

These observations suggest that the quantum of the glandular tissue of male flank gland differs considerably from that of the female gland, and affects the secretory activity. In male, it is high while in female it is feeble.

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## NEWS

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### DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

Geologist Dr Jeffrey Harris from the Department of Applied Geology of the University of Strathclyde in Scotland and three scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the U.S. and the South African University of Cape Town have been involved in a 10 year research programme aimed at finding out whether those sparkling gems were a product of the early days of the Earth's creation some 4,600 million years ago. Dr Harris told the conference delegates that they had successfully identified the age of the diamond by measuring one particular element, neodymium, which was among a series of elements trapped in

minerals that became encapsulated in diamond at the time of its formation. Other trapped elements included uranium, lead, strontium and potassium.

Particles of minerals were taken from diamonds produced by the Finsch and Kimberley mines in South Africa, and analysis of the rare neodymium metallic element indicated that the diamonds from both mines were very old. In the case of Kimberley diamonds they were found to be around 3,410 million years old while the Finsch diamonds were 3,255 million years old. (British Information Services, British High Commission, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021).