

Chikahonnakuni RPA – Key Facts

The Chikahonnakuni (164.5 km²) RPA was applied for 25 March 2008 and is pending in DMG Bangalore.

This RPA is located in a small, linear Deodurga greenstone belt, parallel to and NE of the Hutti belt. This belt is characterised as an eastern Dharwar schist belt, which differs from the western Dharwar belts in that they are more volcanic protolith-rich versus more sediment-rich in the western belts.

A small British-era mine working is located on a quartz vein where mapping and geochemical sampling by the DMG has returned values of up to 4g/t Au plus some silver. This area has recently been relinquished by De Beers and is awaiting notification by the DMG.

A reconnaissance visit was made to the area which is generally dry, flat, with isolated hills. Rice, cotton and chillies are grown in wet/irrigated areas.

The Deodurga belt is composed dominantly of amphibolites and hornblende schists, which in places are quite silicified, especially in proximity to (target) quartz veins. It is possible that these more siliceous schists could represent a more felsic protolith. Pegmatite dykes are ubiquitous throughout and contain prominent, pink K-feldspars.

The old mine working referred to above, is located at Chikahonnakuni which means “small gold pit” (Chikka = small; honna = gold; kuni = pit). The working is an elongate pit of unknown depth about 150m long and 5 m wide (Photo 1). It was cut on a quartz vein estimated to be about 1-2 m thick. There are other parallel quartz veins exposed, but these are on the order of 0.15 m thick. The quartz veins are generally parallel to the foliation in the schist.

Minor disseminated pyrrhotite ± pyrite is present in the host amphibole schists, increasing in amount with increasing silicification. In places, the host sequence is cut by small veinlets of quartz and chlorite (± epidote) with a high content of sulphides, most commonly pyrite and chalcopyrite. Patchy boxworks and lattice assemblages of Fe-oxides are also evident in quartz rich pegmatites and/or veins. Minor chalcopyrite is present in places.

The reconnaissance visit confirmed the area as prospective and research has indicated that there has been little previous work undertaken here. It represents a setting similar to Hutti; there are old workings; the area is accessible. Initial targets are quartz-vein hosted gold.



Photo 1 - Trench at Chikahonnakuni cut on quartz vein