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(57) Abstract :
This experimental study investigates the mechanical and thermal properties of basalt fiber and nanoclay reinforced polymer composites, with a focus on their potential for industrial applications. The primary objective of this work is to develop a composite material that combines the inherent benefits of basalt fiber and nanoclay to enhance the performance of polymers in various engineering fields. Basalt fibers, derived from volcanic rock, are known for their excellent mechanical strength, thermal resistance, and environmental sustainability. Nanoclay, on the other hand, is a nanomaterial that can improve the properties of polymers due to its high surface area and exceptional interaction with the matrix. In this study, basalt fibers of varying lengths and nanoclay concentrations were incorporated into a polymer matrix, and the composite samples were fabricated using a standard molding process. The mechanical properties, including tensile strength, flexural strength, and impact resistance, were evaluated using ASTM standard test methods. The thermal behavior of the composites was assessed using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), which provided insight into the material's heat resistance, thermal stability, and degradation patterns. The results showed significant improvements in both mechanical and thermal properties of the polymer matrix upon the incorporation of basalt fiber and nanoclay. The tensile strength and impact resistance of the composite material increased by a notable margin, while the thermal stability and degradation temperature were enhanced compared to the pure polymer. The findings suggest that basalt fiber and nanoclay reinforced polymer composites hold significant promise for applications in industries such as automotive, aerospace, and construction, where high-performance materials are crucial. This innovation could lead to the development of eco-friendly, cost-effective composite materials with superior mechanical and thermal properties, offering substantial advantages in both product performance and environmental sustainability. A utility patent for this composite material is proposed based on these novel findings.