

Report of 5th R K Vir Memorial Lecture

Held on January 5, 2018

Institution's Premises, New Delhi

Delhi State Centre of The Institution of Engineers (India) jointly with The Institution of Railway Electrical Engineers (IREE), The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) - Delhi Local Network and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) organized 5th R K Vir Memorial Lecture on **January 5, 2018 at** Institution's Premises, New Delhi. **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Honorable Minister of Railway & Coal, Government of India was the Chief Guest of the Function.

Delivering the welcome address Shri Devendra Gill, Chairman, Delhi State Centre, The Institution of Engineers (India) mentioned that today's Memorial Lecture is special because Shri R K Vir was a fellow of The Institution of Engineers (India) and Delhi State Centre had conferred Lifetime achievement award on him during Engineers' Day on September 15, 2011. He said that today is more so special because father of Chief Guest of today's function has been blessing Delhi State Centre by his presence as Chief Guest in different functions between 2000 and 2005. He shared his satisfaction on collaborative initiative of likeminded professional bodies who have joined today for honoring Shri R K Vir, an Engineer of high stature. He assured that Delhi State Centre, IEI shall continue to extend its support for such activities in future also.

Chief Guest of the function, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Honorable Minister of Railway & Coal, Government of India remembered Late Shri R K Vir as he and his father did Engineering from Banaras Hindu University together in 1949. He stated that Late Shri R K Vir would always be remembered amongst the Pioneers who contributes in the initial stages for construction of the Railway System in India. Honorable Minister stated that Indian Railways was also a charm for people to travel, which needs to be revived back. He informed that present Government has taken many initiatives like 100% electrification of total Railway Network, for which every year 1500 kilometers work is being completed. The target for future is 6400 kilometers and then 8000 kilometers per year on sustainable basis. He stated that Indian Railway need to give safe journey and pleasure to travel to nearly 2.5 crore passengers everyday. In addition, Indian Railway also carries over 1.1 billion tonnes of freight every year.

He stated that Indian Railway have to make right choices and ensure that it do justice to the nation and show change in a 106 year old organization, Indian Railway have to introduce latest technologies in quick time. Indian Railway have a proactive plan ahead of time for safer, better quality systems and ensure integration of systems for effective results for which Indian Railway employees has to work together and show utmost commitment. Trains have to be run on time so that passengers are not affected and goods move at a faster pace and delivered when promised.

Shri Ghanshyam Singh, Member Traction, Railway Board and Ex officio Secretary to Govt of India delivered the key-note address on theme: ***“Electrification of 100% BG network of India Railways”***. Shri Singh stated that this event is significant in view of Railways proposal to enhance plan outlay to highest level of Rs. 1.46 lakh crores in next fiscal up from Rs. 1.31 lakh crores for the current financial year. His address focused on electrification of 8000 km of Rail track and commissioning of 4000 km of new lines which will be another record in capacity building exercise of Railways.

Guest of Honour, **Shri Prakash Naraiian**, Former Chairman, Railway Board delivered 5th R K Vir Memorial Lecture on the theme: ***“Creating Visionary Management along with Professionalism”***. Shri Prakash Narain has been Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, Chairman, Railway Board and Principal Secretary to Govt of India; Secretary Shipping & Transport and Secretary, Works & Housing Govt of India.

The Session was also addressed by **Dr Subrata Mukhopadhyay**, Chairman/IEEE-Delhi Chapter, **Shri V K Agrawal**, Add. Member, Elect./ Railway Board & President / IREE, **Shri R N Rajpoot**, Chairman/IET DLN, **Shri N Venkatesan**, Former Member Electrical/RB, Past Chairman, IET/DLN and **Shri V K Dutt**, Former Add. Member / Railway Board.

Shri Praveen Kumar Singh, Honorary Secretary, The Institution of Engineers (India), Delhi State Centre proposed the vote of thanks.

Nearly 250 members, guests and invitees attended the function.