

GEM STONE OCCURRENCES IN CHHATTISGARH

In Chhattisgarh State occurrences of Diamond and other precious stones like Alexandrite, Corundum, Garnet, Beryl, Aquamarine, Tourmaline, Quartz etc. are known.

DIAMOND

In Chhattisgarh State diamond bearing kimberlite pipes are reported from Mainpur area of Gariyaband District. Six number of kimberlite pipes are reported from Behradih, Kodomali, Payalikhand, Jangra, Temple kimberlite and Kosambura. Out of these, two kimberlite pipes are identified as diamondiferous. In Bastar district kimberlite pipes have been reported from Tokapal and Bhejripadar area, but the incidence of diamond in these kimberlite pipes are yet to be ascertained. In Jashpur district, Diamond crystals have been reported to be found along with placer gold in the sand of Ib and Maini rivers.

On the basis of geological setup and structural configuration available, the following 8 Potential Blocks of Diamond are demarcated in Chhattisgarh :-

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| 1. | Block No. 4 | - | Ib-Maini river Block |
| 2. | Block No. 5 | - | Sarangarh Block |
| 3. | Block No. 6 | - | Pithora Block |
| 4. | Block No. 7 | - | Behradih Block |
| 5. | Block No. 8 | - | Kanker-Keshkal Block |
| 6. | Block No. 9 | - | Narainpur-Lanjora Block |
| 7. | Block No. 10 | - | Chhota Dongar Block |
| 8. | Block No. 11 | - | Tokapal Block |

Details of these blocks with their location in maps is attached herewith.

CORUNDUM

In Chhattisgarh, corundum occurs in Bijapur and Sonakukanar areas of Sukma district. Minor occurrences are reported from Deobhog area of Gariyaband district. The corundum of Bijapur area is crystalline.

In Bijapur district corundum occurs near Bhopalpatnam. There are two areas of corundum occurrences, first in north of Kuchnur and the second in north of Chikudpalli. Estimated reserve of Ruby corundum in Block I, including Industrial and Semi-precious varieties is 984.6 kgs. and in Block-II and Block -III are 24.03 tonnes.

Recently, the Directorate has located new occurrence of corundum near Nagaras and Sonkukanar villages of Sukma tehsil of Sukma district.

In Gariyaband district, corundum is found in Kenduban village.

ALEXANDRITE

Alexandrite is a charming gem variety of chrysoberyl. Alexandrite, the rarest of the gem minerals assimilates the sparkling dazzles and displays different pleasing colours in different light. Alexandrite is recorded in Latapara and Matrapara villages in Deobhog tehsil of Gariyaband district.

The CMDC collected 1918 bags of gravel/soil samples from the above area and recovered 651 pieces of the mineral Alexandrite after washing 1918 bags of soil samples.

KORNERUPINE

The Kornerupine is green coloured gem mineral. The crystal appears green when viewed parallel to their length and yellow to reddish brown across. Kornerupine is reported from northern part of village Matrapara, tehsil Deobhog, district Gariyaband.

BERYL

In Chhattisgarh beryl is reported from Gariyaband, Surguja, Dantewara and Jashpur districts. In Gariyaband district beryl occurs in Deobhog area. In Surguja district, occurrence of beryl has been recorded near village Sapha and Newatola. Large crystals of beryl have also been collected from pegmatites north of Newatola village. In Sukma district, Beryl is found near Bhopalpatnam. Other beryl occurrences have been reported from Pushpal, Govindpal, Chiurwada and Litiras villages. In Jashpur district, Beryl is reported from Kunkuri, Venkheta, Diwanpur, Kilkila and Jamchua villages.

GARNET

In Chhattisgarh important deposit of pyrope variety garnet is reported from Gohekala area of Gariyaband district. Minor occurrences are reported from Dantewara and Surguja districts. In Gariyaband district garnet occurrence have been recorded around Gohekala, Dhupkot, Latapara, Kenduban, Mudagaon and Adeapathar villages. In Bijapur district large garnet crystals are found near village Kuchnur and Dampaya. In Surguja district Garnet is noted in Bishanpur village.

TOURMALINE

Gem variety, emerald green, transparent crystals of tourmaline have been found at many places, i.e. Sarnabahal, Kodobhata, Mukhagara, Latapara, Sendmura villages of Deobhog tehsil of Gariyaband district.

QUARTZ

Quartz is apparently widely distributed mineral in the earth crust. Chemical composition of quartz is SiO₂. Quartz is reported from almost all districts of Chhattisgarh. But only gem variety of quartz amethyst is of special importance. In Chhattisgarh is reported from Harra Kothi village of Dhamtari district. Pink quartz is found in some localities of Raigarh district.