

**CORUNDUM AS A SOURCE OF RAW MATERIAL
FOR HIGHLY PRICED REFRACTORY CRUCIBLES**

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Sri Lanka has long been renowned for its gems. The occurrence of the gem varieties of Corundum has been known for centuries. Rock Corundum has also been reported from several localities. The present investigation was undertaken to assess the industrial potentialities of rock Corundum. The rock occurs in detached form more in the shape of boulders and is normally bluish-grey in colour. A slip casting method was developed for the production of various shapes of crucibles. Complicated shapes of highly priced crucibles are now produced to withstand temperatures in the range 1800°C - 1950°C. These crucibles are also ideal for the heat treatment of goods. The crucibles could be used in both an oxidizing and reducing atmosphere and are highly resistant to acidic and basic slag. The Corundum based refractories are classified under neutral refractories.