

Now, it is the world of polymers

Scientist CFTRI Mysore

From: ARAVINDA PRASAD

By Our Staff Correspondent

SHIMOGA, JAN. 8. The Deputy Director and Head of the Polymer Chemistry Division at the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, Dr. S.Sivaram, said on Friday that if polymers occupied a unique position in the fields of science and technology in the recent past it was because of their unique combination of desirable properties such as low manufacturing cost, superior performance and easy processability.

Delivering the keynote address at the national seminar on Polymer Technology for Industry and Society organised jointly by the Departments of Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry of Kuvempu University, Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) of Mysore and District Industries Centre at the Jnana Sahyadri-the varsity campus about 30 km from here-he said the fact that the world consumption of polymer material which had risen from zero in 1950 to about 130 million tonnes now spoke of wider application in every field of activity. "There is hardly any material which does not contain polymeric property. Practically we start our day with polymer by using a tooth brush which is made up of polymer and its bristles with nylon and end the day with polymer," he added.

Dr. Sivaram said: "As we step into the new millennium, it is appropriate that we take stock of what has been achieved and look at the challenges ahead". He said it was clear that new developments in polymer materials would be driven more fiercely by performance and cost. Additionally, he said, issues such as eco-efficiency and resource conserva-

tion would come to the fore. "As such, there will be relentless effort to bring the manufacturing cost down".

Dr. Sivaram said polymers which had emerged as one of the recent sciences had registered a phenomenal growth as far as their application was concerned. He said: "if the 7-ft high legendary basketball player, Machael Jordan of the U.S., can bounce to a height of 8 feet it is because of the pair of the shoes that he wears which are made of polymers."

Dr. Sivaram said that with the use of light-emitting polymers, flexible electronic newspapers, custom signs and improved mobile phones in a reduced size would be made available in not a distant future.

Speaking on the emerging frontiers of polymer material science he said improved properties, advanced computational tools and engineering principles and reduced manufacturing cost would feature the future use of polymers.

While observing that there was a need to achieve a greater expertise in understanding the delivery system of polymer properties, Dr. Sivaram said it could not be achieved unless the basics such as chain length, chain sequence, chain isomerism and chain topology were properly understood.

The Vice Chancellor of Kuvempu University, Prof.S.P. Hiremath, who formally inaugurated the seminar, said that it had been aptly said that while the 19th Century belonged to Europe and the 20th Century to the United States in view of their phenomenal progress in the fields of science and technology, the 21st century belonged to India in view of its rich human resource and manpower.

He said that if these two aspects were combined properly it should not be difficult to take India to a greater height in the fields of science and technology.

The Chairman of the Post Graduate Department of Industrial Chemistry, Dr. S.M.Sheregar, welcomed the gathering. Dr. P.Vasudev Nayak proposed a vote of thanks.

Scientists, industrialists and researchers are attending the two-day seminar.

Tumkur CMC staff strike work

By Our Correspondent

TUMKUR, JAN. 8. The employees of the Tumkur City Municipal Council here on Friday struck work in protest against the unilateral decision of the council to relieve one of the staff.

In a statement, the employees' union, President, Mr. R.Bhimaiah, alleged that Mr. Prakash, Revenue Inspector, was removed from service by the Municipal Commissioner on Friday.

It was said that Mr. Prakash had been asked by the municipal vice-president, Mr. Srinivasa Prasad, to revise a house tax assessment. Mr. Prasad had abused and tried to assault Mr. Prakash, when the latter reportedly refused to revise the tax assessment.

Later, on a complaint made by the vice-president and 20 other councillors, the municipal president, Ms. L.Kamala, ordered that the employee be relieved.

Striking employees staged a dharna after locking up all the sections of the municipal office.

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Dr. SHIVRAM NCL Head Polymer Section