

NOTES

BIO-OXIDATION TECHNOLOGY AND GOLD ORE RESOURCES OF KARNATAKA

The Geological Society of India provided a forum for discussing "Bio-oxidation Technology for recovering gold and feasibility of mining of small gold deposits in Karnataka" by organising a one day workshop in Bangalore on 17th May 1996. The participants included mainly consultants to gold mining and processing industries, Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd, Mysore Minerals Ltd, Signet Engineering Pvt. Ltd of Australia, BMD Geo Resources Pvt. Ltd, Minerals Sales Pvt. Ltd, representatives of the Geological Survey of India, Bangalore, the Indian Bureau of Mines and the Department of Metallurgy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

The importance of Bio-oxidation technology using bacterial strains for oxidation of sulphide-rich gold ores and leaching to recover gold was highlighted. Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd. in association with the Department of Metallurgy, Indian Institute of Science has already initiated work in this direction. Bio-oxidation technology of processing sulphide-rich gold ores has dual benefits, firstly, in reducing operating cost and secondly, it is environmentally safe unlike roasting which would liberate the hazardous sulphur dioxide.

There was also detailed discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of privatisation of exploration and mining of gold. Majority opinion was in favour of the liberalized Mineral Policy.

In the past few years Karnataka witnessed opening of new open pit gold mines, though on a small scale, at Ajjanahalli, Kunchiganhal and Uti. Based on the experience gained from these developments, the feasibility of opening several such deposits extant in Karnataka was also discussed.

The Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of Karnataka, who was the Chief Guest, commended the role played by the Geological Society of India in bringing together Earth Scientists, Mineral Technologists, and Industrialists, on to a common platform to discuss matters of importance in the industrial development of the State.

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'FOSSIL FRAUDSTER' STILL AT LARGE

It is seven years since we noticed in the pages of this journal (*JGSI*, v.34, pp. 561-563) reprehensible action of a Professor of Geology at the Punjab University, Chandigarh who was accused of recycling, faking and polluting fossil data in various ways (*J.A. Talent, JGSI*, v.34, pp. 575-586). Several enquiry committees and even a commission presided by a High Court Judge found the Professor guilty of the charge of fraud. Yet the University failed to take prompt action and allowed him to continue as Professor. In a recent report appearing in *Nature* (v.380, 18 April 1996, p.670) the latest effort to censure the Professor has failed and he is allowed to continue to pollute young minds. It is a pity that the end of this sorry episode is still not in sight and the wound continues to fester and spread its foulness all round.