

From the Editor's Desk



One would perhaps accord a guarded welcome to the new economic policies being pursued by the Government, which has culminated in the 'Watershed' central budget and the new Exim policy. This has undoubtedly freed the economy from the inefficiencies of licence-permit raj and exposed the Indian industry to international competition. While the benefits of such policies are obvious and by now well known, the point that is being asked by some economic pundits is whether we are going too far in too short a period. The question becomes more relevant because it is everybody's knowledge that the reforms packages being initiated are more out of compulsions of international pressures consequent upon our desperate situation and not so much out of our own convictions. Perhaps, only the posterity can judge. We, in the Welding Industry, like many other sectors of the economy will anxiously watch for the outcome.

This issue of IWJ is being published as a 'dedicated' cutting issue. As we all know most of the welding operations are preceded by some sort of cutting including edge preparation, the importance of cutting processes, equipment and technique need not be over-emphasized to a welding engineer. Two important developments in the cutting technology are of topical interest, —one, the application of NC/CNC techniques as applied to automatic cutting for repeat cutting accuracy, cutting flexibility, economy and productivity, — and the other plasma cutting, especially air plasma cutting for higher cutting speeds and for cutting materials other than mild or carbon steels. The readers will find in this issue articles covering all these topics from both Indian and International experts in this field.

I would also seek readers' opinions on publishing in future such issues dedicated to particular subjects, say, on NDT or MIG/MAG welding etc. I solicit suggestions on the matter


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Editor