

INFORMATION REPORT

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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
India

SUBJECT
Progress in the Field of Atomic Energy

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, events or conditions described in report existed)

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PLACE AND DATE ACQUIRED (By source)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

1. The Indian Atomic Energy Commission has revealed all-round progress during 1956 in the field of atomic energy development.
2. In an end-of-the year summary it reports that an atomic energy establishment has been set-up and now is functioning over 805 acres of Trombay, 13 miles from the city at a site, which visiting scientists claim is unique. On one side are the waters of Bombay harbor, into which two new piers now jut out for landing machinery and materials. A range of hills isolates the site from all neighboring land. The Trombay Establishment is to consist of three main groups - Physics, Chemistry and Engineering with a staff of 800.
3. Ready are a uranium-thorium plant, and a swimming pool reactor, using ordinary water as a moderator. The reactor expects to provide radio active isotopes to Bombay's Cancer Research Institute early in 1957.
4. Under construction is the Canadian NRX-type reactor, already visible above the ground, [REDACTED] may be ready to go into operation before the scheduled date (1958).
5. The Physics Group, during the year, has helped construct simulators for the swimming pool and the Canada-India reactor and provide a reactor film badge service and laboratory monitoring for personnel. Intense research work also has been undertaken in theoretical physics and applied mathematics, nuclear physics and reactor control.
6. A Metallurgical Division was set up last year and work has been done on the design of equipment and on the production of uranium and thorium, metals, powders and alloys. The 1956 program also included thermal and corrosion studies and studies on uranium, zirconium and canning. This Division also designed and fabricated components for the Indian reactor.
7. The Chemical Group is building a 200 KV high electron defraction camera. It has handled more than 1500 mineral samples. The complete monazite structure is under study.
8. Plans have been discussed and finalized to set up:
 - a. A pilot plant for the extraction of uranium ore from copper tailings at Ghatsila, East India.
 - b. A pilot plant for the production of titanium sponge metal from the rutile and ilmenite sands available in the country.

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2.

- c. A heavy water plant under the supervision of Pittsburgh's Vitro Engineering.
- d. A Corporation for the Mineral Sands Separation industry.
- e. A million dollar development plant for the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta.
- f. Two high altitude cosmic ray stations in Kashmir and in the Nilgiri Hills, South India.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 Retain class'n Change / classify to _____
 With concurrence of CIA
 Declassify In part and excise as shown
 EO 12356, Sec. 1.3 (a) (9, 21, 24)
 FPC/HDR by AWB
 Withdrawal No. 414-5



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