

## **Only a matter of time**

'You guys own half of silicon valley'-

President Clinton's remark at the meeting of Indo-American heads of state at Washington recently is in no way an exaggeration. This possibly is the best reflection of the tremendous impact Indian professionals have made in the information technology circles in both the US and the global arena. Today, there are more IT professionals of Indian origin in US than in India.

This is only one of the many areas in which Indian are keeping pace, or sometimes even setting pace, with the rapid technological growth.

India's recognition as one of the technologically advanced countries in the world owes its allegiance to the futuristic vision of the two great sons of India, Sir. M. Visvesvaraya and Mahatma Gandhi whose birth anniversaries fall in September and October respectively. Technoworld pays tribute to these two great souls by recapitulating their thoughts and views on the future of India.

Indian scientific community has every reason to be buoyant in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Indian Independence. Even with a faulty fourth stage launch of PSLV-C1 and the improper positioning of IRS-1D in the orbit, India has gone one more step ahead in establishing its supremacy in the satellite and rocket technology. PSLV-C1 is the first indigenously developed rocket to put an operational satellite into orbit. The successful launch of IRS-1D has meant that India can offer commercial launch facilities to polar satellites at much lower costs compared to the other players in the field. India's success in space technology would mean better facilities and infrastructure to a large population including better communication networks, which are most essential for the progress of the country, the next step for our space technologists would be to develop GSLV (Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicles) which would allow India to launch communication satellites on its own.

The euphoria of success in space technology notwithstanding, India needs to exercise greater maturity in dealing with foreign collaborators in niche technology areas. The recent controversy regarding the appointment of a new Managing Director to the most successful joint venture between Suzuki Motor Corporation and Government of India – Maruti Udyog Ltd., shows signs of snowballing into a major blow for the liberalized Indian economy. If the firm stand of Indian Government could be viewed as an affirmation of the self confidence in its own capabilities, it may also mean losing valuable foreign investment in new technology fields. India should act judiciously on this controversial issue.

There is no doubt that India is well and truly on path to success with its dominance in all prime technology areas, despite the fact that it is a long way behind in developmental targets. It is only a matter of time before India emerges as one of the strong countries in the world.

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