



Padma Vibhushan Professor Man Mohan Sharma (born 1937) was educated at Mumbai and Cambridge. At the very young age of 27, he was appointed Professor of Chemical Engineering in the premier Chemical Engineering Institute in Mumbai (Institute of Chemical Technology, ICT – A Deemed University, formerly UICT/UDCT). He remained as Professor for 33 years, along with 8 years as Director of this Institute, during which period, the institute’s research and academic output grew exponentially. For his significant contribution, ICT has conferred the Golden Jubilee Distinguished Fellow, Distinguished Alumnus and Diamond Awards. The University

of Mumbai also honoured Prof. Sharma with a LLD degree, and named the ICT library after him.

Prof. Sharma has also received numerous awards and recognitions for his excellent teaching and outstanding research activities including the coveted S.S. Bhatnagar Prize in Engineering Sciences at the age of 36, the Vishwakarma Medal of the Indian National Science Academy, G.M. Modi Award, Sir J.C. Bose Award and the Meghnad Saha Medal. He is a Fellow of all major academies in India as well as a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences. In 1990, he became the first Indian engineer to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society, UK. Prof. Sharma is an International Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, UK and Foreign Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering, USA.

Prof. Sharma has made tremendous contributions and impact on chemical engineering as well as the chemical industry in India. His research over the years has been of great industrial importance concerning chemical reactions and mass transfer characteristics of fluid-fluid contactors. He has carried out detailed studies on the kinetics of gas-liquid and liquid-liquid reactions where mass transfer is accompanied by chemical reactions. His work towards understanding the dynamics of multi-phase reactions in industrial processes earned him the prestigious Leverhulme Medal of the Royal Society. To honour his illustrious career, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan (1987) and the Padma Vibhushan (2001).

Prof. Sharma has published over 250 research papers, and two books to his credit. He has trained a large number of students who have made their mark both in industry and academia. He has chaired numerous committees of the Central Government on policy matters ranging from education, petroleum and petro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers and forensic sciences. He is a man of values and principles, and mesmerized one and all by his fantastic memory which has earned him the name “Walking Encyclopaedia. Above all, what we admire the most in him is the simplicity and modesty. He is always ready to discuss the scientific challenges, engineering innovation and technological advancements from a vantage point. Prof. Sharma is not only the leading science/engineering/technology giants but also a humble human being.

The life and work of **Professor Balasubramanian Viswanathan** (born 1941) is hallmark for absolute and unflinching dedication towards research and teaching in Catalysis, Chemistry and Science. During his five decades of 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 the state-of-the-art research facilities and bringing out significant contributions on different aspects of Catalysis and Materials Science that have won acclaim in both National and International arena. 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 for developing human resources and for 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 the area of 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 and industry across the country and abroad, he has been nominated for many science governing bodies and regularly offers consultancy on a range of topics. He has also been a member in the International Council on Catalysis, a global professional body. Prof. BV is a highly accomplished Scientist, with more than 600 publications, 30 books and several patents covering contemporary topics in Catalysis, Materials Science, and Energy Conversion Processes. In spite of his continuous 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 in the country, which includes the regular publication of the Bulletin of the Catalysis Society of India, organization of National Symposiums, Workshops and Orientation Programmes in Catalysis for nearly four decades.

Another landmark contribution of Prof. BV to the science fraternity is in establishing 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 available for free to any scientist throughout the world. His zeal to share the knowledge and wisdom to one and all is evident in a number of on-line courses he continues to offer as on 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 in pursuit of Science and Education.