

EDITORIAL



Growth of energy generation is critically linked to the growth of a nation, more so for a developing nation. Though Power sector in India has come a long way since independence, a snap shot of the current status shows little to cheer. At an estimated supply shortfall of 8.3% and peak shortage of 12.5%, things have little changed over the previous year and in fact worsened over the decade. Elasticity ratio between electricity generation and GDP growth for India is estimated at 1.5, which means that for every percentage growth of GDP, Power supply has to grow by 1.5 % .With a national GDP growth target of 8 % Elasticity must grow by 12 % to meet all the demand.

A major emphasis for infrastructural growth has therefore to be focussed on the efficiency of the entire system and process of Power generation and here Welding Technology plays a pivotal role. Welding is extensively used in the construction, erection and maintenance of all types of Power plants, viz. Thermal, Nuclear, Hydro based, Gas based and the non conventional processes and successful application of the technology can bring in substantial improvement in efficient generation and distribution of power. The All India Conference on Welding Applications in Construction and Maintenance of Power Plants (**POWERWELD-2006**) to be held on 23rd September 2006 in Kolkata can therefore be said to be a well timed and well conceived effort by the Kolkata Branch of our institute.

A more important event of our Institute '**The National Welding Meet**' , being organized by the Baroda Branch at Baroda on the theme '**Heavy fabrication Onshore and offshore**' on 2nd September 2006 will also focus on a very important aspect of infrastructural development and will deliberate on topics related to the Advances and Challenges in Fabrication technology & Welding, for offshore & onshore applications such as ship building, submarines, barges, oceangoing cargo vessels & tankers, offshore drilling platforms, ports, jetties, marine piping and fabrications of Bridges across the sea.

Preparations are also going on in full swing for the mega event of the institute i.e. The National Welding Seminar (**NWS 2006**) and the International Welding Exhibition (**WELD INDIA 2006**) to be held in Chennai during November 24-26, 2006

This issue, we have included one case study based on the successful execution of a challenging Oil Refinery Project involving welding, erection and commissioning of huge array of pipelines of different sizes, thickness and metallurgy .Also included for our readers are three research based papers contributed by eminent academicians- apart from the other usual interesting features. Enjoy Reading!

A stylized illustration of a hand holding a fountain pen, positioned diagonally across the bottom right of the page.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. K. Das'.

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Editor

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