



Dr. Rajappan Vetrivel, an Honorary Professor at Poorna Prajna Institute of Science and Technology, Bangalore, is a distinguished Computational Chemist. Trained at IIT-Madras under the supervision of Prof. B. Viswanathan, he pioneered molecular modeling at institutions like the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, GE Technology Centre, Bangalore, and Shell Technology Centre, Bangalore. A postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Richard Catlow, FRS, in the UK, he co-founded Sravathi AI, blending AI with pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Awards include the Catalysis Society of India's 1997 Young Scientist Award, GE and Shell Corporate Share options, and patents.

The life and work of **Professor B. Viswanathan** (BV, Born 1941) is a hallmark of absolute and unflinching dedication toward research and teaching in Catalysis, Chemistry, and Science. During his five decades of a long association with the Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, Prof. BV, as he is fondly known, has been instrumental in building and nurturing catalysis research, establishing state-of-the-art research facilities, and bringing out significant contributions to different aspects of Catalysis and Materials Science that have won acclaim in both national and international arenas. Naturally, Prof. BV has been instrumental in setting up the First National Centre for Catalysis Research (NCCR) at IIT Madras (2006), sponsored by the DST, devoted exclusively to developing human resources and carrying out advanced research in Catalysis. Due to his untiring efforts, NCCR has emerged as a Centre of Excellence, earning recognition at national and international fora of science, for sustained contributions towards education, training, and research, in Catalysis.



Many of the students mentored by Prof. BV are now associated with leading academic institutions, research laboratories, and industrial research organizations around the globe, spreading the scientific temper that he has inculcated. Due to his close association with academia as well as many industries across the country and abroad, he has been nominated for many science governing bodies, both government and private, like DST, CSIR, MNRE, etc., and regularly offers consultancy on a range of topics. He is a highly accomplished Scientist, with more than 600 publications and 30 books and patents covering contemporary topics in Catalysis, Materials Science, and Energy Conversion Processes. He has been a member of the International Council on Catalysis, a global professional body. Despite his continuous and active involvement in various academic as well as administrative responsibilities at IIT Madras, Prof. BV has been the backbone of the Catalysis Society of India (CSI) since its inception (1974) and NCCR has become the nodal point for all CSI activities, which includes the regular publication of the Bulletin of the Catalysis Society of India for nearly four decades or so.

Another landmark contribution of Prof. BV to the science fraternity is in establishing the Catalysis database and regular updating of the portal to date. The database has a huge compilation of research articles, state-of-the-art reports, e-books, monographs, presentations, and lectures on different topics, and all of them are available for free to any scientist throughout the world. His zeal to share knowledge and wisdom with one and all is evident in several online courses he continues to offer to date, on various topics in Catalysis. The Endowment Lecture Series is a simple appreciation of our gratitude and salutations to Prof. BV's life-long dedication to the pursuit of Science and Education.