



Excavation of Diamond | Madhya Pradesh | 19 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a farmer and his associates have discovered a valuable [diamond](#), weighing 7.44 carats, in the **Panna district of Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

▪ About Diamond:

- **Diamond**, an **allotrope of [carbon](#)**, is the **hardest naturally occurring** substance on Earth.
- Formed in the [Earth's mantle](#) and brought to the surface through [volcanic activity](#), it is found in volcanic landforms like [dykes and sills](#).
- Uses:
 - In jewelry, metal polishing, gem cutting, and industrial applications such as cutting edges for drills.
- **Diamond Rich Locations in India:**
 - The **Panna belt (Madhya Pradesh)**, **Wajrakarur Kimberlite field**, and the [Krishna River basin \(Andhra Pradesh\)](#).
 - The **cutting and polishing industry** is centered in **Surat, Navsari, Ahmedabad, and Palampur**.
- **Leading Producers:**
 - Russia, Botswana, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

▪ Panna's Diamond Industry:

- **Panna** has been a [diamond mining center](#) for centuries.
- The district's diamond deposits have **dwindled due to over-mining**, making large discoveries rare.
- Mining serves as an alternative income source for the **largely tribal population**, with modest daily earnings of **Rs 250-300**.

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Diamond Industry in India

- India is the **world's largest cutting and polishing center for diamonds**, accounting for over 90% of polished diamond manufacturing globally.
 - According to Indian Minerals Yearbook 2019, diamond fields of India are grouped into four regions:
 - Central Indian tract of **Madhya Pradesh**, comprising Panna belt.
 - South Indian tract of **Andhra Pradesh**, comprising parts of Anantapur, Kadapa, Guntur, Krishna, Mahabubnagar and Kurnool districts.
 - Behradin-Kodavali area in Raipur district and Tokapal, Dugapal, etc. areas in Bastar district of **Chhattisgarh**.
 - Eastern Indian tract mostly of **Odisha**, lying between [Mahanadi](#) and [Godavari valleys](#).

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