

## CHARNOCKITE AS THE MAJOR SOURCE ROCK OF SRI LANKAN GEMSTONES

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In Ratnapura and Elahera, the two major gemming areas of Sri Lanka, the underlying lithology is dominated by the rock suite—charnockite, garnetiferous gneiss and granulite. Earlier mineralogical studies<sup>1</sup> have established garnetiferous gneisses and granulites as the source rocks of corundum, the principal gem mineral of Sri Lanka. The present exercise consisted of a comparative evaluation of mineralogy of major rock types occurring in the two important gemming areas. The study based on microscopic examination of mounted sections of - 80+ 120 sieve fraction of crushed rock samples indicates that in both gemming areas charnockites contain a higher percentage of corundum than the other two source rocks.

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### *Reference*

1. Dahanayake, K. and Ranasinghe, A. P. *Mineral Deposits* 16 103-111 (1981).