

basin coupling and their thermal history, tectonic simulation and inversion of paleotectonic stress field, measurement of present tectonic stresses and monitoring and surveying of displacement of rock mass, assessment of regional crustal and key engineering works stability, geology of energy resources (oil and gas, geothermal), orefield structures, tectonic-petrogenesis and tectonic-metallogenesis, prediction of occurrence of mineral resources, Quaternary geology and Quaternary glaciology as well as Quaternary geological environment and climate, paleomagnetism (structural, rock, environmental), application of micro-organisms in ore beneficiation, and agricultural geology.

Institute of Rock and Mineral Analysis

The Institute of Rock and Mineral Analysis (IRMA) attached to MGMR is a national research centre of geoanalysis. It has 156 staff members and is well equipped with modern instruments. The principal functions of the IRMA is to develop new analytical techniques and methods for the basic research on geosciences, to prepare various standard reference materials, to undertake routine and check analysis, to provide technological consultation services, and to develop international academic exchange and technological cooperation.

In the IUGS meeting it was decided that the 31st IGC would take place at Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the year 2000.

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology
Dehra Dun - 248 001, U.P.

A.K. SINHA

‘KAMINI’ COMMISSIONED

As reported in *Nature* (Vol.384, No.6605, 14 November 1996, p.100), India's efforts to utilise its vast thorium resources for power generation received a boost with the commissioning of *Kamini* ("Kalpakkam mini")—a research reactor fuelled entirely by U-233 produced from thorium. The Department of Atomic Energy authorities described the event as "a small but significant step" in the long term goal of exploiting India's thorium resources. It is estimated that 400,000 tonnes of thorium is available from the black (beach) sands of India representing an energy equivalent of 500 billion tonnes of coal that could take care of our power requirement for centuries.