

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

At the outset I would like to wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous 1989 and may this year bring greater success to the Indian welding fraternity. The year 1989 also marks the 21st year of publication of the Indian Welding Journal and we look forward to further improving our publication and service to our readers.

The Welding Industry in India has reached a crossroads where the higher productivity and the quality processes have suddenly shown a tremendous spurt and are being very widely adopted by all sectors of industry. This is a very encouraging development considering the need for Indian fabrication industry to become much more cost effective and competitive. However, one issue I would like to raise here is that the further progress in the adoption of the latest developments in welding processes would have to be based on extensive research and process development work keeping in view our Indian environment. It has been one of our weaknesses that much of the R&D activity related to welding has been directed towards finding applications for the advanced processes like Pulsed MIG, Synergic MIG etc. and trying to force fit them into the Indian industry, very often leading to disappointing results. In place of such an approach, I feel the focus should lie on the materials that we are presently having to weld in this country and identifying, developing and modifying processes to match these materials. At the same time, the Indian socio-economic scene has to be kept in mind when we think of any welding process. It is only with these considerations that a more meaningful R&D activity could be achieved in our country for developing the various advanced welding processes and perhaps contributing something unique in the field of welding technology.

Many of our members would be aware that the Govt. of India has set up a D.G.T.D. welding panel on welding equipment, electrodes and other consumables with a view to advancing the total welding technology in the country and highlighting present problems of the welding industry. One of the critical areas for such planning would be welding R&D and I would welcome any suggestion from the members as to how we can make our R&D programmes more meaningful and beneficial to the industry.



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