BHARAT DIAMOND BOURSE
DIAMOND CENTRE OF THE WORLD
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Honouring the Industry Legends







India's 80th Independence Day



Strengthening Ties

TRIBUTES



Shri Vasant Mehta



Mr Jerome Gomes

INTERVIEWS:

- Ronnie VanderLinden, WDC
- Paul Rowley, De Beers

BDB Mourns the Passing of



Mr Vasant Mehta

A Veteran & Visionary Industry Leader

BDB mourns the passing of Shri Vasant Mehta, a distinguished industry veteran, visionary leader and a respected voice of the global diamond sector.

Shri Mehta was a former Chairman of The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), serving in that position from 2008 to 2010. Over the years, he was also Vice Chairman of GJEPC for two terms.

One of his many significant contributions was as a pioneer in developing liaisons with key international trade bodies and building the base for India to establish its global influence. He served as Vice President of the International Diamond Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) for a number of years and was an active in the World Diamond Council (WDC) too. He played a significant role in developing the path-breaking Kimberley Process (KP) Certification Scheme.

Shri Vasant Mehta was a Past Managing Committee member of Bharat Diamond Bourse from 1990 to 1996 and played an important role in critical decision-making and industry matters. His global vision, extensive experience and international exposure was a beacon for the Bourse and its members.

Bharat Diamond Bourse joins the entire gem and jewellery community in deeply mourning the loss of an outstanding visionary and veteran. He helped build the foundations of the modern industry within the country, and steer it towards becoming among the most influential voices globally.

BDB Mourns the Passing of



Mr Jerome Gomes

A pillar of strength at BDB for over four decades

BDB pays its tribute to Mr. Jerome Salvadore Gomes, former CEO of the organisation, who passed away suddenly on 8 August 2026. After his retirement as CEO in 2005, Mr Gomez was reappointed as a Consultant and continued to serve the industry in the capacity of Divisional Head - Custodian, helping coordinate Customs operations within the Bourse.

Mr. Gomes was associated with the Bharat Diamond Bourse since its incorporation in 1984, having joined the organisation after some years of working with the MMTC.

He remained with the BDB ever since and was one of the pillars who helped the bourse develop its structure, systems and day to day operations. He played an important role in creating BDB's bye laws, and attended every meeting of the Board of Directors since inception. Eventually, as the organisation grew in size and scale, Mr Gomes assumed responsibility as its CEO.

His quiet and calm presence, his precise assessments and meticulous implementation will be greatly missed as the Bourse transitions. His passing will leave an immense gap in the operations of the Bourse, as well as in the hearts of all those who have been associated with him over the decades.

BDB extends condolences to his bereaved family.

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*The views expressed in some sections are those of an individual and do not necessarily reflect the views of BDB.

India's 80th Independence Day at BDB



A symbolic unity of 3M's

Mining - Manufacturing - Market

The coming together of representatives from Namibia, India and US symbolised the growing collaboration from mine to market within the global diamond industry

The diamond industry joined millions of Indians across the country in celebrating India's 80th Independence Day. Indian diamantaires were joined by multiple dignitaries, including an official delegation from the Government of Namibia, led by Hon. Gaudentia Kröhne, MP, The Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, H.E. Mr. Erik af Hällström, Consul-General of Finland in Mumbai, and official representatives of the US Consulate in Mumbai, Ms. Claire G. Thomas, Economic Officer and Mr. Khalif Thomas, Regional Security Officer. A number of senior diamantaires, including BDB Committee members were present and many others from BDB.

Welcoming the guests on this historic occasion, Mehul Shah, Vice president, BDB said **"Today we have a very symbolic combination of 3 M's – Mining, Manufacturing and Markets including the Hon'ble Minister from Namibia and her colleagues on their first official visit to BDB. Namibia is one of the biggest miners; India, of course, is the biggest manufacturer; and the US is the biggest market in the world for diamonds and jewellery accounting for nearly half of the total global market."**

After an impressive march past parade and flag hoisting ceremony, and brief messages from the participating guest visitors, the programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks from Milan Parikh, Committee Member, BDB.

Tap to view the higlight



Hon. Gaudentia Kröhne,

Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister, Namibia, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.

Happy 80th Independence Day to the people of India. Our two countries share a warm, longstanding friendship built on mutual respect, cooperation, and a strong people-to-people relationship.

The diamond industry connects India and Namibia in a very special way. Namibia is known for high-quality natural diamonds, while India is globally recognised for its expertise in diamond cutting, polishing, and trading.

I see a great potential for Namibia and India to further strengthen cooperation in diamonds, mining, investment, technology, and skills development.



H.E. Mr. Erik af Hällström,

Consul General Finland in Mumbai

"This year has been a very special year in the relationship between Finland and India. The President of our Republic, Alexander Stubb, visited Delhi and Mumbai in March. The relations between our two countries have never been so close.

I also want to thank the BDB for not only for being neighbours here in BKC, but for the excellent cooperation also on previous occasions.

I can only say that Bharat sundar hai, Finland sundar hai, Bharat aur Finland bahut sundar hai."





Ms. Claire G. Thomas

Economic Officer, US Consulate in Mumbai

"The US - India relationship continues to grow and is stronger than ever. From defenece and energy security to critical minerals, artificial intelligence, space cooperation, and commerce, our collaboration is making both of our nations and the broader Indian Ocean region safer, stronger, and more prosperous."

Mr. Khalif Thomas

RSO - US Consulate in Mumbai

"As neighbours and through our professional security relationship, I am proud to represent the US Consulate Regional Security Office. I look forward to advancing the relationships that my predecessors in the Regional Security Office have set and collaborating and lending my expertise in law enforcement and cybersecurity to meet our collaborative goals."





BDB welcomes Official Namibian Delegation

Boosts Mine-to-Manufacturing Collaboration

Detailed discussions held on further collaboration with a focs on IDTC, Trading, Marketing and Joint Ventures to strengthen bilateral ties.



The Bharat Diamond Bourse was honoured to host the first ever official delefation from Namibia to India led by Ms. Gaudentia Krohne, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, Government of Namibia.

The delegation's six-day visit to interact with the diamond industry in Mumbai gave them a direct experience of the world-class infrastructure, integrated ecosystem, and facilities within the Bourse complex that facilitate smooth import and export of rough, as well as the advanced manufacturing systems used in the manufacture of world class jewellery a first-hand understanding of the size, scale and quality of India's industry.

Hon. Gaudentia Kröhne, Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister, NAMIBIA, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, said *"We are confident that this first step will help us deepen our bonds and ensure a mutually beneficial collaboration between the diamond and jewellery industries in our two countries."*

***Anoop Mehta, President, BDB**, said "It was BDB's privilege to play host to the Namibian delegation led by the Hon. Dy Minister Ms Krohne and discuss industry-level partnerships to strengthen both economies."*

***Mehul N Shah, Vice President, BDB,** said "The visit has established an important foundation to further develop the direct connect between Indian diamond manufacturers and the mining companies of Namibia. It will give a boost to the global diamond industry."*

Highlights of the visit

1 Interaction with the Trade Leadership:

The delegation had extensive discussions with leaders of the Indian diamond industry including the BDB and GJEPC committees and the jewellery manufacturers at SEEPZ focusing on their strengths and capabilities. They expressed interest in exploring avenues for further cooperation and strengthening ties.





2 Special Economic Zones

The delegation visited SEEPZ where they interacted with officials to understand its ecosystem and operations, as well as leading jewellery manufacturers. They expressed appreciation of the Mega Common Facilities Centre (Mega CFC), Bharat Ratnam attached to the Zone where companies gain access to machines using the most highly advanced technology available.



3 Visit to IDTC

Hon'ble Dy Min Krohne and her team visited India Diamond Trading Centre (IDTC), a Special Notified Zone (SNZ) for rough-diamond viewing and trading within the BDB complex. They expressed interest in exploring direct supply of Namibian rough diamonds to BDB members through this facility, after learning that recent amendments to tax laws would exempt companies selling rough diamonds in SNZs from income tax for a 15 year period.



4 Special Interaction

In addition, the Namibian delegation also spent time in studying other facets of the export ecosystem such as laboratories like GIA and focused bodies like Diamond India Ltd.

The Minister and her colleagues met with Indian diamantaires who have established business connections with Namibia through the diamond trade.



The Namibian delegation included **Hon. Gaudentia Kröhne,** MP, Hon'ble Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy; **Mr. Rehabeam Nepaya,** Deputy Director, Diamond Affairs, Namibia; **Ms. Debbie Tiboth,** Snr. Private Secretary to Minister; **Ms Secret Ruhaka,** Diamond Inspector; **Mr. Titus Amukwelele,** Diamond Inspector; **Ms. Teopolina Hasheela,** Senior Public Relations Officer; **Mr. Balchand Jain,** Honorary Consul of Namibia in Mumbai.

"We share the same vision and ideas for developing the diamond industry"



-Ms. Gaudentia Krohne

Member of Parliament, Deputy Minister,
Namibia, Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.

Existing Ties

This is my first visit to the Bharat Diamond Bourse, and I see it as a step towards greater collaboration. We share the same vision and the same ideas about developing the diamond industry.

I'm here as a friend of India, a sister of India. We want to strengthen the existing relationship between Namibia and India.

Currently, a large number of sightholders in Namibia are companies with roots in India. The cutting and polishing jobs they are creating are helping us achieve one of the aims of our National Development Plan.

By setting up factories in our country, they are adding value, transferring skills, creating employment...

We want to strengthen that further. I am pleased to invite more Indian business people to come and set up their footprints in Namibia.

Common concerns

Globally all stakeholders have been affected by the decline in diamond prices. One of the reasons is synthetic diamonds.

So we decided that we need to join De Beers and other organisations in marketing natural diamonds. We signed the Luanda Accord for this.

We believe the good that natural diamonds have done needs to be told. We built hospitals, we built schools, we built roads; diamonds are helping us to develop our country.

Direct Sales

I learnt that the Indian government wants to remove tax on sales of rough diamonds in SNZ from Oct 1. It is a positive story.

We can bring our diamonds here, showcase them here and even sell them. If this platform created by India is already being used by other countries, why can Namibia not make use of it too?

SEZ Investment

One of my ministry's mandates is to boost industrialisation. That's why we are inviting companies to set up factories there.

There are systems in place already. We had EPZs, which we are now planning to develop as SEZs to make Namibia more investment friendly. This should get Parliamentary approval soon.

The SEZs include a variety of incentives to boost employment creation, skills transfer, value addition, local beneficiation through public-private partnerships.

Collaboration

We saw how you are supporting Small and Medium enterprises in many ways – sales of rough, health insurance for workers, etc. Namibia can look at doing similar positive things.

So if your government is encouraging companies to come to India to market their diamonds, we can do so too. It will help small companies here and also help us in price discovery.

Definitely, I will encourage our government to take part and strengthen the existing relationship. We can even get the buyers from India for our diamonds in Namibia.

BDB President and Vice-President Felicitated as 'Legends of Industry' by GJEPC

Anoop Mehta, President, and Mehul Shah, Vice President, of Bharat Diamond Bourse (BDB) were two among the nine prominent global leaders of the gem and jewellery trade recognised as 'Legends of the Industry" at a special felicitation event organised by GJEPC at the IIJS trade show recently.



Mr. Anoop Mehta

President, Bharat Diamond Bourse & Vice President World Diamond Council

"This award is a recognition of the collaboration between various stakeholders, each playing their roles, that has helped India reach new heights in the global gem & jewellery industry."

Mr. Mehul N Shah

Vice President BDB & President, World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB)

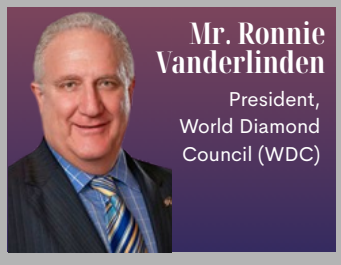
"I dedicate this award to the Diamond Artisans of India, whose extraordinary crafts-manship has given our nation the pride of becoming the undisputed world leader in diamonds"



International Legends















"Clear indications that stability is returning; Consolidated action across the pipeline a key factor"



- Paul Rowley

A senior leadership team from De Beers was in Mumbai recently to participate in industry events at IIJS and interact with leading diamantaires. ***Paul Rowley, Executive VP, Diamond Trading, De Beers Group*** *shared his views on the current situation with BDB e-News.*

We are now midway through 2026. How has the diamond industry fared so far this year?

This year there are clear indications that stability is returning. Last year, there was some growth in demand for the first time since the peaks of 2021. Though small (0.4%), it is encouraging.

Sales at US independents have steadily moved upwards over the first six months of the year. With supply of rough stable near ~100 million carats, and likely to remain at those levels for the next few years, this revival is good news.

Elsewhere, stock liquidation in China, that led to reverse flows, appears to have ended, and demand in India is extremely encouraging.

What are the factors driving the change?

Consolidated action across every stage of the pipeline has played a key role. Players in The upstream, midstream and downstream have all worked with a common purpose: to bring about demand-supply equilibrium. Everyone is taking appropriate decisions, even if they are tough ones. Prices seem to be firming up across many categories.

This has happened despite continued challenges...

Yes, global dynamics such as trade policy changes, volatility, particularly with the changing tariff structures, and geopolitical conflicts have impacted consumer spending.

Many difficult decisions for the mining companies....?

At De Beers, we realized the need for responsible production – there is no point in producing what you can't sell. But we are definitely positive and have continued to develop some mines, while halting production at places where it is currently not viable from a cash flow perspective.

Rough supply also has stabilized, with some closures and other measures, including stockpiling, and will likely remain steady over the next few years. Decline in production in some quarters will be compensated by a steady ramp up of Angolan supply.

What has this meant for midstream players?

The midstream too has not been in very comfortable position over the past couple of years. The drop in demand and consequent slowdown was tough. And the decline in prices affected stock valuations too.

The critical situation saw a drop in confidence; some companies found it difficult to sustain operations. So there have been upheavals, but stability appears to be returning. Overall the number of companies at this stage in the pipeline has come down. Capacity seems more aligned with the supply-demand scenario, and the outlook has improved too.

De Beers too had to realign its sales strategies

relative to the market conditions. This year we have made some changes and have now moved ahead to the new contract terms.

The industry is showing resilience and the fundamentals support long term recovery.

What further steps are needed to drive this rebound?

De Beers has defined its tasks by 3C's. Build Credibility, strengthen Compliance and boost Consumer Confidence, with emphasis on ensuring informed consumer choice.

The industry has been working in a coordinated manner on these fronts. Take marketing, where we see multiple collaborative efforts across the globe. The entire pipeline is coming together to drive demand. The Luanda Accord has been signed, GJEPC became a member of NDC, and De Beers has developed market specific tie ups with retail partners in the US, India and China. Our marketing spend last year was the highest in decades.

A lot of work has also been done on the Provenance story. Consumers are more aware of how the diamond industry has transformed national economies, and the impact they have had on the lives of ordinary people

De Beers has invested significantly in traceability, specifically the Tracr programme, which after many years of development is delivering encouraging outcomes. Establishing traceability across the value chain, and even sharing it at retail, is now definitely feasible.

Are you seeing impact of efforts to differentiate the diamond and LGD or synthetic pipelines?

There has been progress, but a lot more needs to be done so that consumers grasp the differences clearly. In the US, the drop in synthetic prices at wholesale is beginning to reflect at retail, so high retail margins cannot continue. A rising number of independents are pushing back into natural diamonds, and LGDs moving more into retail chains.

In India, the two products are also better differentiated and coordinated efforts to reach out to retail consumers are showing dividends.

What further steps are needed to drive this rebound?

India has been the leading manufacturer for over two decades and steadily consolidated its leadership. In the last few years it has also emerged as one of the important markets driving demand. So the industry is vibrant, and always energetic – and the mood at the recent IIJS clearly reflected that.

India is now our second largest market globally and demand from Indian consumers is very strong. De Beers has focused a lot on marketing and built exciting partnerships with Tanishq, and along with GJEPC with smaller retailers in promotions under INDRA.

Strong marketing campaigns and development of new product categories like 'Besties' and 'I Love You Dad', launched around new reasons and occasions for buying, have put natural diamonds firmly in the consumer limelight. Demand is being boosted by self-purchase among women and a strong affinity for natural diamonds among GenZ consumers.

So is India's role in the industry changing?

Now, we are seeing a new facet coming to the fore. Given its role at centre of the value chain of the global industry we see that India is increasingly being entrusted with a leadership role too.

India's diamond industry has never been more influential than now with leadership positions in KP, WFDB and also in WDC, and this convergence reflects the role that the industry expects India to play in the coming decade and beyond.

DTC Botswana Board Members Visit IDTC



A delegation of Board members of DTC Botswana had extensive interaction with Anoop Mehta, President BDB and Mehul Shah, Vice President BDB during their visit to the BDB complex on August 5, 2026.

The interaction and tour of the complex, plus detailed discussions about the India Diamond Trading Centre (IDTC) gave them insights into the world-class infrastructure, integrated ecosystem, and facilities within the complex that facilitates smooth import and export of rough. The team also exchanged views on the opportunities for future collaboration between India and Botswana.

The delegation comprised:

- Mr. Dick Bayford, Attorney General, Republic of Botswana;
- Dr. Sayed Timuno, Secretary, Macroeconomic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Botswana;
- Ms. Serty Leburu, Managing Director, Diamond Trading Company Botswana;
- Ms. Matshidiso Doscus Bokole, Permanent Secretary to the President, Republic of Botswana;
- Mr. Masego Segwabe, Senior Manager – Operations (Acting), DTC Botswana and
- Mr. Baleseng Best Raditladi, Vice President, Sales – Botswana, De Beers Global Sightholder Sales.

They were accompanied on the visit by Mr. Paul Rowley, Executive Vice President, Diamond Trading, De Beers Group, and Mr. Sunil Dias, Diamond Consultant, De Beers DMCC.

Delegation from Thailand

BDB welcomed a delegation of gem and jewellery traders from Thailand, who visited the complex on August 7, 2026.

The Thai jewellers were taken on a tour of the various facilities in the campus, and later interacted with Mehul Shah, Vice President BDB, over lunch where they were given further insights. The two sides also exchanged views on scope for further interaction.



USA Embassy Officials

On August 14, BDB hosted a team of officials from the US Consulate and took them on a tour of the campus. The team comprised Mr. Kevin Dougherty, RSO, US Consulate in Mumbai, along with Mr. Khalif Thomas, RSO, US Consulate in Mumbai; Mrs. Sophie Thomas; Mr. Ramiz Israel, FGS | Geologist; and Mrs. Yogita Singh, Advisory Consulting Manager.



Diamond Industry Bids Farewell to
Belgian Consul General Frank Geerkens



BDB and GJEPC jointly hosted a farewell reception to honour and bid farewell to Frank Geerkens, Consul General of Belgium in Mumbai, who has contributed a lot to strengthening ties between the diamond industries of the two countries during his tenure.

The two organisations also felicitated him in the presence of senior members of the trade, diplomats and other industry associates, appreciating the role he had played and extending him best wished for his subsequent assignments.

BDB Felicitates Outgoing
Finland Consul General Mr. Erik af Hällström



BDB recently felicitated the outgoing Consul General of Finland in Mumbai, Mr. Erik af Hällström, who has been closely associated with the activities of the Bourse and a regular participant at official functions held during his tenure.

The BDB Committee appreciated the cooperation received from Mr Hällström and his associates at the Embassy, which is in close proximity to the Bourse at all times, and wished him success in his new posting.

BDB Receives Certificate of Appreciation from Mumbai Police



To acknowledge the support the Department had received from the Bourse team in the successful organization of the 36th Maharashtra State Police Games 2025–2026, held in Mumbai from 19th to 27th April 2026.

BDB congratulates Sandeep Kumar for his outstanding performance in three races



- 2nd August, at the ICTC Kalyan Monsoon Run 2026
- 15th August, at the ATENX Independence Run, Pune
- 16th August, at the Pune 10K Grand Run

Industry Pays Homage to Vasant Mehta



Leading members of the Indian gem and jewellery industry, as well as a few from the international trade, paid homage to the memory of Shri Vasant Mehta, Past Chairman, GJEPC, and a highly respected stalwart of the trade, at a meeting covened by GJEPC and BDB.

Recalling their close association with Vasantbhai, senior industry leaders including Kirit Bhansali, Anoop Mehta, Mehul Shah, Sanjay Kothari, Praveen Shankar Pandya, Bharat Shah, Ashish Mehta and Sabyasachi Ray recalled his immense contributions citing concrete examples of how he helped steer the trade during difficult times. They also praised his pioneering role in representing India on international trade platforms.

At the same time, they also recalled Vasantbhai's many sterling qualities and human traits – a mentor, guide, advisor, always offering well thought out perspectives as well as practical advice.

Two short video messages from Ronnie VanderLinden, President, World Diamond Council and Stephane Fischler, former President of IDMA, were also screened.

Condolence meeting for BDB's Past CEO Mr Jerome Gomes



BDB held a Condolence Meeting to pay tribute to its veteran administrator Mr. Jerome Salvadore Gomes, Ex-CEO & Divisional Head – Custodian, who passed away on 8 August 2026.

The meeting was attended by Mehul Shah, VP, BDB, leading industry figures BDB Committee members Kiran Gandhi and Prakash Shah, and GJNRF Managing Trustee Sanjay Kothari, as well as the entire BDB family. The family of Mr Gomes were also present as the gathering recalled his remarkable life and legacy.

In his heartfelt tribute Mr. Mehul Shah spoke about his long-standing association, the dedication with which he worked, and his invaluable contribution to the BDB and the industry.

On a personal note, he also recalled the assistance that Mr Gomes had given to the committee over the years. "Though he initially did not encourage BDB participating in WFDB programmes, he subsequently supported every effort we made paving the way for BDB to join WFDB. The rest of course, is history."

Concluding in an emotional tone, Mehul Shah added, "He was a true professional, a remarkable leader and initially played a pivotal role in my within the Bourse. In September this year, for the first time ever BDB elections will take place without the presence of Mr Gomes."

The Briolette of India

'The Oldest Diamond Ever Known'

Diamonds were formed over 3 to 4 billion years ago in the deepest recesses of the Earth. Yet only one among these of Nature's ***age-old wonders*** *can bear the title of the* ***'Oldest Diamond on record in the world'.*** *That honour goes to the Briolette of India, a* ***90.38 carat, D-colour, Type IIa*** *polished stone with a unique shape and among the purest diamonds ever produced.*



AI-generated image. For representational purposes only.

Origin and Earliest Records

There is no clear record of where this remarkable diamond was discovered. But, its properties indicate that it was from India.

Historians believe that its earliest owners were the Nawabs of Punjab – sometime in the 11th century.

Journey to France & England

It is known that the diamond, then a uniquely-Indian double rose cut style, travelled to France where it passed into the possession of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of France and partner of King Louis VII between 1137 to 1152. The French probably acquired it during the Second Crusade.

Eleanor's marriage to King Louis was dissolved, and she married again, to Henry II of England.

Frequent 'Disappearances'

There are long periods when its ownership remained shrouded in mystery. It only resurfaced in the 16th century in France, before disappearing again soon after the French Revolution in the 18th century.

Documented history begins once more in 1908, when it was recut into its present form as a briolette in France and then acquired by Cartier. An American family, the Blumenthals, bought it from Cartier, and then in the 1950s it was acquired by Harry Winston in New York, who sold it to a wealthy Canadian family.

The diamond remained briefly in the limelight as it was seen in a few celebrity photo shoots and high end fashion events. In 1971, it was sold to Austrian businessman Helmut Horten and his wife Heidi (Horten reportedly made his fortune during the Nazi years) and remained in their possession till their deaths in 2022 when it was auctioned by Christie's to an unknown owner. It has remained anonymous ever since.

Did you know?

Originally a unique double rose cut, later recut as a briolette i.e. three dimonsional, faceted teardrop that catches light from every angle, with no flat table or pavilion.

"SoW demonstrates that our industry is taking responsibility for it own business practices"



- Ronnie VanderLinden, WDC President

The new revised System of Warranties (SOW) introduced by the World Diamond Council is an industry self-regulatory mechanism that will come into effect on September 21, 2026.

The KP Certification Scheme exists to certify that rough diamonds are responsibly sourced. Why did WDC create a separate System of Warranties (SoW)?

The System of Warranties was created to support and strengthen the Kimberley Process. The KPCS applies to rough diamonds crossing international borders. The SoW carries that assurance further through the supply chain, including polished diamonds and diamond jewellery, every time they change hands. It gives our industry a practical way to demonstrate that the principles behind the KP continue from mine to market.

WDC is updating the SOW and the new system will become mandatory soon. How is the updated SOW different ?

The revised SoW goes further. The original system essentially required a warranty statement on invoices and memos. The revised system requires companies to register, complete an annual self-assessment and confirm adherence to the WDC SoW Guidelines. Those guidelines cover not only KP compliance but important responsible business practices including human and labour rights, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption.

What are the minimum requirements for self-certifying a parcel / a transaction under the SOW?

A company must register on the SoW platform and successfully complete the online self-assessment, which is tailored according to the company's size and position in the supply chain. The company can then issue the revised SoW declaration on its invoices and memos. The self-assessment must be renewed annually. Companies should also maintain appropriate records and ensure their suppliers are meeting the requirements.

Is the SOW recognized by governments and official agencies? If not, what purpose does it serve?

The SoW is an industry self-regulatory mechanism, not a government certification scheme. But it supports the KP and the SoW has formal recognition within the KPCS Core Document. Its purpose is very practical: to carry the assurance provided by the KP through the supply chain and demonstrate that our industry is taking responsibility for its own business practices rather than waiting for governments to do it for us.

What role can SOW play in building consumer confidence?

Most consumers will probably never ask a jeweller about the SOW by name. But they absolutely care about what sits behind it. They want confidence in the natural diamond they are buying and in the industry that brought it to them. The SOW helps provide that confidence by creating a chain of responsibility through the trade.

Please share the deadline for companies that wish to register under SOW and details of how they can begin the process.

The important date is September 21, 2026, when the five-year transition period ends. From then, the revised declaration becomes the sole applicable SoW reference within the WDC framework for rough diamonds, polished diamonds and diamond jewellery. Companies should register now through the dedicated SoW platform.

SEMINAR

BDB Hosts GIA Experts Presentations on Fluorescene in Natural Diamonds

Focus was on latest scientific research into the impact of fluorescence on the appearance of natural diamonds and how this has advanced the industry's understanding of this phenomenon.



Two experts from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) recently presented key findings of the institute's latest research on the effect of blue fluorescence on diamond appearance at an event in BDB as part of the Leadership Series.

The presentations by Mr. Sriram Natarajan, Senior Vice President, Global Laboratory operations, GIA, and Dr. Yun Luo, Director, Metrology and Quality Control, GIA, presented insights into how the lab's work has advanced the industry's understanding of this phenomenon.

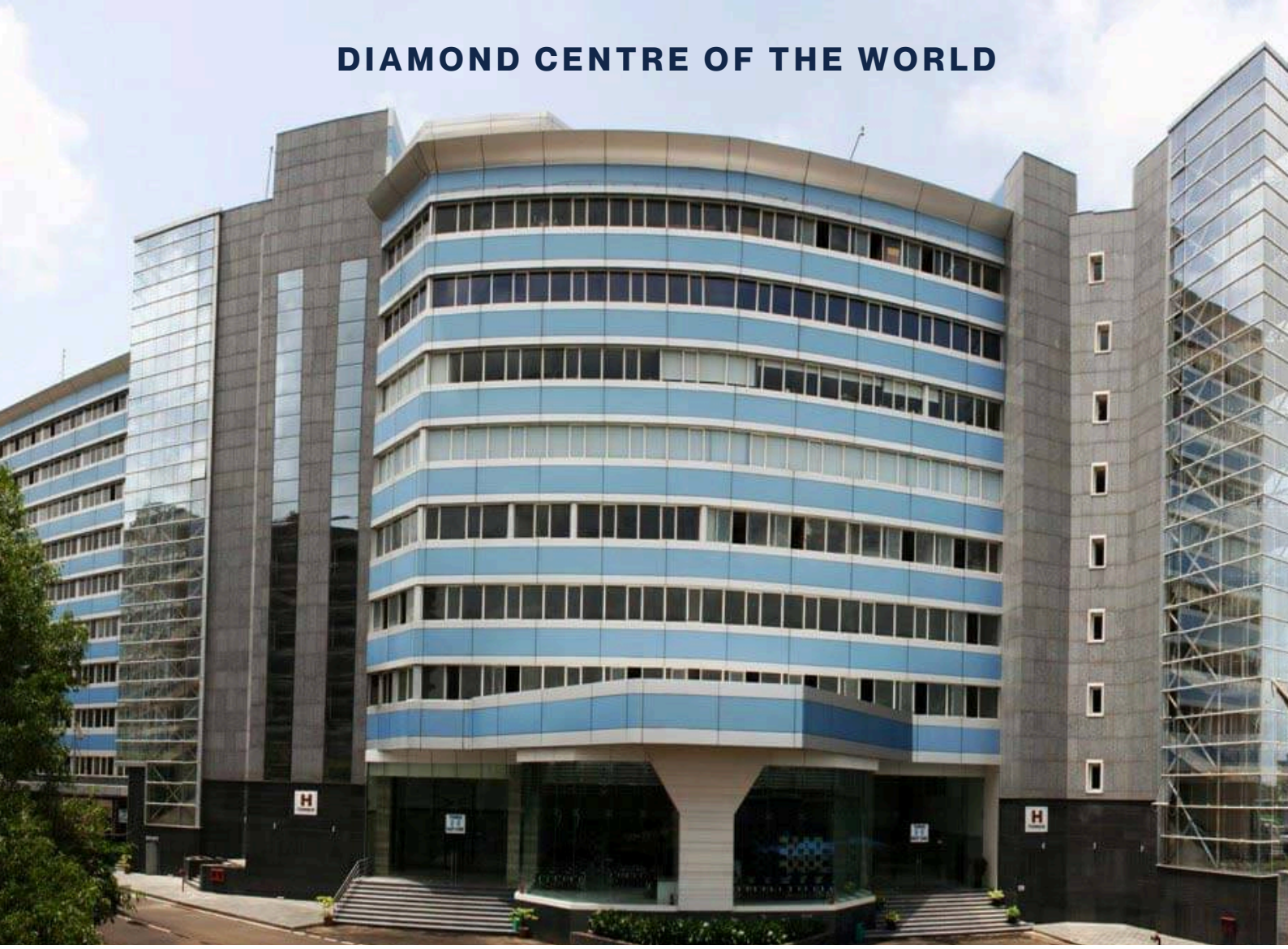
Noting that between 25% and 35% of diamonds exhibit some degree of fluorescence, and that the characteristic has significance in the marketplace, the GIA team stressed that greater transparency and understanding could have a meaningful impact on consumer and trade confidence.

Earlier this year, GIA announced that it has planned to include additional observations on fluorescence in its Diamond Grading Reports and Diamond Dossiers. Beginning in the fourth quarter of this year, this move will be a significant step toward providing clearer, research-based information about this naturally occurring diamond characteristic, GIA said.

Mr. Amit Pratihari, MD, GIA India, said, "We will support India's diamond manufacturers, and retailers with enhanced capabilities and improved turnaround times, in their endeavour to communicate with greater confidence and reinforce trust in natural diamonds across both domestic and international markets."



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