

# Gas hydrates

**Promise of a near limitless fuel resource**

Conventional gas deposits in India are limited and production has stagnated at 22 billion cubic metres since 1990. With fuel consumption rising rapidly, we face a very grim future scenario. Fortunately, gas hydrates - which are methane molecules locked in a cage of ice crystals offer extraordinary promise. It is estimated that gas hydrate reserves alone could meet international gas requirements for the next 300 years! CSIR has launched a major initiative to explore gas hydrates reserves off Indian coasts and preliminary studies are most encouraging.

