

# 53<sup>rd</sup> ENGINEERS' DAY

**Theme:**

**“Engineers for a Self-Reliant India”**

September 15 is celebrated every year in the country since 1967 as “Engineers’ Day” to commemorate the birthday of the legendary engineer Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. Sir Visvesvaraya, an eminent Indian engineer and statesman was born in a remote village of Karnataka, the State that is incidentally now the Hi-tech State of the country. Due to his outstanding contribution to the society, Government of India conferred “Bharat Ratna” on this legend in the year 1955. He was also called the precursor of economic planning in India. His learned discourse on economic planning in India, Planned Economy for India and Reconstructing India, was the first available document on the planning effort of the country and it is still held as the parent source matter for economic planners. A theme of national importance is chosen every year by the Council of the Institution and deliberated at its various State/Local Centres to educate the engineering fraternity in general and the society in particular. This year the 53rd Engineers’ Day will be celebrated all over the country and the Council of the Institution has selected the theme as “Engineers for a Self-Reliant India” to mark the occasion.

Government of India is taking several steps to ensure that we are well prepared to face the challenges and threats posed by COVID-19. India has faced the COVID-19 situation with fortitude and a spirit of self-reliance that is evident in the fact that from zero production of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) before March 2020, India today has created a capacity of producing 2 lakh PPE kits daily, which is also growing steadily.



**Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya**

Indian economy.

The Indian engineering community subscribes to the above philosophy and has done itself proud. “Leadership” in India would come by only when all those who have authority and money, use them not only for their own gains but also for the benefit of those who lack them. Participative “governance”, rather than merely government, can drive the change. Public participation, continuous and tireless hard work, are the instruments that only could provide India the leadership baton where the world will watch the country as an embodiment of vibrancy, equity, and intellect in a market-driven economy in an all-inclusive environment. Redistributions from richer and more powerful groups to poorer groups that may face limited opportunities should be pursued. The ultimate goal should be reduction of poverty through equitable pursuit of prosperity and the engineering community will harness and manage the natural resources with equity lens and demand level-playing field.

Efforts at the required reforms must be accompanied by safeguards as appropriate for a country of the size and income disparity such as India. Also, policy initiatives that contribute to the growth of agricultural and manufacturing sectors, and therefore create employment, must be pursued rigorously.

There is a clear path to lead India to global leadership in engineering and technology and become self-reliant in these spheres. The country has the resources, the institutions and the mindset too. Engineers do need to work towards a fusion of our positive achievements. This is the essential condition for India’s path towards self-reliance and emergent role in global engineering and technology. With the seamless engineering and technology capabilities, tempered by the social and political systems, Indian engineers can be the harbinger to the development of economy of the country in the post-pandemic regime.