

totally changed the scenario. Instead of thinking of a single large mine, the available number of small deposits which used to be worked by ancients in small groups could have been initiated and encouraged the way it was done in ancient India.

Though our diamond mining industry declined and became a non-entity, the cutting and polishing business of India survived through the ages and still continues to retain a significant and respectable status in the world. Even now about 80% of the world's diamonds mined in other countries reach India for cutting and polishing and re-export. Time has proved that Indian artisans are second to none in the world in entrepreneurship if there is no government interference and undue control.

Now more than 200 kimberlite bodies have been discovered in India. Of these only a few are considered to be diamondiferous which could be mined economically. Discovering kimberlite is a significant first but certainly not a last step in exploration for diamonds. To make any kimberlite economically viable, a thorough systematic

follow-up work is required which many times is not realized by many. Our survey and research organizations concentrate on academically oriented research work often ignoring the application aspects of scientific studies. Another neglected field is the study of diamond bearing alluvial and palaeo-placer horizons which were the homes for famous historical diamonds of the country. A big handicap for the persons investigating diamonds in India is lack of information and communication. The suggested Diamond Club – a website data base cum discussion forum proposal, will help every person involved in the investigation to contribute, share, exchange, information for the overall growth of diamond industry.

The suggestions made by Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna in his editorials deserve our close scrutiny and follow-up action in reviving the glory of our diamond mining industry.

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Announcements

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GEOLOGY, MINERAL AND WATER RESOURCES OF SIKKIM

Geological Survey of India, Sikkim Unit is organising the above seminar on 11th August 2006 at Gangtok in connection with the silver jubilee of GSI Sikkim Unit. Scientists interested in participating in this seminar may please contact K. K. K. Nair, Director and Convener, Geological Survey of India, Sikkim Unit, Deorali, Gangtok - 737 102. **Phone:** 03592-281994, **Fax:** 03952-281204, **Email:** nair_ngp@hotmail.com, geosikkim@hotmail.com

ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMME ON MINERAL DEPOSIT MODELLING

A DST sponsored short term training programme on mineral deposit modelling is scheduled during 12 to 27 September, 2006, at the Department of Geology, University of Jammu, Jammu. For details, please contact Dr. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Course Coordinator, Department of Geology, University of Jammu, Jammu - 180 006, **Phone:** 0191-2472850(R), **Email:** srivastav_pk@rediffmail.com, **Website** www.jammuuniversity.in/announcements.asp