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& Fashion Jewellery
Buyer-Seller Meet**

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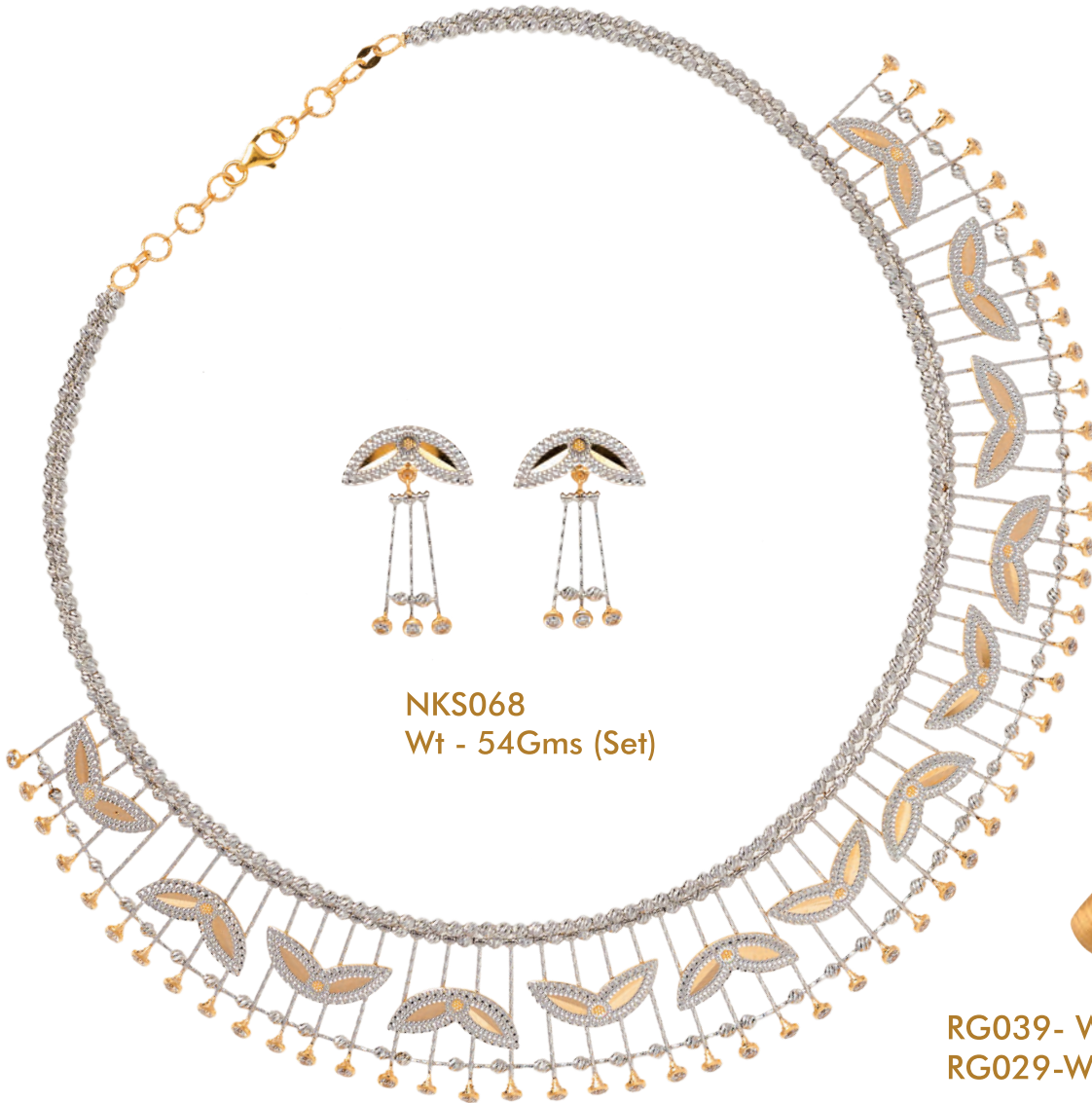
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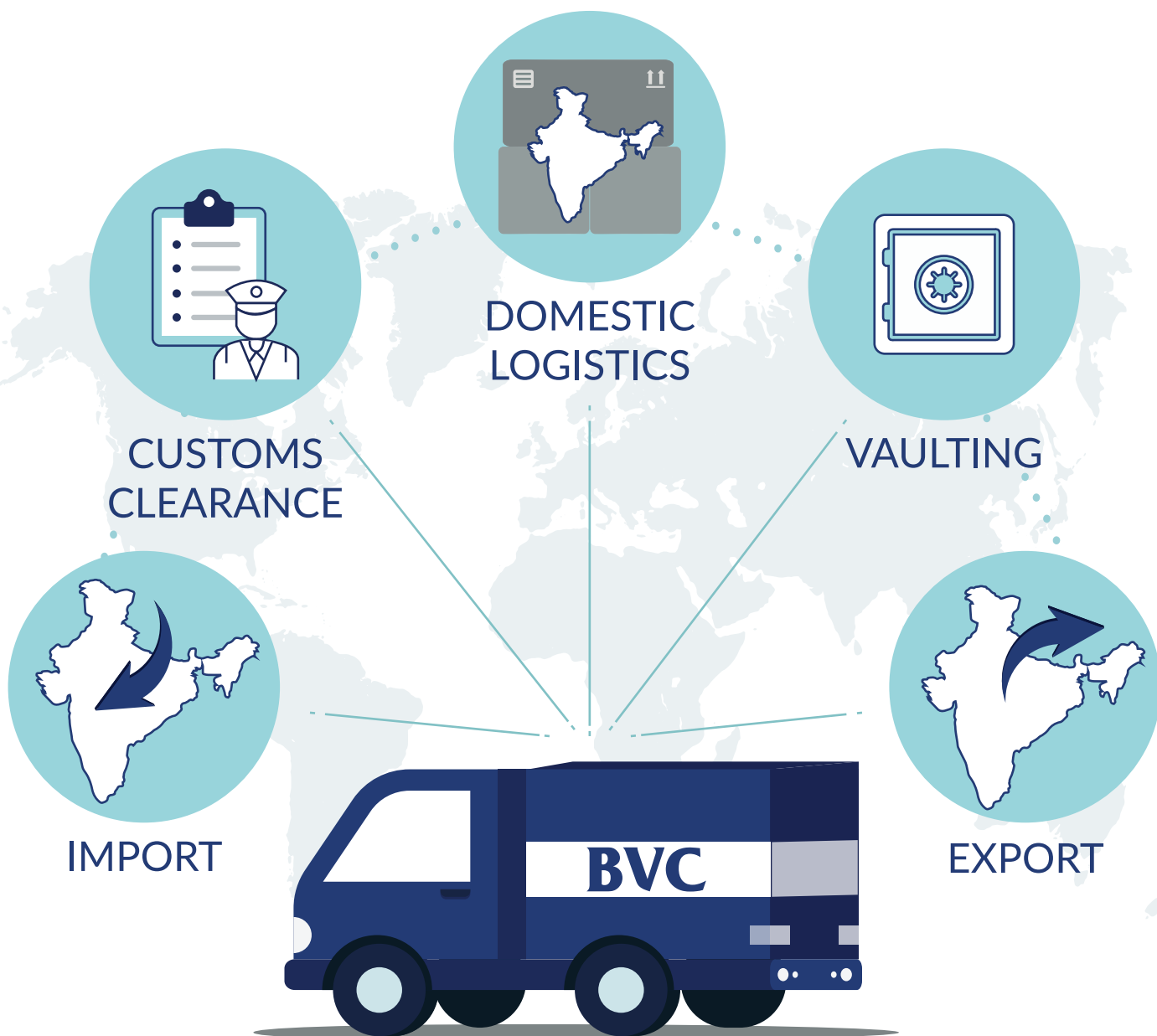
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Moment of Truth

The five-day Kimberley Process Intersessional meeting, organised by the ministry of commerce & industry, Government of India, and co-organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), concluded with the promise that the reform and review process of the diamond monitoring mechanism would be finalised at the Plenary meeting in New Delhi this November. KP chair Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi said, "India will play an active role in the evolution and transformation of the Kimberley Process, in the transition from conflict diamonds to peace diamonds."

The KP Intersessional hosted over 200 delegates from 82 countries in Mumbai. The single most talked-about issue was the expansion of the scope of the "conflict diamonds" definition to include "diamonds acquired through systemic and widespread violence, forced labour, the worst forms of child labour, or through violations of international humanitarian law." Turn to the Cover Story for a detailed account of the meeting.

Design Connect 2019 is an idea whose time has come. The career fair saw over 100 jewellery designers meet and interact with 35 manufacturers and retailers in Mumbai. The much-lauded event was organised by the Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI) and the Women's Jewellery Association – India (WJA India). Read more about it in In Focus.

The GJEPC held the India Silver & Fashion Jewellery Buyer-Seller Meet in Jaipur, where more than 20 silver jewellery manufacturers met 39 international buyers from countries such as Algeria, Australia, Egypt, England, Ireland, Jordan, UAE, USA, Spain, Kuwait and Thailand.

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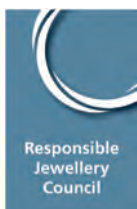
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» INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

UNITED STATES

				(In US\$ mn)
Imports	2018	January – May 2018	January – May 2019	% Change
Polished Diamonds	24,489	10,941	10,500	-4%
Rough Diamonds, Sorted, Unworked	609	293	164	-44%
Polished Precious & Semi-precious Stones	2,217	1,114	1,173	5%
Jewellery	9,245	3,521	3,551	1%

Customs Value

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission

BELGIUM

	January – May 2018		January – May 2019		% Change	
	Ct mn	US\$ bn	Ct mn	US\$ bn	Ct	US\$
Polished Diamonds Exports	2.1	5.0	1.8	5.0	-12%	-0.24%
Polished Diamonds Imports	2.6	5.0	2.3	5.1	-8%	3%
Rough Diamonds Exports	55.7	5.7	43.0	4.1	-23%	-27%
Rough Diamonds Imports	41.4	5.0	32.4	3.6	-22%	-27%

Source: The Diamond Office, Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC)

ISRAEL

	January – December 2017		January – December 2018		% Change	
	Ct mn	US\$ bn	Ct mn	US\$ bn	Ct	US\$
Polished Exports	1.70	4.59	1.75	4.48	3%	-2.5%
Polished Imports	1.60	2.92	1.64	3.04	2.4%	4.1%
Rough Exports	6.84	2.22	6.38	2.52	-6.7%	1.1%
Rough Imports	6.11	2.85	5.63	2.65	-7.8%	-6.8%

Source: Israel Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor – Diamonds, Precious Stones and Jewelry Administration

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Exports of gems and jewellery during April – May 2019 as compared with last year

Items	May – 2019	May – 2018	% Change	Apr – May 2019	Apr – May 2018	% Change
Cut & Polished Diamonds (Quantity – Mct)	1878.54 2.1	2213.30 2.8	-15.12 -25	3521.49 4.3	4208.14 5.6	-16.32 -23
Gold Jewellery	1033.80	1205.94	-14.27	2014.67	2095.76	-3.87
Gold Medallions & Coins	0.02	0.00		0.03	0.01	200.00
Coloured Gemstones	40.53	36.78	10.2	60.77	56.39	7.77
Silver Jewellery	72.81	40.63	79.2	158.58	72.33	119.25
Pearls	0.10	0.07	42.86	0.14	0.10	40.00
Synthetic Stones	40.39	19.12	111.24	62.65	34.48	81.7
Costume & Fashion Jewellery	1.23	1.63	-24.54	2.25	3.02	-25.5
Subtotal	3067.41	3517.49	-12.8	5820.58	6470.23	-10.04
Exports of Rough Diamonds (Quantity – Mct)	104.04 1.5	116.36 2.8	-10.59 -45.94	239.62 31.27	193.83 56.65	23.62 -44.81
Others*	3.47	9.06	-61.7	9.28	13.55	-31.51
Gross Exports	3174.92	3642.91	-12.85	6069.48	6677.61	-9.11
Return Consignment Others	26.88	30.10	-10.7	49.92	60.07	-16.90
Return Consignment CPD	467.72	564.38	-17.13	1029.44	1079.79	-4.66
Net Exports	2680.32	3048.43	-12.08	4990.12	5537.75	-9.89

Imports of raw materials for gems and jewellery during April – May 2019 as compared with last year

I. Items	May – 2019	May – 2018	% Change	Apr – May 2019	Apr – May 2018	% Change
Rough Diamonds (Gross) (Quantity – Mct)	1000.18 11.0	1548.63 16.9	-35.42 -34.51	2443.64 24.9	3065.08 32.3	-20.27 -22.87
Rough Coloured Gemstones	25.99	16.99	52.97	49.44	31.39	57.50
Raw Pearls	0.55	0.56	-1.79	1.76	1.35	30.37
Rough Synthetic Stones	10.92	11.40	-4.21	26.32	21.97	19.80
Gold Bar	674.18	826.38	-18.42	1319.12	1515.75	-12.97
Silver Bar	2.59	2.90	-10.69	4.72	4.36	8.26
Platinum	7.50	6.42	16.82	13.35	11.97	11.53
TOTAL – A	1721.91	2413.28	-28.65	3858.35	4651.87	-17.06
II. Imports of Cut & Pol Diamond SEZ (All over India) (Quantity)	34.61 0.11	37.12 0.1	-6.76	72.42 0.22	73.66 0.19	-1.68
Bonded Ware House (Quantity – Mct)	16.17 0.04	9.31 0.04	73.68	23.69 0.06	23.06 0.06	2.73
Mumbai (DTA) (Quantity – Mct)	41.73 0.13	43.97 0.1	-5.09	73.45 0.28	105.05 0.33	-30.08
Others (DTA) (Quantity – Mct)	0.02 0.00	0.16 0.00	-87.50	0.04 0.00	0.24 0.00	-83.33
Surat (DTA) (Quantity – Mct)	1.91 0.002	2.52 0.01	-24.21	2.47 0.005	5.44 0.02	-54.60
TOTAL – B	94.44	93.08	1.46	172.07	207.45	-17.05
III. Imports of Other Items						
Gold Jewellery	21.26	24.38	-12.8	49.77	49.30	0.95
Silver Jewellery	4.96	5.04	-1.59	10.28	10.28	0
Coloured Gemstones	37.78	12.04	213.79	99.10	21.83	353.96
Synthetic Stones	17.11	8.01	113.61	36.11	15.65	130.73
Pearls	0.50	0.53	-5.66	0.54	0.81	-33.33
Costume/Fashion Jewellery	0.13	0.06	116.67	0.24	0.16	50
TOTAL – C	81.74	50.06	63.28	196.04	98.03	99.98
GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C)	1898.09	2556.43	-25.75	4226.46	4957.35	-14.74

All figures are provisional.

* Others includes Rough Coloured Gemstone, Raw Pearls, Platinum and Silver Bar, etc.

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IGI's D Show Draws Over 100 Retail Buyers



The IGI D Show buyer-seller meet organised by the International Gemological Institute (IGI) at the Grand Hyatt in Goa from June 11th to 13th, saw more than 100 diamond jewellery retailers in attendance. The show offered an amalgamation of traditional and contemporary designs crafted to perfection, exhibited by some of the leading names in the industry.

The theme for this year's edition

was 'become the king of your trade', and urged the retailers to make the best choice in terms of merchandise for their respective brands. The show, which featured 28 jewellery exhibitors, was well attended by 113 retailers, including chain stores, regional chains, and single stores of a larger format.

"This edition brings the best of both creativity and traditional practices in design. The D Show is

surely the mélange of intrinsic and unparalleled craftsmanship. It's truly the time to ace the game," said Tehmasp Printer, managing director, IGI.

"It's day one of the D Show and we have witnessed some stellar creations from some of the finest brands in the diamond jewellery industry," said Dharmesh Parekh of Ramesh Chandra Parekh Jewellers. ■

DMCC Sees Record Diamond, Gold Trade Volumes

DMCC, the Dubai-based free zone for commodities trade and enterprise, celebrated a record-breaking year in 2018 with strong growth achieved across its businesses. In line with its mission to drive trade through Dubai, DMCC welcomed 1,868 new companies to its free zone in 2018, marking a 12% growth compared to 2017. Construction of Uptown Dubai, DMCC's new district, is well under way to accommodate demand for additional space.

With a focus on driving commodity trade flows, DMCC is home to over 15,000 member companies and registers an average of seven new companies a day. Collectively, the economic impact of DMCC member

companies contributes over 10% to Dubai's GDP and positively impacts the long-term economic diversification strategy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"2018 also proved to be a very positive year for DMCC. Our continued success is testament to the strong foundation that the UAE leadership has laid out in order to shape the future of trade and make Dubai one of the world's leading business capitals," said Ahmed Bin Sulayem, executive chairman and chief executive officer, DMCC.

The increase of companies joining the free zone, has resulted in a significant increase in commodity trade flows through Dubai, where DMCC attained

record highs in 2018. DMCC's Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) hosted 27 diamond tenders in 2018 where AED1.205 billion (\$328 million) worth of diamonds were traded, a significant increase from 13 tenders worth AED104.7 million (\$28.5 million) in 2017.

Similarly, the DMCC's Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX) witnessed a record-breaking year, trading an aggregate 22.26 million contracts valued at AED1.744 trillion (\$475 billion). This was the highest annual volume traded on the platform, marking a 28% increase year-on-year. For its part, DMCC Tradeflow recorded a total value of AED126 billion (\$35 billion), a 37% increase from 2017. ■

GIA Governors Convene In Tel Aviv For Annual Meeting



The GIA board of governors visited the Antwerp Diamond Bourse after their May meeting in Tel Aviv. (From left, front row) Barbara A. Sawrey, Ph.D., Lisa A. Locklear, Susan M. Jacques, board chair Dione D. Kenyon, Samantha F. Ravich, Ph.D., Kiko Harvey, and Barbara L. Dutrow, Ph.D. (From left, second row) Thomas M. Moses, Stephen F. Kahler, Thomas H. Insley, Amit Dhamani, John W. Valley, Ph.D., Robert Andrew 'Andy' Johnson, and Lawrence Ma. (Not pictured) Elliot Tannenbaum and Thomas T. Yang. Photo by GIA.

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) board of governors welcomed Patricia Ann 'Kiko' Harvey, inspector general and director of oversight at the United Nations World Food Programme, as the newest member to the institute's governing body at the regularly scheduled board meeting held in Tel Aviv, Israel in May.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Kiko Harvey to the GIA Board of Governors," said Dione Kenyon, chair of the board. "Her global experience, broad perspective and expertise will help steer the institute as we plan for the future."

"The GIA board of governors is crucial to the successful execution of our mission and strategic initiatives. I am very grateful for

their wise counsel and dedicated service," said Susan Jacques, GIA president and CEO.

Harvey is the inspector general and director of oversight at the United Nations World Food Programme in Rome, Italy. With more than 30 years of executive-level experience in the private and public sectors, Harvey held senior management positions at Delta Air Lines and Starbucks, as well as Yum Brands-Taco Bell and Price Waterhouse, focused on risk, internal audit and compliance. She is a certified public accountant with a certification in risk management assurance and received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Accounting degrees from the University of Southern California.

Following the meeting in Tel Aviv, the board and GIA executives travelled to Antwerp, Belgium to formally open the new GIA laboratory in that important global diamond centre. While there, they held meetings with Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) trade representatives and visited diamond manufacturing and trading companies.

The role of the GIA board of governors is to direct the strategy of the institute to ensure that the mission and vision of GIA are followed in all decisions; that the reputation of GIA is preserved and continues to grow globally; and that the financial goals of the institute are met. ■

BDB Welcomes Joint Diamond Trading Events

The Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB) in Mumbai has welcomed the announcement from the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) that it will be holding a specially organised buyer-seller meeting at around the same time as the third edition of the Bharat Diamond Week (BDW), which takes place at the bourse from October 14th to 16th.

The GJEPC will be holding its 3rd India Diamond Week Buyer-Seller Meet in Mumbai from October 15-17.

"I am delighted that the GJEPC event will be taking place during the time of the Bharat Diamond Week," said BDB vice-president Mehul Shah, who heads the BDW. "It is critical for the Indian diamond industry that we have these two special events taking place. The fact that they are taking place at more or less the same time creates a great deal of excitement

and many business opportunities. We are delighted to welcome all visitors to the GJEPC event to take part in the Bharat Diamond Week where their entry will be smoothly organised."

BDB president Anoop Mehta is also upbeat about the two large events taking place in Mumbai. "The BDB and the GJEPC are the two largest and most important organisations representing our trade in India and promoting it abroad. I am very happy that these two events will be taking place during the same week as it helps us create a critical mass of attendees. We welcome all visitors and buyers to the Bharat Diamond Bourse."

Registration for the BDW opened at the end of May, with scores of companies from India and across the world already registered. The 2019 BDW follows the first two such diamond fairs held last year,

and will host delegations of buyers from China, Australia, and various Asian countries, which will greatly increase the number of visitors and buyers taking part, the organisers said.

The second edition of the Bharat Diamond Week last October hosted more than 1,000 visitors from India and across the world, who did business with 150 Indian exhibitors of polished goods.

Shah said: "We will be hosting delegations of foreign buyers as well as buyers from Israel, Dubai, some European countries and India. Our guest of honour will be the president of the Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE) Lin Qiang, who is also the vice president of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB). He will be leading a delegation of members from the SDE, and he will open the fair. I believe this is another step in broadening our links with the SDE, which is an important part of the global diamond family."

He added that, as with the two previous shows, the BDB will provide selected buyers with complimentary hotel accommodation. Shah noted, "We will be allocating around 150 complementary hotel rooms for foreign buyers, so I would suggest that members of the diamond industry in India and worldwide register straightaway. Priority will be given to visitors who are members of bourses affiliated to the WFDB, but all members of the diamond trade across the world are welcome to participate." ■

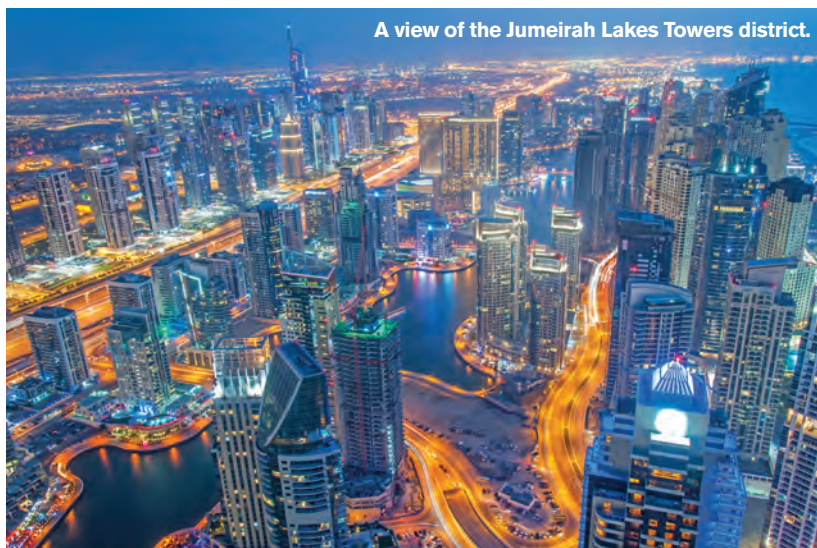


"I am delighted that the GJEPC event will be taking place during the time of the Bharat Diamond Week. The fact that they are taking place at more or less the same time creates a great deal of excitement and many business opportunities."

Dubai Diamond Conference To Debate Technology & Disruption



DMCC executive chairman and chief executive officer Ahmed Bin Sulayem.



A view of the Jumeirah Lakes Towers district.

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DMCC will stage the fourth edition of the Dubai Diamond Conference (DDC) on September 26th at the Almas Conference Centre, Almas Tower, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The one-day conference gathers global industry professionals to discuss the impact of technological innovation on the diamond industry, its supply chain and future prospects.

Fluctuating prices and profitability combined with increased compliance requirements has seen the diamond industry go through a period of profound change. The pervasiveness of disruptive technology is also significantly altering the traditional methods of diamantaires around the world; especially in terms of processing, valuation and trade, DMCC said.

Over 400 influential delegates are expected to register for DDC and debate modern market forces, and examine how diamond companies can best adapt to remain competitive. In a little over two decades, Dubai's diamond industry has grown into one of the largest in the world with over

AED92 billion (\$25 billion) traded through the emirate in 2018 alone.

"We realise that the industry is at an inflection point. The objective of the Dubai Diamond Conference is to convene the industry, debate the state of the current market and understand how best to adapt. The insights shared during DDC will help charter a path for the growth of the industry," said Ahmed Bin Sulayem, executive chairman and chief executive officer, DMCC.

"Technology holds one of the keys to unlocking the potential within the current challenging diamond sector. We acknowledge that adopting the latest innovations will help diamond specialists redefine the supply chain and in return, realise untapped opportunities. Situated at the crossroads of the world, Dubai has become one of the leading diamond trading hubs so there simply is no better place to have this important discussion," he added.

DDC will open with keynote speeches by diverse specialists who will provide a synopsis of the current global diamond industry and compare it to others that

have faced similar challenges. Speeches will be followed by three engaging panel discussions where speakers will shed light on the latest trends in the diamond supply chain, including mining, polishing and trading, as well as process automation and technology-based judgement. The conference will also touch on the rise of lab-grown diamonds and their value proposition to a niche consumer base, in addition to the social value created by the diamond industry.

September 2019 is a significant month for Dubai and its relationship with the international diamond industry. Immediately before DDC, the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and International Diamond Manufacturers Association's (IDMA) Presidents Meeting will take place in the emirate on September 24th and 25th. On the evening of September 25th, DMCC will also officially unveil its redesigned and upgraded Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE), a state-of-the-art trading floor located in Almas Tower, Jumeirah Lakes Towers. ■

Forevermark Hosts Business Transformation Course For Retail Partners In Shanghai



Forevermark Hosts Business Transformation Course For Retail Partners In Shanghai

Forevermark recently organised a customised programme on 'Leading Business Transformation' for its authorised retailers at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in Shanghai at the NYU Campus, one of the foremost social science universities in the world.

The programme focused on enduring business transformation in the disruptive era, and creating new age leaders. Apart from the insightful classroom sessions, the jewellers were given a specialised tour of Shanghai's modern retail formats including Nike's latest experience showroom, Gentle Monster (an eyewear store), Libert'aine (Forevermark's 1,000th store) and the Starbucks Reserve, an extraordinary coffee experience.

Elaborating on the programme, Sachin Jain, president, Forevermark, said, "Forevermark worked closely with the academic coaching team of LSE to design the programme that would be suitable to the needs of our industry's encompassing points like leadership, the digital era, new

retail experiences and managing the family firm. Our thought behind the course was to help our retailers understand the leading business transformations taking place in the industry. We hope that this programme will help our industry leaders to build a greater business and be future-ready."

Some of the retailers who attended the programme included, Indian Gems and Jewellery Creation, Senco Gold, Anmol, A.S. Motiwala, Khurana Jewellery House, C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons, Abaran Timeless Jewellery, Kirtilal Kalidas Jewellers, Narayan Jewellers, Bholason Jewellers, Rose, PMJ Jewels, Nikkamal, Mehta Emporium and D P Abhushan.

Speaking about his experience, Pratap Kamath, director, Abaran Timeless Jewellery, said, "Forevermark has done a fantastic job by organising the executive educative programme. The recent one in Shanghai in particular has been fantastic, because I feel this is the centre of innovation. Besides the classroom teachings, we had access to the retail markets, which were

important and we believe that India is going to replicate this very soon. We had some great faculty teaching us. One great learning from the sessions, according to me, was the importance of decision making."

Abhinav Bhola, director, Bholasons Jewellers, added, "I think Forevermark has uplifted the entire idea of how we think and do business. We came here as individuals with a common goal and met so many people from our industry with different perspectives, mindsets. We learnt how to achieve these goals in an organised manner, using digital marketing or how to take decisions in a more scientific manner."

Shankar Sen, chairman, Senco Gold, added, "Forevermark has not only helped us grow in terms of selling diamonds in the metropolitan cities, but it has helped us penetrate into tier 2, tier 3 and even tier 4 cities. The brand, backed with the identity of a good quality diamond, has helped us become more confident in our business approach and operations." ■

Strong Gold Sales, Store Openings Boost Chow Tai Fook's Performance



(From left) Chow Tai Fook executive director Chan Sai-Cheong, executive director Hamilton Cheng, chairman Dr. Henry Cheng, executive director Adrian Cheng, managing director Kent Wong, and executive director Peter Suen announced the annual results.

Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group recorded a revenue of HK\$66,661 million for the year that ended March 31st 2019, representing a year-on-year increase of 13%, fuelled by point of sale (POS) openings and the strong performance of gold products.

Gross profit amounted to HK\$18,602 million, and the adjusted gross profit margin was up by 70 bps to 27.9% in FY2019. Chow Tai Fook's core operating profit surged by 24.4% to HK\$6,972 million, thanks to an increase in adjusted gross profit margin and the benefit of operating leverage. Core operating profit margin improved by 100 bps to 10.5%.

FY2019 marked another year of growth for the group's business. All product categories exhibited

positive growth in FY2019, among which gold products demonstrated a relatively stronger performance. The revenue contribution of gold

products increased by 170 bps to 61.1%. Same store sales in Mainland China registered an increase of 3.4% and grew 8.7% in Hong Kong and Macau.

The company's retail network expanded to 3,134 POS as of March 31st 2019, with a net addition of 549 POS in FY2019.

In light of the macro headwinds and a tough comparison base... the group is cautiously optimistic for FY2020. "The US-China trade talks may take some time to settle in our view. Nonetheless, with the stimulus measures from the Chinese government such as lowering reserve requirement ratio, various tax cuts, spurring lending, particularly to small and medium-sized companies and enlarging infrastructure spending, we believe these would help to mitigate the impact on the economy and consumer sentiment," the company stated. ■



The Hong Kong-based jeweller's revenue growth was fuelled by store openings.

"The company's retail network expanded to 3,134 POS as of March 31st 2019, with a net addition of 549 POS in FY2019. In light of the macro headwinds and a tough comparison base... the group is cautiously optimistic for FY2020."

GIA India Educates WHP's Sangli Clients On Diamond Basics

Gemological Institute of America (GIA) India organised seminars on the “4Cs of Diamond Quality” for customers of Waman Hari Pethe Jewellers (WHP) in Sangli, an affluent tier 3 town in the sugar producing belt of Maharashtra. The GIA exercise was aimed to help the jeweller's clients gain knowledge and confidence in their diamond buying decisions.

On June 8th and 9th, a GIA representative shared insights on the famous 4Cs of diamond quality – colour, clarity, cut and carat weight – and how they contribute to determining a diamond's value. The seminar also helped potential consumers understand the importance of independent diamond grading reports and a jeweller's responsibility to sell with disclosure.

“GIA India's seminar was an eye-opener in terms of knowledge for our loyal consumers. It's a big decision to purchase precious stones like diamonds and GIA India's seminar has made it easier for our consumers by giving in-depth insights on diamond basics,” said Neel Pethe, director of Waman Hari Pethe Jewellers



GIA India representative presenting “4Cs of Diamond Quality” to customers of Waman Hari Pethe Jewellers (WHP) in Sangli, Maharashtra.

and a GIA graduate gemmologist. “With the help of GIA India, this awareness seminar has built curiosity in our consumers to learn more about this wonderful creation of Mother Earth. We thank GIA India for supporting us by educating our consumers.”

“Building consumer confidence is very important for GIA and the gem and jewellery industry,” said Nirupa Bhatt, managing director of GIA India and Middle East. “GIA India has been working with jewellers to organise consumer seminars and to conduct complimentary training for their sales staff to help them explain diamond quality effectively. Jewellers see merit in such initiatives and I'm thankful to Waman Hari Pethe Jewellers for giving GIA India the opportunity to share knowledge with its consumers.” ■

J.K. Diamonds Institute Holds Augmented Reality Workshop

Meghna Saraogi, the founder of MirrAR by StyleDotMe, held a workshop on augmented reality (AR) in jewellery at the J.K. Diamonds Institute campus. Through the use of AR, customers can now virtually try on jewellery designs using the front camera of an iPad, without having to physically wear them.

According to J.K. Diamonds Institute, AR is expected to enhance customer experience in the jewellery sector and improve customer engagement with the brand. The technology innovation helps jewellers keep a check on inventory management, it noted, and encourages customers to try new designs of earrings, necklaces, pendants, etc. that may not be in stock at the retailer's showroom. ■



Rio Tinto Commemorates 30-year Indo-Argyle Partnership In Mumbai

Rio Tinto's diamond business celebrated 30 years in India with a tribute in Mumbai to the extraordinary Indo-Argyle partnership. At a celebratory dinner for customers and diamond industry partners on June 27th, Rio Tinto's management reflected on the groundbreaking partnership that began with the first influx of diamonds from the Argyle diamond mine in Western Australia in the 1980s.

Alan Chirgwin, vice president of sales and marketing for Rio Tinto's Copper & Diamonds business, said, "Rio Tinto's 30-year diamond history in India contains many milestones. Our Mumbai office was opened in 1989 in recognition of the growing importance of India as a major trading partner and diamond cutting centre. Argyle undertook its initial cutting tests in India and together with our Indian partners we have built innovative marketing programmes.

"The Indo-Argyle relationship has thrived on mutual respect and understanding. It gave the owners of Argyle considerable assurance, in June 1996, that it could take the lonely path of being the first diamond producer to independently market all of its production."

Rio Tinto initiatives undertaken in partnership with the Indian diamond industry include the launch of the Indo Argyle Diamond Council (IADC) in 1993 to create awareness and acceptance of Indian-made diamond jewellery in the US. This paved the way for direct sales to US retailers and the groundbreaking Business Excellence Model, which drove safety, product assurance, quality



Among the speakers at the Indo-Argyle partnership celebration event were (from left): Alan Chirgwin, vice president sales and marketing, copper and diamonds, Rio Tinto; Tony Huber, Australian Consular General to India; Nirupa Bhatt, managing director of GIA, India and Middle East; Sanjay Kothari, former chairman of the GJEPC; and Vikram Merchant, director of diamonds sales and marketing in India, Rio Tinto.

management and continuous improvement in the diamond and jewellery manufacturing industries and retail trade in India.

More recently, Rio Tinto's Australian Diamonds initiative in India has delivered a leading-edge tracking system for Argyle diamonds, developed in collaboration with downstream partners, for monitoring the movement of Rio Tinto's rough Australian diamonds from their source at the Argyle mine through to finished jewellery.

Vikram Merchant, director of Rio Tinto's diamonds sales and marketing business in India, said, "Thirty years ago, very few people would have predicted that India would become the powerhouse of the diamond industry that it is today. Rio Tinto is proud of the role of the Argyle diamond mine in this development and equally proud of the Indian diamond industry's role in unlocking the beauty and value of our diamonds." ■

Atul Saraf Wins WCRCInt Business Leader Award



Atul Saraf (left), chairman of Gorakhpur-based Aishshpra Gems and Jewels, won the 'Business Leader of the Year' award at the WCRCInt 2019 Awards ceremony that was held in London on June 25th. The award was presented to him by philanthropist and entrepreneur Lord Raj Loomba (centre) and professor Malcolm McDonald. The WCRCInt Awards recognise emerging brands and business leaders across the globe in various categories.

Saraf said, "This is a great honour and I am humbled and overwhelmed with this recognition given by WCRCInt, one of the most credible leadership platforms. This award is an achievement of Aishshpra Parivar as without their support Aishshpra wouldn't have reached the heights it has today." ■

Sarine Introduces Low-cost 3D Video Imaging Service

Sarine Technologies Ltd., an Israel-based diamond technology pioneer, is offering jewellery suppliers and retailers a simple, automated and cost-effective imaging and visualisation service with interactive personalisation functionality. Verto, an Israeli start-up, has developed an innovative imaging solution that generates high quality interactive video displays, derived automatically from just a handful of images captured by any common smartphone.

Verto's solution enables jewellery manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers to provide their customers with exceptionally high-quality video visualisation of the jewellery pieces, along with interactive capabilities to view the piece from multiple perspectives and personalise the setting as well as the types, sizes, and colours of stones, etc., with no need for capital investment in high-end devices, expensive professional photographers or exhaustive manual finishing.

Sarine said the combination of the imagery's high quality, the system's ease of use, its attractive cost and fast delivery creates an offering that is far superior to any currently available market alternatives. Sarine is leveraging its global marketing and sales infrastructure and diamond industry recognition to introduce Verto's cutting-edge offering under a mutually-beneficial sales agreement.

"At Sarine, we are continuously bringing value-added solutions based on cutting-edge technologies to jewellery retailers. We believe



that Verto's innovative solution is an exceptionally cost-effective one, which will enhance our retailers' in-store and online customers' experience. We are pleased to be able to introduce this service to the industry and believe it can create new possibilities for the retail market based on a very appealing business model with no need for capital investment, sophisticated training of personnel, etc. For us, adding Verto's technology to our offerings for our downstream industry customers, will broaden our market into jewellery pieces, in addition to loose stones, and add a new recurring revenue stream," said David Block, CEO of Sarine Technologies.

Nadav Dadon, co-founder and CEO of Verto, noted: "Partnering with the technology leader in the global diamond industry provides us with a host of valuable synergies and will allow us to launch our services through established distribution channels, shortening our time to market significantly." ■

HRD Opens New Drop-off Point In London

HRD Antwerp announced its expansion into the UK market with the opening of a new drop-off point in London's Hatton Garden. HRD Antwerp stated that the new service for jewellery grading would help combat the growing problem of jewellers unknowingly selling jewellery which features a mix of natural and lab-grown diamonds.

The new London drop-off point will give UK jewellers easy access to HRD Antwerp's services, including jewellery and diamond grading reports at competitive rates. The comprehensive grading report will provide jewellers with peace of mind, reassuring them that all of their diamonds are indeed natural, and not laboratory-grown, it noted.

"There are increasing amounts of laboratory-grown diamonds available on the market," said David Ziegler, commercial director of HRD Antwerp. "A cost-effective grading report from HRD Antwerp is the most trusted and efficient way of ensuring all of your unmounted and mounted diamonds are 100% natural."

Loose diamonds and diamond jewellery can be brought or shipped to the London drop-off point. The diamonds are then sent to HRD Antwerp's grading lab for comprehensive testing and grading, before being returned to London. Each unmounted diamond will be accompanied by a grading report which clearly specifies that the diamond is natural, and rates it against the 4Cs. Each diamond jewellery piece will be issued with a unique grading report specifying the same. ■

GIA Plans Seminar On Jewellery Quality Evaluation



The process of examining a piece of jewellery under a microscope during a Jewellery Forensics seminar. Photo by Albert Salvato/GIA.

Gemological Institute of America (GIA) presents a unique seminar that teaches the assessment of jewellery design and engineering to identify manufacturing methods, workmanship and risk of failure. Professionals will learn the 12-step forensic methodology process to evaluate how jewellery is made based on GIA's Quality Assurance Benchmarks (QABs) for assessing workmanship. The two-and-a-half-day Jewellery Forensics seminar, led by experienced GIA instructors, offers hands-on exercises along with detailed education materials.

"The new Jewellery Forensics seminar has been really well received," said Elizabeth Brehmer, GIA technical advisor of jewellery manufacturing arts. "Participants leave with usable information and practical techniques for assessing the quality of new or vintage jewellery and how to effectively

communicate their assessment of the jewellery's engineering and workmanship."

The Jewellery Forensics seminar will be offered at GIA's world headquarters in Carlsbad, California. The first session will be held from August 5th-7th followed by another on October 21st-23rd.

The seminar also covers the characteristics of precious metals and their compatibility with jewellery manufacturing. Seminar participants will receive a Jewellery Forensics guidebook including the 12-step process of evaluation, glossary of terms and a USB drive with supplemental reference and jewellery case study information.

"This seminar offers a unique opportunity for jewellery professionals of all skill levels to identify how jewellery is made from the trace indicators that remain," said Duncan Pay, GIA vice president and chief academic officer. "This new seminar is driven by our mission to ensure public trust and provide the highest standards through education."

In addition to the Jewellery Forensics seminar, GIA in Carlsbad is offering two lab classes on jewellery repair and setting. The Basic Repair and Setting Lab Class is available on August 12th-26th and the Intermediate Repair and Setting Lab Class is available on August 19th-23rd.

For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.gia.edu/jewelry-forensics-seminar> ■

Sarine Announces Diamond Journey Official Partners

Sarine Technologies Ltd. has launched the Sarine Diamond Journey™ Official Partners programme in response to market demand for diamonds that have passed through the provenance tracking programme that was introduced earlier this year.

Retailers have expressed significant interest in sourcing these Journey documented goods, which are available from a broad selection of suppliers, Sarine noted. It said that retailers need not be dependent on only a certain supplier with its own individual traceability programme. The

Sarine Diamond Journey is based on actual verifiable imagery and information rather than declarative statements, it added.

The Official Partners programme initially comprises select diamond manufacturers that will be able to supply goods meeting the retailers' criteria.

Each diamond that underwent the process can subsequently be supplied with a provenance report that is accessible 24/7 from Sarine's secure cloud. The report includes a digital, interactive and visual documentary of the diamond's journey from its rough

form to finished polished diamond or even to the set jewellery piece. In addition a 3D-printed model of the rough diamond, from which the polished diamond was derived, can optionally be supplied, adding another engaging layer to the experience.

The currently approved partners are: Andre Messika Diamonds, Ashwin Diamonds, C. Dinesh, Diarough, Finestar, H&A Cutting Works, Hope International, KGK, Moti Gantz Botswana, Rosy Blue, Schachter and Namdar Namibia (pty) Ltd., Shairu Gems, Star Rays and Venus Jewels. ■

Glenn Nord, Third GIA President, Passes Away

Glenn Nord, member of the GIA board of governors and past president of the institute, passed away early on June 9th. Throughout his more than 50-year association with GIA, Nord was a student, instructor, president and member of the institute's board of governors. His contributions are numerous, his influence far-reaching and his legacy enduring. His devotion to GIA and its mission, together with his clear-eyed and compassionate drive for excellence, helped guide the institute through difficult times.

"Glenn Nord was a committed advocate for GIA's mission, and for our students and the GIA staff, particularly those in our gemmological laboratories," said GIA president and CEO Susan Jacques. "His business acumen and wisdom, shared over decades with

GIA management and the board of governors, provided strategic guidance that built GIA's success."

Nord, who turned 90 in 2018, earned his GIA Graduate Gemologist diploma in 1959. Hired by GIA's second president Richard T. Liddicoat in 1961, Nord became one of GIA's corps of travelling instructors, combining gemmological training for students with energetic promotion of GIA to local jewellers. He pioneered the institute's corporate training programmes and, in 1970, took GIA instruction to Israel and Japan, beginning a global outreach that now spans 14 cities in 12 countries.

In 1974, Nord left GIA to pursue an opportunity in the international diamond trade. In 1983, the board of governors asked him to return as president of the institute during



Glenn Nord, member of the GIA board of governors and past president of GIA.



GIA staff at AGS Conclave in Chicago, 1968. (Standing, from left) Bert Krashes, Joe Murphy, John Charter, Richard T. Liddicoat, Bob Ernest, Glenn Nord, G. Robert Crowningshield, Chuck Fryer, Ken Moore and Gale Johnson. (Seated, from left) Steven Zack, Eunice Miles and T.J. Barrows.

the transition from then-president Richard T. Liddicoat. With the appointment of Bill Boyajian as GIA's president in 1986, Nord retired. He remained on the GIA board of governors until his death, the last few years as governor emeritus. He received GIA's highest honour, the Richard T. Liddicoat Award, in 2001.

Along with other important early leaders of GIA including Richard T. Liddicoat, G. Robert Crowningshield, Bert Krashes and Eunice Miles, Nord laid the foundation upon which GIA is built. His invaluable insights and unwavering commitment to GIA and its mission will continue to be of lasting importance to the institute's effort to protect consumers and serve the public good.

Nord is survived by his wife Hannah, their three children, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. GIA will establish a scholarship in his name in the near future. ■

"His business acumen and wisdom, shared over decades with GIA management and the board of governors, provided strategic guidance that built GIA's success."

WFDB Executive Committee Debates Vital Trade Issues



Members of the WFDB executive committee during the meeting at the Israel Diamond Exchange.

The World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) held an executive committee meeting at the Israel Diamond Exchange on June 24th, discussing a wide variety of subjects vital to the industry, as well as moves to enhance the relevance of the organisation. The executive committee also heard a review of synthetic diamonds and the state of the diamond trade globally from Martin Rapaport, chairman of the Rapaport Group, as well as a presentation on blockchain, which it believes is the future.

Among the other issues discussed was the System of Warranties, led by London Diamond Bourse president Alan Cohen, and the WFDB social media campaign being run by Rami Baron, president of the Diamond Dealers Club of Australia.

The executive committee approved the appointment of an external advisor – former Dubai Diamond Exchange chairman Peter Meeus.

Rapaport spoke of the growing role of lab-grown diamonds and how the diamond trade needs to point out to consumers that such

stones are not a store of value and that their price will eventually fall substantially. He also spoke about the general state of the diamond trade, saying that the Chinese market was reasonable and the US market was strong.

Rapaport spoke about the difficulty of sales to millennials, and that the core US engagement ring sector was not particularly strong. Meanwhile, the midstream part of the pipeline is under extreme pressure. He also raised other issues for discussion, such as the need for increased transparency and origin of supply. He explained that melee goods have been losing value since January and that there is a serious concern that prices for this category of goods of lower quality and purity will decline further.

“We had an extremely productive meeting with robust debates on a wide range of topics,” said WFDB president Ernie Blom. “In such challenging times for the global diamond trade, it was vital to hear the views of executive committee colleagues from across the world

ahead of the Presidents Meeting in Dubai in September. We will receive updates at that meeting on the issues raised here and also on a number of other important topics.

The executive committee discussed how the trading of synthetic diamonds should be organised in the most appropriate way at WFDB-affiliated exchanges. Currently, the diamond exchanges in India, Israel and Hong Kong prohibit trading in synthetic diamonds on the floor of their diamond exchanges.

Yoram Dvash, president of the Israel Diamond Exchange and host of the meeting of the executive committee, commented: “In the coming months, diamond exchanges will develop specific communication programmes on social media to promote our diamond business. Consumers should be aware of what they are buying as well as what the intrinsic value is of the product they are embracing. Through targeted campaigns on social media, it is our intention to clarify the unique selling proposition of natural diamonds to the broadest possible audience.” ■

“In such challenging times for the global diamond trade, it was vital to hear the views of executive committee colleagues from across the world ahead of the Presidents Meeting in Dubai in September.”



GJEPC Holds Silver & Fashion Jewellery Buyer-Seller Meet

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) held the India Silver & Fashion Jewellery Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from June 12th-14th. The event included an open meeting day between invited buyers and exhibitors.

Over 20 silver jewellery manufacturing companies showcased their manufacturing skills to 39 international buyers consisting of silver jewellery wholesalers, retailers, traders and chain stores from the targeted regions, namely, Algeria, Australia, Egypt, England, Ireland, Jordan, UAE, USA, Spain, Kuwait and Thailand.

The event was inaugurated by GJEPC chairman Pramod Agrawal, regional chairman Nirmal Bardiya,

and silver panel convener Ram Babu Gupta along with international buyers and exhibitors from India.

Speaking at the inauguration, Agrawal said, "The BSM has been organised with an objective to meet the current business needs of the silver jewellery industry and to further establish and strengthen new business opportunities and promote business globally. The three-day business matching programme will be an ideal opportunity to showcase India's strength and capabilities in manufacturing silver jewellery, which is in demand due to its exclusivity and craftsmanship, whether it's machine-made or handmade.

"Made in India silver jewellery has gradually made a mark in international markets with

remarkably good designs, bold use of diamonds and coloured gemstones, thereby adding more value addition. I am sure buyers saw a range of innovative and trendy jewellery as per their needs and requirements."

India's gross exports of silver jewellery for the period April 2018 to March 2019 were \$837.81 million.

According to the Council, the event was an opportunity for the buyers to understand the Indian silver sector better for their sourcing needs, including the supply chain, business practices and culture. "I am sure the buyers and sellers made the most out of this platform to further establish and strengthen new sourcing relationships and promote business globally," added Agrawal. ■

GJEPC Presents Pre-Budget Proposals



The union minister for finance and corporate affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman chairing the pre-budget consultation with the finance ministers of all states and Union Territories, in New Delhi on June 21st.

GJEPC chairman Pramod Agrawal stated that the gem and jewellery sector is going through tough times and outlined the factors impacting exports and overall growth of the sector. He said that the GJEPC has been in talks with the government to address major banking issues affecting the gem and jewellery industry. These include an increase in cost of funds, need for interest subvention, dollarisation of credit limits, allowing release of bank guarantees/cash margins of exporters after exports, reintroduction of ECGC WTP policy for the sector, gold card and taxation issues.

Agrawal also presented the pre-Budget proposals of the industry to the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Some key points have been summarised below:

1. One of the burning issues of the industry is the imposition of Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) on re-import of consignments, which are exported

through the consignments/exhibition mode. The industry is hopeful that the issue will be resolved soon.

2. Reduction in import duty on cut and polished diamonds from 7.5% to 2.5%: Due to certain data anomaly in the import figures of cut and polished diamonds, duty on diamonds got increased from 2.5% to 5% and thereafter to 7%. The industry has been repeatedly representing that returned consignments of polished diamonds had constituted a major portion of the import figures, which was erroneously captured and reported. Some 93% of the imported polished diamonds are exported back and are also procured in manufacturing and exporting studded jewellery from the country.
3. Reduction in import duty on precious metal gold from 10% to 4%: For a long time, the industry has been making a request to reduce the import duty on gold

to a realistic level. Duty reduction will definitely re-initiate the flow of raw material through official channels into the country, thus strengthening our jewellery exports.

4. Introduction of a realistic turnover taxation regime for the Special Notified Zone in Mumbai: The Special Notified Zone in Mumbai was inaugurated in December 2015 and since then the zone has been running successfully. The only major hurdle is that in the absence of a favourable taxation regime, the foreign mining companies have not yet started selling rough diamonds. The companies still arrive, display their goods, and then take them back to their country. The industry has been requesting that, on the lines of the level playing field being offered by Belgium, Israel, UAE, etc., the Indian government should introduce a presumptive turnover linked tax rate (0.125%) on the sale of rough diamonds at the SNZ. ■



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KP Intersessional Focuses On Reforms

India, as the Kimberley Process (KP) chair for 2019, successfully hosted the KP Intersessional meeting in Mumbai from June 17th to 21st.

The KP Interessional, the annual mid-year event of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), was organised by the union ministry of commerce & industry, Government of India, and co-organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in Mumbai.

The KPCS is a tripartite mechanism that unites participating governments, diamond industry and civil society. KPCS is an international mechanism mandated by United Nations (UN) to reduce the flow of conflict diamonds which were being used to finance wars against legitimate governments.

Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, KP chair and director general of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), hosted and addressed over 200 KP delegates from 82 countries.

In his opening remarks, Chaturvedi noted that the international diamond industry has welcomed the adoption of the resolution by the United Nations

General Assembly on March 1st, 2019, which calls for strengthening of KP to more effectively sever the link between illicit transaction of diamonds and conflict. He added, “India, as KP chair would continue to work with the governments, international diamond industry and civil society towards building consensus and strengthening KP. The KP Interessional meet will help in creating a clear and concise Core Document, enhancing KP standards and modalities with peer review mechanism; raising the level of representation and participation; improving the gathering and flow of essential data amongst other key goals.”

Chaturvedi said that the international community has set in motion a historic plan to build a more prosperous, more equivalent and more secure world by 2030. The Government of India is strongly committed to the 2030 agenda, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that the



Dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp.



KP chair Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi.



WDC board member Peter Karachiev, who chairs the sub-committee planning the establishment of the permanent KP Secretariat, addressing a session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform (AHCCR), during the KP Intersessional in Mumbai, India, on June 18th.

philosophy of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas for inclusive development converges very well with the SDGs. He added that the KP has been a driving force for peace and prosperity, tying closely with the 2030 agenda.

Review and reform

During the five-day period, a range of issues were up for discussion, but dominating proceedings were the review and reform of the KPCS, and, in particular, the expansion of its scope.

The KP is in the final few months of a three-year review and reform process, which is scheduled to end at the 2019 KP Plenary Session, which will be held in the Indian capital of

New Delhi from November 11th to November 15th. Since decisions within the KP can only be reached with the full consensus of all government members, the discussions conducted during the Intersessional meeting and those that will take place in the remaining four and a half months are of critical importance.

In the speech he delivered to the opening session of the Intersessional, World Diamond Council (WDC) president Stephane Fischler drew a distinction between the concepts of review and reform. Review, he said, requires the improvement of the various instruments that the KP has created, so that the KPCS becomes more efficient and effective. The proposals on the agenda include a simplified and more consistent Core Document, a strengthened peer review mechanism, the creation of a permanent KP Secretariat to replace the Administrative Support Mechanism that currently exists, and the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), which will assist financially-strapped nations to be fully involved in the KP and also support civil society in carrying out its duties.

Fischler pointed out that reform is a more transformative process. The diamond industry, he said, believes that this must involve expanding the scope of the “conflict diamonds” definition beyond goods that finance armed rebellion. “We strongly believe that, by helping eliminate the trade in diamonds

The proposals on the agenda include a simplified and more consistent Core Document, a strengthened peer review mechanism, the creation of a permanent KP Secretariat, and the establishment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

directly associated with instances of systemic violence, we can bring about a more responsible and ethical mining sector, thus enabling a fairer distribution of the benefits delivered to millions of people,” he stated.

While WDC’s observer status in the KP does not afford it voting privileges, which are reserved exclusively for government members, along with fellow observer, the Civil Society Coalition, it formulated a proposal for an expanded “conflict diamonds” definition, which was formally tabled by the Government of Canada at the 2018 KP Plenary Meeting in Brussels last November. The expanded definition would now include stones “acquired through systemic and widespread violence, forced labour, the worst forms of child labour, or through violations of international humanitarian law.”

A separate proposal is now being awaited from the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA), which is also a KP observer, and it

is scheduled to be tabled following a meeting of African ministers that will take place in mid-July.

The review and reform process is being managed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Review and Reform (AHCRR), which was created at the KP Plenary Meeting in Brisbane, Australia, in 2017. It is chaired by Angola, with Canada serving as the vice chair. It includes a series of sub-committees, each of which is tackling a different element of the process, among them changes to the KPCS Core Document, the Peer Review Mechanism, the MDTF, and the establishment of the permanent KP Secretariat.

Chairing the Permanent KP Secretariat Sub-Committee is Peter Karakchiev, a WDC board member from Alrosa, the Russian diamond mining company. The Administrative Support Mechanism, which the prospective body will replace, has been funded and operated by WDC members on behalf of the KP since it was first established in 2013.

Members of the WDC team at the 2019 Interseasonal meeting were closely involved in all meetings of the AHCRR, as well as its sub-committees. The subjects of review and reform were also discussed at length during a series of bilateral meetings held by the WDC with delegations from diamond producing countries, processing countries, consuming countries and fellow KP observers.

Preventing diamond-related conflict

In his speech, Shamiso Mtisi, coordinator of the KP Civil Society Coalition, commended the keen efforts of the EU chair to progress debate on the expansion of the KP’s scope, but hoped for consensus on adapting to the evolving nature of conflicts affecting diamonds.

The Civil Society Coalition went on to express its concern about certain interventions seemingly aimed at hampering the progress of talks. “It remains cynical that the KP claims to stop the flow of ‘conflict diamonds’ but continues to struggle in taking responsibility to define and monitor what conflict actually is”, said Mtisi. He pointed out that the current KP definition excludes diamonds that are the result of systematic violence, widespread abuse by public or private security services, torture and inhumane and degrading treatment. He emphasised that the KP had been entrusted with protecting the narrative of love and beauty that diamonds are intended to embody. Failure to address violence, he pointed out, would betray that mission.

The Civil Society Coalition called on all participants and observers to cooperate constructively in



Panellists from the Special Forum about terminology in the diamond sector, which was held on June 19th.

addressing the serious gaps in the current functioning of the Kimberley Process. Only in this way can we restore the image of diamonds and turn it into a driver of peace and development, Mtisi stated.

Optimising diamond resources

On June 17th, Stephane Fischler called on Kimberley Process-member governments to do what is necessary to safeguard the interests of their mining communities, and in so doing optimise the developmental potential of their natural resources.

“We must agree that the Kimberley Process should ensure that each government takes responsibility to ensure a chain of provenance, earning the trust of consumers wherever they are, and in so doing produce the revenues that must filter back to the grass roots of the mining communities,” Fischler stated.

Historically, he noted, one of the most critical factors determining

whether a country’s economy is able to take advantage of the potential offered by its rough diamond deposits is the relative absence of ongoing conflict and violence.

“There is a dramatic disparity between the development level of those countries and the others that suffered the tragedy of civil war, Fischler stated. “Only today are some slowly realising the opportunities that their commodities could offer, in helping maintain the peace and allowing for nation building.”

“The Kimberley Process has today a one-time opportunity to make a difference in those countries where the diamond industry has not yet met its developmental potential,” he said.

While the diamond industry and civil society will do all that they can to support constructive change as observers in the KP, ultimately it will be up to governments to reach consensus on the review and reform that is required, Fischler said.

“We need you, the country representatives, to have the courage to look into the eyes of your own people – the men, women and children active and living in the diamond-mining areas. They ask that they be allowed to live, rather than simply survive. They request safety and security for themselves and their families, and to be dignified with a proper wage, so that they may build a better future for themselves and their children, and contribute proudly as citizens,” he said.

“We are relying on each of you, during this final year of the review and reform process, to show the consumers of diamonds that the Kimberley Process can unite around a programme that will ensure better care and protection of



Representatives of the World Diamond Council (WDC), the Civil Society Coalition (CSC), the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) and the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) meeting during the KP Observers' Forum in Mumbai, India, on June 17th.

What is essential is that, together, we send a clear signal to the outside world, including consumers, that the KP remains a vitally relevant institution, which is able to evolve and adapt according to changing conditions.

your brothers and sisters,” Fischler said.

Prior to the opening session, the WDC hosted an Observers’ Forum with the other official observers in the KP, including the Civil Society Coalition (CSC), the Diamond Development Initiative (DDI) and the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA).

Strengthening KPCS

As the 2019 Intersessional meeting of the KP wrapped up on June 21st, Stephane Fischler expressed confidence that progress has been made in the effort to reach consensus on the review and reform of the KPCS. He called on participants to agree on the measures necessary for strengthening the KPCS’s impact, both in improving the lives and prospects of communities in the mining areas, and also in meeting the expectations of consumers in the jewellery markets.

“What is essential is that, together, we send a clear signal to the outside world, including consumers, that the KP remains a vitally relevant institution, which is able to evolve and adapt according to changing conditions. This must be the case at the upstream end of the chain of value, as it is at the downstream end,” he stated.

The WDC president pointed out the significant achievements the KP has achieved to date, including developmental programmes for



Representatives of WDC members at the Special Forum on artisanal mining (from left): Dr Shayequa Zeenat Ali, NCAER; Sabyasachi Ray, GJEPC; Ulhas Shamrao Muke, Mumbai Dabbawala.in; Rupa Dutta, economic advisor; Ferial Zerouki, De Beers Group; Mahendra Patel, Aangadiya Association; and Pranay Narvekar, MyKYC Bank.

artisanal miners that its members are currently involved in launching in places like Sierra Leone, Guinea, DRC and others, which would have been impossible, were it not for the role of the KPSC in returning peace to these areas.

Such developmental programmes, he said, are undermined when acts of violence bring the integrity of the diamond into question. “We will continue to stand on the front lines, highlighting our concerns and advancing and promoting solutions. To do that, we require the understanding, cooperation and support of all players in the chain of value. If we see consumers turning away, our market share shrinks,

revenues fall, and all of us will feel the pain.”

The WDC’s eleven-person team at the KP Intersessional, led by Fischler and WDC executive director Marie-Chantal Kaninda, played key roles in various sessions of the plenary and working groups.

On June 19th, Peter Karakchiev organised and moderated a Special Forum, which delved into the promotion of the Diamond Terminology Guidelines that were adopted as KP Best Practices last year. Most speakers in that forum were representatives of WDC member bodies. They included Karla Basselier, of the Antwerp World Diamond Center (AWDC); ➡



WDC president Stephane Fischler addressing the closing session of the KP Intersessional Meeting on June 21st.

Sanjay Shah, of the GJEPC; David Bouffard of Signet Jewelers; and Elodie Daguzan of Rubel & Ménasché.

The WDC members spoke about efforts being taken by the industry to bridge the expectations of stakeholders in the diamond producing countries and the growing demand by Millennial and Generation Z jewellery buyers that the products they buy have ethical and social value. “We cannot afford to have our competitors in the marketplace using the perceived shortcomings of the Kimberley Process to sell their own products,” said Bouffard during the Special Forum on diamond terminology.

A second Special Forum on June 19th looked at grass-roots programmes being operated in diamond industry communities. The session on Artisanal Mining: Smaller Steps to Larger Outcomes was moderated by diamond industry analyst Pranay Narvekar. It featured, among others, Feriel Zerouki, of WDC member De Beers Group, who presented

the GemFair initiative in Sierra Leone, which is working to formalise and support artisanal miners in the diamond value chain; and Sabyasachi Ray, executive director of the GJEPC, who outlined the Swasthya Ratna Policy, a heavily-subsidised health care plan created by the GJEPC for workers in the Indian jewellery sector and their families, which eventually could provide comprehensive coverage to more than 5 million people.

Narvekar said there were other shining examples of best practices followed across different sectors, which could offer potential solutions in the artisanal mining sector. The unorganised segments of the diamond pipeline could take a leaf from Mumbai’s Dabbawalas, who deliver and collect two lakh lunchboxes per day, with the help of 5,000 employees who use only local public transport and zero technology. The Mumbai Dabbawala Association has earned the coveted Six Sigma rating with an error rate of 1 in 6 million, stated spokesperson Ritesh Angre. Mahendra Patel of the All India Angadia Association elaborated on how Angadias or couriers offered logistic solutions to diamond dealers based purely on trust.

Addressing the Special Forum, Rupa Dutta, economic advisor, union ministry of commerce & industry, Government of India, outlined the importance of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) through the pooling of resources to improve the standard, quality and output of artisans, who have no exposure to technology. “These CFCs will ultimately empower small and medium units and help them become part of the larger organised sector,” she said.



Rupa Dutta felicitating Stephane Fischler, joined by Colin Shah, Sanjay Shah, Pramod Agrawal and Sabyasachi Ray.



GJEPC chairman Pramod Agrawal (right) in talks with WDC representatives.



WDC executive director Marie-Chantal Kaninda intervening during a session of 2019 KP Intersessional Meeting in Mumbai, India.

In conclusion

In his closing remarks, Chaturvedi noted, “There has been a good exchange and ideas, discussions and deliberations, listening and learning, debates, dialogues in the true KP tradition of productive sharing of ideas to forge the way forward for KP. We are grateful to the global diamond community and the representatives of the Civil Society Coalition for their presence and active participation. The knowledge, experience and expertise that each one of you brings to the table is phenomenal and so is your collective effort. The commitment and contribution to usher in transformational change has been of the highest order.”

The KP session 2019 observed progress in many areas including deepening ongoing discussions on the scope, finalisation of Terms of Reference for Permanent Secretariat, draft Administrative Decision (AD) on Peer Review Mechanism, reconciliation guidance document and capturing of data for artisanal mining, new independent observer, clearer directions for the MDTF

and consolidation of the Core Document.

KP delegates will again meet in New Delhi for the Plenary Session in November 2019.

In his closing speech, the Fischler expressed confidence that the KP members will manage to find common ground and understanding in the process of reform. “This means that we all need to shift perspective, to ensure that the KP continues to deliver positive impact on the ground and also enhances the reputation of the diamond to consumers,” he said.

He noted, “My fellow KP participants, as we prepare for the final five months of this reform and review period, let us pledge together that, in Delhi in November, we will emerge united and empowered.

“Let us ensure together that the diamond continues to hold its position as the world’s most popular gemstone, uniquely positioned as a symbol of love and commitment, and it remains a source of hope and promise for a better future, for people in all the countries in which it is produced – leaving no one behind.” ■



Saurabh Gadgil, chairman and managing director, PNG Jewellers and Sachin Jain, president, Forevermark India unveiling the Fab 5 collection.

SACHIN JAIN:

‘For Diamond Growth In India, The Time Is Now’

PNG Jewellers To Retail Its Fab 5 Line Set With Forevermark Diamonds

PNG Jewellers, a brand that embodies values and trust, recently partnered with Forevermark, the diamond brand from the De Beers Group, to retail Forevermark diamonds across all their stores in India.

To highlight this partnership, PNG Jewellers have specially designed five sets of jewellery, titled Fab 5, designed with rare Forevermark diamonds, with each diamond bearing a unique inscription number, assuring the consumer that it is genuine, natural and untreated. The Fab 5 collection consists of lightweight, daily wear designer sets of rings, earrings, pendants, *tanmaniyas* (mangalsutra

pendants) and bracelets, which are reasonably priced. The collection will be initially available in 17 of 31 PNG Jewellers stores.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Sachin Jain, president, Forevermark India, said, “We only collaborate with retailers who are not only passionate about diamonds as we are, but also meet the brand’s stringent criteria of business, social and environmental integrity. PNG Jewellers and Forevermark India have been partners for long. PNG Jewellers is one of the frontrunners among companies with a deep understanding of offering quality jewellery. We thought this would be a real

potential to tap as here is a partner who is forthright, professional, aware of his brand positioning and geographies in the market by offering the best products to first-time diamond buyers.”

Elucidating on why Forevermark chose to tie up with PNG Jewellers for its well-curated and researched daily wear Fab 5 collection, Jain said that Forevermark is always happy to choose the right partners for furthering the growth of diamonds in a transparent way. “PNG Jewellers wants to bring in the best of both worlds. It is a household name with a rich legacy as a family jeweller, and coupled with the brand’s modern

Using Forevermark diamonds in our latest Fab 5 collection has not only enhanced the sparkle of each piece, but it will strengthen the credibility and trust with our customers.

way of driving business to engage the new-age consumer, PNG Jewellers' approach and the muscle to try out new things, makes them well positioned to take on the opportunity that lay ahead of them," Jain stated, adding, "The launch of the Fab 5 collection is the beginning of this journey."

The lightweight, 18-karat Fab 5 studded with Forevermark diamonds has five sub-sets conceived to draw in first-time buyers at PNG Jewellers. In the first phase, the focus will be to have a dedicated space at its 17 stores spread out in the western region.

Responding to a query about the popularity of diamond jewellery in India, Jain sounded confident. "I believe that consumers are ready to buy at the ground level, and in the near future, the diamond business will only multiply further."

He revealed that in terms of volume, Forevermark India saw a growth of 50% last year. "In terms of diamond sales, we in India are in one of the best spaces for the next five years, which are very important for the growth of diamonds. Jewellers or brands who have their ears to the ground – those who are open to staff training, researching collections and trends, and open to ideas – will be the gainers. The growth will be seen in organisations and brands that are more structured. The holistic approach – the thought behind the collection transparency, quality, and pricing – these parameters will drive retail."

A lot of thought has gone behind conceptualising the Fab 5 collection in terms of design, price and finish

and the focus was to create non-bridal jewellery, especially for the working woman, who doesn't need a particular reason to buy. Consumers today want pieces that they can relate to.

Speaking on the occasion, Saurabh Gadgil, chairman and managing director, PNG Jewellers said, "It gives us immense pleasure to have partnered with Forevermark across all our stores. Like Forevermark's stringent diamond selection process, every piece of PNG jewellery undergoes a series of processes, thereby ensuring that we offer only the best of diamond jewellery to our customers. Knowing that less than 1% of the world's diamonds are eligible to become a Forevermark diamond, we take pride in designing some of the most beautiful diamond jewellery. Using Forevermark diamonds in our latest Fab 5 collection has not only enhanced the sparkle of each piece, but it will strengthen the credibility and trust with our customers. This collection is easy on the pocket and offers five major adornments for everyday wear."

Gadgil added that the objective was to sell good quality diamonds that offer the best in terms of design as well as affordable price points, and Fab 5 fits the bill and is a suitable lightweight option for daily wear.

Gadgil informed that the second collection that will be shortly launched is Eternity – consisting of only bangles set with 10, 15 and 20-pointer Forevermark diamonds. "We as a brand have to stay relevant in today's market and



Fab 5 collection by PNG Jewellers crafted with Forevermark diamonds.

products like these will attract self-purchasers and bring them to the store to buy."

Forevermark diamonds are the world's most carefully selected diamonds, while PNG Jewellers is known for high standards of precision and quality in crafting its diamond jewellery. The synergy of these two brands has brought about an ideal collaboration over the past few years to offer hallmark diamond jewellery with the assurance of having the most beautiful, rare and responsibly sourced diamonds. ■

— By Shanoo Bijlani

❖ Antique cushion diamond earrings, by Jack Reiss.



❖ White gold pendant patterned with white and black diamonds, sapphires and topaz, by Oberig.

❖❖ The fancy pink purple heart-shaped VS2 diamond weighing 2.53 carats is the highlight of this diamond ring, by House of Gems.



❖❖ The stunning diamond ring nestles a 9.69-carat cabochon emerald, by Neli Gems.

RITZY



❖ Earrings evoking a cluster of scarab wings embellished with pink tourmalines and ice diamonds mounted in black rhodium sterling silver and 9-karat pink gold, by Lotus Arts De Vivre.

GemGenève, the second edition of the Geneva International Gem and Jewellery Show, Palexpo, Geneva, held last May, exhibited marvellous treasures outfitted with rubies, emeralds, sapphires and other colourful gemstones. Design is at the heart of this show. Here are some splendiferous picks by SOLITAIRE.



❖❖ Imperial jade and tourmaline earrings, by Doris Hangartner.

» Cabochon sapphire ring accented with emeralds and diamonds, by Tabbah.



» Emerald and diamond earrings, by Joseph Gad.

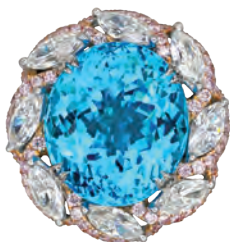


» The 18-karat gold Hawaiian Hibiscus enamelled earrings set with Mozambique rubies, black rose-cut diamonds, belong to the Masterstrokes' Jekyll & Hyde collection, by Jewels Emporium.



ART

» The mesmerising diamond ring is centred on a rare 13-carat Brazilian Paraiba tourmaline, by Dehres.



» The Ashoka Trilogy ring and Ashoka Solitaire ring, by William Goldberg.



» 18-karat gold flexible green snake necklace, featuring black rhodium sterling silver, full-cut diamonds, pink tourmalines, ruby eyes and citrine, by Lotus Arts De Vivre.



» Emerald and sapphire ring with a lavish spread of diamonds, by Tabbah.



» Malayan zircon and ceramic ring, by Doris Hangartner.



(From left) Moderator Nirupa Bhatt with panellists Poonam Soni, Vaishali Banerjee, Colin Shah, and Aftab Bandukwala.

Design Connect – A Career Fair With a Difference!

Design Connect 2019, the first of its kind initiative by the Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI) and Women's Jewellery Association – India (WJA India), was inaugurated last month. The aim was to create a platform to help connect manufacturers and retailers with jewellery designers. The 'career fair' is a much-needed step for the future growth of the industry.

Design Connect 2019, organised by the GJSCI and WJA India, attracted more than 35 jewellery manufacturers and retailers, who got a chance to meet over 100 jewellery designers to explore freelance and job opportunities.

Held at Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai, on June 26th, the event

began with an interesting seminar titled 'Designers – Path to Success', which was moderated by Nirupa Bhatt, president, WJA – India Chapter. The panellists included Poonam Soni, jewellery designer, Vaishali Banerjee, managing director, Platinum Guild India, Aftab Bandukwala, director, V-Design Architectural Solutions,

and Colin Shah, vice chairman, GJEPC and managing director, Kama Schachter.

The panellists shared insights on how jewellery designers can seek inspiration, how they need to build an understanding of jewellery manufacturing techniques, how they need to identify trends, build stories and come up with exciting

designs to meet consumers' demands.

Vaishali Banerjee was of the view that designers should understand the occasion for which a piece was being designed keeping in mind the business realities. "Ultimately, the design is meant to tempt consumers which will lead to acquisition," she noted. The panellists agreed that it was also important to understand the basic manufacturing techniques.

Colin Shah stated that while it was important to have an experienced cadre, it was equally important to have freshers, to whom intensive training must be given in all departments before they start designing. "We, at Kama Schachter, find a few bright sparks every year," he said, adding that for budding designers it was important to attend the two major shows organised by the GJEPC – IIJS Premier and IIJS Signature – to get ideas and network with manufacturers. He mentioned that the GJEPC had recently released *Aatman — Inspirations 2020* and he urged the designers to have a look at the comprehensive guide on design directions.

Poonam Soni emphasised that

designers should know their core strengths and accordingly build a fabulous portfolio to help market themselves. "Manufacturers learn from interns and interns gain a lot of insight from them in order to give life to a particular design. It is a two-way process."

Aftab Bandukwala said that designing in jewellery is now in an exciting phase. "I wish we could also emulate what the gem and jewellery industry is doing for upcoming designers," he stated.

In his short address, Anantpadmanaban, chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), pointed out that "it was a great opportunity for all the designers to showcase their talent. It is indeed the right time for corporate and brands to connect with designers. It is a wake-up call for the industry to produce different and unique products. I wish we also have a similar workshop and event for karigars. We need to invite corporates to upskill and upgrade the lives of these skilled artisans. We all have to work towards it or else we will not be able to double our exports."

Designers Indra Jadwani and Hetal Vakil, IIGJ faculty Sushma



Anant Padmanaban addressing the meet.

Sawant and Swati Sangekar, and GIA instructor Sajiri Barve mentored the designers – both freshers and experienced – and helped them with career counselling and how to prepare portfolios.

Sanjay Kothari, chairman, GJSCI, in his concluding remarks, noted,



Designer participants being mentored.

"I believe in fresh talent and encouraging them. With a platform like Design Connect, talented jewellery designers will now have access to working opportunities with jewellery manufacturers and retailers. Looking at the positive response and the growing need, GJSCI is planning to conduct Design Connect in other cities too. Events of such kind for job seekers would also be organised for other segments of the gem and jewellery industry in the future," he added. "I would like to thank GJEPC, GJC, IBJA and GIA for inviting their members and students to the event. I'd also like to thank all the participants for making Design Connect a success."

Bhatt added, "It is a unique

platform for both freshers and experienced jewellery designers. They were excited to meet manufacturers and retailers, and seek opportunities to collaborate. This has the potential to present opportunities for the designers, manufacturers and retailers to collectively raise the consumer desirability for purchasing jewellery."

Recruiting companies at Design Connect were extremely pleased with the quality of the designers and complimented GJSCI and WJA India for the event. "A great initiative and a platform for connecting with young designers," said Pradnya Mhaske, design and merchandising head, CaratLane.

Even the designers felt that Design Connect provided access

to many companies in one place. Shireen's Creazione's Soni Amin, a WJA member, said, "It's great to witness collaboration among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers interacting with budding as well as established designers."

A jewellery design fresher, Shital Anand, said, "It's a unique initiative and we've got a great amount of exposure meeting these companies. Even the mentoring sessions were helpful."

Design Connect is supported by GIA (Gemological Institute of America), Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) and Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). ■

Winners of Anant – The Design Competition Felicitated

GJSCI, in its endeavour to revive some of India's dying arts forms, held a jewellery contest aimed at promoting design development, product innovation and diversification of *Hupari Payal* (Kolhapur), *Tarakasi* (Cuttack), *Thewa* (Rajasthan) and *Gajra* (Bhuj, Gujarat). The objective behind the concept was to encourage these arts and create contemporary designs around them, and, in turn, help uplift and upskill artisans to expand the jewellery design repertoire for domestic as well as international markets.

The selection of the winners was tough as they were rated on various parameters like detail, concept and originality, ease of manufacture, sales potential and creativity. After a stringent scrutiny by a panel of leading experts from the gems and jewellery industry, Sanjay Kothari, chairman, GJSCI, along with Rajeev Garg, executive director and CEO, GJSCI, invited renowned celebrities from the gems and jewellery industry to be jury members.

Among these were celebrity jewellery designers Roopa Vora, Indra Jadwani and Varuna D. Jani, while the retail section comprised some prominent personalities like Rajiv Popley of Popley & Sons, Sunil Datwani of Gehna Jewellers, Sumesh Wadhwa of *Art of Jewellery* and Soma Bhatta of *Retail Jeweller*.

In the overall category, Sakshi Agrawal won the first place; Varuni Goyal bagged the second prize; and Pooja Mishra secured the third. Consolation prizes in individual art forms were given to Shreya Nath (*Thewa*), Namrata Singh (*Hupari Payal*), Aashi Jain (*Tarakasi*) and Smriti Agarwal (*Gajra*). Special prize winners were Tanvi Chitalia, Vrinda Agrawal, Kalyani Sanjay Choudhary, R. Rukmani and Sneha Israni. ■



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Isabella Yan

Isabella is a London-born gemmologist, antique jewellery lover and writer based in Bangkok. She currently handles the PR, Sales & Marketing for the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences, a leading private gemmological school and laboratory in Bangkok. Isabella is an Associate Editor for the **Bangkok Gems & Jewellery** magazine and has contributed to publications in the ICA's **InColor Magazine & Jewellery Outlook**, a UK-based global online trade magazine.

The level of detailed work that goes into making Hajime Ando's visually stunning creations is astonishing. His designs instantly recall the bold, opulence and timeless glamour of Bulgari's high-end jewels. The city of Rome has been his main muse for his jewellery designs. With a natural fondness for the ancient city, it is no wonder that Ando's creativity, passion and Italian sensibility integrates so gracefully with the Bulgari brand. It's time that this designer rises to the spotlight. ISABELLA YAN caught up with him at the Jewelry Trade Center in Bangkok and discussed his work and inspiration.



Hajime Ando

Tell us a bit about your background. What first led you in the direction of designing jewellery? How did you get into the industry?

My professional path began more than 30 years ago in Tokyo, Japan my hometown. I majored in metal craft which is a traditional Japanese handicraft, and after graduation, I started my career as a jewellery designer in Japan for 10 years. After my first trip to Italy, my love for Italian art and language led me to move to Valenza in 2001.

Valenza is Italy's major jewellery district in the region of Piedmont with the highest number of high quality gold artisans and jewellery businesses in the country. Here, I continued to cultivate my passion for jewellery craftsmanship and became a designer for an Italian jewellery brand called Luca Carati.

Afterwards, I was a designer for Crova s.p.a, an Italian manufacturer of handmade jewellery founded in 1845. From 2005 onwards, I became one of the seven jewellery designers for Bulgari in Rome.

You speak three languages – Japanese, Italian and English. Why were you drawn to Italy?

I studied the Italian language for five years in Japan before moving to Italy. I was fascinated by Italy's rich heritage long before my travels. I had a huge fondness for Italian fashion, modern design, automobiles, its cuisine, cinematography and culture. It was so different to the dainty, minimalist Japanese aesthetic I was used to. Italian design is dramatic, opulent and daring. I believe my work is an interplay of



Illustrations of the Angioie Snake Ring collection displays a serpent design reminiscent of the Serpenti rings by Bulgari.

The Ginza Jouze pendants.



Ando's ring design for a European luxury brand.



A ring sketch by Ando whilst working at Bulgari.

Roman history and modern design working closely in synergy.

As a designer, what inspires your work? Did Italian art and design have an influence?

I lived in Rome for five years. Rome with its architectural and artistic heritage has ultimately influenced my creative designs and mode of expression. The city of Rome is like a historical art museum. From beautiful pebbled piazzas filled with UN World Heritage sites, monumental public sculptures, Roman coins to the glorious pink sunset colours set against the classical Borghese gardens... Rome was truly a special experience for me.

What is the favourite piece you've ever created – and what made it so special?



The Ginza-Jouze pendant was inspired by ancient Japanese coins. Designed by Hajime.

The influence of Italian design certainly echoes throughout my jewellery. Whilst expressing Bulgari's values and heritage played an integral part in my own design style, recently, I've been harking back to my own heritage and identity, using traditional Japanese metal craft techniques. Last year, in collaboration with Gyokusendou workshop, a new copper jewellery product was launched exclusively by Wako Department Store in Tokyo's Ginza district. My idea was to create a jewellery collection that contemporized traditional Japanese copper techniques and embodied the Japanese spirit and soul. The Ginza district was a notable site for silver coin minting before it evolved as an upmarket shopping district. Thus, the shape of this pendant (*left*) was derived



Gemstone enveloped by a swan design.

Coloured gemstones and natural forms often feature in Ando's designs. The Bird pendant is from the new Angioie collection.



The Copper pendant exclusive to Wako Ginza, made with traditional Japanese techniques.



from the curved shapes of ancient Japanese coins.

Are your designs made by hand, CAD or a combination of the two?

My design work is mostly made using CAD and a 3D printer. I care about the efficiency of my work, as well as maintaining high quality finish. In design work, I learnt that speed is very important.

Bulgari's designs are characterised by their prominent use of multi-coloured gemstones set in rich yellow gold. What are your favourite materials and gemstones?

My favourite metal is 18-karat yellow gold as it exudes passion and warmth. I also like using aged metal copper and bronze. Recently, the increase in demand for diamonds means that my designs feature more of diamonds

than coloured gemstones. Personally, the exuberance of colour is very important to me; it is colour that allows you to become creative, play with daring combination of shades that brings out the individualism and personality of the wearer.

After 10 years working as a designer for Bulgari, you now have your own product development and design consultancy firm. Tell us more about your work.

As an external design consultant, I provide creative planning to design prototypes for new start-up brands, primarily for Japanese and European jewellery companies. Jewellery is a reflection of a country's customs, culture and environment. Thailand has remained the centre of the jewellery industry, retaining

high standards of quality and craftsmanship, and therefore becomes an immediate attraction for designers like myself. My next mission is to create innovative designs within this rich environment and eventually launch a global brand in Bangkok.

What advice would you give to someone interested in getting into the jewellery design business?

I think there's a reason for every encounter. It is important to immerse yourself in major jewellery hubs and learn from the many talented people you meet; opportunities will then arise. ■

Coloured Gemstones Outperform Wider Jewellery Market: Report



Fabergé Three Colours of Love fluted bands, featuring Gemfields' rough Mozambican rubies.

The Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index (KFLII) report, released by the independent global property consultancy in June, focuses on the increasing value of coloured gemstones, seen to be outperforming the wider jewellery market and therefore increasingly popular with investors and collectors worldwide. The KFLII series provides data on investments of passion, such as whisky, cars, jewellery and others, tracking each over time.

The report said that although jewellery looks to have had a tough twelve months, the overall figure hides a more nuanced story.

While pearl jewellery did indeed fall back in value by 13% over the past year – after a decade of very strong growth – other sectors of the market performed much better. Belle Époque and Art Deco jewellery, for example, saw 9% growth, while Post-War jewellery was up 7%.

Andrew Shirley, head of luxury research at Knight Frank, commented, “In this issue of our Luxury Investment Index, we take an in-depth look at the performance of coloured gemstones. The interesting story here is that coloured gemstones are outperforming the wider jewellery market with some significant sales taking place already in 2019.”

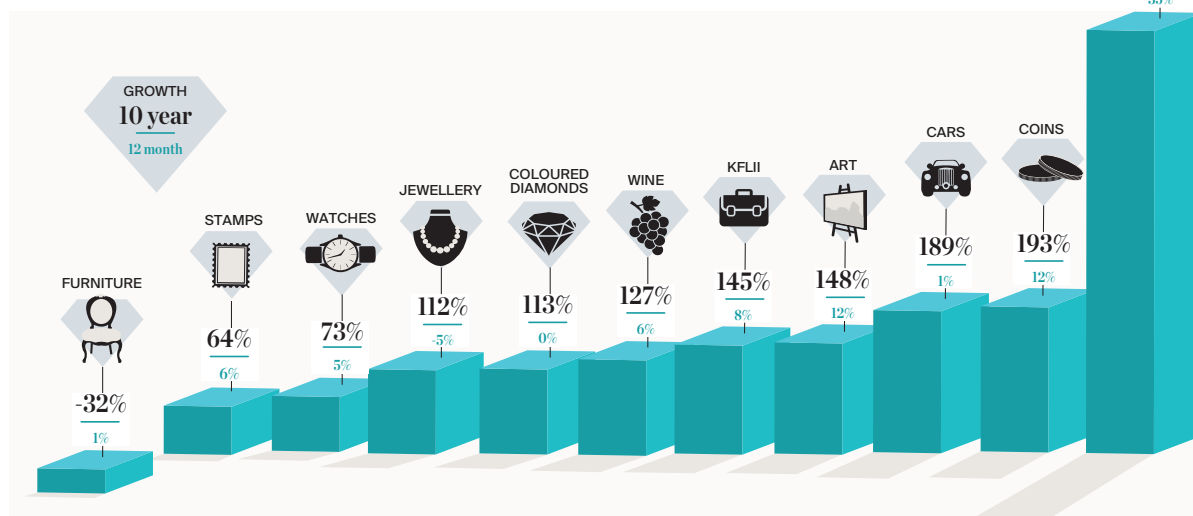
At Bonhams' London sale at the end of April 2019, several coloured gemstone lots blew away their estimates. The top performer was a 17.43-carat Kashmir sapphire ring, formerly owned by a European noble family that fetched £723,063, far exceeding its £300,000 to £400,000 guide price. The second highest performing lot was a diamond and sapphire transformable necklace by Spanish jeweller, Grassy. Dated to around 1935 and featuring a 34.59-carat Sri Lankan (unheated) sapphire, the necklace sold for £287,562 against its pre-sale estimate of £120,000 to £180,000.

Record prices per carat for rubies have been achieved with prices rising to \$1.2 million in 2016, a threefold growth between 2006 and 2016.

Sean Gilbertson, CEO of Gemfields, noted, “The swing towards precious coloured gemstones is overwhelming. The past decade has seen world record prices for an emerald and ruby surpass that of a colourless diamond on a per carat basis. It surely can't be long before sapphires overtake diamonds, too. We expect vibrant consumer interest and sector growth to continue. Responsible sourcing will receive ever-increasing attention and become progressively more important to consumers, making gemstone provenance perhaps the key driving factor.”

A DECADE OF PASSION

The Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index Q1 2019



Source: Compiled by Knight Frank Research using data from Art Market Research (art, coins, furniture, jewellery, stamps and watches), Fancy Color Research Foundation (coloured diamonds), HAGI (cars), Rare Whisky 101 and Wine Owners. All data Q1 2019 except watches (Q2 2018) and coins, furniture, jewellery and stamps (Q4 2018, stamps provisional)

The Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index: Q1 2019

Luxury Assets	Growth in Asset Value		Indian UHNWIs citing investment of passion that they commonly collect
	12 Months	10 Years	
Furniture	1%	-32%	7%
Stamps	6%	64%	0%
Watches	5%	73%	52%
Jewellery	-5%	112%	31%
Coloured Diamonds	0%	113%	7%
Wine	6%	127%	14%
Art	12%	148%	69%
Cars	1%	189%	38%
Coins	12%	193%	NA
Whisky	35%	563%	31%

Source: Compiled by Knight Frank Research using data from Art Market Research (art, coins, furniture, jewellery, stamps and watches), Fancy Color Research Foundation (coloured diamonds), HAGI (cars), Rare Whisky 101 and Wine Owners. All data Q1 2019 except watches (Q2 2018) and coins, furniture, jewellery and stamps (Q4 2018, stamps provisional).

Record Auction Prices Of Gemstones Achieved Per Carat

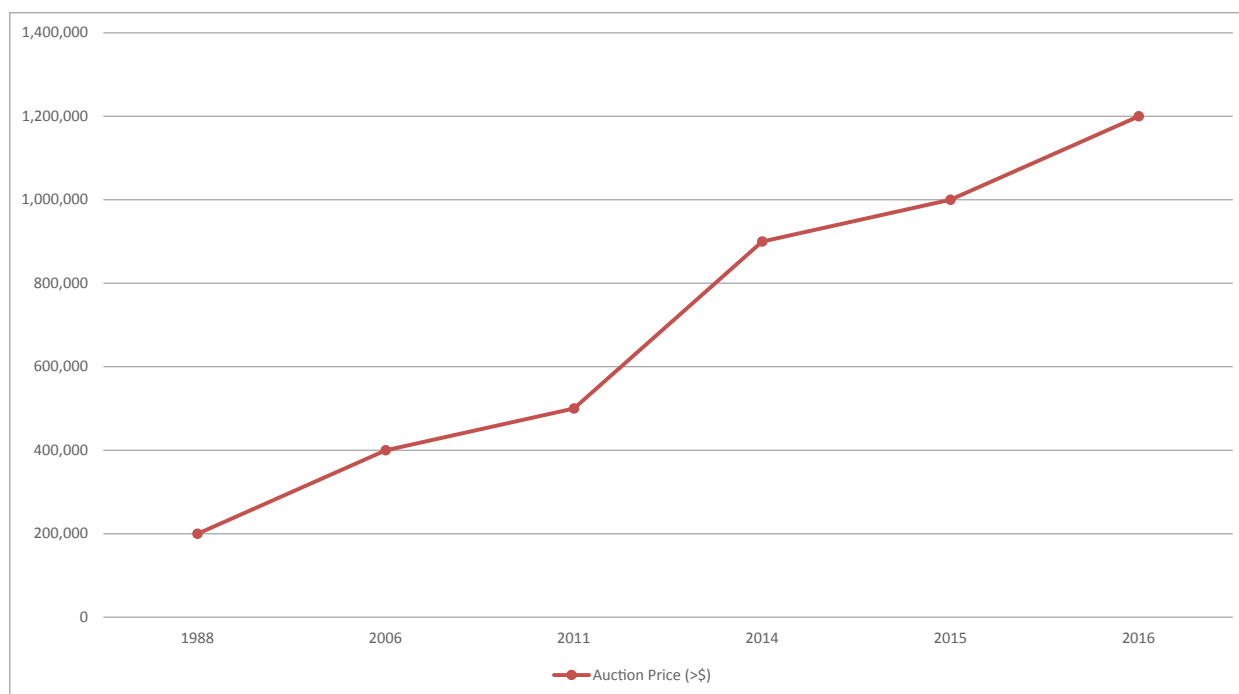
Coloured Stones	Auction Price
Ruby	\$1,196,809
Emerald	\$305,516
Colourless Diamond	\$282,485
Sapphire	\$242,145

Source: Knight Frank Research

Shishir Bajjal, chairman & managing director, Knight Frank India, said, “Promising auction prices of coloured gemstones depict that consumers prefer high quality gemstones that are rare to collect and unique in designs. More than 100% incremental value of the gemstones and jewellery over a decade have made them lucrative asset investment classes, than just purchasing it for aesthetic

value. Indian ultra-high net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) are increasingly making passion-led investments in gems and jewellery. Much of the rising popularity of coloured gemstones is due to growing awareness and developments that have boosted consumer confidence, such as widespread certification, more industry transparency, and gemmological analysis.”

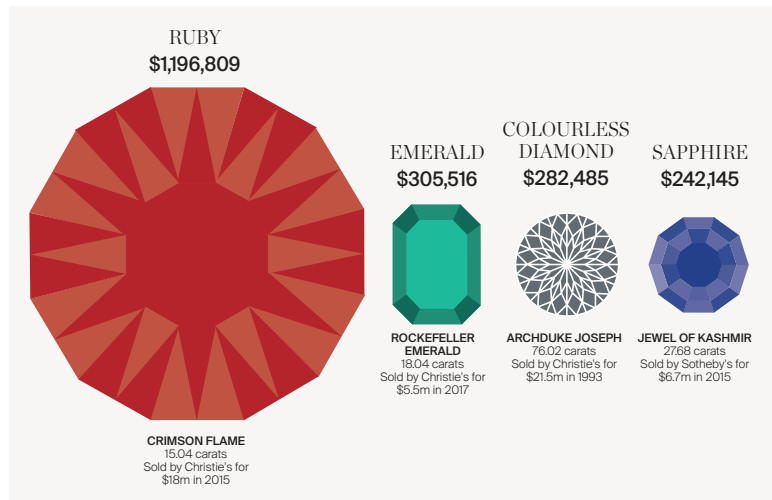
Evolution of Rubies: Record Prices Achieved Per Carat At Auction House Sales



Source: Gemfields

THE COLOUR OF MONEY

Record auction prices achieved per carat

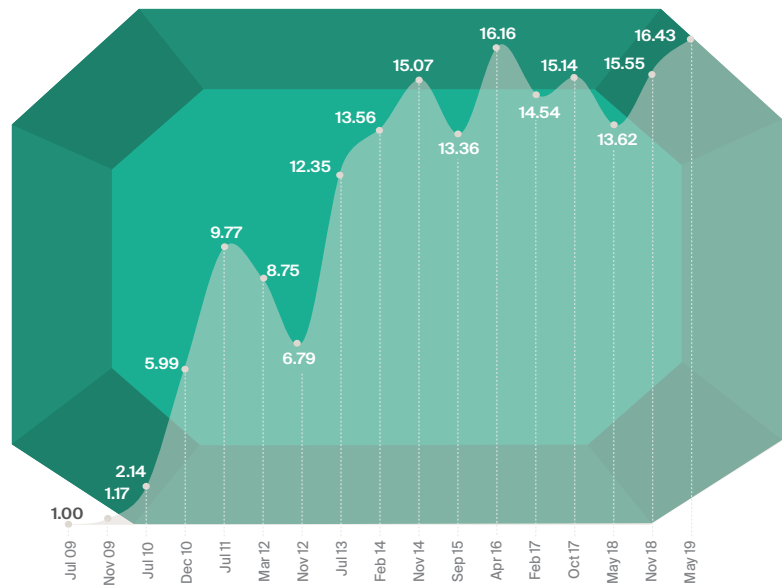


Source: Knight Frank Research

Jean Ghika, global head of jewellery at Bonhams, said, "The rarity factor is an undeniable pull. Potential buyers are looking to expand their collections beyond colourless diamonds. They're keen to seek out the very best examples of highly desirable and rare specimens, whether that be Kashmir sapphires, Burma rubies or no-oil emeralds, the likes of which they may never find again." ■

GREEN GROWTH

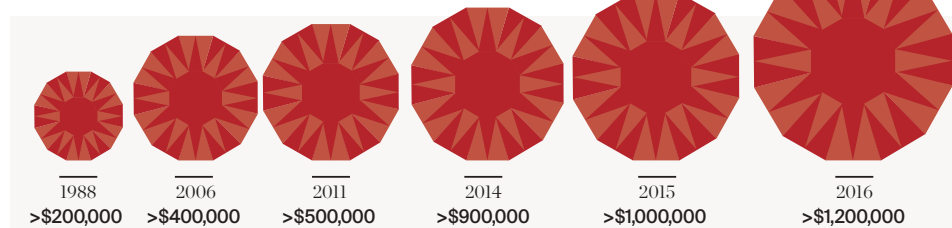
Gemfields high quality rough emerald auction results (price per carat indexed to 1.00 at July 2009)



Source: Gemfields

RED HOT

Price evolution of rubies - record prices achieved per carat at auction house sales



Source: Gemfields



Pitter-patter of Raindrops

Designer Laura Bicego of Vicenza-based Nanis Italian Jewels is noted for her signature gold texturing and detailing. Creating convertible jewels that can be worn with versatility is her forte. Her Dancing In The Rain core collection has a new line, Aria, rendered in 18-karat yellow gold with signature hand-engraved gold beads. She continuously turns to nature for inspiration. "In this collection, I had the desire to combine elegance with a sense of natural lightness, like a delicate wind caressing the skin. I wanted to recall some soft, light feelings and combine them with versatility. It is in the DNA of Nanis to always play with jewels, adapting them to every occasion," says Laura.

The everyday Aria Y-necklace is an elegant piece that can be transformed into a bracelet or worn as a gold and diamond parure: the necklace is composed of gold beads linked to one another by a singular row of white diamonds, and can be worn long as a Y or as a shorter version around the collarbone or as bracelets. The line also has matching slim bangle-bracelets, earrings and wrap rings.



Spell of Chains

Pomellato's new collection of Brera jewels transforms the iconic chain into something way more modern and fun, by adopting a new aesthetic canon. The collection reinvents chains into a Milanese understatement through soft rounded interlinked chains that revel in their near-weightlessness. The whisper-thin Brera's inspiration embodies its hometown, Milan.

Brera morphs the traditional twist-links into a finer, trendier reinterpretation. The hero piece of the collection is the necklace that can be worn in several ways. Fitted with a slider function, the necklace can be worn as a sautoir, a choker, with the chains dangling down the back of the neck. The Brera plain rose gold or white gold rings are accented with pavé diamonds, while the bracelets feature a discreet clasp. The chain design can also be worn as a stud or three-links mobile earrings.

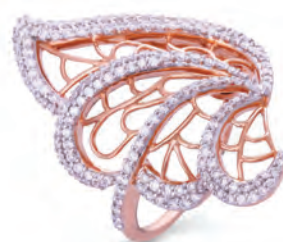


Wings of Fire

High-end brand Irasva presents an arresting confluence of gold and diamond jewellery – be it simple, curvy lines or a complex expression in its newest line Skyward Bound. The line-up of designer jewels glorifies the act of soaring high to achieve ambitions despite all odds. The collection is a tribute to the modern woman who finely balances her multiple roles deftly.

Each piece in the collection narrates a rare story of its own, celebrating the well-deserved wings of freedom. Artistically crafted in white, pink and yellow gold, each piece exhibits a different version of freedom that the main motif of wings signify. Combined with superlative in-house design expertise, the collection offers exquisitely crafted pieces such as rings, earrings, pendants and bracelets.

Leshna Shah, jewellery designer and founder, Irasva, says, “We want to offer women fine jewellery for their daily grooming. Collections that are stylish and easy to wear and look luxurious at the same time. I want women to make an individual statement, feel powerful and feminine, at all times.”





Pearly Treat

Greek designer Christina Soubli, part of the Hellenic Wave tribe of jewellers, presented her Pearl Feast recently. The collection includes 40 new pieces featuring pearls, baroque pearls, diamonds and corals. “Carved floral motif corals lend the jewels a girly, vintage, romantic touch,” says Christina. “The Pearl Feast is inspired by the ancient, signature filigree technique and integrates with pearl’s glow giving it a festive touch. We can see baroque pearls inside the ear and at the back of the ear; solo earrings are the key pieces of the collection that offers a twist to classical pearls.” Charm necklaces, pendants, linked-chain long drops and rings, ear cuffs and ear climbers, all form part of Christina’s delicious Pearl Feast.



Fitting Ode

New York-based jewellery designer Marla Aaron is noted for her stylish lock designs, inspired by industrial shackles, hardware and bridges. “Replicating the functionality of a hardware store carabiner,” Marla realised that she could “morph the shape of it in myriad ways.”

“We have made some dramatic additions to the collection – inlaying our 18-karat gold locks with common stones found on the streets of New York,” says Marla. The Itty-Bitty Strands are new little additions to Marla’s repertoire. Coloured agate, chrysocol, garnet, orange agate and tiger iron beads form the strands featuring baby heart lock, baby meander lock, medium lock and chubby baby lock. “These unique grouping of stones for the Itty Bitty series were chosen for their colour, oddity and fun factor. Tiger iron is one of those stones,” explains Marla. This particular gemstone, she adds, is found only in the Pilbara region of Western Australia – and is mined from an Archaean formation (3,000 million years) in the Ord Ranges.



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Love for Jade

Antwerp born banker-turned-jeweller Nadine Aysoy has updated her popular Celeste collection with miniature iterations. Drawing upon ancient Chinese heritage, smooth discs of white jade evoke harmony, courage and unconditional love. “When I discovered the white jade, I was fascinated by the delicacy of the colour, its lustre and transparency,” notes Nadine. She has used rhodiad gold in the Celeste collection to create a contrast and enhance the colour of the gems. Huggies in three colour variants are realised in white gold with blue sapphires and white diamonds; yellow gold with yellow sapphires and white diamonds, and rose gold with pink sapphires and white diamonds.

Futuristic Feel

Ray Ma, founder of Master Ma, is a sculptor and jewellery designer, who often turns to Chinese elements, jade carvings and Chinese ink paintings for inspiration. For his debut at the Couture Show, in Las Vegas, this summer, Ray brought sumptuous pieces adorned with Hetian Nephrite. “Hetian Nephrite is one of the four famous jades in China. Unlike Jadeite, Hetian Jade belongs to the nephrite family, and the best quality comes from Hetian, Xinjiang province, in China,” says Ray, who has been sculpting this type of jade since 2004.

His Foresee The Future collection comprising earrings, rings and brooches are primarily inspired by nature. The petals of the blossom-inspired jewels, crafted in titanium, are inlaid with emeralds, diamonds, green nephrite and round, polished Xinjiang Hetian Nephrites of various sizes to reveal the design code – a dot circular spectrum style. It adds a sense of futurism to the design, he observes.

Rubies and diamonds adorn another series of this collection realized again in titanium, wherein flowers meld with geometric elements. “High-tech titanium material is used in aerospace, and this series reflects the inseparable relationship between nature and future science and technology,” explains Ray. All the pieces in Foresee The Future series are embellished with Xinjiang Hetian Nephrite.





Toying With Folklore

Folklore is a collection of folk art-inspired contemporary silver jewellery that interweaves individuality, emotion, and symbolism. Remember the colourful wooden toys children of yore played with? Or those folksy drawings, 'mandanas', made during festivals like Raksha Bandhan? Puja Bhargava Kamath, founder of Lai Designs was toying with the idea for some time now to create a line of fun and funky jewels that were intricately linked to folk heritage. "This is jewellery that will remind you of the India you knew. The one you continue to get inspired by and are so proud of. Jewellery you'll relate to at a much deeper level. The one you'll want to wear, keep close and pass on... rooted and earthy, yet colourful and chic; culturally inspired, but very current; evocative by nature and soothing at heart." Handcrafted at its Jaipur workshop, in sterling silver with fine hand-painted enamel work, the collection starts at ₹2,500. Lai is the India- and California-based jewellery label with a contemporary viewpoint on design rooted in world heritage and craft skills.





Out of This World

The galaxy's majestic and mystifying beauty is one of the most iconic recurring themes in art, literature and science. A'Star Jewellery, Mumbai, uses the cosmic moodboard for its latest collection Nova to evoke the magnificent phenomenon of the universe.

The modest brilliance of a single diamond is amplified by placing a number of diamonds together in a seamless cluster formation, so as to replicate the dramatic burst of light of the Nova star. The diamond cluster or Nova is the brightest object in each of the swirling and curvaceous designs, lending it a distinctive and vibrant look.

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Heart-to-Heart

How often does a brand come up with a poem for a jewellery collection? Not often, I guess!

The co-founders of UK-based Never Not (NNT), Nina Dzhokhadze, Natia Chkhartishvili, and Tamara Svanidze, have a fun poem for their Show N Tell collection—*Our hearts, we wear on our sleeves, The beat to a different drum, Unafraid to show and tell, To always express our feelings, To never not speak our mind, Ready to Burst.*

The cheerful shapes of the Ready 2 Burst rings, which are part of their Show N Tell collection, are inspired by love. The key motif sees two beating hearts together. The Ready 2 Burst line has an iteration made only in gold with a sprinkling of diamonds. Rendered in yellow and rose gold, the designs are accented with neon pink, neon yellow and neon green enamels. “We wanted to add bright colours to our jewellery so that our clients could wear it with their kaftans, summer dresses and enjoy colourful, happy neon versions of the rings they loved,” says Nina.

Offbeat Setting

Orofasma, Greek jewellery manufacturer and wholesaler, unveiled its Eternal Love Diamond collection at the recent JCK Luxury show. Featuring round-cut natural diamonds in an innovative setting that allows the central diamond to twirl around its axis, the technique has been patented with a Utility Model Certificate under the name of its creator Kevork Kolanian, who had been experimenting with novel ways of diamond setting nearly six years ago. It took some months to perfect the technique, says Kevork. The patented Orofasma Setting – or O.S. as the brand calls it – is more of a technique than a mechanism. “It is quite simple in its conception but difficult in its making. In fact, there is only one prong-like metal ‘arm,’ sweeping around the diamond and fixing it on each piece of jewellery. It is a handmade technique, whereby each central diamond is meticulously mounted such that it is free to spin around its axis,” explains Kevork. The Eternal Love Diamond, with the signature setting, has over 160 pieces of rings, bangles, bracelets, pendants and earrings – all set in 18-karat gold.





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