

Editorial

INDIA has joined the selected band of proud independent countries who have crossed the 25th year of their independence. It is a year of rejoicing no doubt but also a year of assessment of our achievement. To bring about the all round industrial and economic development in the country after the turbulent gestation period of independence movement we had to rely heavily on foreign assistance and active collaboration in the form of technical know-how, imported materials, sophisticated machinery and equipments. They belied our expectation.

It is heartening to note that those who are in helm of affairs have of late developed the revolutionary determination to undertake a massive developmental programme throughout the country relying mainly on its own ~~resources~~ both in man power and material requirements. To harness this upsurge of all round growth to purposeful ends the corresponding preparedness of

the country need be assessed and with this objective in mind, the Association of Engineers, India has sponsored this Engineering Materials and Equipment Conference focussing special attention on two aspects of topical interest namely **Bridge Construction** and **Abatement of Environmental Pollution**. The session on Synthetic Fibres and Fabrics is being abandoned due to lack of sufficient response. As all the papers on Abatement of Environmental Pollution cannot be accommodated in one session this has been extended to the next date.

The special features of this conference are exhibition Calcutta : 2001 and the award of KARMAVIROTTAMA title to Sri S. L. Kirloskar, Sri P. C. Bose and Dr. M. N. Dastur, the three stalwarts in the field of engineering and technology for their life long dedication to the cause of engineering and technological profession. In every technical session the experts in their field of activities have been requested to give lectures and their contribution in the form of articles have been published in the souvenir which is a Special Issue of the Journal of the Association of Engineers, India. The papers of those speakers which were received late could not be published in full, except the synopsis. Their articles would be published in the subsequent issue. The exhibition Calcutta : 2001 will be supplemented by popular talks on the same subject from speakers of various age group and different walks of life.

I hope the deliberations of this conference would be of tremendous help not only to the Government but also to the industrialists, manufacturers and the entrepreneurs to draw up their future "Plan of Action".