

with a variety of other information was used to postulate strong structural control of Au-Sb mineralisation in the La Codosera area. Mineralogical and spectral reflectance studies were carried out and the data were digitally classified. These studies helped to clarify the geological details and to classify the soils over a vast region. The wide array of geological, structural, aeroradiometric, gravity and Landsat TM data generated under this project were integrated into a GIS (Geographic Information System). A synthetic geological map and several derived maps were created from Geographic Information System data base. A blind granite body was also interpreted from these data which may be important from the exploration point of view.

Creation of a GIS, which can be frequently updated with new data inputs from time to time, is an essential pre-requisite for an integrated approach to the search for minerals. This approach has been highlighted by this Spanish Geological Survey publication. Similar studies should be initiated for the potential mineral provinces in the country in a systematic manner by the various exploration agencies.

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INDIA'S DIAMOND POTENTIAL

India has the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing industry, employing 600,000 artisans. The industry processes 50 Mct/y of mostly small diamonds, half the world's production, but because it only produces 18,000 ct, India imports the remainder at a cost of \$US 1,800 million. Yet India has a diamond mining history stretching back nearly 3,000 years and was the world's leading producer until the late 19th century. Many experts believe that it remains under-explored and has the potential for new discoveries.

The Indian Government is currently liberalising and privatising its economy in general, and is expected to announce new mining legislation early in 1993, aimed at promoting foreign private sector investments in exploration and mining. This prompted the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (UNDESD) to organise the recent Round Table Conference in New Delhi, with field trips to the Panna Diamond mine in Madhya Pradesh and the Kimberlite areas in Andhra Pradesh.

A score of experts from the diamond industry and universities in Australia, Canada, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S. participated with Indian geologists and engineers, to discuss the current exploration, evaluation, mining and processing techniques, and to assess India's diamond potential. The conference ended on a positive note, with additional U.N. assistance in exploration under consideration, and mining company representatives expressing interest in the forthcoming regulatory changes which are expected to apply to gold and other minerals as well as to diamonds.

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