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In the export basket of India, cut & polished diamonds occupy the second place of pride as an exchange earner next only to engineering goods. In the backdrop of the growing world demand, with its labour-intensive, employment generating, low-investment and highly export-oriented characteristics, the diamond cottage sector plays an important role in the economy of the country. Under the Ph.D. Programme of the Department of Commerce & Business Management, Panjab University, I had taken up a research project on Export Prospects and Problems of Indian Diamond Industry.

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it could not have been possible for me to undertake this study.

My initial interest in the subject dates back to 1971 when as a participant in a training programme on Techniques of Export Promotion jointly organised at Rome by the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre and the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade, I undertook a study on one of the allied disciplines in Italy, U.K. and Switzerland. Again, in 1976 I had an opportunity to cover, among others, the subject of diamonds in a GSP study in the markets of Belgium, West Germany, France, Netherlands and U.K. These two studies generated my further interest leading to publication of quite a number of research papers on this subject in economic, commercial and trade journals of repute. Based on my specialisation in the area, I was subsequently associated for two years, in an official capacity, with organisations like the All-India Handicrafts Board, Handlooms & Handicrafts Export Corporation, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council and the Indian Diamond Institute. This association provided me thorough knowledge and deep insight into an otherwise a closed door diamond business.
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MANOHAR LALL VARMA