



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division)
Geological Survey of Pakistan

GOLD POTENTIAL IN GILGIT- BALTISTAN

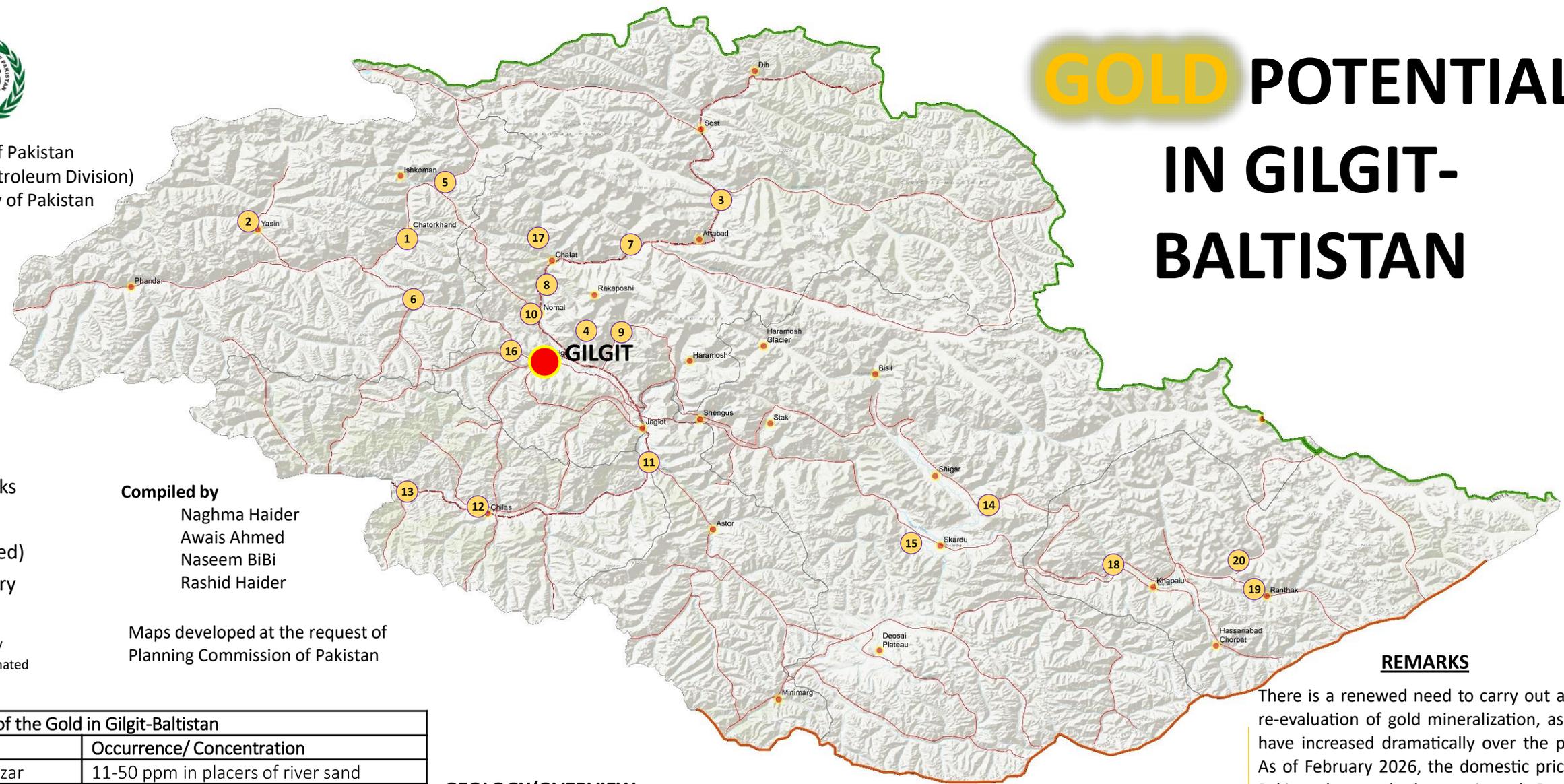
LEGEND

- 21 Gold
- Roads/ Tracks
- Districts
- LoC (Disputed)
- Int. Boundary
- Localities
Borders/ Roads/
Tracks approximated

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Maps developed at the request of
Planning Commission of Pakistan



Approximate Locations of the Gold in Gilgit-Baltistan		
Sr.	Locality	Occurrence/ Concentration
1	Chatorkhand, Ghizar	11-50 ppm in placers of river sand
2	Dalti Gah, Yasin Valley	100-1000 ppb, in placers of river sand.
3	Passu	-do-
4	Manu Gah, Gilgit	-do-
5	Ishkuman Ghizar	-do-
6	Singal, Ghizar	>1000 ppb
7	Hassanabad Nala, Hunza	>1000 ppb
8	Greash, Chalt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >1000 ppb • 0.02 to 1 ppm in sulphide zone.
9	Bagrot Gah, Gilgit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100-1000 ppb, in placers of river sand • 7140 ppb in Gasuna Alteration Zone
10	Nomal, Gilgit	Upto 1 ppm in sulphide zone
11	Jaglot-Bunji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 411 ppb in Jaglot Alteration Zone • 0.00 to 0.0092 oz/ton in placers
12	Chilas, Diamir	0.0004 to 0.0041 oz/ton in placers.
13	Thor, Chilas	0.0011 to 0.0049 oz/ton in placers.
14	Lugama, Shigar,	0.01 to 0.32 ppm in sulphide zone
15	Shagri Bala, Skardu	0.002 to 0.3 ppm in sulphide zone
16	Henzel, Gilgit	Traces in quartz veins
17	Bar Das, Chalt Nagar	Needs further work (Locations approx.)
18	Machulu, Ganche	
19	Ranthak, Khaplu	
20	Ghorse, Ganche	

GEOLOGY/OVERVIEW

Gold had remained an enigma in the northern Pakistan. So far, investigations done by the GSP reveals, that the gold contents in the placers and alteration zones, as determined in different surveys, is generally low. Gold panning was in practice at several places in the northern areas along the course of Indus River and its tributaries before and after partition. Locally some gold is still produced in these areas. Mostly, the gold rich zones are associated with the regional thrust especially the Main Karakoram Thrust (MKT) and then Main Mantle Thrust (MMT). The studies suggests that Region north of MKT is relatively richer in gold than the southern terrene. In pursuit of host rock for gold in stream sediments, the investigations lead to the alteration zones. Many of these main alteration zones are geochemically studied, but unfortunately the results of gold assays for prominent quartz-veins and highly silicified zones were disappointing. However, there may be some rich anomalies hidden under the glaciers (under snow). PMDC under project Northern Areas a Gold Exploration and Mineral Assessment Project (GEMAP) was undertaken in these areas by with the help of Australian financial and technical assistance during the years 1992-1995. Twenty four of these anomalies have been classified as higher order and potentially indicate areas of significant gold mineralization. These anomalies are generally associated with major shear zones such as Main Mantle Thrust and some are associated with porphyry type intrusive or altered carbonates (Sweetman T.R. et.al. 1996).

REMARKS

There is a renewed need to carry out an economic re-evaluation of gold mineralization, as gold prices have increased dramatically over the past decade. As of February 2026, the domestic price of gold in Pakistan has reached approximately Rs. 500,000 per tola, while the US dollar exchange rate stands at around Rs. 280. By comparison, earlier economic assessments—such as those carried out by GSP in 1972—concluded that gold mining was uneconomic under the prevailing market conditions, when the price of gold was about Rs. 575 per tola and the US dollar exchange rate was approximately Rs. 10. Even during 2020, when gold prices were around Rs. 100,000 per tola with an exchange rate of about Rs. 160 per US dollar, economic thresholds were significantly lower than today. The available data on gold mining practices at the local scale, together with gold concentrations reported from various floodplain and placer deposits, suggest that traditional gold washing techniques relying on large labor forces remain largely uneconomic for large- or medium-scale mining operations. However, under the present market conditions, there may be limited exceptions where exceptionally rich placer deposits or technically upgradable resources are identified, warranting re-assessment using modern, technology-driven exploration and evaluation approaches.