

## **50 years of regress**

India has completed 50 years of its independent existence. But there is little cause for celebration on this occasion. Internal squabbles, which allowed foreign rulers to dominate us, have resurfaced again, the social fabric of the country is ruptured beyond recognition, developmental activities are neglected, population is increasing at an alarming rate and illiteracy is still a major concern.

Unmindful of the sacrifice our ancestors have made to free this country from the shackles of slavery, our so-called leaders today are engaged in petty politics and corrupt practices. Corruption is an all encompassing and widespread problem plaguing the country today. The only way we can bring India to its rightful position in the league of world nations is by proceeding in the scientific path. Adopting latest technologies and developing a scientific awareness among the masses seems to be the sure way to progress towards self-sufficiency and prosperity. Each and every Indian has to resolve to make this country a better place to live in, on this occasion. A country's development is today measured in terms of industrial growth. Except for the booming software industry, we find ourselves nowhere near the best in the other sectors. It is really unfortunate that when other smaller Asian countries have realized the importance of advanced techniques in manufacturing and management, we are far behind them. In this context, the efforts of Bangalore University in setting up a centre for Agile Manufacturing to educate the industrial personnel about agile manufacturing methods, is commendable. The recent workshop on 'Cooperative Autonomous Systems And Agile Manufacturing' to enhance productivity was successful in driving home this point. The concept of agile manufacturing is featured in this issue.

The autonomous robotics is a fantastic concept, which is even used in the Pathfinder mission. Pathfinder, which landed on Mars recently, is driven by intelligent robotic systems. The intelligent robotic senses built into the Pathfinder helped it in negotiating the rock Yogi on the red planet successfully. The Pathfinder mission could well answer the basic questions of evolution of our solar system and the existence of life on other planets. Look for an exclusive photo feature in the inside pages.

There is yet another good news for science enthusiasts. Technoworld website, which was caught in rough weather, will be on the World Wide Web soon. Await the site address and complete details about this in the next issue. We are sure this would help in creating scientific awareness among worldwide audience.

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