

Thursday February 22, 5:03 PM

## 24HGOLD NEWS REPORT

### **Australian firm finds massive gold deposits in western India**

An Australian exploration company has found gold deposits estimated at 38.5 million tonnes in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, the region's mining and minerals minister said Thursday.

"The Australian company Indo Gold has found a 38.5 million tonne gold deposit in Banswara," Minister Laxminarain Dave told AFP.

The find was located after surveying in Banswara district in southern Rajasthan, about 210 kilometres (148 miles) from Jodhpur city, the company announced in Australia Wednesday.

"The deposits are world-class and we expect to start commercial production in four years," said Indo Gold managing director Mike Higgins, according to a report in the Times of India Thursday.

Three global consultants confirmed the discovery, the report said.

Indo Gold, which is partnered with the Indian firm Metal Mining India, expects the mine to eventually yield eight million tonnes of gold a year, the minister said, adding that he expected more foreign firms to mine in Rajasthan.

"They will invest 20 billion rupees (452 million dollars) to develop this area and install factories," Dave said.

India is the world's largest gold buyer with many people preferring to hold the yellow metal instead of cash as a hedge against inflation. Gold is also widely gifted in marriage ceremonies.

<http://www.24hgold.com>