

Twenty-fifth National Convention of Mechanical Engineers at Delhi

Challenges for Manufacturing in the Next Decade

The Delhi State Centre of the Institution organised the Twenty-fifth National Convention of Mechanical Engineers during November 6-7, 2009. The Chief Guest, Dr Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, in his inaugural address, elaborately explained the role of manufacturing sector for the growth of Indian economy. He mentioned that drastic changes on the political and economic fronts in 1991 brought major revolution in catalyzing the growth of Indian economy. He stated that the sustainable growth during the last fifteen years had compelled the world to accept India as a super power of the future. Dr Jadhav warned that current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 11% of the country, in comparison to 80%-90% of other developed countries would adversely affect the growth process. Shri R S Chakravarty, Chairman, Mechanical Engineering Division Board of the Institution, in his address highlighted on various issues hampering the growth of manufacturing sector and stressed on the need to focus more on optimizing supply-chain management. Rear Admiral K O Thakare, NM, the then President of IEI, highlighted some areas where the Institution had taken the lead in recent times including obtaining the full membership of Engineers Mobility Forum. He informed that the Institution was also making efforts for enactment of the Engineers Bill, which would establish a regulatory mechanism for engineering professionals and also accord them statutory recognition. Prof S G Deshmukh, Director, ABV Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, delivered the Dr S P Luthra Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Manufacturing Competitiveness: Issues and Challenges', while Prof D P Agarwal, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, delivered the Dr S C Bhattacharyya Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Some Issues in Emerging Manufacturing Scene'. Two State-of-the-Art lectures were delivered by Prof T K Kundra, former Head, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Delhi, and Shri Praveen Kumar, Member (Mechanical), Railway Board. On this occasion



A view of the dais

five eminent engineers, namely, Shri A K Ghosh, Director (Commercial), MECON Limited; Prof S G Deshmukh, Director, ABV Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior; Prof T K Kundra, former Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Delhi; Shri Praveen Kumar, Member (Mechanical), Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Government of India; and Prof Kripa Sankar, Vice Chancellor, UP Technical University, Lucknow, were felicitated for their valuable contributions in the field of mechanical engineering. Three mechanical engineers, namely, Dr Santanu Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kanpur; Dr G Saravana Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras and Dr S Senthilvelan, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, received the 'IEI Young Engineers Awards' in the field of mechanical engineering for the session 2009-10. Earlier, Dr D S Varma, Chairman of the Centre, welcomed the dignitaries and the participants. Dr H G Kamble, Honorary Secretary of the Centre, proposed the vote of thanks. A National Seminar on the theme 'Challenges for Manufacturing in the Next Decade' was organised concurrently as a part of the Convention. Papers on various sub-themes were presented and discussed during various technical sessions. Recommendations that emerged included: *Professional institutions, already having the necessary infrastructure for training and skill building, should be motivated to actively involve in imparting the technical training and skill building at a rapid pace to meet the escalating requirements of the industries. Conditions of services and facilities in the manufacturing sectors should be improved to attract best brains. More focus should be laid to enhance interaction between academia – industry – government for initiating timely action to meet the challenges. Government should take initiative in this regard. Maintaining and enhancing firm level competitiveness should be taken on priority basis. Skills-building programme at the shop floor should be designed by involving engineering institutions so that the latest cost-effective practices are transferred.*

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Concrete Dams

The Nagpur Local Centre of the Institution organised a two-day All India Seminar on 'Concrete Dams' during October 2-3, 2009. The Chief Guest, Prof (Dr) R Jagadish, President, ICI, spoke about major dams constructed in India and stressed the importance of their maintenance. Shri S N Huddar, former Secretary, CADA, and Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, gave illustrative examples of dams all over the world and highlighted the importance of construction of dams. Shri V V Gaiwad, Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, Water



A view of the dais

Resources Department, while presiding over the function, highlighted the progress of construction of dams in Maharashtra and spoke about their irrigation potential and power generation capacities. Earlier, Shri M I Shaikh, Chief Engineer Water Resources Department, Nagpur Region, and Principal Convener of the Seminar, delivered the introductory speech and spoke about the theme of the Seminar. Dr J B Helonde, Honorary Secretary of the Centre, proposed the vote of thanks. Papers on various sub-themes were presented and discussed during technical sessions which evoked keen interest amongst the participants.