

CROSFALL – A knowledge sharing newsletter to create a safer built environment

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Abstract

Confidential Reporting on Structural Failures and Lessons Learnt (CROSFALL) is a quarterly newsletter publication. This confidential reporting system is established in India recently by the Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE) with the objective to capture and share lessons learned from various structural failures which do not otherwise get reported and do not get the attention of the public as well as structural engineers. The intent to bring out this newsletter is to have a freely available database to be used by the construction industry to improve the safety of bridges, buildings, industrial structures, and other infrastructures of national importance. The paper will highlight the salient features of this newsletter and focus on the need for the structural engineering fraternity to contribute actively to this newsletter so that structural engineers learn important lessons from others' mistakes and do not repeat them in their own design.

Keywords: CROSFALL, structural failure, confidential reporting, lessons learned, public safety

1 Introduction

The structural engineering profession has not proven itself good at learning from mistakes, which is a matter of general concern. There have unfortunately been many buildings and other infrastructure failures in India in the recent past. Some of the most notable and high profiled failures amongst them are The Lalita Park building collapse, in Delhi, 2010 [Fig.1], Mumbai CST footbridge tragedy 2019 [Fig.2], Ultadanga flyover collapse, in Kolkata 2013 [Fig.3], Morbi pedestrian suspension bridge collapse, in Gujarat 2022 [Fig.4] and under-construction Vivekananda road flyover collapse at Kolkata, 2016 [Fig. 5]. While major collapses draw attention of the media and reported in electronic and print media, there are several failures and near misses, which are not reported at all. Failures may occur at any stage during the life of the structure.



Fig. 1 : Lalita Park Building Collapse In Delhi (2010) – 70 people Killed

One of the impediments to learning lessons from structural failure is that the full details of many failures and the outcome of forensic investigations are not made public by the authorities. Fear of blame, lawsuits, damaged business opportunities,