

From the Editor's Desk

There are occasions when many of us in the welding industry get drawn to the work done by various Research Institutions abroad with a view to bridging the technology gap rather than taking a look at our in-house work where a few significant developments may be taking place from time to time. There is another section of people within the welding industry who are fully committed to the indigenous development of product and process development with a view to achieving self reliance in the high technology area.

Quite a number of recent events and achievements in our country indicate our true ability in taking forward the technology status at the indigenous level, no matter whether the concept is originally learnt at home or from abroad. These are only a few examples which speak volumes of our ability and the potential in pushing back the horizon of technology.

Keeping in line with the above observation, you will find an example in an article on material processing in the current issue. It deals with the use of LASER System which many of you know is now available in five centres in India including the Welding Research Institute, Tiruchirapalli. The article expresses how LASER processing can be effectively used in the manufacturing industries and in high technology areas and has dealt with a few case studies. The latest information indicates that in India a total of eight organisations have the facilities for both Electron Beam and LASER processing of materials using a variety of equipment (as many as 13). A Consortium has also been formed with 10 Member-Organisations for serving the industries' needs.

Amongst other informative papers in this issue, you will find the concluding part of the paper 'WHAT STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WELD METAL' - an educational paper. I have selected an assortment of papers in this issue with a view to satisfying the readers of various industries and I shall be happy if you write to me expressing your likes, dislikes and and expectations.

Incidentally, you must have noticed by now the changes that we have been able to make in the get-up of the IWJ starting from the last issue. To improve the quality we have gone in for computerised composing by Desk Top Publishing System. We are still working on it for further stabilisation but please note that this modernisation is going to stay.



Editor