

## **Abstract of Dr. V. N. Bedekar Memorial Lecture (14<sup>th</sup> April 2021)**

### **Topic: Sir M. Visvesvaraya – The Legendary Nation Builder**

14th April has an extraordinary significance with Indian history. It is linked to two of the prominent builders of modern India – Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV) – who deservingly have been conferred with the Bharat Ratna. It was on this day in 1891 that father of our Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born. On this very day in 1962, the legendary Engineer, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, breathed his last in Bangalore. Providentially 14<sup>th</sup> April is also the date when the founder of Vidya Prasarak Mandal (VPM), Thane - Dr. V. N. Bedekar ji, left for his heavenly abode in 2004. Dr. V. N. Bedekar ji left behind a great institution - VPM, which he so passionately built that now serves more than 15000 students. It is therefore befitting to deliver Dr. V N Bedekar Memorial Day lecture on the topic “Sir M. Visvesvaraya – The Legendary Nation Builder”, which be a tribute to Dr. V. N. Bedekar, another great institution builder.

In the annals of human history very few people have had the dispensation of celebrating their own birth centenary; from amongst those few who have, there are no parallels to the life that Sir M Visvesvaraya lived for all of 100 plus years. Visvesvaraya, popularly referred to as Sir MV, was an engineer par excellence, statesman, visionary and a great Institution builder. He strenuously worked for eight long decades for nation building. There are very few fields of thoughts and constructive endeavors, of technical advancement and nation building in which Sir MV has not made a significant contribution. Some of his contributions include engineering, in all its branches - majorly in Maharashtra where he started his career and served for 20 plus years - particularly those of irrigation, reservoirs, dams and water supply, power supply and bridge building; university education, technological and occupational training, town planning, industry and banking, commerce and manufacture, planned economy etc. Sir MV was a man with impeccable integrity, discipline and a grand visionary for the nation. Krishnarajasagara (KRS), one of the premier reservoirs of the country, owes its existence to him. His contributions at the Khadakwasla (Pune) water reservoir, where he introduced the automatic sluice water gates, won him a patent, which he did not use for commercial personal benefit.

Dr. V. N. Bedekar memorial lecture richly embellished with lots of archival data, images, documents and records will highlight the nation building contributions of Sir MV.

**(Shri. Shivaprasad Khened)**

Director,  
Nehru Science Centre  
Worli Mumbai