Press Release

Amaravati, 18th April 2021

Prof Lakshmi Kantam speaks on "Catalyst for Sustainable Chemical Industry" at SRMAP's University Distinguished Lecture Series.

Prof Lakshmi Kantam quoted "We have to think about sustainable development and chemists have to play a major role in this."

Observing the ninth edition of University Distinguished Lecture Series, SRM University, Andhra Pradesh invited Prof Lakshmi Kantam Mannepalli, the Dr B P Godrej Distinguished Professor of Green Chemistry, Department of Chemical Engineering, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai to address a captivating speech on "Design and Development of Homogeneous/Heterogeneous Catalysts for Sustainable Chemical Industry". Prof D Narayana Rao, Pro Vice-chancellor inaugurated the talk with a welcome speech. Also attended by Prof VS Rao, Vice-Chancellor SRMAP and Dr S Mannathan, Department of Chemistry. Prof D Narayana Rao expressed that "Industrial collaboration is very much necessary in the context of self-reliant India (Atma Nirbhar Bharat)".

Advancing with Prof Lakshmi Kanam's presentation, she added "Global and Indian chemical industry estimate 5.1 trillion and 108.4 billion USD in 2021. Catalysis is a highly demanded technology for sustainable society and drives innovation in many other fields. Achieving the high catalytic selectivity is the aim of catalysis science in 21 st century".

She also stated in her presentation "The catalysis of organic reactions by homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts remains a diversified field of scientific inquiry. It attracts a large group of scientists with specialties spanning synthetic organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, surface science, material science, reaction engineering and computational modeling".

As a part of Prof Lakshmi Kantam' s research study, she briefly explained "Hydroxyapatite (HA) is a hydrated calcium phosphate material, which is an important biomaterial because of its similarity to the mineral component of mammalian bone. We have utilized these materials and their metal exchanged materials as catalysts for C-C and C-N coupling reactions. Similarly, hydrotalcites, anionic clays have been exchanged with different metal ions and successfully applied in a number of organic transformations". An overview of the work on the design and development of catalysts for sustainable, economical process and technologies for the chemical industry was introduced.

Noted personality in the field of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Prof Lakshmi Kantam holds esteemed titles of FNA, FTWAS, FNASc, FRSC. Her fields of expertise are Catalysis, Materials and Process Chemistry. Prof Lakshmi Kantam served as the Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. Prof. Lakshmi Kantam is Non-Executive Independent Director of Godavari Bio Refineries Ltd, Indo Amines Ltd, Vinati Organics Ltd and several others.

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