Star of India Sapphire

Colour and clarity of gemstones are major attractions of gemstones for studding them in jewellery. Cut and polish enhance appearance, particularly in the presence of light. Gemstones are classified as precious and semi precious, e.g., diamond, ruby, sapphire and emerald are precious and all other gemstones are semi-precious. There are other criteria that decide their price e.g., rarity, size, phenomenon etc. Rare and big gemstones with their special appearance will add to the price. One such gemstones, Star of India Sapphire, is a unique and rare gemstone that is now housed in the Hall of Gems at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Its large size (563.35 carats) with good blue colour and remarkable asterism attracts many a connoisseur.

This is one of the world's largest gem-quality blue star sapphire is of some two billion years old and was discovered about 300 years ago in Sri Lanka. It is believed that since India is famous for sapphires, this gemstone was then called the Star of India.

Blue colour is due to trace amounts of ferrous and titanium oxides in the form of thread like rutile inclusions in the gemstone. Besides size, attractive blue colour, the star of India has a very special and rare quality of appearance, known asAsterism (Star effect).

The needle-like rutile inclusions when orientated in several specific directions, result in 'Star' with four, six or 12 rays !!. Such sapphires are called Star Sapphires. Star of India sapphire is rare because 6 rays star effect is seen on both the top and bottom sides of the gemstone. The quality of the star is same when viewed from different directions.

GII tests and identifies rutile inclusions and star effects in sapphires and rubies routinely, and gets further classification using our advanced spectroscopic equipments.

For more details please refer to https://gem-a.com/news-publications/news-blogs/gems-from-gem-a/gem/famous-gemstones-star-india-sapphire