

## NOTES

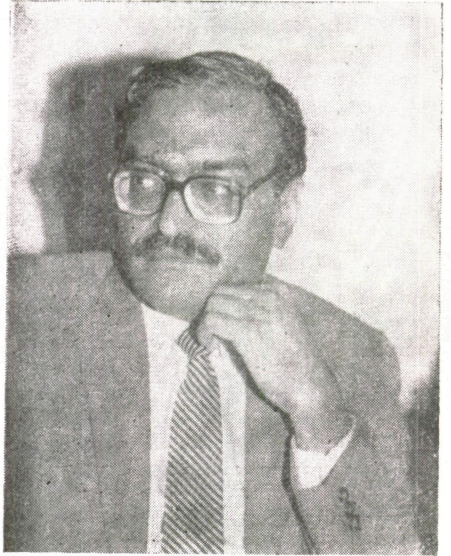
### 'HUTTI—GOLD MINE WITH A FUTURE'

The latest publication of the Geological Society of India - '**HUTTI—Gold Mine with a Future**' was released by the Union Secretary, Department of Mines, Sri P. K. Lahiri, at a largely attended function on the 13th July 1990.

**B. P. Radhakrishna**, Editor and co-author of the book, in welcoming the members, made a fervent appeal for the revival of the gold mining industry. He pointed out that Hutti, although presently an insignificant village in the Raichur district, was at one time the centre of gold mining deserving the appellation of *Suvarna nagari* in the Ashokan period. Our ancients, more than 2000 years ago had sunk shafts in this region to over 200 m depth and recovered gold. In recent years, however, the strangling effect of the Gold Control Order had crippled the industry and production had steadily declined. With the abolition of the Gold Control, a new era had dawned which should augur well for the revival of the gold mining industry. The book is aimed to give the history of gold mining at Hutti, with emphasis on its immense potential. He pleaded for the establishment of Gold Authority similar to Coal Authority or the Steel Authority, with sufficient capital to undertake sustained exploration and exploitation.

**Sri J. P. Sharma**, Managing Director of The Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd., expressed his sense of satisfaction at the Geological Society of India concentrating its attention on gold mining. Not only it had produced a historical account of the Hutti gold mine, but what was important, had offered concrete suggestions for future development. The book, according to him, was a gift of God and had infused a lot of confidence in him. Speaking about the position of gold in India, he said that the private stock of gold in the country was the largest in the world. On a conservative estimate, 20 gm of gold was required for each marriage and 30 lakh marriages are taking place every year. On this basis alone, the minimum requirement of gold would be not less than 60 tonnes every year. Compared to this, indigenous production was just two tonnes !

Unfortunately, this position had been used as a strong argument for not helping the development of the industry. Since our production was only 2 tonnes, these critics



have questioned the need for giving encouragement to this industry, on the plea that production in any case is not likely to be anywhere near the demand. There was a basic fallacy, Sri Sharma said, in such an argument. Agriculture and mining are the two basic industries. Everything else depended on the raw materials produced by these industries. Therefore, we should not hesitate in extracting whatever quantity of gold that is available from our mines. Every encouragement ought to be given to the industry by way of monetary grants, or at least tax concessions to enable the industry to plough back enough money for development.

Sri Sharma said that the book being released would serve as a manual for those engaged in the industry and gave the assurance that every effort would be made to fully implement the recommendations made in the book.

**Sri P. K. Lahiri**, Secretary to Government, Department of Mines in releasing the book said, that gold exercised a considerable fascination over our people and that as much as 200 tonnes of the metal were being smuggled into the country causing a foreign exchange drain to the extent of Rs. 5,000 crores annually. There was, therefore, a good case for increasing production.



He characterized the book that he released as an authoritative one full of facts and figures and written by eminent persons whose combined experience in gold mining was unparalleled. The work is bound to chart a new path for others to follow as it sheds new light not only on the future of Hutti but on the future of gold mining in India as a whole.

Although geological conditions were similar, we had not succeeded in finding gold deposits of large size as in Western Australia, S. Africa and Canada. Those countries had achieved a major break-through in exploration and brought to light large reserves of both primary and secondary gold. It is necessary for us to look beyond Kolar Schist Belt and adopt latest exploration techniques and bring to light large deposits. Small

deposits alone, in his opinion, would not make a dent in the situation. We have to look ahead and think big. For this, he felt, our geologists, geophysicists and geochemists should get together and concentrate on finding new deposits hidden beneath the surface of the earth. It is a major challenge facing those involved in exploration.

He complimented the Geological Society of India for doing extremely good work in publishing a journal which was an authoritative one and had helped to throw much new light on current problems. He felt sure that it will succeed in its endeavour of generating interest and lead the country to progress. He congratulated the Society for bringing out this useful publication and entertained the hope that more such studies would be brought out in the coming years focussing attention on a wider spectrum of geological and mining interests.

**Dr. Kurien Jacob**, President of the Geological Society of India in his concluding remarks, characterized the book, released by Sri Lahiri, as a down-to-earth presentation, reinforced by facts and figures. It held encouraging promise of better productivity. This publication of the Society had certainly played a useful and significant role in highlighting the future promise of the Hutti Mine and its capacity for higher production.

He recalled that the Society had organized a symposium on the gold mining industry nearly thirty years ago and felt that a time had come for organizing another as early as possible.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair by the Secretary, the function came to a close.

*(The book is now available for sale. It is priced at Rs. 100/- per copy for Institutions. Fellows can get it at the concessional price of Rs. 30/- per copy. Enquiries may be addressed to the Geological Society of India, P.B. 1922, Gavipuram P. O., Bangalore 560 019).*

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### DINOSAUR BIRTHDAY

Next year, the word 'dinosaur' will be 150 years old. To celebrate the event the UK Post Office will release a commemorative set of dinosaur stamps. 'Dinosaur' was coined in 1841 by anatomist Sir Richard Owen, who used it to describe the *Megalosaurus*, a flesh eater; the *Iguanodon*, a herbivore; and the armoured *Hylaeosaurus*, during a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), at Plymouth. The remains of the first dinosaurs to be described were found on the British Isles.

The commemorative stamp to be issued is a result of a campaign launched by paleontologist Beverly Halstead of Imperial College, London, who will be president of the geology section of the BAAS in 1991.