

# Shankh River Diamond in Chotanagpur: *in the* Context of Indian History

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**Abstract:** Presently Chotanagpur is known as Jharkhand. The shankh (conch) river originates from the Gumla district of Jharkhand in India. In the pages of history, scholars have given different interpretations in different chronology about the shankh river. The shankh river flows opposite the northern koyal (cuckoo) in the western end of the Chotanagpur plateau. It originates from the southern end of the Pats region. From the historical point of view, when the Mughal emperor Jahangir had a keen interest in the hera (Diamond) being extracted from the conch river of Kokarah when Jharkhand was known as Kokarah, the Mughal emperor Jahangir had a keen interest in the way the locals got diamonds from the shankh river. He describes it in his autobiography Tuzuk e Jahangiri. The historical discussion related to Nagvanshi king Durjanshal and the then Mughal emperor Jahangir is related to the diamond itself. Some people were aware of this before the Mughal period about the diamond of King Jharkhand, Ptolemy has received evidence on this subject. It is described in one of his texts. Apart from this, many scholars have also discussed the diamond found in Jharkhand. The shankh river diamonds were also famous in India and outside India.

**Keywords:** Shankh, Chotanagpur, Diamond, Mughal Emperor, Kokrah, Tuzuk e jahangiri.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In India, Chotanagpur has also been called 'Hiranagpur', which means that this area must have been a diamond-rich state. Nature has made Chotanagpur rich with many mineral wealth, one of them is 'Heera'. It is a transparent and precious rare gem. There was a time when diamonds found in two places in India, 'Golconda' and 'Chhotanagpur' were very famous. Whose fame was not only in India but also in the world.

In folklore, we have often heard stories about diamonds found in Chotanagpur from ancestors. We also get some information about the precious diamonds found in Chotanagpur from the pages of history. Kautilya in his famous book 'Arthashastra' mentions a place called 'Indravanka' where diamonds were found. The Hindi translator of this 'Arthashastra' book, Vachaspati Gairola, has described Indravanka as a riverfront area of Ranchi. The scholar Ptolemy is said to have mentioned in one of his texts a river 'Adamas' in which diamonds were found. In Greek, 'Adamas' means 'diamond'. This Adamas river of Ptolemy has been described as the 'conch river' of the present Gumla. A book called 'Histvier du Zoyocas' mentions six places in the world where diamonds were found, one of them being a river Brahmin in the Bengal region. Brahmani is formed at the confluence of shankh and south koyal(cuckoo) rivers.

During the reign of Mughal Emperor 'Akbar', the attention of the Mughals first came to Kokraha (Chotanagpur). It is said that it was due to the diamonds found in the shankh river of Kokarah that Akbar's attention turned to Kokarah. Even during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan, foreign travelers named 'Vernier' and 'Tavernier' have also talked about the hera(Diamond) of Kokarah.

The name of the Mughal emperor 'Jahangir' is significant in the history of Chotanagpur due to his fascination with the diamonds found in the Kokraha region. Jahangir had a keen interest in diamonds being extracted from the shankh(Conch) River of Kokarah.

## 2. MEJOR FINDING

As a historical proof, 'Kokarah' ie Chhotanagpur has been mentioned many times in Jahangir's autobiography 'Tujuk e Jahangiri'. It is said that before sitting in the throne, Jahangir had received full information about the diamonds found in Kokarah. Kokarah was a contemporary of King Durjanshal Emperor Jahangir, who seems to have rejected the subjugation of the Mughals as soon as he sat on the throne and stopped paying them annually. Describing this situation, Jahangir has written in 'Tujuk a Jahangiri' ..... The subedars sent army against him again and again, but due to the difficulty of the route and the dense forests they got few diamonds. Taxes continue to be satisfied and let him continue ". Jahangir appointed Zafar Khan as the Subedar of Bihar in 1612 AD, then ordered him to take over the diamond mines of Kokraha. In 1615 AD, Ibrahim Khan was appointed as the Subedar of Bihar, he was ordered to take over the diamond-mines there after defeating the Zamindar of Kokraha. The mention of the second part of 'Tujuk-e-Jahangiri' shows that Ibrahim Khan took Durjanshal and his family, all of them had their diamonds taken away and also captured 23 elephants. Durjanashal was imprisoned and imprisoned in the fort of Gwalior for 12 years. All those who participated in this Kokarah Victory Campaign were given promotions. Now the kokarah was placed under royal officials and the diamonds found in the shankh (conch) river were sent to the royal court. Soon after the Kokarah conquest, a diamond was found there which was valued at fifty thousand rupees. Jahangir hoped that if the search was continued, more diamonds could be obtained for the royal treasury. In 1617 AD, Ibrahim Khan, as expected, sent nine diamonds from the kokraha mines and zamindars to the emperor. According to Tujuk-e-Jahangiri, one of the diamonds was "14 ½ ton" heavy and was valued at one lakh rupees.

Describing the manner in which the local people obtained diamonds from the Conch River of Kokarah, Jahangir wrote in his autobiography 'Tujuk e Jahangiri' that "during the season when the water is scarce, the pits are filled with water in many places and Those who are engaged in that work know from experience that flocks of insects keep flying on the pits which contain diamonds, which in Hindi language is called ' jhinga (Shrimp) as far as it can be seen in the riverbed. They put a pile of stones around the pits, after which they dig the pits to a depth of one and a half yards with spade and khurpi(Tools), in this way they get small big diamonds from the sand and stones, which they take out sometimes a lakh of rupees. You get a diamond up to the price ". As science has developed, philosophers have also discovered that diamond is found in most kimberlite rocks. Identification of kimberlite rocks is the most important component in the discovery of diamonds. In addition graphite rocks are also likely to contain diamonds. Jahangir further writes in his autobiography that in 1618 AD, Bahram, son of Quli Khan, came to the capital from Bihar and gave Jahangir diamonds from Kokarah. One of those diamonds given to Ibrahim Khan and the hera given by Bahram to carve the jewelers was a purple diamond, Jahangir writes that he had not seen such a diamond until that time. This diamond weighed many headlines and jewelers valued it at three thousand rupees. It is said that Jahangir became very happy with him due to the diamond-testing quality of the Nagavanshi king Durjanashala and after 12 years he was freed from prison.

## 3. CONCLUSION

Diamond has always been a center of attraction for people. Chhotanagpur has been famous for the precious minerals of the earth. In history, the diamond found in Chotanagpur was quite famous. Where are those rare diamonds found from Chotanagpur, it is not known today, but through accurate research and research, that priceless heritage of Hiranagpur and that old tradition of acquiring diamond can be recovered and revived with the help of new technology. Diamond is mostly found in Kimberlite rocks. Kimberlite rocks are like pipes. There are diamond particles inside them. The identification of kimberlite rocks is therefore the most important component in the discovery of diamonds. In addition, graphite rocks are also likely to contain diamonds. The Geological Survey of India is trying to mark the indicated locations in Jahangirnama. On this basis, a diamond mining project is being prepared in an area of about 1500 square kilometers. The investigation will be carried out in a large part of Gumla, Simelega, Lohardaga and Latehar districts. The search will focus exclusively on the riverine areas reported in Jahangirnama. The name of the conch river flowing in Jharkhand will be proofed on the pages of history due to new discoveries and diamonds derived from it.

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