

Welcome Address

Honourable Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great opportunity for us, the organisers of the Third All India Conference on Engineering Materials & Equipment to be able to come so close to you all—all of you who constitute various disciplines of life—the disciplines which are so interrelated and important specially to-day when specialisation means a way for all and all for the way.

You have assembled here to-day with a great love for our city, the Calcutta. Many of you know how glorious was the growth of our City. This City is the birth place of hundreds of great men of Indian History. This City was the creation of the Britishers—but they could not make the history of the City as they desired or planned. This City soon turned to be a hot bed of politics. From that very time the fashionable City of Calcutta lost the charm of living—the Britishers found the City of Delhi more safe to live in. Calcutta lost the glory of the Empire Capital. Calcutta did not bother for it. It maintained its tradition of independent growth, independent thinking and revolutionary outlook.

You will be astonished to know that during the last fifty years of British Rule they undertook no significant development work for the City of Calcutta. The old water supply, sewerage and drainage systems were not renovated for years together. The Calcutta Corporation had no fund to purchase land for expansion of the garbage dumping ground. But Calcutta had its natural attraction for the Bengalees and other Indians who had once got acquaintance with their "liveliest Indian City". Calcutta soon grew up to a most

populous City. The Government was reluctant to take up any major expensive work for Calcutta. On the contrary the shock of the two successive World Wars hit the City of Calcutta most and the City-economy was shattered.

And amidst this catastrophic economic conditions the country was declared Independent and the City of Calcutta independently sharing the burden of the lakhs of refugees of the East Pakistan. The then popular Govt. could do very little for the development of this City. There was no sufficient money for the city—the city of Calcutta along with its industrial fringes tried its level best to boost up the economy of the country—Calcutta remained neglected.

Thanks to our Prime Minister Shreemati Indira Gandhi. Calcutta during the 4th 5-year plan period got tremendous encouragement and help from the present Government. The City is developing. We are constructing new building and renovating the old ones, but we also know that a city cannot grow only on its masonry foundation—other aspects are also equally important. For the city of Calcutta the Metropolitan Planning Organisation is there to plan the physical schemes for development of city. But the economic progress of the Calcutta and its hinterland does not seem to be desirable to many and discrimination is apparent in all cases. However, it is for us to exert and regain our lost position

The Calcutta 2001 exhibition will depict the aspirations of the citizens of the Greater Calcutta and of the country as a whole, as to how they wish Calcutta to grow. This Exhibitions will portray mainly the physical

programmes of C. M. P. O. that is now being taken up gradually by C. M. D. A. for implementation through various executing authorities.

We invite you all to this Exhibition and also request you to give your suggestions and comments as how we would improve upon our programmings. We thank our honourable

Minister not only for his coming over here to inaugurate the exhibition but also for his kind help and co-operation through his I & P. R. dept. without which this Exhibitions could not be possible. We thank you all for taking the trouble of coming over here and joining this inaugural function.

R. N. Mukherjee

Inaugural Address

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sorry I am late in attending this function as I was preoccupied. First of all I convey my greetings and wishes from the side of the Government and personally to you all and hope that the Exhibition: Calcutta 2001 will be a success. The beginning is good, the end, I hope, will be so. I also thank the sponsors of this exhibition which is something new to the people of Calcutta.

The main purpose of an exhibition is to create an intention of planning. As a result, the main success depends not only on Government but, if the engineers take utmost interest in it, must the exhibition be successful.

This is the first time endeavours have been made to think upon Calcutta in West Bengal.

The starting is no doubt good and hope Calcutta is properly developed.

We the representatives of the people forming a Government body can run administration but we are not the masters of planning and programmes. I don't feel shy to express that we require your active participation and cooperation and I am sure, this is the first time we are asking your utmost cooperation to develop this Calcutta.

I thank all those departments who extended their cooperation to make the exhibition a success. I thank all engineers and men of disciplines of life who come over here from different parts of India. I thank you all:

Jai Hind

Subrata Mukherjee