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FROM THE EDITOR…….

Come, the 'Information Revolution' after the 'Industrial Revolution' Telecommunication, or in other words, communication over long distances, has gained critical and vital importance. After a spell with Analog communications, we have now embraced the Digital communications which is far more accurate, reliable and efficient. Digital data communication forces us to cipher all we know and want to communicate, to zeros and ones, or in other words 'on's and 'off's understood by electricity, that even a tiny fraction of information entails a large chunk of digits. This invariably led to the need for transfer of such large digital chunks at speeds over distances with minimum latency, which launched the never ending quest for higher and higher speeds for data transfer.

After working electricity metaphorically "to death" with practically all possible "mutations" in transmitting digital data over conductors and "choking" the atmosphere with lower frequency electro-magnetic waves 'modulated' with the same, Engineers invariably had to invade the 'Optical' band of the electro-magnetic spectrum, coupled with a suitable medium for transmission over non-linear paths. Resulting optical fibres carrying pure light in the form of 'LASER' has now got entrenched in the industry as the standard for telecommunication infrastructure.

Notwithstanding drawbacks in other areas, Sri Lanka has been adopting leading edge technologies as they emerge, in the general sphere of Information, Communication and computation. Stemming from the above fact, while being arguably in the category of 'Developing' countries, we have been implementing latest communication technologies in a national scale. The nation-wide optical fibre data backbone is one such implementation by the Sri Lanka Telecom, national level Telecommunication Engineering organization in the country. Data capacities and speeds offered by such a network will have far reaching impact on the efficiency of the communications based administration, commerce and industry, which could plan future strategies with assurance of communication accessibility. I need not re-emphasise the role of Engineers in all the spheres stated above, apart from being creators of the digital infrastructure.

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