

THE HIGHLAND-VIJAYAN BOUNDARY: A TARGET AREA FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION

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The geological boundary between the Highland Series and the (eastern) Vijayan Complex has been the subject of much interest among geologists. Recent work on the nature of this boundary has indicated the possibility of new mineral discoveries such as those associated with zones of rift or subduction.

The occurrence of sulphides rich in copper and iron, base-metal rich serpentinites, uraniferous granites, a line of hot springs, fluoride-rich zones, and loci of microseismicity indicates suitable target locations for mineral exploration.

The terrain from Buttala to Bibile has shown very good potential for gem minerals. The abundance of halogen-rich volatile substances closely associated with intrusives, indicates possibilities of gold and platinum group elements (PGE). The serpentinites in the Uda Walawe region are now known to be particularly rich in gold. Information on the nature and origin of these serpentinites which lie on the Highland-Vijayan boundary will undoubtedly open up further avenues for mineral exploration.