

*From the Editor's Desk ....*



***In the recent years, rapid progress in science and technology has brought about revolutionary changes in our lives. Better and more sophisticated products and services are continually coming into the market with lower prices. Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology are the two areas that have been particularly in the news in the present decade. We have access to more and more information than ever before through Net. It is often said that we are now living in a global village. Developments in Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering highlighted by cloning, experiments with transgenic plant, complete sequencing of human genome, biomolecular computer and the like give ample indications of the shape of things to come in near future.***

***It is well established that modern science and technology have got tremendous potential for the betterment of society. However, there is a number of points to be pondered. This information age has a tendency to depart from reality. The horde of words with the prefix 'virtual' introduced by IT, like virtual reality, virtual space, virtual community, virtual class and so on, prove this point well. We may be increasingly networked but are remotely related with others and with the real world, in this global village. Again if we consider countries like India, only a very thin creamy layer of affluent people is in a position to enjoy the fruits of modern science and technology. A vast majority of people still remains largely unaffected by scientific and technological advances. We are into the new century without having rid ourselves of poverty and illiteracy. Universalisation of elementary education or safe drinking water for all people is still a far away dream. We expect that benefits of modern scientific and technological advancement will be utilized more effectively in the new century to raise the standards of living of all people. Let us do all we can to hasten that development.***

**Sukla Basu**