



Sir KENNETH MITCHELL, K.C.I.E.,  
*President, 1939—43.*

**Sir Kenneth Mitchell**  
**K.C.I.E., A.C.G.I., M.Inst. C.E., M.I.E. (India) M.I. Inst.T.**  
**A.I.A.E., I.S.E. (Retd.)**

Born in 1885, Sir Kenneth was educated at the St. Paul's School and the City and Guilds Central Technical Institute, London. After working in Dock and Harbour construction at Southampton, he joined the Indian Public Department in 1909. He Served in the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1918-19 and as Under Secretary, P.W.D., Punjab, in 1919-20. In 1927 he was appointed Technical Adviser, Indian Road Development Committee and in 1930 as Road Engineer to the Government of India. He became Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads) in 1934 and held this office till 1942 when he was appointed Controller of Road Transport, War Transport Department, Government of India. In 1944 he was appointed to the post of Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development and additional Secretary, War Transport Department, which office he held till his retirement from service.

Sir Kenneth Mitchell may be said to be the father of the Indian Roads Congress. The necessity of having a Technical Roads Association in India was felt by Highway Engineers in India but the idea did not take a concrete shape until 1934 when Mr. Mitchell, then Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads), suggested the creation of a society to promote the exchange of ideas and the pooling of experience in road construction and maintenance, This proposal having met with the approval of Provincial Governments, The Government of India, with the advice of the Standing Committee for Roads decided to support it and to defray the whole cost of the first meeting from their Reserve in the Central Road fund, so far as official delegates from the Provinces and Indian States were concerned. The society has since grown from strength to strength and has now over 18000 Members on its roll. During the 85 years of its existence it has done and is doing a vast amount of useful work in promoting the cause of roads in this country by bringing out Codes, Standards and Guidelines. Sir Kenneth Mitchell was intimately connected with all the activities of the Indian Roads Congress from its inception and has been the prime mover not only in starting the Congress but also in keeping it going. He was the President of the

**Congress from 1939 to 1943 and contributed many valuable Papers to the Proceedings of the Society.**

**The Indian Roads Congress is not the only product of his fertile brain. He was part-author of that mine of information, the Mitchell-Kirkness Report and Later had much to do with the inauguration and administration of the Central Road Fund and of the Transport Advisory Council. His contributions to the Indian Road Development Committee, the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939, The Highway Code, and the evolution of the National Highway System were also outstanding and will remain as landmarks in the history of Road Development in India.**

**The highways fraternity of India will also remain grateful for contribution of Sir Kenneth Mitchell.**

**Sir Kenneth Mitchell was awarded the C.I.E. in 1934 and a Knighthood in 1941. He was also awarded with the K.C.I.E. award.**

**To give him honour an Award namely “Mitchel Medal” has been instituted by IRC for an exceptionally good paper published in Journal of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and discussed at the Annual Session.**

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