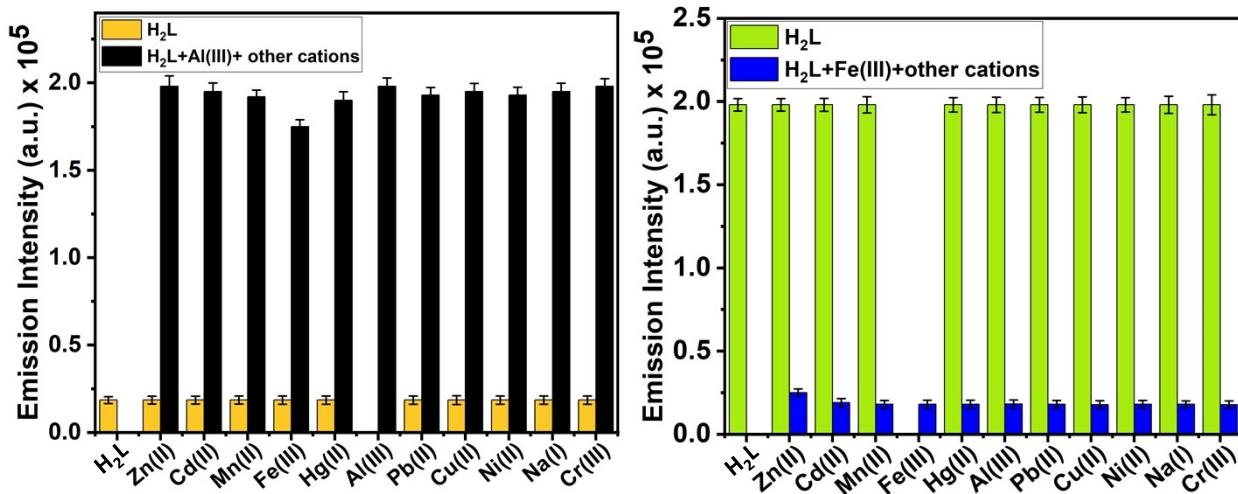


Fig. S14: Change of Emission intensity of **H₂L** – Al(III)/Fe(III) adduct in the presence of several competitive cations in (a) DMSO – H₂O (9:1 v/v) HEPES buffer solution (b) AIEE solvent

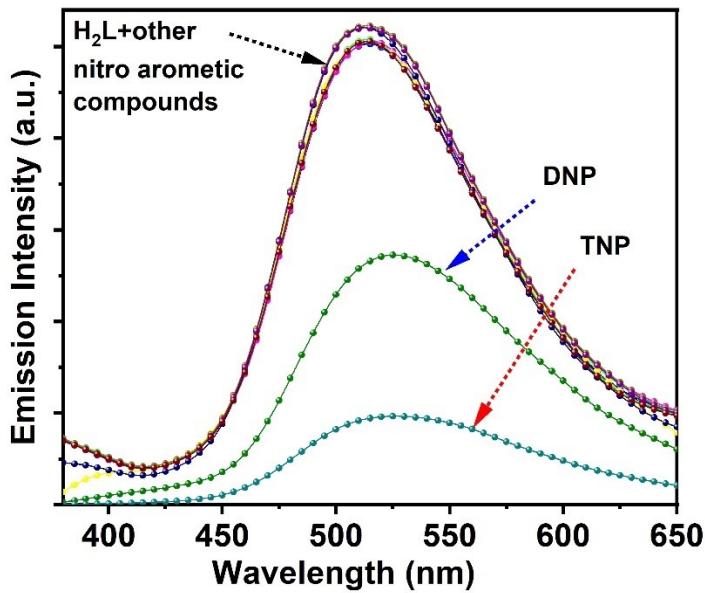


Fig. S15: Change of fluorescence spectra of H_2L after separative addition of different NACs in AIEE solvent.

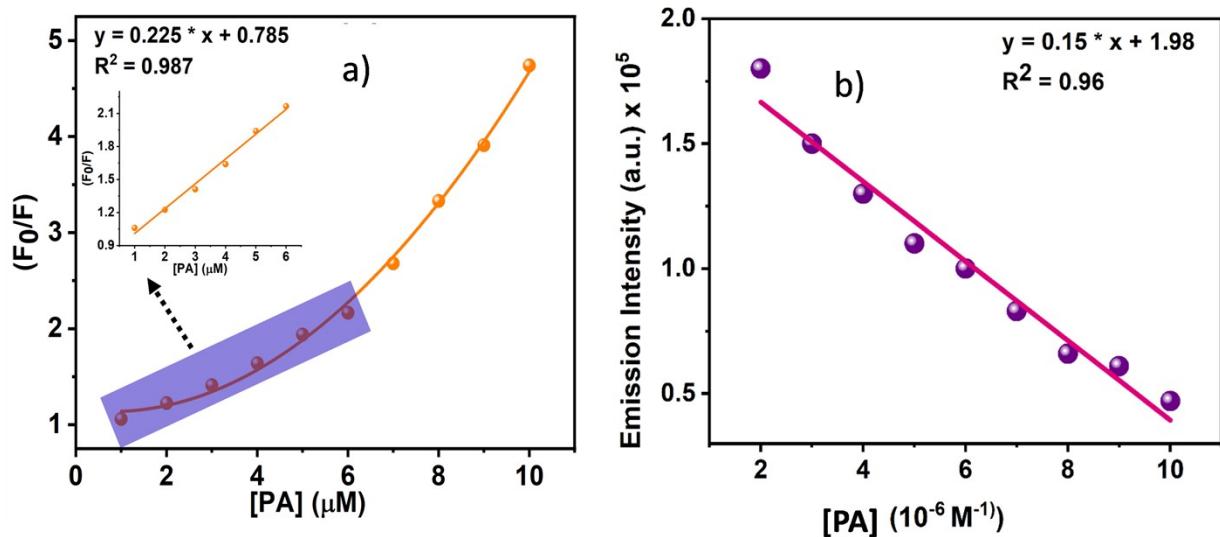
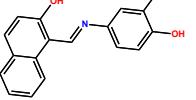
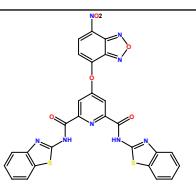
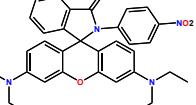
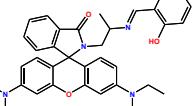
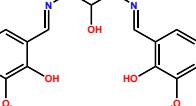
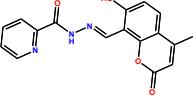
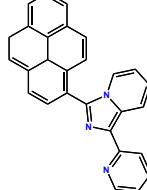
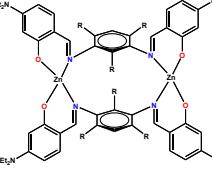
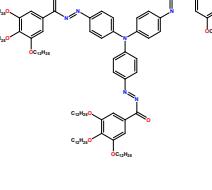
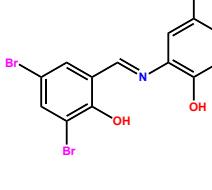


Fig. S16: a) Stern-Volmer plot in determining quenching constant after the introduction of picric acid to H_2L . b) LOD determination plot for TNP from the linear fitting plot of Emission intensity vs concentration of TNP

Table 1: Sensing parameters of several literature reported Schiff base probe with cations or TNP sensing ability

Sl No	Probe	Ion detection	Solvent (v/v)	LOD (M)	Sensing Technique	Application	References
01		Al(III)	MeOH -H ₂ O (9:1)	1.68×10 ⁻⁹	Fluorometric	Paper Strip, Cell imaging	1
02		Al(III)	MeOH	1.81×10 ⁻⁸	Fluorometric	No	2
03		Zn(II), Al(III)	MeOH	3.15×10 ⁻⁷ 2.98×10 ⁻⁷	Fluorometric	No	3
04		Fe(III)	H ₂ O	7.6×10 ⁻⁵	Fluorometric	Real water	4
05		Fe(III)	MeOH -H ₂ O (1:1)	1.28×10 ⁻⁸	Fluorometric	Cell Imaging, Real water	5
06		Al(III), Fe(II)	H ₂ O	3.98×10 ⁻⁵ 1.85×10 ⁻⁵	Colourimetric And Fluorometric both	No	6
07		Al(III), Fe(III)	MeOH -H ₂ O (1:1)	1.1×10 ⁻⁸ 1.9×10 ⁻⁸	Colourimetric Fluorometric	Paper strip	7

08		Cu(II), Cr(III) Al(III), Fe(III)	DMF-H ₂ O (1:1)	4.65×10 ⁻⁷ 3.37×10 ⁻⁷ 3.58×10 ⁻⁷ 4.89×10 ⁻⁷	Colourimetric Colourimetric Fluorometric Fluorometric	No	8
09		Al(III) Fe(III)	THF, MeOH ,	4.38×10 ⁻⁹ 6.74×10 ⁻⁷	Colourimetric Fluorometric both	Logic gate	9
10		Al(III)	MeCN-H ₂ O (2:8)	3.0×10 ⁻⁵	Colourimetric Fluorometric both	Cell imaging	10
11		Al(III), Cr(III) Fe(III), Cu(II)	MeOH-H ₂ O (9:1)	2.27×10 ⁻⁶ 1.29×10 ⁻⁶ 1.75×10 ⁻⁶ 1.21×10 ⁻⁶	Fluorometric	Cell imaging Paper strip	11
12		Hg(II), TNP (not in vapour state)	EtOH-H ₂ O (2:8)	2.43×10 ⁻⁸ 8.37×10 ⁻⁸	Fluorometric	Cell imaging	12
13		Al(III), TNP (not in vapour state)	H ₂ O	1.13×10 ⁻⁸ 2.01×10 ⁻⁸	Fluorometric	Cell imaging	13

14		Al(III), TNP(not in vapour state)	DMS O-H ₂ O (1:9)	6.99×10^{-9} 1.67×10^{-6}	Fluorometric	Logic gate	14
15	Ni – MOF	TNP (not in vapour state)	MeCN , Gas	2.9×10^{-5}	Fluorometric	N ₂ Adsorption	15
16	Dy – MOF	TNP(not in vapour state)	H ₂ O, Gas	1.25×10^{-5}	Fluorometric		16
17		TNP(not in vapour state)	DMF	6.9×10^{-8}	Fluorometric	Portable device	17
18		TNP(not in vapour state)	MeCN	5.5×10^{-9}	Fluorometric	Paper Strip	18
19		TNP(not in vapour state)	Gas	9.8×10^{-10}	Colourimetric Fluorometric both	Paper strip	19
20		Al(III), Fe(II), TNP(not in vapour state)	DMS O-H ₂ O, Gas	6.02×10^{-9} , 7.5×10^{-9} , 6.0×10^{-8}	Colourimetric Fluorometric both	Al(III) detection and quantification	Present Work

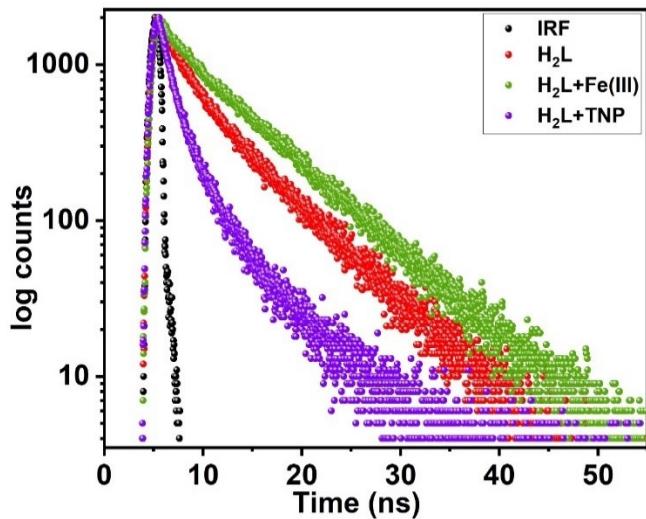


Fig. S17: Time-resolved fluorescence decay of probe **H₂L** in the presence and absence of Fe (III) and TNP

Table S2: Different parameter values during lifetime experiments of **H₂L** in the presence and absence of Fe(III) and TNP

Sample	τ_1	τ_2	α_1	α_2	χ^2	τ_{av}
H ₂ L (10 μ M)	1.35	7.62	0.318	0.681	1.146	5.618
H ₂ L (10 μ M) + Fe(III) (10 μ M)	1.95	7.04	0.586	0.414	1.08	4.05
H ₂ L (10 μ M) + TNP	1.142	4.64	0.424	0.575	1.154	3.15

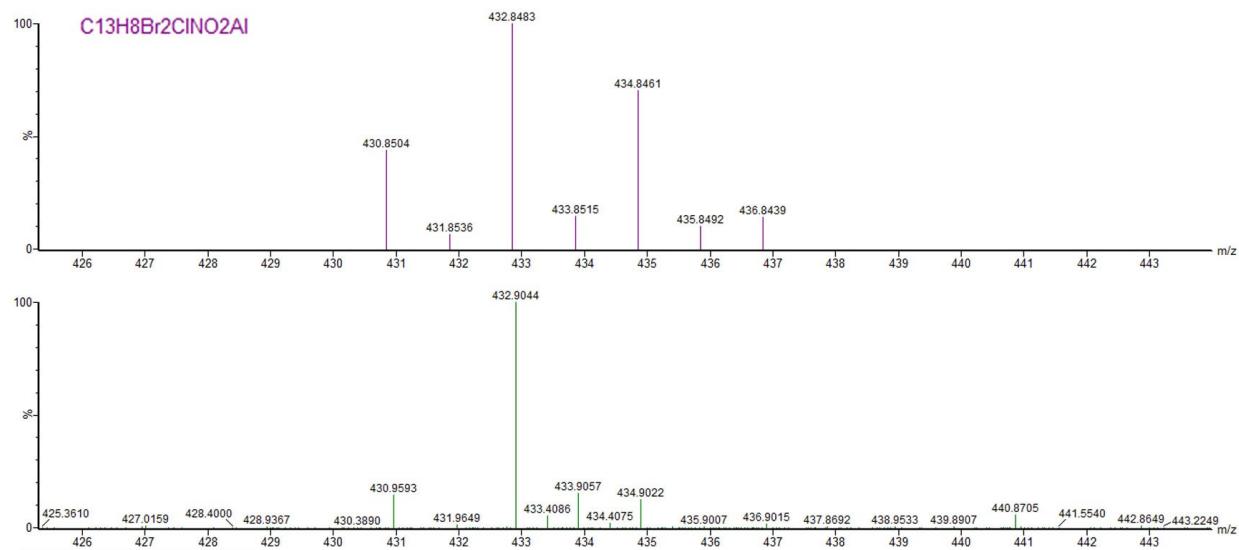


Fig. S18: MASS spectra of $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Al(III)}$ adduct

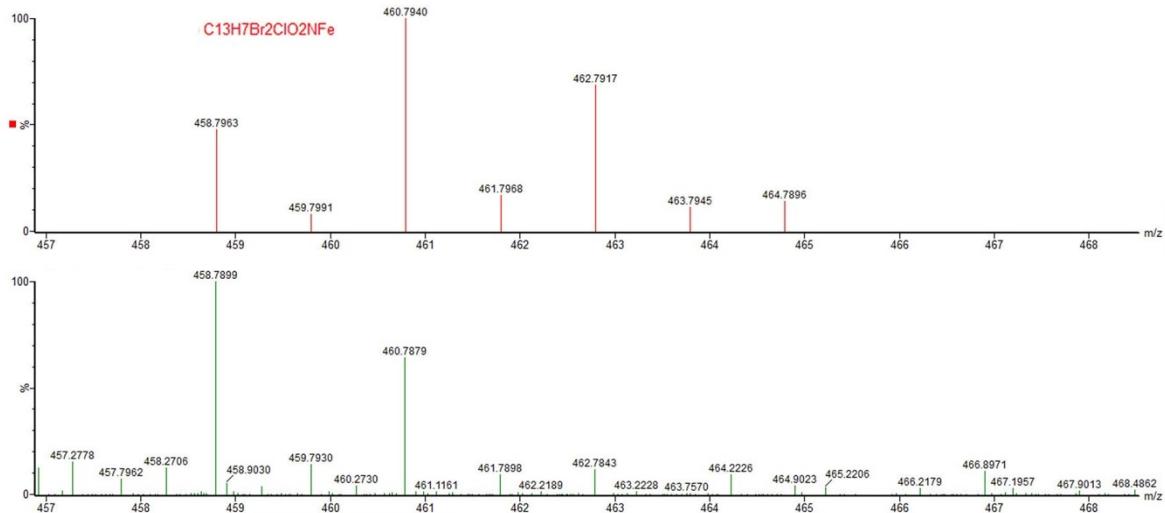


Fig. S19: MASS spectra of $\text{H}_2\text{L} - \text{Fe(III)}$ adduct

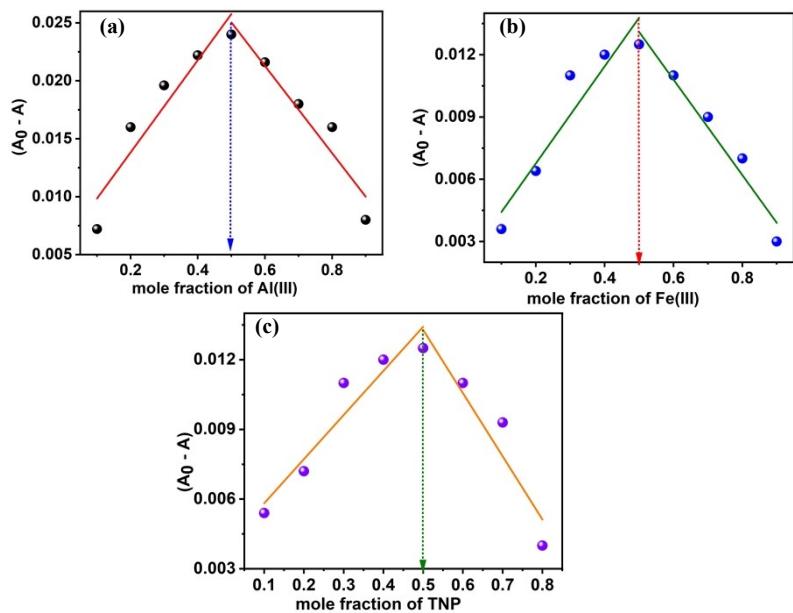


Fig. S20: Job's plot for the determination of 1:1 stoichiometry complexation of H_2L and (a) Al(III) (b) Fe(III) and (c) TNP

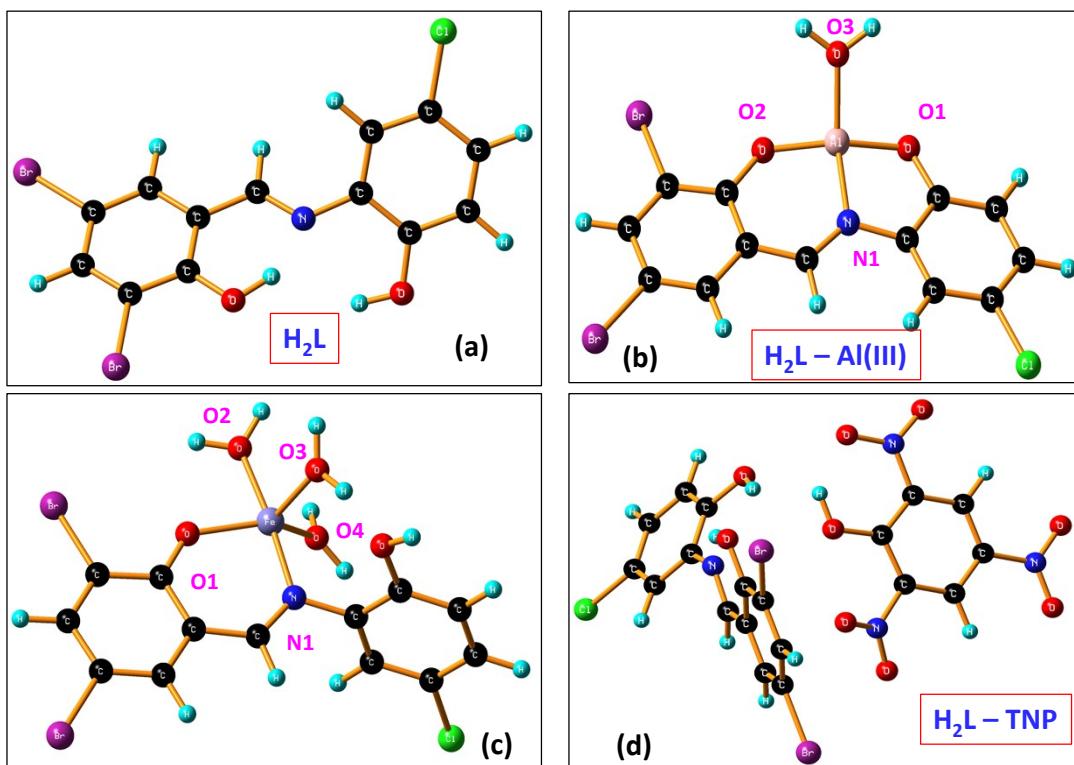


Fig. S21: DFT optimized electronic structure of (a) H_2L (b) $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{Al(III)}$ Complex (c) $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{Fe(III)}$ Complex (d) $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{TNP}$ adduct

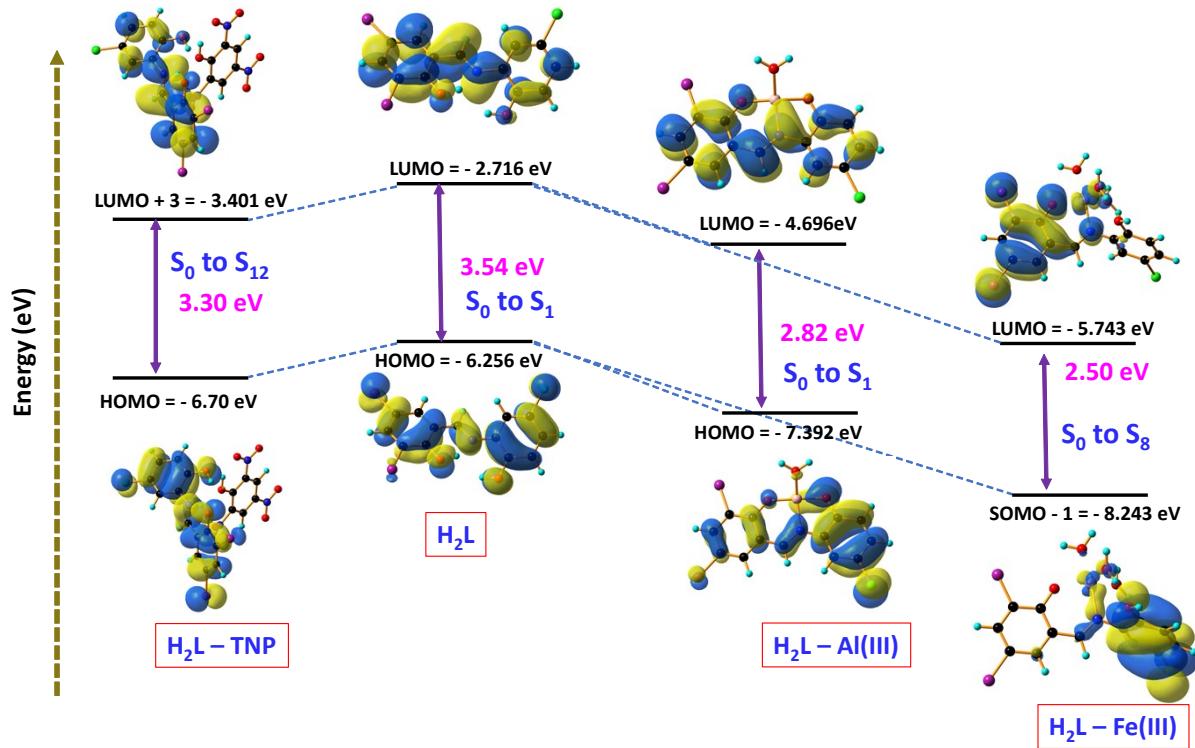


Fig. S22: HOMO-LUMO energy gap for H_2L , $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{Al(III)}$, $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{Fe(III)}$, $\text{H}_2\text{L}-\text{TNP}$

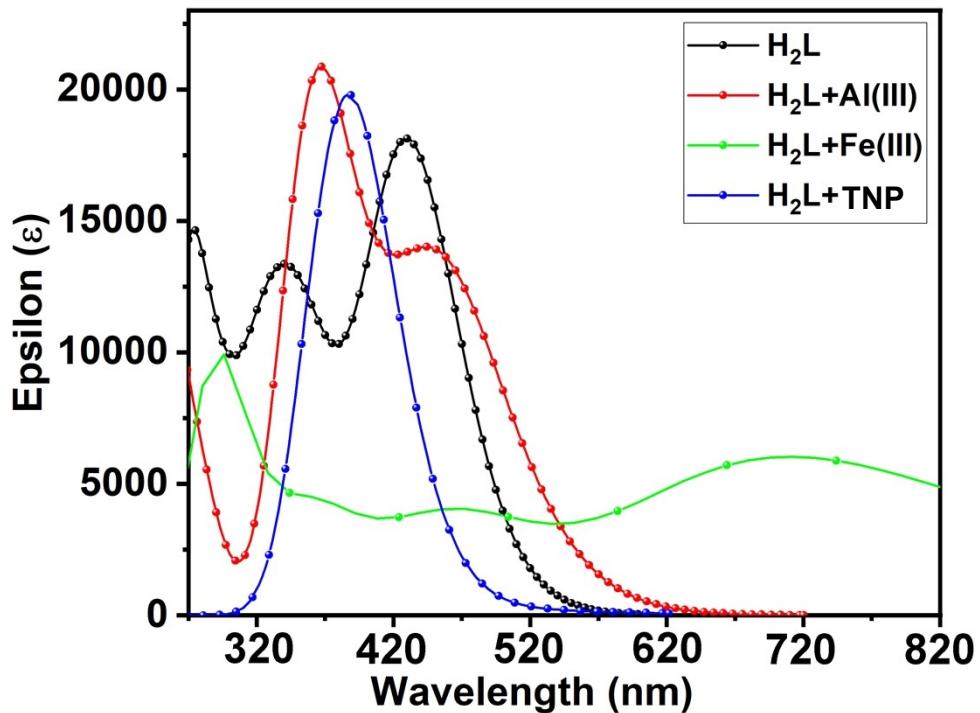


Fig. S23: DFT optimized electronic spectra of the Probe and the probe analyte complexes

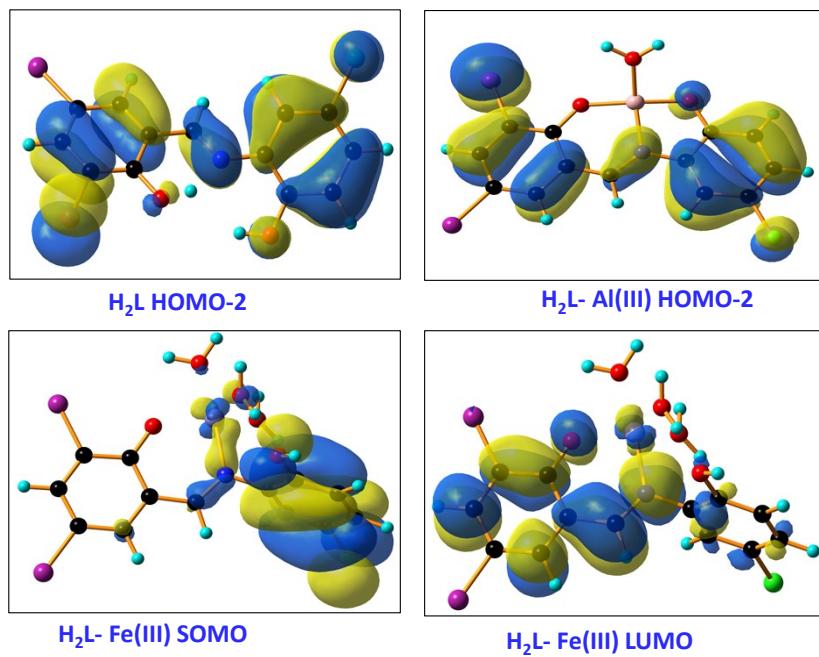


Fig. S24: Frontier Molecular Orbital images of the probe $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$ and the Probe analyte complexes

Table S3: Selected Bond distance and Bond angles of $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}$, $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\text{-Al(III)}$ complex, $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\text{-Fe(III)}$ complex and $\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\text{-TNP}$ adduct in the ground state geometry

compounds	Bond distance(Å)		Bond angle (degree)	
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\text{-Al(III)}$ complex (Distorted Tetrahedral)	Al-O1(L)	1.785	O1- Al -N1	88.30
	Al-O2(L)	1.757	O1- Al -O2	154.93
	Al-N1	1.932	O3- Al -N1	138.32
	Al – O3(W)	1.854	O3- Al -O2	96.55
			O3- Al -O1	97.18
			O2- Al -N1	95.20
$\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{L}\text{-Fe(III)}$ complex (Distorted Square pyramidal)	Fe-N1	1.966	N1- Fe -O1	92.22
	Fe-O1	1.940	N1- Fe -O2	174.95
	Fe-O2	1.989	N1- Fe -O3	93.45
	Fe-O3	1.984	N1- Fe -O4	94.82
	Fe -O4	2.00	O1- Fe -O2	83.63
			O1- Fe -O3	116.43
			O1- Fe -O4	132.00
			O2- Fe -O3	90.97
			O2- Fe -O4	85.87
			O3- Fe -O4	110.43

H₂L-TNP adduct	O1(L)--H(O)	2.10		
----------------------------------	-------------	------	--	--

Table S4: Molecular Orbital, involved the Major Electronic Transitions with Osc. Strength of H₂L, H₂L – Al(III) Complex, H₂L – Fe(III) Complex and H₂L-TNP adduct

Compounds	Wavelength(nm)	Osc. Strength	Electronic Transition
H₂L	340.25	0.2127	H-2(A) – L(A)
	420.18	0.4191	H(A) – L(A)
H₂L-Al(III) complex	360.08	0.2783	H(A) – L(A)
	445.48	0.4987	H-2(A) – L(A)
H₂L-Fe(III) complex	368.29	0.0593	S-1(A) – L(A)
	470.34	0.0518	S(A) – L+1(A)
	720.39	0.1095	S-9(A) – L(A)
H₂L-TNP adduct	385.13	0.5141	H(A) – L+3(A)

Table S5: Measured amount of Al(III) concentration in market-available drug samples along with a comparison with HPLC method

Sample Name	Conc. Of H ₂ L (μ M)	Amount of sample solution taken (μ l)	Measured Conc. Of Al(III) (μ M)	Average Conc. Of Al(III) (μ M)	HPLC Method (μ M)
Gelusil	1	100	0.942	0.942	0.90
	1	100	0.941		
	1	100	0.942		
Diagene	1	100	0.789	0.794	0.76
	1	100	0.798		
	1	100	0.795		

Diovil	1	100	0.536	0.535	0.51
	1	100	0.536		
	1	100	0.534		
Disprin	1	100	0.412	0.418	0.41
	1	100	0.420		
	1	100	0.423		
Nexpro rd	1	100	0.205	0.207	0.22
	1	100	0.208		
	1	100	0.209		
Telma	1	100	0.155	0.155	0.17
	1	100	0.153		
	1	100	0.157		

References

1. A Bhattacharyya, S. C. Makhal, and N. Guchhait, *ACS Omega*, 2018, **3**, 11838–11846.
2. V. K. Gupta, S. K. Shoora, L. K. Kumawat, and A. K. Jain, *Sensors Actuators, B Chem.* 2015, **209**, 15–24.
3. R. Patra, and K. K Rajak, *ChemistrySelect*, 2020, **5**, 9477 – 9485.
4. G. M. Khairy, A. S. Amin, S. M. N. Moalla, A. Medhat , and Nader Hassan, *RSC Adv.*, 2022,**12**, 27679-27686.
5. Z. Wu, Z. Xu, H. Tan, X. Li, J. Yan, C. Dong and L. Zhang, *Spectrochim. Acta, Part A*, 2019, **213** , 167 —175.
6. U. D. Kamaci, M. Kamaci, and Aysegul Peksel, *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, 2021, **254**, 119650.

7. V. K. Gupta N. Mergu, and L. K. Kumawat, *Sensors and Actuators B*, 2016, **223**, 101 – 113.
8. M, Zhang, L. Gong, C. Sun, W. Li, Z. Chang, and D. Qi, *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy*, 2019, **214**, 07 – 13.
9. R. Gupta, S. S. Malak, V. Kumar and P. Kumar, *New J. Chem.*, 2020, **44**, 13285-13294.
10. S. Das, U. Mukherjee, S. Pal, S. Maitra and P. Sahoo, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2019, **17**, 5230-5233.
11. B. Das, A. Ghosh, D. P. Dorairaj, M. Dolai, R. Karvembu, S. Mabhai, H. Im, S. Dey, and A. Misra, *Journal of Molecular Liquids*, 2022, **354**, 118824.
12. S. Das, M. Das, U. K. Das, B. C. Samanta, A. Bag, A. Patra, N. Bhattacharya, T. Maity, *Dyes and Pigments*, 2024, **222**, 111884.
13. B. Naskar, A. Bauzá, A. Frontera, D. K. Maiti, C. D. Mukhopadhyay, and S. Goswami, *Dalton Trans.* 2018, **47**, 15907-15916.
14. R. Purkait, A. Dey, S. Dey, P. P. Ray and C. Sinha, *New J. Chem.*, 2019, **43**, 14979-14990.
15. S, Chongdar, U. Mondal, T. Chakraborty, P. Banerjee, and A. Bhaumik, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 2023, **15**, 11, 14575–14586.
16. S. Mukherjee, S. Ganguly, A. Chakraborty, A. Mandal, and D. Das, *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* 2019, **7**, 1, 819–830.
17. A. Kathiravan, A. Gowri, T. Khamrang, M. D. Kumar, N. Dhenadhayalan, K. C. Lin, M. Velusamy, and M. Jaccob, *Anal. Chem.* 2019, **91**, 20, 13244–13250.
18. A. Kumar, A. Kumar and S. Pandey, *Dalton Trans.*, 2016, **45**, 8475-8484.
19. A. K. Nandi, S. Mondal, P. Bairi, and Sujoy Das, *Chemistry – A European Journal*, 2018, **24**, 5591 – 5600.