

Chitradurga – Key Facts

The Chitradurga (Honnamaradi) – Konganahasaur RPA (4473 km²) was applied for on 25 March 2008 and is pending in DMG Bangalore.

This large area covers a significant portion of the major Dharwar greenstone belt which is known to host significant gold mineralization. An area in the north of the proposed application, Honnamaradi, is reported to contain alluvium which the local villagers are panning for gold. The DMG is reported to have conducted stream sediment sampling, but no details are available. A copper/lead/antimony polymetallic sulphide deposit is reported at Ingaldhal to the south of the area. Gold is also reported in BIF and chert by HGML/NGRI. The area includes ground recently relinquished by Geomysore (awaiting official notification) and strike extensions of known mineralization.

Honnamaradi means “gold hill” (honna = gold; radi = hill) and is located to the north of the small BIF-hosted Anjanahalli gold mine that was apparently mined illegally by Hutti Gold Mines and virtually high-graded. The Anjanahalli deposit represents an orogenic gold occurrence associated with a crustal-scale strike-slip fault that forms the eastern boundary of the Chitradurga Schist belt, and separates the eastern and western terranes of the Dharwar craton.

Observations made (albeit in a limited timeframe) in the field at Chitradurga did not particularly impress however much more detailed evaluation is required. The DMG shaft that was cut during a departmental project could not be located and has apparently been filled and disrupted by agricultural activity.

Targets once again are gold in quartz veins hosted by schists. One good outcrop was observed, displaying well foliated, weathered quartz-mica schist, a possible felsic volcanic protolith. Quartz veins and lenses do not appear all that common, however one was noted - a lens about 3 m long by up to 1 m wide, thinning to about 0.15 m along strike (Photo 1). Nearby, another 0.15 m vein is exposed by a recent trench reportedly cut about 3 years ago by the GSI, who has also done some drilling in the area.

Most of the quartz is milky, white. Minor dark grey quartz rubble is present in the area. Also a few small rubble pieces of finely laminate, banded iron formation are present. Local field-bounding stone walls include pieces of iron formation, generally hematite. It is reported that there is an iron-ore mine in the area.



Photo 1 - Lenses and stringers of milky white quartz hosed in quartz-mica schist in Chitradurga RPA area