Engineering Council of India (ECI)

WHY ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF INDIA (ECI)?

1. **Importance of manufacturing sector in India's economic growth:**

   The Indian Economy can be divided into three basic sectors, 1) Agriculture, 2) Service 3) Manufacturing.

   The structural transformation of the Indian economy over the last three decades has been spectacular growth of the services sector, which now accounts for about 50 per cent of the GDP. However, the rapid growth of the services sector much before the manufacturing industry attaining maturity is not a healthy sign.

2. **Indian Industry:**

   India is blessed with a very large market, second only to China. Its middle class is larger than an average European country population. Because of the globalization, more and more Indians are becoming alive to the modern comforts, hence their combined purchasing power is a very lucrative commodity for any industry or for any country.

   Today Indian markets are flooded with imported goods. With the rise of China as a manufacturing power, the Indian produced items are systematically being replaced by cheaper Chinese versions. Even Ganeshas come from China now. This does not auger well for India.

   Our engineering manufactured goods and engineering services, except in some small pockets, stand nowhere in the international arena. The quality of our products leave much to be desired. Our exports are going down continuously for quite some time now. Even in our own country, we are swamped with imported goods as our products do not match their quality. As a result, our National Manufacturing base is stagnating or is in a contracting mode. Our Industry exists on foreign technical tie-ups. Once a tied up technology becomes outdated, we start thinking about another tie-up. This has continued for last so many decades, which has resulted in our industry's dismal position today. If this continues, our industry will always remain inferior to someone, and cannot dream of standing on its own two feet and competing in the International arena. Each and every one of today's Industrialized Nations have reached that status only and only on the back of their own entrepreneurs, their own industry, their own engineering professionals and their own Research and Development. A Nation became an Industrialized Nation only when its industry has developed product ranges which are not available anywhere else in the world. As such, the goal of achieving the status of a developed nation by India is simply not possible in the present environment.

   USA excels in innovations, Europe, particularly Germany, for Engineering acumen, Japan/ Korea in applications and China for its manufacturing prowess. The rest of the world,

including India, are markets for their produce. If India wants to become an industrialized nation, then it has to gear up on all fronts, be it education, research and development, Industry, Government or Financial Institutions.

Our doctors today are comparable to the best in the world. They are aware of the latest diseases, their medicines, the latest diagnostics tools etc. Because of this, patients from even industrialized world come for treatment in India. This they have been able to achieve only by their efforts to be aware of the latest developments and keep regularly upgrading their skills and knowledge. Why can't the engineering fraternity also do that?

3. **Employment Scenario in Indian Industry:**

The IT industry in India, which grew by as much as 30% up till 7-8 years back, has slowed down to a less than 10% growth rate at present. The demand for qualified professionals in the field has understandably gone down too. Further due to the uncertain scenario in US regarding the visas for the IT professionals, major IT companies are not only reducing the intake but also thinking of pruning their work force. Recent example is the news about Cognizant, which is planning to reduce its work force by 5000 numbers. The employment scenario in the country is bleak what with the IT sector, including the startups - a key sector in the jobs market - letting go off employees in large numbers. Cognizant Technologies is the latest in a long line of IT majors that is looking at giving pink slips to nearly 6,000 employees primarily for not meeting performance benchmarks.

While dismissal after performance appraisal is routine, what is compounding the problem is that these companies are not hiring in en masse from campuses as they used to earlier. According to a report in the Business Standard, IT companies are expected to hire 40 percent less this year. The top five IT services companies – TCS, Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant and HCL Technologies – hired around 60,000 engineers from campuses this fiscal, as against little more than 100,000 last year. The reason for the reduction in recruitment at the entry level is automation and technological advances that have rendered the lower level jobs in the sector redundant.

A knowledge -based economy cannot be sustained in the long run unless it is adequately supported by a growing manufacturing economy. Moreover, a service economy cannot continue to thrive on a long-term basis in a country where over 80 per cent of the population is education below the middle-school level.

We are churning out more than 1.5 million engineers every year. Out of these a vast majority are not fit to be employed by the industry, as they simply cannot be used by the Industry. Further, the ones who do have the minimum skills at the time of graduation, after 5-10 years also become technically outdated. There is an emergent need to separate the wheat from the chaff. With the aim to develop a cadre of engineers who would match the best skills and

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knowledge in the world and who would be capable to shoulder the higher functions of engineering profession, Engineering Council of India (ECI), since December 2015, along with the Member Associations (MA) has started the process of registration of engineers in the National Registers of Professional Engineers. The registered Professional Engineers have to follow and conform to a code of ethics, and also continuously keep on upgrading their skill and knowledge, in their chosen specialization/s domain, to maintain this registration.

If India wants to rise and become an advanced economy, it has to have its own industrial base and might. To reach that stage, one of the main criteria is that its engineers should be well versed in the latest skills and technological developments. They should be able to churn products/ processes not produced or made anywhere else.

To achieve that status, the only solution is the path that which is being professed by ECI and its member associations.

Engineering Council of India (ECI) was established on April 4, 2002, as the Apex Body of engineering profession in India, by coming together of a large number of Professional Organizations /Institutions of Engineers to work for the advancement of engineering profession in various disciplines and for enhancing the image of engineers in society, by focusing on quality and accountability of engineers. Today there are 40 members, 8 Government Departments and 32 Indian Professional Associations/ Institutions representing practically all engineering streams. Further details can be had from www.ecindia.org.