

Asian Age

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futuristic moves



CHIP OF THE NEW BLOCK: First cyborg Prof. Kevin Warwick in Bangalore on Friday. A photograph by Manjunath Kiran

A cyborg's dream of a chip in the right place

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, Oct. 18: Prof. Kevin Warwick, the world's first cyborg—part man part machine, has a mission. He wants the over 100 silicon rods fired into his nervous system to develop concepts for applications that will enable paraplegics, with implants in their brains, to control their environment just thinking about it. And, blind people to use ultrasonic sensing to "see."

Prof. Warwick, who had his second chip implant in March this year was in the city on Friday to deliver a

talk on "Cyborgs Unplugged" at the National Institute of Advanced Studies. The cyborg kept the over 500 science enthusiasts in awe about his project and future potential for over one and half hours. Noted scientist and NIAS director Prof Rodham Narasimha released his book *I, Cyborg* at the function.

Prof. Warwick can move a robotic arm 4,000 miles away through the Internet by moving his own arm, which carries the silicon implant.

His project "Cyborg" started in March and aims at

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linking the brain to the computer, to see if they can be communicated.

"I regard the implant as part of me. My experiments are an open ball game. Can we record dreams to download memories, transfer ideas? The most interesting science is that you don't know what will happen and you are trying to find out," Prof Warwick said.