

## Undersea Mining: Gold Rush in the Abyss

It's the next frontier in mining, expected to ring in a sea-change in fortunes. Fresh finds of craggy deposits rich in gold and silver, copper and cobalt, lead and zinc deep in the sea bed is fuelling a gold rush as nations, companies and entrepreneurs race

to stake claims to the sulfide-rich areas, which dot the volcanic springs of the frigid seabed. The prospectors – motivated by dwindling resources on land as well as record prices for gold and other metals – are busy hauling up samples and assessing

deposits valued at trillions of dollars. The US, Russia, China, Japan and South Korea lead this race to the bottom, and India is nowhere as yet – *The Economic Times*

JOUR.GEOL.SOC.INDIA, VOL.80, AUG. 2012