



The 'ESSEN' that was

This year's Essen fair (held in Essen, West Germany) perhaps saw the highest ever number of foreign exhibitors & visitors. More than half of the exhibitors came from abroad drawn from 44 countries. Also nearly half of the 70,000 odd visitors came from outside. Indian participation was also significant and as many as fifteen Indian companies displayed their products in the exhibition. One could also see Indians here and Indians there and almost everywhere around the stalls at ESSEN.

There is a widespread belief among the European community as a whole that India will be the country with the strongest economic growth anywhere in the world in the next ten to fifteen years providing an immense potential for the manufacturers of welding technology products and for the investors.

Perhaps, it was in recognition of the importance accorded to the prospects of welding activities in India that DVS (German Welding Society) in association with Auslandshandelskammer Indien-Deutschland & the Indian Institute of Welding, Messe Essen etc. organized the 'Indian Day' on 15th September 2005 in which several speakers deliberated on this matter in details focusing on the areas of co-operation in years to come.

Back home, the first convocation of the AMI IW examination conducted by our institute, (which is also recognised by the Ministry of HRD) was held at Visakhapatnam on 24th July, 2005. Thanks to the encouragement and support by the Rastriya Ispat Nigam Limited, our Visakhapatnam Branch has always provided the maximum number of candidates for the AMI IW examination and this year was no exception. We hope other industries will also take a cue from this and encourage their welding personnel for taking this curriculum.

Visakhapatnam Branch also hosted the National Welding Meet this year and on this occasion inaugurated their new office premises in the heart of the city on 24th July, 2005.

Your favourite journal is becoming increasingly popular not only in India but also overseas and in this issue we have received and published two very interesting papers from foreign authors. There are three more papers from Indian authors on a variety of topics apart from the reprint of the L.P. Mishra Memorial Lecture 2005 and we do hope all these will make very useful reading for you.

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