

Prospects

The Indian Investment Centre considers that the scope for further discovery of diamond pipes is high. The Ministry of Mines, and the President of the Federation of Mineral Industries (FIMI), cite prospects, both in more intensive exploration, as well as mining. Upgrading and automation of diamond finishing also holds scope for investment.

Gold

Major Producers

Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGM) (Government of India) Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd. (State government owned)

Output/Trade

Currently, gold is mined in two regions of India, the well-known Kolar gold fields in Karnataka, and the Hutti gold field near Raichur also in Karnataka. Several other smaller gold-bearing areas have been known since ancient times, notably near Ramagiri in Andhra Pradesh. Total estimated recoverable reserves of gold ore in India are 15.9 thousand tonnes.

The Kolar gold fields are largely mined out. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. has been a money loser for several years as veins were mined out and grades deteriorated. Recently, the decision was taken to privatize Bharat Gold Mines, a process which continues at time of writing. Reprocessing of old tailings using improved extraction technologies may yield significant quantities.

Production of gold bullion in 1992/93 was 1723 kg., low by historical standards. However, demand for gold is strong in India, and is likely to increase with the prosperity that accompanies the liberalization process.

Exploration Activity

BGM conducted "exploratory development" at the Yeppamana mine at Ramagiri Andhra Pradesh, and at Chigargunta in the same state. The Geological Survey has exploration programmes underway in no less than fifteen states. Positive results are reported in the Hutti, Tumkur, and Chinmulgund districts of Karnataka, as well as in three districts of Andhra Pradesh, and two districts of Rajasthan. The Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. also has a gold exploration program, with current efforts concentrated in Karnataka (Gadag) and Maruda.