

## Forty-second Engineers' Day

The Karnataka State Centre celebrated the Forty-second Engineers' Day on 15.09.2009 on the theme "Engineering solutions to combat Climate Change". This year's celebration synchronizing with the 149<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya was a unique one since the State Centre embarked upon installation of a life size bronze statue of Sir M.V. at its premises.

**Sri B.S. Yeddyurappa**, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka graced the occasion as Chief Guest and **unveiled the statue of Sir M.V at 9.00 am on 15.9.2009**. **Sri Katta Subramanya Naidu**, Hon'ble Minister for Information and BT and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka accompanied the Hon'ble Chief Minister. **Dr.L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy, Dr. S.B. Ganjigatti** and other Committee Members, Corporate Members, invitees and media representatives were also present.

Addressing the media and other invitees, Hon'ble Sri Yeddyurappa recalled the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and said that Government would organize programmes to commemorate his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary next year. He paid rich tribute to the great Engineer-Statesman who was the main force behind the construction of the KRS Dam, the steel plant at Bhadravathi, Sri Jayachamarajendra Polytechnic, the University of Mysore, Karnataka Soaps & Detergents, and many other Industries and public works. Sir M.V. was also instrumental in the founding of the Government Engineering College at Bangalore, one of the first engineering institutes in India, which was later named as University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering. He was also founder of State Bank of Mysore.

Concluding Hon'ble Sri Yeddyurappa said, Visvesvaraya is a role model for the present generation of engineers and the Government would identify such eminent engineers and felicitate them on the occasion next year. He called upon the engineers of the State to emulate his work principles and in turn inspire the younger generation to involve themselves in the nation building activities.

At 10.30 hrs on the same day, the Forty-second Engineers' Day Celebrations were held at the Sir M.V. Auditorium. **Dr. L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy**, Chairman welcomed the Chief Guest and the invitees. **Sri C.M. Udasi**, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Government of Karnataka graced the occasion as Chief Guest and read the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister along with his own speech.

In his welcome address, Dr. Muralikrishna Reddy said, IEI which was started in the year 1920 with a humble beginning, is now a unique professional body encompassing 15 engineering disciplines with an overall membership of over 6.0 lakhs. The Karnataka State Centre established in 1934 and declared as one of the active Centres, is at present having more than 35000 members.

During the Platinum Jubilee Year, the Centre is embarking upon 75 noteworthy activities and events spread over the whole year including the 42<sup>nd</sup> Engineers' Day Celebration and Unveiling of the life size bronze statue of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

**Dr. Wooday P. Krishna**, Council Member, IEI spoke in kannada on the significance of Engineers' Day and paid rich encomiums to the qualities of head and heart of Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

It is the convention of the State Centre to honour distinguished personalities in recognition of their meritorious service in their fields of specialization. The following eminent engineers were honoured on the occasion. Hon'ble Sri C.M. Udasi conferred the awards on them.

- \* Prof H.P. Khincha, Vice Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum for development of Power Systems and Management
- \* Dr. K. Sham Sunder, Former Project Director (Air Frame) & Associate Programme Director, Aeronautical Development Agency and presently Advisor to the Director, National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore for his contribution in the field of Aeronautics
- \* Padmashri Prof R.M. Vasagam, Former Vice Chancellor, Anna University and presently Pro-Chancellor, Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute in the field of Space Programmes
- \* Dr. R. Venkataraman, Former Chief Engineer, Indian Space Research Organisation Bangalore for Implementation of Infrastructure Projects of ISRO

**Prof J. Srinivasan**, Chairman, Divecha Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science delivered a Key-note Address on this theme, "**Engineering Solutions to Combat Climate Change**".

Prof. Srinivasan presented facts and analysis of global warming and the role of engineers about climate change. He explained about the emission of carbon dioxide affecting global temperature, melting of snow in the Arctic during summer, disintegrating ice shelves, etc. It was mentioned that the ice shelves which require ten thousand years to form disintegrate in a short period of weeks. The Gantotri glacier has retreated more than 850 mts over the last 25 years. The effect of global warming is that in Mumbai during July, 2005, there was a very heavy rain fall affecting living in the city by flooding, destruction of houses, etc. He mentioned about the top ten countries where the carbon dioxide emission was higher compared to other countries, namely, USA, China, Korea, etc.

He suggested adopting solar energy technology to reduce air pollution with the view to combat climate change. It was mentioned that the cost of producing solar energy is high and technology should be improved to reduce the cost for more usage.

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In his power point presentation, several building complexes where they have adopted solar energy for lighting and other purposes, were shown. In some of the buildings shown by him, the entire roof is designed for solar energy. India has to encourage solar energy utilization in order to combat global warming and conserve energy from the usual sources. The various techniques adopted in different countries for solar power were presented. He also mentioned about algae-based bio-fuels.

Through his presentation, the members were informed about the precautions to be taken to combat global warming failing which there will disastrous effect for human beings in the future.

**Dr. S.B. Ganjigatti**, Honorary Secretary, proposed vote of thanks.