
From the Editor's Desk

We begin this New Year as the last year of the 20th Century, with the advent of the 21st Century not being far away. The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Institute of Welding is just over having been held on 8th January. While we welcome our new President of the Institute, **Sri M. K. Mittal**, and all newly elected Office Bearers and Council Members (their names are stated separately on p.8) for the year 1999–2000, we profoundly acknowledge all the work undertaken by the last Council under the Presidentship of **Sri S. K. Burman**. We intend to focus, in future issues of the Journal, on several of the issues the last Council have deliberated upon. Incidentally, we have kept in reserve for publication in the next issue of the Journal, the technical paper of Sri S. K. Burman, immediate Past President of IIW, as mentioned by him in the report on his visit to Australia to attend the Annual Conference of Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA) during October 1999.

We are greatly encouraged to have someone as our new President with as wide and varied knowledge and experience of Indian Industries in general as possessed by Sri Mittal. We feel Sri Mittal is in a privileged position to steer IIW to greater heights, and the seeds are there for Sri Mittal to sow for a rich harvest. While we look forward to seeking interaction, support and guidance, we commit continuous support for the Institute's campaign/agenda.

Would the first decade in the new millennium see the consolidation of efforts towards energy optimisation & saving, control of pollution & expansion of industry thereby effectively improving human habitat as a whole? Well, efforts are afoot. Demand for the rationalisation of welding technology for the power and fossil fuel industries in particular, catering specifically for low power input, for lighter yet stronger and creep and thermal shock resistant material for fabrication, is the order of the day. In this issue of the Journal, papers authored by (1) Cerjak. H. et al, (2) Hauck. G. et al, (3) Albert. S.K. et al and (4) Mitra. A.K. have exclusively dealt with these regimes highlighting material, environment, welding process optimisation and cost effectiveness.

Reclamation welding is important to industry as a whole, and our journal has regularly published dedicated papers on this subject of great interest. In this issue, author A. Dutta Roy et al in their paper have elaborated several instances of successful reclamation welding campaign carried out in a premier steel industry in the country by systematic approach involving "cross functional disciplines". Also we may have to put in a "lot of effort to bridge the gap in welding technology" in order to catch up with the demand of the present-day industries as stated by author S. Samidas in his paper on Welding Science and Technology in India – which perhaps is the bottomline to pursue vigorously henceforward into the new millennium.

We wish all our members and readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Dr. P. Majumdar

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