

Auriferous Tracts of Hyderabad State.

In South India, the ancient rocks, known as the Dharwar Series, noted to be the home of gold, occur in narrow almost parallel bands with a general N.N.W. trend and recognised by MacLaren under five main runs, of which the easternmost are particularly auriferous.

Some of them are represented in the Raichur Doab of the Hyderabad State, with which other parallel bands and patches also occur. The more important of them are the Maski band, the Kushtagi band, the Raichur band, the Tadwal band, and lastly the Ginigera patch.

Of these, the Maski band and the northern portion of the Raichur band are particularly known to be auriferous.

The Maski band of auriferous Dharwara is a long narrow tapering run, essentially consisting of hornblendic and trappoid schists in the northern portions, the southern being chloritic. Numerous runs of blue quartz veins are associated which carry gold in them. This band is about 40 miles long extending from near Algundi, north of Thungabhadra, in the south, right across the Doab, upto Gurgunta, south of the Krishna, in the north, having a width varying from about 14 miles in the north, to hardly about half a mile in the extreme south, and covering a total area of about 240 sq. miles.

This band, riddled with numerous old workings for gold, dating as far back as proto-historic times, may conveniently be divided into two zones, viz., the northern Hutti-Wondalli and the southern Maski-Udbal areas: the main old workings in the former being located at Hutti, Wondalli, Toppaldoddi and Uti and in the latter at Buddini, Maski, Togaldinne and Udbal.

The northern extension of the Maski band, north of the Krishna River, is known as the Mangalur band where old gold workings have also been noted. It is significant that this auriferous Maski band with its northern extension, the Mangalur band in the Gulbarga District, lies in the same trend with the auriferous Kolar schist belt, being also similar to it in character and composition.

The presence of numerous old gold working sites in such auriferous areas only suggests that these have been extensively worked by the ancients and all surface indications exploited. So, it seems that the only chance left for the modern prospector is to unbottom the old workings and continue beyond the depth reached by the ancient miners, who apparently had to discontinue due to influx of water and other mining difficulties which they could not cope with.

The field has received wide attention by prospecting companies. More than 300 old gold working sites have been discovered, and the possibilities of some of them explored. Gold mining at Hutti was conducted for 16 years during which time it paid substantial dividends, but the operations had to be closed down after the Great War in 1920 before its potentialities could be fully explored.

In view of the encouraging results obtained during the revision survey and prospecting work conducted by the Hyderabad Geological Department, it is hoped that with the encouragement given by the Government, the gold fields in the Raichur Doab will soon receive the attention they deserve and will result in the revival of gold mining industry in the State.

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