

Raghunath Anant Mashelkar



Raghunath Anant Mashelkar was born in 1943. From his early life, Dr. Mashelkar showed signs of determination to become an academician amidst all odds. Blessed with his mother's wisdom, he made full use of a timely scholarship from Tata Trusts in 1960. Dr. Mashelkar completed his Ph.D. from University of Mumbai in 1969. He then served as Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at University of Salford in England (1969-76), Visiting Professor at Technical University of Denmark (1982) and at University of Delaware (1975, 1988) and returned to National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune as a senior scientist in the Chemical Engineering Division, which he headed from 1978. Dr. Mashelkar's pioneering research in polymer science and engineering covered in more than 250 research publications in national and international journals was outstanding. Dr. Mashelkar's acumen in scientific administrative position started when he became Director of NCL, Pune in 1989. In 1995, Dr. Mashelkar was appointed as Director to head CSIR, India's largest umbrella network of R&D institutions with 38 laboratories nationwide and more than 22000 employees on board. Soon, under the leadership of Dr. Mashelkar CSIR undertook leadership in the areas like nation wide campaign for developing enterprise initiatives in R & D and global campaign for intellectual property rights on products of Indian origin.

Dr. Mashelkar has won numerous honors and awards nationally and internationally, for his scientific contributions, namely S.S. Bhatnagar Prize (1982), FICCI Award (1987), Viswakarma Medal (1988), O.P. Bhasin Award (1991), Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Technology Award (1991), G.D. Birla Scientific Research Award (1993), Goyal Prize (1996), Kamal Kumari National Award (1997), Bank of India Golden Jubilee Management Award (1998), JRD Tata Award (1998), Material Scientist of the Year Award (2000), H.K. Firodia Award (2000), Jeppiar Educational Trust Award (2001), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Medal for excellence in science by INSA (2001), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award by ISCA, Calcutta (2001) etc.

His academic distinctions include the Fellowship of Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Academy of Engineering. He was elected the Fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste (1994), Foreign Member of Royal Academy of Engineering, U.K. (1996), and Fellow of UK Institute of Chemical Engineering (1996). Thirteen universities have honored him with honorary Doctorate of Science (honoris causa), which include Universities of London, Salford, Pretoria, Wisconsin, Delhi etc.

Dr. Mashelkar was elected as Fellow of Royal Society (FRS), London in 1998. The President of India honored Dr. Mashelkar with Padmashri (1991) and with Padmabhushan (2000) in recognition of his contribution to nation building. Dr. Mashelkar delivered 30th convocation address of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) on 15th February 1996. The title of his address was 'Progress through partnership: The emerging paradigm'.

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