

Comprehensive

# BALOCHISTAN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



A QUICK REFERENCE BOOK FOR ALL TYPES OF TESTS / INTERVIEWS  
INCLUDING C.S.S. & P.C.S EXAMS.

*Comprehensive*

# **Balochistan General Knowledge**

**For all types of examinations  
and interviews including CSS, PCS**

**By  
Muhammad Qasim Mengal**



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## PROLOGUE

*By the grace of Allah, my long cherished desire of compiling a comprehensive book on the general knowledge of Balochistan has become a living legend. I, with so many others, felt the dire need of a handbook or a Quick reference book covering all aspects of Balochistan to facilitate the candidates of Balochistan appearing in varying number of exams and interviews. The non-availability of a comprehensive book used to add into the difficulties of the candidates who would wander pillar to post to find even for the minute information.*

*This book's compilation focuses on providing facts & figures for the competitive exams and all the people, either from government departments or from non-governmental organizations, who love to know about Balochistan in brief, but with multifarious information. The data provided in this book is based on the authentic books and the works of impartial writers.*

*Since it is my first ever book on this subject, yet I have tried my level best to cover the widerage of topics, which may appear to some of the readers unnecessary, but the approach to incorporate such topics in this book was to make this book as a reference book for researchers and other writers.*

*The arduous efforts of Mr. Munir Ahmed Jan Baloch, in the collection and compilation of the information for the book in hand, are highly praise worthy and obliging.*

*I shall always be waiting for the suggestions regarding the improvements or pin-pointing the shortcomings in this book.*

*Muhammad Qasim Mengal*

*Quetta*

*March 1, 2003.*



## **Dedicated**

To

*My Teachers, who with their  
untiring efforts and dedication  
to their profession, enlightened  
innumerable desolate minds  
with the rays of education.*

## CHAPTER 1

### Pakistan

Pakistan, officially Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is situated in southern Asia. It came into being on 14 August 1947. Pakistan is located at the latitude of 24 to 37 degree north and longitude of 62 to 75 degrees east on the map. It is circumscribed on the north by China (595 km) and northwest by Afghanistan (2250km), on the northeast by Jammu and Kashmir (571 km), on the east and southeast by India (1610 km), on the south by Arabian Sea (more than 1000 km), on the west by Iran (805 km). The south to north stretch of Pakistan is 1505 km while from east to west it ranges over an area of 1287 km. The area of Pakistan is 7, 96,095 sq. Km (307,374 sq.-mi.), excluding the northern area and section of Azad Kashmir under its control.

### Islamabad

The capital city of Pakistan covers an area of 907 sq. km, on the Potwar Plateau, near Rawalpindi. Since the first capital of the country was Karachi, so to replace Karachi the present area of Islamabad was chosen in 1959. Well reputed town planners like Constantine A. Daxidis and others were commissioned to design the new city, and construction began in 1961. In 1967, Islamabad was officially made the capital. Notable structures in Islamabad include the National Assembly Building, designed by Louis I. Kahn, State Life building, Parliament House, President House etc. By virtue of its excellent planning, Islamabad is considered one of the most beautiful capitals of Asia.

## **Political Division**

Pakistan politically consists of four provinces; namely Balochistan (3, 47,190 sq. km), Punjab (2,05, 345 sq. km), Sindh (1, 40, 914 sq. Km) and North West Frontier Province -- NWFP -- (74,521 sq. km) while Islamabad capital (907 sq. km) and Federally Administrated Tribal Area (27,220 sq. km); comprising of 11 tribal agencies (the largest South Waziristan 6,620 sq. km, the smallest the Khyber agency 261 sq. km), the northern areas (72, 496 sq. km) and a section of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (13,296 sq. km) are also part of the country.

Pakistan adopted the federal system of governance at its inception. However, with the demise of the father of the nation and the assassination of the first Prime Minister Liaquet Ali Khan, the country underwent into an era of political instability which appeared in the result of Martial Law of 1958. This Martial Law paved the way for a successive Martial Law which ended with the debacle of East Pakistan in 1971.

From 1971 to 1977 the country experienced civilian rule which was intercepted in 1977 with the imposition of Military rule which lasted till 1985. From 1985 till 1999 the country experienced a successive dismissal of civilian governments and re-elections. In 1999 the Military takeover ceased the civilian rule to exist. The civilian rule got restored in 2002 as a result of elections of 2002.



## CHAPTER 2

### **Balochistan: An introduction**

Balochistan, *literaly meaning the land of Baloch*, is the western most province of Pakistan. The province is bordered by Iran on the west, Afghanistan on the northwest, Northwest Frontier and Punjab provinces on the northeast and east, Sindh province on southeast, and the Arabian Sea on south. Balochistan is the largest in size, approximately 3, 47,190 sq. km but the smallest in population only 6.5 million (census, 1998). The province derives its name from the Baloch, the main socio-linguistic group in the province.

Balochistan is located at the northern latitudes between 24.32 and the 32 latitude, while the longitude of 60 to 70 surrounds Balochistan on the east. Territorially Balochistan is the eastern stretching of the Iranian plateau. Balochistan represents the mountainous western fringe of Pakistan's heartland the Indus valley where population, industry and agriculture are concentrated and consequently where the markets for Balochistan's exports (coal, gas, livestock, hides, fruits and vegetables) are found. Balochistan imports staple food wheat and manufactured goods from the Indus valley. The coastline along the Arabian Sea is about 770 km long. The agriculturally unproductive coastal area of Balochistan is neither effectively connected with the interior nor with the Karachi metropolitan area due to mountainous obstacles. Natural ports for large ships and navigable rivers are absent. Moreover, there is hardly any hinterland for overseas trading.

Balochistan has the distinction of being only shortest access to warm waters for land locked Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics. The proximity of Balochistan to the Gulf region and its borders with two countries are the distinctions of pivotal importance for the Baloch Corridor.

Climatic conditions are arid, Ranging from dry to hyper arid, and temperatures régime vary widely from cool temperate to tropical, allowing, in the presence of the scarce irrigation water, an amazing variety of crops. In fact most temperate, Mediterranean, subtropical, and tropical crops grow somewhere in Balochistan, although in small acreage. Only about 2 % of Balochistan is cultivated at any time due to the scarcity of water. Approximately one third of Balochistan is used as Range by nomadics which is of lesser significance presently. Balochistan's per capita income is estimated to be 10% lower than the federal figures.

### **Geology**

Balochistan is formed by the elevating, folding and faulting of mainly sedimentary rock formations of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent when this collided with the Asian continent. The collision resulted in a number of over thrust plains and major faults. In this process, part of the oceanic crust and parts of the earth's upper mantle reached the surface. Some of these thrust faults are still active. A major active fault runs through Quetta town, therefore earthquake prone.

*The following main geological regions are distinguished in Balochistan.*

#### **The Central Mountain Ranges (CMR)**

These Ranges are the backbone of the Balochistan mountain system. They form a part of the chain of plate boundary phenomena, which extends into the larger Himalayan system towards the (North to East) NE and into the Owen Bridge oceanic ridge system under the Indian Ocean towards the south. In Balochistan these Ranges can be followed over 800 km stretching (North to South) NS in the south and swinging towards (North to East) NE and E in the central and northern part of the province. The Central Mountain Ranges can be subdivided into a number of smaller ranges.



### **N-S oriented Ranges**

#### **Central Brahvi Range**

The Central Brahvi Range is, southern offshoot of the Himalayas, lying in the centre of the Balochistan plateau, Pakistan. It extends southward for about 225 miles (360 km) from the Pishin Lora and Zhob rivers to the Mula River. The Range is a series of parallel limestone ridges covered with juniper forests and hemming in narrow valleys and its trend is north-south between Mula and Quetta but turns sharply east-southeast just north of Quetta to meet the Sulaiman Range. Summits generally exceed 6,000 feet (1,800 m) and gradually decline toward the south: the highest peaks are Khalifat (11,440 feet [3,487 m]) and Zarghoon (11,738 feet or 3,578 m) north of Quetta. The Bolan, Haurnai, and Mula are the principal passes. Brahvi tribes are predominant in the south, as are Pushtoons, with chiefly Kakars in the north.

#### **Kirthar Range**

Kirthar Range hills are in the southern Pakistan. It extends southward for about 300 km from the Mula River in east central Balochistan to Cape Muari (Monze) west of Karachi on the Arabian Sea. The Range forms the boundary between the lower Indus Plain (east) and southern Balochistan (west). It consists of a series of parallel, Rock Hill ridges rising from 4,000 ft (1,200 M) in the south to nearly 8,000-ft (2,500 m) in the north. (The Hub and Lyari rivers, which flow in the north by the Kolachi River and in the south, to the Arabian Sea.) The highest pointing the Range is "*Kuchak-na -Kabar* (Dog's grave) at an altitude of 6,878 feet.

#### **Sulaiman Range**

The Mountain mass is in central Pakistan, extending southward about 280 miles (450 km) from the Gomal Pass to just north of Jacobabad, separating the North-West Frontier Province and Punjab from Balochistan. Its heights gradually decrease toward the south, with summits averaging 6,000-



7,000 feet (1,800-2,100 m), the highest being the twin peaks (30 miles [48 km] from the Gomal Pass) called Takht-i-Sulaiman, or Solomon's Throne, which legend connects with Solomon's visit to Hindustan; the higher of the peaks, at 11,340 feet, is the site of a Ziarat (shrine) visited annually by many pilgrims. The Range's eastern face dips steeply to the Indus River, but on the west the Range declines more gradually. Juniper and edible pines abound in the north and olives in the centre, but vegetation is scarce in the south. The Ghat, Zao, Chuhar Khel Dhana, and Sakhi Sarwar are the principal passes in the north. In the south, west of Dera Ghazi Khan lies the hill station of Fort Munro (6,303 feet 1,921 m).

### **Pub Range**

This Mountain Range spreads over an area of 190 miles from north to south direction. It originates from the south of Khuzdar and extends to Mango Pir of Karachi. The Jahalawan and Lasbella district is located on this mountain series. The highest point on the Range is "Pharas" with an altitude of 7,759 feet.

### **Toba Kakar Khurasan Range**

This mountain series is bifurcated into Toba Kakeri and Toba Achakzai Ranges. This 300 mile long mountain series is a bordering between Afghanistan's Kundahar province and Balochistan' Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Zhob districts. The famous tunnel of Khojek, the only in its kind and length in Asia, is situated in this mountain series.

### **Marri - Bugti hills**

These connect the Sulaiman Range with the more western NS Mountain Ranges mentioned above.

On the western fringe of the CMR igneous intrusions and eruptions are found. These include the Chromite deposits at Muslim Bagh.

### **Chaghi hills and Ras-Koh Range**

These Ranges, stretching east west over 500 km south of the border with Afghanistan, are formed by similar sedimentary rocks as the CMR but in addition Calc-alkaline and ultramafic intrusions are found together with young quaternary volcanic rocks. There are several active volcanoes. This zone is favorable for copper, iron and Sulphur deposits (Saindak). The Ras -koh is also called Koh-e-Burffain (Snow Mountain) with the altitude of 10,000 feet.

### **Mekran Mountain Ranges**

These include the central and coastal Mekran Ranges and the Siahan Range. These mainly east west trending Ranges are made up of uniform sequences of tertiary and quaternary sedimentary rocks. The western Mekran Range stretches over an area of 280 km. The central Mekran Range expands over an area of 250 km.

### **The Siahan Range**

The southern most hills are called Siahan Range (Black Mountains) which are continuation of Harboi Hills. The highest point in the mountain at the altitude of 10,210 feet

### **Koh-e-Maran**

The Koh-e-Maran (Hill of snakes) is the Range which surrounds Kalat and Mangocher valley. It stretches northwards into the Kuhak and Kabo valleys too. The highest point is at the altitude of 10,730 ft which after Chiltan Mountains is the second highest peak in the central Brahvi Range.

These, all aforesaid, hills and mountain Ranges consist predominantly of folded-fanned faulted Mesozoic to middle tertiary limestones (Triassic to Eocene). They are jointed but only rarely (Kalat) karstified. Some major shale or marly horizons are interbedded (lower cretaceous and early tertiary) resulting in wide valleys. The late tertiary is characterized by a syn or post tectonic clastic sedimentation Ranging from sandstones (shaigalu formation), over gravel (Multan formation) to coarse gravel with boulder urak formation.



### **Geographical characteristics and piedmont plains.**

The relief is of the utmost importance in Balochistan since this collects and concentrates the scarce rainfall. Under the prevailing conditions, relief determines to a large extent crop and vegetation potential.

Balochistan shows the following main relief or physiographic units: -

- High and low mountains (51.7%)
- Gravelly fans and terraces (21.5%)
- Piedmont plains (11.6%)
- Saline basins (Plays) (2%)
- Loose plains (0.4%)
- Sand plains (7.5%)
- River plains (2.8%) and
- Tidal plains (0.8%)

These relief or physiographic units represent the micro-Land Systems within each Land System.

In the east-central and northern part of the province lie the high mountains of which considerable parts reach an elevation above 2,300-m (7,000 feet), and the valleys are situated around 1,500 m above sea level. The high mountains include the: -

- Sulaiman Range.
- Toba-Kakar-Kakar Khurasan Range.
- Central Brahvi Range.

The low mountain Ranges (except some peaks) are generally below 2,300 m (7,000 feet); their valleys may be as far down as 76 m above sea level. The low mountains include the -

- Kirthar Range.
- Pub Range.
- Chaghi and Ras-Koh Hills.
- Central Mekran Range.
- Mekran Coast Range.

Gravelly fans and terraces are situated below all mountains slopes except for the most a narrow valleys. These fans and foot slopes were dissected and terraced post glacially in three



levels due to the lowering of the base level, the latter caused both by uprising of the mountains and lowering of the sea level.

Below the gravelly fans and terraces we find the piedmont plains, consisting of much finer soil material. Locally gullies and streams dissect the Piedmont plains.

Sulaiman basins (or playas) are depressions within piedmont plains with internal drainage. The run-on water is evaporated leaving a salt crust on the surface.

Loess has been deposited by wind during the last glaciations. Most of the loess has been washed from the mountains, but remnants cap some mountains in northern Balochistan.

Sizeable (22,000 sq. km) sand plains are found in Kharan and Chaghi (Land System 3), smaller ones (several hundred sq. km) along the coast and elsewhere. The sand plains were formed on site and are shifting sands showing barchans dune formation locally.

River plains are narrow and limited in Balochistan, covering about 8,000 sq. km. Tidal plains of varying marine flooding regimes are rather scarce along the coast; a total of 1,400 sq. km falls in this category.

Two important mountain Ranges, i.e., the Mekran Coast Range, which separates it from Gwadar district in the south and the Central Mekran Range, which separates it from Panjgur district in the north. The elevation of the district Ranges between 100 to 1400 meters above sea level. Most important rivers are Kaur-e-Awaran and form Dasht River.

### **Bio-diversity of Balochistan**

The diversity of the wildlife is surprisingly high in Balochistan, although the number of animals is often rather low. Many of the wild animals are attractive to the sports hunter. Some of the games among the wildlife are the wild goats (Persian Goat; Markhor) and sheep (Balochistan Urial).

## *Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

The Balochistan Black Bear, the gazelles (Goitred and Chincara) and the Houbara Bustard.

The mammals of Balochistan show an Irano-Turanian (West-Central Asian Steppe) affiliation: wild goats (Markhors), wild sheep (Arials), gazelles, wildcats and jerboas.

The most interesting mammal from the geographical point of view is the Black Bear. The Balochistan subspecies represents the southwestern extremity of its distribution area which reaches eastwards into Japan. The Balochistan Black bear lives in northern Balochistan in the Blue Pine woods, but in southern Balochistan in rather open terrain, where it relies for its staple food on the starchy roots and stems of the dwarf palm. Bears are shot at sight because they are assumed to eat sheep and goat. Cubs are captured for training as dancing bear. None bothers to protect the Black Bear and its habitat. The Black Bear is included in 360 bird and species list which have been recorded in Balochistan, a large proportion of which are passing migrants and winter visitors from colder areas. None of these birds is endemic.

The Chaghi-Kharan desert basin witnesses six endemic reptiles which probably are also living in the adjacent parts of Iran and Afghanistan where the same Land System is met.



## CHAPTER 3

### **People of Balochistan**

Although an indigenous population of the region passed through the Stone and Bronze ages and was part of Alexander the Great's empire, the Baloch people themselves did not enter the region until the 14th century AD. The Baloch and Pushtoon people constitute the two major and more distinct ethnic groups: a mixed ethnic stock, mainly of Sindhi origin, forms the third major group. Baloch, Brahvi, Pushto, and Sindhi are the main languages. Balochistan was established as a separate province in its present form in 1970. It is the largest and most sparsely populated province in Pakistan. Its capital is Quetta.

### **The Baloch**

The Balochi speaking Balochs live predominantly in the southwestern (Mekran), western (Kharan, Chaghi) and eastern parts (Marri- Bugti- Sibi, Kachhi) of the province. Originally, nomadic pastoralists, they keep moving in small lineage groups. The Balochi speaking Balochs today include settled and transhumant agro pastoralists, nomadic pastoralists (25%) and fishermen on the coast. The Balochi speaking Balochs are generally organized into three main social strata within a feudal tribal system. The upper strata, the elite and rulers, are those who hold wealth and power. The majorities of the population is the commoners forming the middle level of the social spectrum and are small landholders, sharecroppers, tenants or herders. The lower stratum of the society is composed of low-caste serfs and descendants of slaves, practicing ironsmith's work. To all these different strata, the Sardar (the tribal chief) is the central and often unifying leader. The Sardar's authority is essentially supported by three important sources of power, notably through land (inherited, acquired or purchased), privileged sources of income and



authority over succession of lower ranks in the tribal power structure. A Sardar has the power to tax the people on land and water use, to set and obtain fines on criminal cases, etc. Moreover, in many areas a Sardar is the recipient of Government funds for his village.

The Sardari system is particularly strong among the Marri, Bugti, Mengal and Raisani tribes. Among the Mekran Baloch, the feudal system is not apparently practiced, even though social classifications do exist. More individualistic, closer to the coastal areas with fishing as one of its productive profession, with considerable remittances from family members working in the Gulf and with smaller number of landed elites, this area contrasts greatly to the rest of the Baloch areas of Balochistan.

The pastoral Baloch, moving on a seasonal basis in search of fodder for their flocks of sheep and goats, have a more unrestricted social structure with greater dependence on the family unit or communal leader. The Malik or Wadera or Takkari, rather than a Sardar, are institutionalized and have autocratic powers in local community. Balochs are the majority in the adjacent parts of Iran, Afghanistan and some minority groups are found as far as Oman and Turkmenistan. Nearby there are sizeable Baloch minorities in the adjoining parts of Sindh (one million) and in Karachi (a few hundred thousand).

Balochi belongs to the Indo-European languages, more precisely to the Indo-Aryan group and the Irano-Armenian subgroup, with Persian and Kurdish most closely related.

### **The Pushtoon.**

The second largest socio-linguistic group of Balochistan is Pushtoon also known as Pukhtoon, similarly organized along a socio-political tribal structure and inhabiting roughly the northern third of Balochistan (in the districts of Zhob, Loralai, Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah,

Ziarat district). The Pushtoon practice mainly agro-pastoralism; however, the Afghan Pawindas are nomadic or transhumant pastoralists. The concept "No Pushtoon is better than another" is intrinsic to Pushtoon socio-political traditions. However, that has not prevented the existence of power structures and dominance historically encouraged and bolstered, as with the Balochs, by the British colonial system. The Maliks, therefore, are the chief tribal representatives rather than the leaders, while the strongest moral and social power is centered in the religious leadership of the mullahs.

The Pushtoon socio-political organization contrasts sharply with that of the Baloch, by the wealth and religious dominance of the mullahs in the former. The productive unit is established by contractual arrangements with the dominant leadership, usually the landowner, the latter also sometimes being the mullah.

Pushtoon constitute about 40% of the population of Afghanistan and form the majority in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). A Pushtoon minority lives in the adjacent part of Iran; most of the Afghan refugees in Balochistan are Pushtoon. The Pushto language belongs, as Baloch, to the Indo-Aryan group and its Irano-Armenian subgroup.

### **The Brahvi.**

The Brahvi tribes of Balochs inhabit mainly in Kalat plateau roughly from Mastung south of Quetta, in Kalat and Khuzdar, and up to Wadh south of Khuzdar. Brahvi spoken tribes also inhabit in Chaghi, Kharan, Lasbella, Sibi, D.M. Jamali, and the Bolan valley and, Kachhi plains.

Originally, pastoral nomads, the Brahvi speakers Balochs have been steadily switching over from the past one and a half centuries, and now have become mainly cultivators and sedentary Agro-pastoralists. The political organization of



the Brahvi tribes is similar to that of the Balochi speakers with the difference that it is more flexible.

The position of the Sardars exists in the sedentary areas of the Brahvi speakers, but less so than among the Balochi speakers. However, the lack of a hierarchy and of political offices, plus the absence of a tribal communal assembly, allows the Sardar develop a strong power network depending his personal relationships. The Brahvi language is not related to the Balochi or Pushto but to the Dravidian languages of the southern half of the subcontinent. Considerable numbers of Brahvi live in Iran.

#### **The Racial Minorities**

Lasis, Mongol Hazaras, Punjabis, Urdu speaking Muhajirs are the minor racial groups in Balochistan. Mongol Hazaras live mainly in Quetta town and speak Persian. They came a century and half ago from central Afghanistan, where Hazaras still dominate today.



## CHAPTER 4

### History of Balochistan

To know Balochistan's ancient history, one has to understand, Balochs, the major dwellers in the region. Balochs, inspire of being furcated into several tribal classes, still deem themselves as Baloch. They comprise similar tribal society. Who are they? What is their social background? Are they immigrants? If so, where did they come from? If not, who were the pioneers? What relations did they have with them? Are some of the several questions, which can merely gain satisfactory answers by either the historians or those, making research into historic corridors.

The rising number of settlements from the beginning of settled life in the 6th millennium through the mid-third millennium BC witnesses the success of food production through farming and pastoralism. The French excavations at Mehrgarh and Nausharo in the Kachhi plain revealed surprising details of life and death, picturing the development of a well-off settlement from the Neolithic Period to the Iron Age.

In various areas of Balochistan, fieldwork and surveys were undertaken. The opening work was carried out by the great explorer Aurel Stein, by W. Fairservis, B. de Cardi and G.Dales, but the southeastern part has remained a rather unknown spot in the archaeological landscape. It was known, however, to have played a crucial part in the development of the first urban South Asian Civilization, the Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished contemporaneously to the early states in Egypt (Old Kingdom) and Agade in Mesopotamia. In winter 1967, the Joint Pakistan- German Archeological mission to Kalat, returned to this area and, to date, three seasons of surveys were carried out in the plain of Lasbella, the Khanrach and the Greater Hub Valley (Hub, Saruna, Bahlol.

Loi, and Talanga); covering a total space of about 1500 sq. km., Small-scale excavations were carried out at four sites.

As a result of this work, 300 archaeological sites were discovered and documented, many of which are threatened by destruction. These sites document a cycle from village to urban life, and to migratory pastoralism in the Islamic Period. The many nucleated, well-planned and -built, small to large villages and towns in the early third millennium BC came as a surprise, but the presence of an urban civilization during the later third millennium suddenly adds a totally new dimension into a hitherto marginal area, inhabited by a people called "Kulli", which had remained in the shadow of the Indus Civilization. Many links between the Indus Civilization and this Kulli Complex require a rethinking of their mutual interaction and interrelation. After 1900/1800BC the Indus Civilization disintegrated into several regional complexes. In southeastern Balochistan, the settlements and large-scale irrigation system were abandoned. No sites dating to the subsequent centuries were found and we have to assume that a large-scale shift in subsistence economy and lifestyle took place.

Balochistan became part of Persian Empire from the 5th century BC; the region passed to the control of conqueror Alexander the Great of Macedonia in 330 BC. In following centuries, control of Balochistan shifted among various dynasties ruling in Persia and the Indian subcontinent. Early settlements in the Balochistan region date from about 3500 BC. By the end of the 4th millennium BC, many settlers had migrated eastward from Balochistan to the Indus River valley, where several urban civilizations arose, such as the Harappan. The Indus Valley Civilization ended abruptly about 1500 BC. During the 2nd millennium BC, Aryan-speaking peoples migrated into the region.

Buddhist writings of the 6th and 5th centuries BC mention the state of Gandhara in the Indus River valley. In 327 BC. Alexander the Great entered Gandhara seeking to conquer



the extremities of the Achaemenian Empire of Persia. Pakistan was subsequently part of the Mauryan Empire during the 3rd century and part of the 2nd century BC and later, in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, part of the Kushan (Kusana) kingdom.

The Guptas ruled over northern India, including the Indus River valley, during a period in which Hindu culture crystallized (320-540). The Arabs annexed the region in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century the Persians again made Balochistan part of their empire. In the 13th century, Muslim power was consolidated into a sultanate centered on Delhi that continued to rule most of the subcontinent until the early 16th century.

The Mughal dynasty controlled the subcontinent in 1526 and in 1595 Balochistan was made part of Indian subcontinent. In 1739 the Nadir shah of Iran annexed the area and reincorporated into Persian Empire. However, Ahmed Shah Abdali in 1747 seized the area and merged it into Afghanistan.

With the opening of year 1758, Mir Nasir Khan Noori established an independent rule in area without the adherence of alien powers. This was the period of independent rule of Khanate's of Kalat.

The geo-political location of Balochistan and proximity to the British hub of interests --Afghanistan with adjacent border and shortest distance to capital Kabul-- was instigative enough for British to have put forward policy. The British expansionist policy expanded to the area during first Anglo-Afghan war in 1839. The British signed a treaty with the then Khan of Kalat in 1884 seeking the lease of few area. With the lapsing of the days the leasing policy so extended that the areas of Quetta, Chaghi, Bolan Pass and many other areas were brought under British control. In 1901 the British adopted active rule policy in the areas of Kalat, Kharan, Belia and Mekran. Henceforth the areas were to be administrated through the political agents, a tool of strengthening the British colonial rule. The res: of the Balochistan was declared as British



Balochistan and brought under the direct British control while the Khan of Kalat and other head of States were awarded pensions and a very nominal authority remained to them.

Under the British rule, the land of Balochs was divided into three administrative controls as an outcome of the Anglo-Iranian border commission which bestowed a chunk of southwestern Balochistan to Iran in 1871 and to Afghanistan in 1895. The lion's share of Balochistan yet was retained by British India in shape of British Balochistan.

During the British rule the discontentment of the people of Balochistan remained so sharp that people resisted the British expansionist designs in person or in tribal wars but in a much-unorganized way and without any notable victory in hand. Even in those days, alike today, Balochistan was categorized among the most backward areas of united India. In the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> century, there sparked the political activities in Balochistan but localized and least radical in nature. The first ever prominence of Balochistan reflected in 1929 when Muhammad Ali Jinnah (later Quaid-e-Azam) demanded for the introduction of reforms in Balochistan in his famous fourteen points.

In the same year of 1929, Mir Yousaf Aziz Magsi started writing articles in newspapers regarding plight of the people of Balochistan. He was sentenced for a year for one of his articles. This was the time when in the prison, he came into contact with the Ajuman-e-Ittihad-i-Balochan. This organization was accentuated a new spirit by Mir Yousaf Aziz. However, Mir Yousaf Aziz died in the earthquake in 1935. Ajuman-e-Ittihad-i-Balochan was converted into Kalat State National Party in 1939 which was declared illegal in the coming years by Khan of Kalat and the office bearers were banished from the Kalat State.

All India Muslim League was established in Balochistan in 1938 when Qazi Issa joined Muslim League. Two years later in 1940 the Muslim League, led by Mr.

Jinnah, endorsed the concept of the partition of British India into separate Hindu and Muslim nations (i.e. India and Pakistan). In the later years when the decision of the partition of India became the writing on the wall, thus compelled by the ground realities, the British government announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> June plan for the division of India. The said plan contained in it the provision for Balochistan that the members of Shahi Jirga and Quetta Municipal Committee would decide to join either India or Pakistan. On 29 June 1947 held the meeting of Quetta Municipal committee and Shahi Jirga which voted in favour of Pakistan and thus the British Balochistan became part of Pakistan. The states of Kharan, Lasbella and Mekran joined Pakistan on 17<sup>th</sup>, the state of Kalat on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1948.

The new state of Pakistan (a geographically discontinuous nation composed of East Pakistan and West Pakistan, separated from each other by Indian Territory) came into existence as a dominion within the Commonwealth on 14 August 1947, with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah as first Governor-General. The comparatively backward areas of Sindh, Balochistan, and the NWFP came to Pakistan intact; the Punjab and Bengal were divided between Pakistan and India, while Kashmir remained disputed territory.

Balochistan was made part of one unit in 1955 and the same status quo remained until July 01, 1970 when one unit was abrogated and Balochistan was given the status of province after 23 years.

### **The historic and Islamic heritage in Balochistan**

There remained the periods of cultural and economical growth, of political strength and conflicts in ancient Balochistan. This cycle of events did affect the administrative and smaller political centers, like Bella, Nal-Kaikan (Kalat), and Khuzdar, but not the remote mountain areas which until recently were the sole domain of migrating tribes and clans.



The word Baloch is said to be Kurdish in origin. Since ages, they have been living as gypsies and livestock has been the major source of their income. All the ancient Baloch tribes had the aforesaid lifestyle especially those, present in Middle East, Arab states, Iran and Afghanistan. Balochistan is also a part of the same territory and tribal society.

The other meanings of the word Baloch are traced from pharaoh Bilos who was the then king of Kabul and the grand son of Hazrat Noah. He was known as "fire god" the meaning, which refers to his name. It is said that Bilos became a Baloch with the passage of time. It is true to say that the Balochs have a special acquaintance with fire. In accordance with a Baloch custom, the guilty has to cross the fire to prove his innocence. They do have a sense of respect for fire. It can be summed that the relation between Balochs and fire might be thanks to the Iranian influence. The prime importance of fire in their rigid life may also be due to their own historic tendency.

### **The post scripts**

The writings on Balochs, tell much more about them. The writings of Firdusi, a famous Persian poet and historian, give a clear indication of terming them, coach (migration) and Baloch. They are tagged fighters and brave. The above mentioned writings also talk about the conquest of Mekran by the then Iranian ruler, Kaikhusrow (500 BC). He fought to dominate Balochs, but also had brave Baloch fighters in his troops.

Traditional Baloch poetry goes saying that: -

(Translation)

We have come from Halb

We are in fight with Yazid

Our destiny lies in Seestan between Karbala and  
Bhambor

(It is a tradition in Rinds which is practiced by the Marri tribe as well)



The Arab writers, Bilazri in 'Kitab Fato-ul-Baldan' and Tibri in 'Tarikh-e-Tibri' while elaborating, Caliph Hazrat Omer Farooq's conquer of Iran, have discussed about their presence and political power in the regime.

Ibn-e-Mas'ood, the historian of Baghdad during the caliphate period, has thoroughly discussed the wars between Balochs and Banu Abbass, the then rulers of Baghdad.

Noor-ud-din, a historian of the eleventh century, in his book 'Majmoha-tul-Tawareekh' mentioned Mahmood Ghaznavi's military move; on Balochs. Mahmood sent off his nephew, Mir Ismail Sultan to conquer Kirman. Mir Ismail Sultan was defeated, but later on, Mahmood invaded the region. He, then, emerged as a 'super power' in Balochistan.

Hato Ram, in the history of Balochistan, speculated about 'Dastan Hamir Hamza'. He said that Hamir Hamza had reached hunting in the Baloch areas where he met a fairy and got her married. He, then, had a son named Badi-uz-Zaman. Badi-uz-Zaman's son was named Barlacha whose name perhaps transformed into Baloch.

Hamir Hamza's Dastan was written in Persian in the period of Mahmood Ghaznavi. It is mentioned in Sohail Buhkari's book 'Dastan Urdu'. He referred to the Iranian poet and scholar, Bahar Taqi's 'Tareekh Seestan'. Taqi's view, regarding Dastan Hamir Hamza is that it followed another Dastan 'Mufarri-e-Hamza' whose Hamza was not the same but someone else.

### **Chronology of Khanates of Kalat**

The political history of Kalat is always linked with the political history of Balochistan. The Baloch rule in the area commenced with the establishment of Mirwanis rule who after the Mongol's invasion consolidated their position under the banner of Miro Khan, the tribal chief of Mirwani's. The Mirwani ruler with the help of Mongols ousted the native Jughdals and Dravidians from the area.

When Kamran Mughal defeated the ruler of Kundahar at that time Mir Khan had passed away and was succeeded by his son Mir Omer. The credit of defeating the Kamran Mughal's nominee for the administration, Zanoon Baig, goes to Mir Omer. This event proves significant in the history of Balochistan as the Kalat rule expands to the surrounding areas of Mekran. Soon the tribes of Rind and Lashar captured Kalat from Mirwanis but soon moved to Kachhi plain. Then Balochistan slipped from the hands of different rulers and at last, Mir Hussan Mirwani with the help of Brahui tribes and Jughdals recaptured Kalat for another century. Having no male child, the rule of Kalat after the death of Mir Hussan slipped to his brother, Mir Sunjer.

The Ahmedzai rule in Kalat began in 1666 when Mir Ahmed Ahmedzai became the Khan of Kalat and onward the Mirwani rulers of Kalat were called Ahmedzais. In 1695, Mir Ahmed was succeeded by his son Mir Mehrab Khan. With the early demise of Mir Mehrab Khan, the throne of Kalat slipped to his cousin Mir Sumender Khan who became the Khan in 1697.

The ruler of Kalat again changed when the eldest son of Mir Mehrab Khan became the Khan in 1714. Nevertheless, his younger brother Mir Abdullah dethroned him in 1716 and became the Khan. Mir Abdullah was the man of great traits. He was a great conqueror and a well-versed poet. Mir Abdullah repulsed and pushed Kuloras to Sindh. Fighting against Kuloras, Mir Abdullah died in 1731. Mir Abdullah was succeeded by his son Mir Mahbut Khan but was dethroned by his brother Mir Hailtaz Khan for a shorter period and Mahbut Khan regained the throne.



In 1749 begins with the golden rule of Mir Nasir Khan Noori, the son of late Mir Abdullah Khan. Nasir Khan expanded the borders of Kalat to Mekran and Sindh. He distributed the occupied territory among the Baloch tribes which even exists today. With the death of Nasir Khan in 1794, his son Mir Mahmood Khan was, only seven years, became Khan. His twenty-four years rule is marked with anarchy and intrigues in the court of Kalat and losing the authority. Mahmood Khan was succeeded by his son Mir Mehrab Khan in 1818. This was the period when the creping shadows of British interest could be observed.

Mir Mehrab Khan's cousin, Mir Ahmedyar Khan, remained busy in rebellions to oust Mehrab Khan from the throne of Kalat. Seeing the growing power of British, Shah Nawaz, the son of Mir Ahmedyar Khan, lined with British to topple down the rule of Mehrab Khan. In 1839 Kalat was attacked by British on feeble pretext and Mehrab Khan was martyred and Shah Nawaz Khan was appointed as Khan of Kalat. The British, as a remuneration of their meritorious services, took over the control of the areas of Kachhi and Mastung which were later surrendered to Shah Shujah of Afghanistan by British.

Mir shah Nawaz's rule did not last long as in 1841, the son of late Mir Mehrab Khan, Mir Hussan Khan defeated Mir Shah Nawaz Khan and assumed the title of Nasir Khan II. He died in 1857 mysterious in circumstances. After the demise of Nasir Khan II, his son Mir Khudiadad Khan, even under age, was put on the throne. The cousin of Mir Khudiadad Khan, Mir Sherdil Khan with the help of the Sardars of Sarawan revolted against the rule of Khudiadad Khan and captured Kalat' throne in 1862. However, this victory soon tarnished when in 1864 Mir Sherdil Khan was murdered and throne again slipped to Mir Khaddar Khan and was removed by the



British in 1893. His son Mir Mahmood Khan was appointed the Khan and was fired in 1931 when his brother Mir Adam Jan was appointed as the Khan of Kalat. In 1933, Mir Ahmedyar Khan was appointed the Khan of Kalat who continued till March 25, 1948 when Kalat was merged into Pakistan.

## CHAPTER 5

### Districts at a Glance

#### 1. Awaran

Awaran district, the old name Kola, is located from 25° -03 to 29° -22 north latitudes and from 64° -04 to 66° -15 east longitudes. It is bounded in the northwest by Kharan district, in the northeast and east by Khuzdar district, in the east and south by Lasbella district, and in the west by Panjgur and Kech districts. The area of the district is 21,630 square kilometers. The Siahan Range runs throughout the northern boundary of the district, separating it from the valley of Siahan and Panjgur district. The height of these mountains Range is between 3,000 to 4,500 meters above sea level. Hingol is the main river in the district which is drained by the Bade River and its numerous tributaries.

The earliest history of Awaran is the same as that of Khuzdar and the southern area of Balochistan. As mentioned in the Gazetteer of Charlatan: "Sir T. Holmic thought that Craters went by the Mula Pass and if this was the case it seemed possible that Chorine may be identifiable with Khuzdar". Mula Pass also covers the area of present Awaran. The central position of Awaran is evident from the point of convergence near Bella from the Turbat Gwadar link to Karachi - Quetta RCD highway (via Awaran and Hal Jiao). It is possible that, during the time of the Arabs when Khuzdar was the chief town of this area, this route was adopted by them.

The tribes in Awaran are divided into several clans. The main tribes in the district are Bizenjos, Mohammed Hashish, Saudis, Mirwanis, Rakhshani, Musianis, Sumalanis and Mengals.

The Bizenjos occupy the area along the banks of the Hingol River from Nal. A considerable number of the Bizenjos is found in Kech and Awaran. They settled at the time of Mir Fakir Mohammed Bizenjo, the chief of the tribe. Awaran was



notified as a separate district on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1992. Previously it was a sub-division of Khuzdar district.

## **2. Barkhan**

The name Barkhan is derived from Baro Khan, the founder of the Barozai family of Pannis, who either ruled this area on behalf of the Governors of Sibi or owned it himself. Baro Khan was represented by a Naib, who used to visit the Khetrans each year and on one occasion the Naib was killed by Khetrans on account of violating the chastity of some Khetran women. After that incident, Khetrans say, no more Barozais come to Barkhan.

District Barkhan is located between  $29^{\circ} 37'$  and  $30^{\circ} 21'$  N and  $69^{\circ} 3'$  and  $70^{\circ} 4'$  E. The area of this district is 3411 sq. km. It is bounded in the north by Musakhel district, in the east by Dera Ghazi Khan District (Punjab province), in the South by Dera Bugti and in the West by Kohlu and Loralai. Barkhan Town is the headquarters of this district, which is about 1215 meters above sea level.

The hills in the district belong to the Suleiman Range; the principal hills are known as Kala Pahar in the north, Karwada, Bihar, Jandra and Mar or Mukhmar in the west, Andari and Sukha in the south, Phulai and Khawaj in the east, and Mazara, Tagha, Dig and Dekka in the center and Rakhni areas. The Ranges mostly consist of earth sand and stones; some portions are rocky and not easily accessible. The Jandran Range is mostly rocky.

Through the northeast part of the district runs the Rakhni stream and its tributaries in the east. Rakhni runs northeast along the eastern boundary of the Barkhan district and receives the water of a number of effluents from the west, of which the principal ones are the Chung, Churi and Padhi. It irrigates Rakhni and Chacha areas of Barkhan district.

In the south runs the Han stream with its tributaries. The Han stream runs in a southwest direction and carries the drainage of the Han pass and the southeastern slopes of the



Jandran Range. At Dhamani (Barkhan Tehsil) the stream becomes perennial up to its junction with the Kah River in Dera Ghazi Khan District. Dhaula stream, its tributary, brings water from the hills situated to the south of the Bagha valley and irrigates a number of villages in the Barkhan valley and joins Han in Vitakari. Rakhni and Han join Kah Stream which then passes into the district of Dera Ghazi Khan.

The Khetrans country was one of the sub-districts of Sewistan and of the Hindu Province of Tatta. In Akbar's time it was called Janjah. This area was inhabited by a Jat community of Hindus, who, apparently, had mixed with a small Pathan tribe which had migrated from Vihowa (Dera Ghazi Khan District) under Muhammad Khan, who assumed the title of the Khetrans.

When the Afghans were ousted from Barkhan, it is said the descendants of Isa ruled, but they were not good administrators and after a good deal of fighting among the Khetrans for many years, at last Girazo Khan Mazarani was made Sardar of the Khetrans. He was succeeded by his son Bakhtiar Khan and Bakhtiar Khan was succeeded by Mir Haji Khan, whose rule is memorable among the Khetrans for a defeat which he inflicted on the Zhob Kakars. Mir Haji Khan was succeeded by a few nominal chiefs. Mir Haji Khan was a strong man and the Khetrans prospered under him. He also took revenge on the defeat of the Khetrans from Marris by destroying the fort at Mawand of Karam Khan Bijrani Marri. Haji Khan died leaving three sons: Omar Khan, Nawab Khan and Balu Khan. Yet he was succeeded by his brother Sayed Khan, who was elected by the Khetrans. He too died, leaving three sons: Dost Muhammad, Sorni Khan and Kadir Bakhsh. Syed Khan was succeeded by his brother Balu Khan. Balu Khan was, however, opposed by Nawab Khan and Kadir Bakhsh. Kadir Bakhsh went to the Marris and gave his stepmother in marriage to Gazan, the Marri Chief and led

Marris Lashkar against the Khetrans, who lost a lot of lives and property during the fights.

Sir Robert Sandeman (then Deputy Commissioner, D.G. Khan), however, intervened and made peace between Kadir Bakhsh and Babul Khan. Balu Khan was a weak Sardar. He was succeeded by his son Baluch Khan. The two cousins: Nawab Khan and Kadir Bakhsh also remained hostile at Baluch Khan and led a Marri Lashkar against the Khetrans and this fighting lasted for several months. Baluch Khan, however, made peace with Nawab Khan by marrying his mother, but he was still weakened by the hostile attitude of Kadir Bakhsh and many lives were lost on both sides.

In 1880, the Khetrans submitted a petition to the British authorities at D.G Khan, offering to pay revenue and to be taken under British protection. The Khetrans country remained under the political control of the British authorities of D.G Khan from 1878 to 1883. In 1883, Sardar Baluch Khan met Mr. Bruce, the Political Agent of Thal Chotiali, with a Jirga of his tribesmen and the dispute between the Khetrans, Luni and Marris was settled.

In 1884, the Khetrans came under the authority of the Agent to the Governor General in Balochistan. The Leghari Barkhan circle, comprising two valleys Barkhan and Vitakari, was transferred from Punjab control to Balochistan control in 1884. This district was brought under the direct administration of Balochistan in 1887, when work on the construction of D.G Khan - Pishin Road was started and a Tehsildar was posted at Barkhan. In 1889, Barkhan Tehsil was transferred to the Zhob Agency with headquarters at Loralai. This Tehsil, however, was transferred again to Thal Chotiali Agency in 1892. In October 1903, the Thal Chotiali and Zhob Agencies were remodeled and three new agencies; Sibi, Loralai and Zhob were created and the Barkhan Tehsil was transferred to the Loralai Agency.



In 1887, Sardar Mehrab Khan (born about 1853) succeeded his father Sardar Baluch Khan as Chief of the Khetrans. Owing to grave misconduct he was suspended as Sardar for two years and in the meantime his brother Bakhtiar Khan acted as Sardar. He was however restored to his former position after the two years had passed. Mehrab Khan was succeeded by his son Shah Ghazi Khan. Shah Ghazi Khan was a strong man. He used force in taking possession of agricultural lands belonging to other Khetrans. As a result, many leading Khetrans, including some Mazaranis, left Barkhan area as protest and went to D.G. Khan District in 1892. They however came back in 1933.

Shah Ghazi Khan died in 1942 and his elder son Muhammad Anwar Jan was made Sardar (Tumandar) of the Khetrans. He was elected member of the Provincial Assembly in 1970.

### **3. Bolan**

The district is named after the historic pass "Bolan". However, Abdul Qadir Shawani; a famous scholar, does not agree with the logic of the name relating to the Famous Bolan Pass. He maintains that Bolan was the name of local tribesman from Kurd tribe who helped British with the survey and other expert information, so acknowledging his services, Britishers named the pass Bolan. Anyway the pass is 85 kilometers long, extends from Kolpur to Rindli. The highest place in Bolan district is an altitude of 2,200 meters above sea level. For centuries the Bolan Pass has been the route along which traders, invaders and nomad hordes traversed between India and Central Asia.

Bolan district lies between 29. 24' 10" N and 67 4' 44" E. Area wise Bolan district is the largest of all four districts in the defunct Nasirabad Division. The total area of Bolan District is 8,036-sq. km. Bolan district comprises both plain and hilly areas. The hilly areas are in the north and the west of the district. In the north the hills Range from Kolpur to Kondalani,

a Bolan Levy check post, from where 3.5 km onward the road travels into the plain area. The hilly areas in the west are confined to a part of Sanni Tehsil. The hilly areas are solid rocks with a long chain of mountains near Kolpur, with peaks varying from 1,000 to 3,000 meters. The plain area in the south and east of Bolan district is formed of alluvial soil. Part of the plain is a non-sandy desert area.

The area, today included in Bolan district, used to be part of the old Thal Chotiali district until 1888. Later, until 30 June 1965, it was placed under Kalat district. In 1965, Bolan, Dhadar, Lehri, Balanari, Sanni, Bhag, Gandawa, Mirpur, Jhal, Tamboo and Chatter Tehsils were transferred from Kalat district to constitute Kachhi district. After the 1972 census Tamboo and Chatter Tehsils were detached from Kachhi district and transferred to the new district of Nasirabad. It became part of Nasirabad division, which was created in 1986 and later disbanded on 14 August 2001. Before bifurcation into two districts, the total area of the Kachhi district was 11,114 sq. km.

Kachhi district derives its name from "Khach", i.e. plains. Kachhi was bifurcated into Jhall Magsi and Bolan district on December 31, 1991. The Bolan district started functioning under a district magistrate from 17 May 1992.

The district Headquarters is Dhadar. There are two versions about the origin of the word "Dhadar". The first one is that it originated from the "Da ha Ne dar" (i.e. through the pass), as one reached Dhadar through the Bolan Pass. The second version is that there were ten gates in the rampart wall around the city in the past, after which the city was named "Da Der" (i.e. ten doors). Both versions are believed to be authentic.

#### **4. Chaghi**

The district derives its name from "Chaghi" a village on the western border of the Lora Hamun. The legend attributes the



origin of the name to the numerous wells (Chahas) which are said to have formerly existed in the vicinity.

The district lies between 27-55' to 29-50' north latitudes and 60-45' to 66-22' east longitudes. It is located in the extreme west of Pakistan and comprises the belt which lies south of the Pakistan-Afghan boundary, from the Sarlath hills on the east to Koh-i-Malik Siah on the west, with a length of about 576 kilometers and an average breadth of 80 Kilometers. The district is bound on the north by the desert region of Afghanistan (which lies south of the Helmand river), on the east by the Sarlath hilly Range and Kalat district, on the south by Kharan district and on the west by Iran. The northern boundary of the district, which separates it from Afghanistan, was demarcated in 1896 by a joint Afghan-British Commission. The western border with Iran was demarcated by a joint Pakistan-Iran Commission in 1959. The total area of the district is 50,545 sq. km.

There are innumerable channels and hill torrents which originate from the mountains and flow during rains. Very little water, however, reaches the lake basins (hamuns). The Khaizer or Joo-e-Nushki is the only stream worth the name in the district. The Pishin Lora, known in Nushki as the Nullah-Bor, after passing through Pishin district and Shorawak emerges into the Dak plains of Nushki near Buland Wal. The other hill torrents rising in Chaghi and Dalbandin hills are the Bulo, Morjan, Girdi and Gaze. On the west, the river of importance is the Tahlab, which flows into Mashkel Hamun and for some 144 Kilometers forms the boundary between Pakistan and Iran.

The physical features of the district vary and may be distinctly classed under three heads, i.e., the highlands, the plains and the deserts. The highlands comprise the Chaghi and Koh-i-Sultan Ranges in the north, the Sarlath Range in the eastern portion of the district and the Mir-Jawa, Kachau and Ras-Koh hills (the highest mountain in the district) on the southwest border.



The plain lies between Nushki and Chaghi and consists mainly of alluvial soil interspersed with tracts of sand and intersected by a low Range of stony hills known as the Bilau Range. This Range runs from east to west, from Nushki to Dalbandin. Small detached hills of black limestone, which rise abruptly from the plain, are also found in many parts of this area.

The desert area lies beyond Chaghi which is a waste land and consists of sandy desert and stony plains, bordered by Ranges of barren limestone and Shale Mountains and hills of volcanic origin. Between Chah Sandan and Thratu and between Kundi and Mashki Chah, there are curious crescent shaped, moving sand-hills. The number of these hills is in hundreds. The soil of the district is moderately coarse textured, excessively drained, highly calcareous and low in fertility.

Very little is known about the ancient history of Chaghi. The earliest monuments are the ruins of terraced embankments. These are found at the foot of the Ras-Koh hills; they are ascribed to the fire-worshippers, who are said to have been the inhabitants of this area more than two thousand years ago. The next traces of ancient history are the square shaped tombs in the western areas of the district, which are attributed by the local traditions to the Kianian dynasty of Iran.

There remains of the ruined forts and Karezes attributed to the Mughals and in any case indicate the presence of a richer civilization than is now found among the Baloch speakers and Brahvi speakers inhabitants of the district.

The Balochi speakers are perhaps the oldest inhabitants of the district, who according to themselves migrated from Aleppo. The Brahvi speakers, about whose origin there are different theories must have moved towards the north from their original home in Kalat district and settled down in pockets with a major concentration in the Nushki area. Both the Brahvi speakers and Balochi speakers appear to have been firmly established in the beginning of the 16th century, as is seen from



a narrative of the flight of the Mughal Emperor Hamayun along the valley of the Hilmand to Seistan in 1543. From the middle to the end of the 16th century, the district remained under the rule of the Safavid dynasty. Later it appears in history as part of the Mughal Empire and with the downfall of the Mughal power, the northern portion of the Nushki was annexed to the territories of Khan of Kalat, Mir Abdullah Khan (1716 - 1730). In 1733 Sher Khan the Baloch, Chief of Nushki, submitted to Mir Hassan, the second son of Mir Wais and the founder of the Ghilzai dynasty. Mir Hassan ruled the adjacent Pathan area now forming Quetta and Pishin districts, and compelled the Baloch and Brahvi tribes to tender their allegiance.

A few years later, Nadir Shah sent an expedition against Nushki under Muhammad Ali Beg, who inflicted a severe defeat on the Baloch near Shorawak. In 1740 Nadir Shah conferred Nushki as a fief upon the chief of Khan. Later it was retaken by Mir Nasir Khan, the great Brahvi ruler (1750-1793) and Nushki became a Niabat of the then Kalat State and remained so for about a century.

The advent of the British in this area commenced with the British agreement of 1878 with the Khan of Kalat. Subsequently as a result of the partial survey and definitions of the western boundary with Iran from Kuhak to Koh-i-Malik Siah and demarcation of the Afghan Baloch boundary in 1896, the western Sanjrani (present Dalbandin sub-division and Nokkundi Tehsil) became part of Kalat State. In November 1896, the first British Political Agent of Chaghi was appointed. Nushki continued to be Niabat to Kalat State. Three years later, however the Niabat of Nushki was leased by the British from the Khan on an annual rent of RS. 9,000. The management of the Niabat was handed over on the 1st July 1899 to the British Government. This was done with giving all the rights and privileges, as well as full and exclusive revenue, civil and criminal jurisdiction, including all rights to levy dues and tolls. From July 1899 to the 13th August 1947, the district remained



under the British Government. After independence in 1947 and after the declaration of Balochistan as a province in 1970, Chaghi became a district within Quetta Division

### **5. Dera Bugti**

Dera Bugti is bounded in the north by Kohlu Agency, in the south by Jacobabad district, in the east by Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Loralai districts, and in the West by Nasirabad and Kachhi districts.

Until July 1983, the areas now comprising Dera Bugti Agency (DBA) were included in Kohlu Agency. The Agency is named after its headquarters town 'Dera Bugti'. Dera (a Balochi word) means 'abode' or 'habitat', while 'Bugti' is the name of a major Baloch tribe dwelling in the area. Thus, 'Dera Bugti' means the abode of the Bugtis, the dominant tribe of this Agency.

The Bugti territory was one of the last territories to fall to the British Colonial rule. The Bugtis defied the British imperialism's force with great courage and fought a number of battles against the British troops during the nineteenth century. They had, however, to come to truce in the last quarter of the 19th century when the British Government's rule extended to what is now Dera Bugti Agency. The latter constituted then a part of a wider administrative unit, Sibi district.

Until 1974, DBA territory was administered as a part of Sibi district. In 1974, the latter was re-organized to create Nasirabad district and Kohlu Agency. DBA territory was included in Kohlu Agency from which it was detached in July 1983 to create what is now Dera Bugti Agency.

DBA doesn't have many places of tourist's interest except the fort of Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti and the Sui gas installation at Sui town.

Dera Bugti Agency has a geographical area which is the tenth largest among the districts in the province, while its population is the sixth smallest. The Agency has a relatively low density and population growth. According to the census of 1981, there



were more women than men among the population, a rare phenomenon in Balochistan.

## **6. Gwadar**

Gwadar district, with its 760 kilometers long coastline and un-irrigated tracts of Kulanch and Dasht valleys, has always been an important chapter of Mekran's history. The known history of Mekran goes back to the time of prophet Dawood when people subjugated themselves to avoid famine. The area is said to be possessed by Iranian King Kaus followed by Afrasiab of Turan and then by Kai Khusrau, again an Iranian. Then there is a long list of rulers, including Lehrasp, Gushtasp, Bahman, Huma and Darab, to the year 325 BC when Alexander the Great incidentally found the sea in this area on his way from India to Macedonia. Greek historian Arrian has mentioned the coastline as the country of Ichthyophagoi. At that time Nearchos, the admiral of Alexander, sailed along the coast and mentioned places named Kalamat, Gwadar, Pishukan and Chahbar. Afterwards, the area was ruled by Seleukos Nikator, one of Alexander's generals, who lost it to Chandragupta in 303 BC. Then the tract of history is lost in darkness for centuries. An account of this area is found in the beginning of the sixteenth century when the Portuguese found their way to India and captured several places along the Mekran coast. In 1581 they burnt "the rich and beautiful city of Pasni" and Gwadar. Although many invaders conquered the land, mostly the local rulers, including Hots, Rinds, Maliks, Buledais and Gichkis, exercised authority in the area, as the conquerors had no intentions to stay there.

Two regimes of local rulers, of Buledais and Gichkis, are worth mentioning here. The Buledais gained power with the rise of the *Zikri* sect. These rulers are said to be connected with the rulers of Maskat and were called Buledais with reference to the valley of Buleda where they resided. The Buledais ruled the area for more than a century up to the year 1740. In the last years of their regime they embraced Islam. The *Zikri* folk



joined hands with the Gichkis who also were Zikris by faith. The family feuds and internal dissension between Gichkis resulted in nine successful expeditions (either partially or fully) by Mir Nasir Khan I. It is said that the main motive behind all these expeditions, made by Mir Nasir Khan I, was to eliminate the Zikris as he belonged to the (anti-Zikri) Muslim faith. These expeditions resulted in a division of revenues between the Khan and Gichkis.

In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, Gwadar and the surrounding country fell into the hands of Maskat. Saiad Said succeeded to the *masnad* of Muscat in 1783 and had a dispute with his brother Saiad Sultan. The latter appears to have fled to Mekran and entered into communication with Nasir Khan who granted him the Kalat share of the revenues of Gwadar. Saiad Sultan lived at Gwadar for some time and eventually succeeded in usurping the Sultanate of Maskat in 1797. He died in 1804 and during his son's reign, the Buledai chief of Sarbaz, Mir Dosten is said to have acquired temporary possession of Gwadar, but a force sent from Maskat regained it. Although it is generally understood that the right of sovereignty in Gwadar was transferred by the Khans of Kalat to Maskat in perpetuity, the Khans and natives of Gwadar have always denounced this perception. The un-irrigated tracts of Kulanch and Dasht valleys have always been connected with Kech.

The first Afghan war (1838-39) directed attention of the British to the area. Major Goldsmith visited the area in 1861 and an Assistant Political Agent was appointed in Gwadar in 1863. Both Pasni and Gwadar have been ports of call for the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company. The first ever-telegraphic link to this area was made in 1863 when Gwadar was linked to Karachi. Telegraph offices were opened at Gwadar and Pasni. Later post offices were opened at Gwadar in 1894 and at Pasni in 1903. Ormara was linked telegraphically in 1904.



After the division of the Indian subcontinent into two sovereign states, areas of the Balochistan States, except Gwadar and its surroundings, joined Union which in early 1948 merged into Pakistan. In October 1955, Mekran was given the status of a district of former West Pakistan province after its accession to Pakistan. In 1958, Gwadar and its surrounding area were reverted back from Maskat to Pakistan and were made a Tehsil of Mekran district. On 1st July 1970, when one unit was dissolved and Balochistan gained the status of a province, Mekran became one of its eight districts. On 1st July 1977, Mekran was declared a division and was divided into three districts, named Panjgur, Turbat (renamed Kech) and Gwadar. Gwadar was notified as a district on July 1, 1977 with its headquarters at Gwadar town.

A stone-built domed shrine of some saint at Gwadar is said to be centuries old. It may be the same one indicated in the Gazetteer of Balochistan. A square fort along with a tower is present amidst the Memon Muhallah of Gwadar. It is near the old bungalow of the Assistant Political Agent to the Governor General (therefore renowned as governor's house). Moreover, the fort of Saiad Sultan is still in good condition and is being used as a police station.

### **7. Jaffarabad**

The district is named after Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali, a Muslim League veteran from Balochistan and a close friend of Quaid-e-Azam. He contributed towards the promotion of the Muslim League cause in the area. He died on April 7, 1967 and was buried in Rojhan Jamali.

Before the creation of Jaffarabad district, during the "One-Unit" period, this district was known as sub-division Jhatpat and was a part of Jacobabad district of Sindh province. Jhatpat as a sub-division is very old. It was raised to sub-division level on 12 January 1932 with Captain Hoc Bland as the first Assistant Commissioner. On the dissolution of "One-Unit" in 1970 it was included in Sibi district and remained within the

jurisdiction of Sibi district till January 1975. In 1975, when Nasirabad district came into existence, Jhatpat was included in Nasirabad district. The Usta Mohammad sub-division was a part of Sindh upto very recent years. Usta Mohammad is named after Maulvi Usta Mohammad.

Jaffarabad is at a main-road to Sindh province. Its boundaries link five districts: Larkarna and Jacobabad (Sindh), Nasirabad, Jhall Magsi, and Dera Bugti.

Jaffarabad district is a plain area. There is no hilly/mountainous area in the district. The area of the district is formed of alluvial soil and slopes from north to south with an elevation of about 50 to 100 meters above sea level. Being the part of Kachhi basin (plain), it is located between longitude of 67 degree 39' in the west and 69 degree 12' in the east. In altitude it is 27 degree 55' and 28 degree 40'.

It is bounded in the north by Bolan district, in the west by Jhall Magsi, in the south by Nasirabad and in the east by Dera Bugti agency.

The length of the district is about 234 km while the width varies from 10 to 30 kms. The railway and highway going through the district are 15 km. The Saim Shahk (canal) is at 8-kilometer distance from Dera Allah Yar. It is the boundary of the two provinces: Sindh and Balochistan.

### **8. Jhall Magsi**

The district of Jhall Magsi lies between 27°54' to 29°59' north latitude and 67°10' to 68°29' east longitude. It borders on Bolan in the northeast, Nasirabad in the east, Khuzdar in the west and Jaffarabad, Nasirabad and Larkana (Sindh) in the south. The total area of the district is 3,078 sq. km.

Jhall Magsi district is mostly a plain area. Gandawah lies 98 meters above sea level. Only 20 percent of the area is hilly. These hilly areas are in the west and are part of the Kirthar mountain Range, which is one of the famous mountain Ranges of Balochistan. The hills vary in height from 300 to 1200 meters. The plain of Jhall Magsi district is a desert and is



formed of alluvial soil. It has an imperceptible slope from north to south.

Almost all important flood rivers of Balochistan cross through Jhall Magsi district. These flood rivers include Mula, Suklegi, Badrah, Nari, Sharkal and Dhooriri. Beside these famous and important flood rivers, there are many nala (small watercourses). The rivers Mula, Pir Chattal and Sukleji also provide some quantity of perennial water. This water is also used for irrigation purpose. Jhall Magsi, Gandawah, Gajan, Kotra Khari, Fatihpoor and Noshahra use the same water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

The district is named after Jhall Magsi, which is the name of the headquarters of the Magsi tribe, the major tribe within the district. The Magsi historically are branch of the Lashar tribes. The present Nawab of Magsi tribe is Zulfiqar Ali Khan Magsi, ex-chief minister of Balochistan.

The district is divided into two sub-divisions: Gandawah and Jhall Magsi. Both sub-divisions have a separate and different administrative history.

Gandawah is a historical and ancient town in Balochistan. Its oldest name was Kandabil, which was renamed Gangaaba during Arab rule. During the colonial period this name was changed to Gandawah. Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan writes in his book titled "Ancient and famous cities of the Pakistan" that Gandawah was one of the provincial headquarters of the Bhil dynasty of India. Similarly, the encyclopedia of Islam puts light on this city. The writing is of Nabi Bukhsh Khan Baloch. The script is supported and cited by many ancient historical sources. During the Arab rule, Gandawah was a very important town again. It was the winter headquarters of the Khans during Kalat Khanate rule. Gandawah stayed the headquarters of Kachhi province and was part of Nayabati Balochistan. During the colonial period it became the Tehsil headquarters (Niabat). After independence and declaration of the "one unit", Gandawah was one of the Tehsil headquarters of Kalat district

and Kalat division. In 1965, when Kachhi was notified as a separate district, Gandawah became part of the new district. Its position was raised to sub-division in 1971. Gandawah became the district headquarters of Jhall Magsi district, when it was notified on February 16, 1992.

Jhall Magsi, the other important town of the district, is also the headquarters of the Magsi tribe. It is purely a Baloch area and was part of the Kalat native states during the colonial period. The Magsi tribe enjoyed an important position during the rule of the Khanate of Kalat. It remained one of the native states with sufficient tribal autonomy during the colonial period. Since the Martial law of 1958, it was declared a sub Tehsil of Gandawah. Jhall Magsi was raised to the position of subdivision in 1989.

The district is rich in archaeological sites and historical monuments. It has archaeological sites near Khanpur Bahltor and Kotra (called Pingar Mari) named after Dalorai Dumb, a former Hindu king. Also important are Dumb Hazoor Bukhsh, the Tomb of Moti Ghoram, which is near old Khanpur, the Tomb Altaz Khan near Panj Monah, the Tomb Mian Sahib and the Tomb Bhootani.

Many important saints (Pirs) are buried in the district. Among them are Muhammad Ayub Shah Bukhari (Gandawah), Sain Rakhil Shah, Sain Chizal Shah (Fatahpur) and Pir Chattal Shah near (Kotra). Their followers visit these places frequently. Pir Lakha is a famous place near Jhall Magsi, where bathing cures many skin diseases. Therefore, throng visitors visit Pir Lakha from far-flung areas.

### **9. Killa Abdullah**

The district Killa Abdullah is named after Sardar Abdullah Khan Achakzai, who was a man of great influence. He was one of the two great leaders of the rebellion at Kabul in 1841, during which the British envoy was killed.

He bought Dehsora Karez from Kakars and Chashma Inzergai from the Ashezai Achakzai, in the early part of the



19th century. He then built a fort (Killa) and gave the place his own name. This place is located 38 km west of Pishin. Killa Abdullah was part of district Pishin. In 1993, it was separated from Pishin for administrative reasons and was given the status of a district.

Killa Abdullah district lies between 30 - 04' to 31-17' north longitude, in the foothills of the Shela Bagh mountain Range. It is bordered by Pishin district in the east, by district Quetta in the south and by Afghanistan in the west. The geographical area of the district is 5,264 sq.km.

The general character of the district is mountainous. The Toba Plateau covers its northern area. The hill Ranges are fairly uniform in character. They consist of long central ridges with numerous spurs. These spurs vary in elevation from 1,500 to 3,300 meters.

The history of Killa Abdullah district is identical with the history of Kundahar. Little is known of its history before the 13th century A.D. It is certain that it was a part of the Kingdom of Amir Sabuktigin and of Mahmood Ghaznavi. In the early 15th century Kundahar was under the rule of Timurs successors. It was probably at the beginning of the 19th century that Tareens emigrated from Takht-I-Suluman and settled in Killa Abdullah and its surroundings. Between 1530 and 1545, the Province of Kundahar was in the possession of Mirza Kamran (Brother of Mughal Ruler Humayun). Thereafter, the kingdom was brought under the rule of the Safavid dynasty in 1622 and remained under them till 1709.

Later on Ghilzai came to power and ruled the district. From the Durrani the area passed into the hands of Barakzai. In 1833 the area was given to Khush Dil Khan (The nephew of the Governor of Kundahar as a Jagir).

During the first Afghan war Quetta and Pishin areas fell into British hands in 1839. In 1842, however, Pishin valley was again occupied by Afghans.



Under an agreement in 1879 Pishin, along with other districts, ceded to the British Government and in 1882 British authority was extended over these areas. In 1883 Pishin and its adjoining areas were combined with Quetta. The British ruled the area till the independence of the sub-continent, in August 1947. From then up to 1975, Quetta and Pishin were a single administrative unit. In 1975, Pishin was separated from Quetta and in 1993 Killa Abdullah was separated from Pishin. It was given the status of a district and Chaman was declared its headquarters.

#### **10. Killa Saifullah**

Killa Saifullah, still a tribal agency in administrative terms, has been a part of Zhob and all the historical descriptions available are in the context of the Zhob area. The prime historical importance of Zhob is having been a cradle of the Afghan race. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Hiuen Tsiang, a Chinese pilgrim has described the Afghans as living in Zhob. Early in the 13<sup>th</sup> century the country came within the sphere of the raids organized by Gengis Khan, the Mongol. In 1398 AD, an expedition against the Afghans of the area was led by Pir Muhammad, grandson of Amir Timur. Although no authentic information exist about any foreign occupation, many forts, mounds and Karezes are attributed to the Mughals. Both Nadir Shah (1736-47 AD) and Ahmed Shah (1747-73 AD) extended their power through Balochistan and thenceforth Zhob remained under the more or less nominal suzerainty of the Durranis and Barakzais until it came under British protection. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ahmed Shah granted a *sanad* (certificate) to Bekar Nika, fourth in descent from Jogi and the head of the Jogezi family, conferring upon him the title and position of "Badshah or Ruler of Zhob". This family continued to exercise authority over the Kakars until the British were first brought into contact with them.

After outbreak of the Afghan war in 1878, Zhob became a focus of the British attention when the Kakars of Zhob under



the command of various Sardars – the most important being Shah Jahan, Shahbaz Khan, Dost Muhammad and Bangul Khan – resisted the British authority and tried to destroy the communications. In October 1884, an expedition was sent into Zhob area to seek submission from the local insurgents. After various encounters with the Kakars of Zhob the British occupied the territory and Zhob was declared a political agency in 1890. Captain MacIver was appointed first Political Agent to Zhob. However, tribesmen of Zhob always posed difficulties for the British government. In 1924, the British Political Agent to Zhob was murdered by tribesmen and during World War I and II military posts in the area were under continuous threat of attacks by the tribesmen.

Killa Saifullah has been home of the Jomezai family. After the submission of Shah Jahan, the Badshah of Zhob, to the British in 1888 at Gwal Haiderzai, Killa Saifullah area was annexed by the British. Muslim Bagh (then Hindu Bagh) Tehsil – was established in 1890 – but later it was declared a sub-Tehsil in 1893 and a Tehsil in 1903. Muslim Bagh (formerly called Hindu Bagh) is believed to be named after a garden planted by a Hindu saint.

The district has some archaeological sites mainly attributed to the Mughals. The ruins of an old fort called Mughalo Killa or "the fort of the Mughals" were found to the west of the Karezgai village, about 3¼ kilometers from Muslim Bagh, below which there is a spring of water which was reopened about 125 years ago. Fragments of ancient pottery were found in these ruins and it is said that old silver and copper coins were also found. The ruins of a fort called Khanki lie near Shina Khura about 25 kilometers east of Muslim Bagh. Local tradition asserts that the fort was held by Miro, a Mughal governor, who was miraculously overthrown by Sahzar Nika, the progenitor of the Sanzarkhel Kakars. There are also ruins of an old fort called the Mughalo Brunj in Murgha Faqirzai. Similar ruins occur near Toiwar, Sharan, and Ismailzai, on the



Zhar hill near Akhtarzai. There also exist ancient Karezes, said to have been made in Mughal times, which may be considered, as relics of archaeological interest. These include Karez Akhtarzai, Karez Soghai and Mustafa Karez in Killa Saifullah sub-division and 2 Karezes in Sra Khulla, about 6½ kilometers from Muslim Bagh.

The entire Killa Saifullah district remained a part of Zhob district as Upper Zhob sub-division up to 14<sup>th</sup> December 1988. However, Badinai, sub-Tehsil of Killa Saifullah district, was previously included in Kakar Khurasan as sub-division of Zhob with the name Kashatoo. About two years ago it was transferred to Killa Saifullah district. At present, Killa Saifullah district comprises Killa Saifullah sub-division - including Killa Saifullah Tehsil and Badinai sub-Tehsil - and Muslim Bagh sub-division - including Muslim Bagh Tehsil and Loiband sub-Tehsil. Kahn Mehterzai is a monumental place in the district where Asia's highest railway station is located.

Killa Saifullah district is located from 30 -51 to 31 -70 north latitudes and from 67 -27 to 69 -34 east longitudes. It is bounded on the northwest by Afghanistan, on the north and east by Zhob district, on the west by Pishin district, and on the south by Loralai district. The known geographical area of the district is 10,609 square kilometers. The district's limits start some 88-kilometer away from Quetta on Quetta-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan road (N-50).

The hills of the district belong mainly to the Toba Kakar Range. In Killa Saifullah sub-division, the principal Ranges are the Torghar [Shagana Kotal (2,070 m), Azak (2,557 m), Baliaraghar (2,958 m)]; Spinghar which separates the Khaisor valley from the Zhob valley [Shina-ghara (2,646 m), Shorghar, Spinghar (2,936 m), Yavhashki (2,964 m)]; and the southern hills [Churmaghar (2,113 m)]. The principal hills of Muslim Bagh sub-division include Khand (3,288 m) in the extreme west, which in the north is known as Barsha or Nigand (2,877 m); Surghund (3,234 m) in the south-western corner;



Marzaghan [Atoka (3,007 m)] in the south; Malkhand and Sraghar in the north; the Torghar (2,958 m); Yavhashki (2,964 m) on the western spur of the Spinghar Range; Thor (2,827 m), Surghundi (2,528 m), Sharan (2,608 m) and Sakir (3,086 m).

The main drainage of Killa Saifullah district is carried off from west to east by the Zhob River and several of its tributaries. The Zhob River in its upper reaches is known as Lahar. The northern slopes of the Torghar Range are drained by the Kundahar, Wali Murgha and a number of hill torrents which traverse the northern portion of the sub-division. In Killa Saifullah sub-division, the principal tributary is the Toi. In Muslim Bagh sub-division, its principal tributaries are the Kamchughai and Rodh Faqirzai from the north and Marzaghan from the south.

The greater part of the district is covered with hills and rocks, intersected on the south by the Zhob valley. The valley is an immense stretch of alluvial plain extending from Kahn Mehterzai pass onward to the Gomal River in the form of a crescent. The boundary between Quetta valley and Zhob valley is the dividing line between the Continental Watershed and the Central Asian watershed at Kahn Mehterzai pass. The rivers in Quetta valley drain into Central Asian watershed. Zhob River drains into the Indus via Gomal River. Numerous small valleys run up from either side of the great Zhob valley into the hills. Among these hills Sharan and Khaisoro valleys are situated. A considerable part of the soil in these valleys consists of virgin land. Pasturelands are frequently found almost everywhere in the district.

## **11. Kalat**

The Kalat district is the central part of Balochistan. It lies between north latitudes of 28.57' and 29.2' and east longitudes of 66.35' and 67.30'. The greatest length from north to south is about 184 kilometers and the greatest width from east to west is about 98 kilometers. Its total area is 6,621 square



kilometers. The boundaries of the district meet Mastung district in the north, Khuzdar in the south, and the Bolan Pass and district Bolan in the east and Kharan in the west.

The general character of the district is mountainous, consisting of a series of parallel mountain Ranges running northwest. Some valleys are of considerable extent, they lie at an elevation varying from 1,525 to 1,982 meters above sea level. The main valleys are the valleys of Mungochar and Chhappar, in the western part of Kalat district.

The boundary with Khuzdar runs along the southern slopes of the Gurgina Pass including the southern spurs of the Sarum northwest of Gazg and then across the Tahlagan Valley into the Harboi. The Koh Killoes and Jalois of the Lop Valley are included in Kalat district. There is only one important river in the district called Moro, which passes through the Tehsil Johan towards district Mastung.

Kalat, meaning a fort, was notified as a district on February 3, 1954. At that time Khuzdar and Mastung districts were subdivisions of Kalat (which then also included Bolan, Jhall Magsi and Dera Murad Jamali; these were separated in 1965 as Kachhi district). Khuzdar became a separate district by a notification of 1st March 1974, while Mastung was announced to be separate district on 18th February 1992. The district draws its name from the ancient city of Kalat. The old name of the district headquarters was Kahan.

The only outstanding historical event of the district is the March of Alexander the Great, who retreated in 325 B.C through Lasbella and the Mekran, while a second division of his army passed through the Mula Pass. After Alexander's death, the country fell to Seleucus Nicator and later on passed from his descendants to the Graeco-Bactrian kings, who were overthrown by a central Asian power, the Sakas, about 130 B.C. About this time Buddhism, of which many traces are still to be found, flourished in the area. At that there happened to be the empire of the Sassanians which followed and expanded



slowly towards the east. The areas forming the districts of Chaghi, Kharan and northwestern parts of Kalat were not conquered till the time of Nausherwan (529-577A.D.).

It is said that a Hindu dynasty, called Sewa, ruled over this part of the country prior to the 7th century. Kalat is still known as Kalat-i-Sewa.

The Arabs had reached the Mekran before 711A.D, when Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered the whole of Sindh and Balochistan, including Kachhi, and the whole of Kalat in 712 A.D. The Arab's power lasted until the end of the 10th century. Shortly afterwards, the country is mentioned as forming part of the empire of the Ghaznavids from whom it passed on to the Ghoris. In 1223 A.D., the eastern part of Balochistan came within the sphere of the raids of Chengiz Khan, when the Mongol expedition penetrated towards the south. Sometime later, the country, including the plain of Kachhi, came under the rule of Sultan Altamash of Delhi, but it appears to have reverted soon to the Mongols. In the north, at the end of the 14th century, Pir Muhammad, the grandson of Timur, was engaged in fighting with the Afghans of the Sulaiman Mountains. During the succeeding century, the Balochs extended their power to Kalat, Kachhi and parts of the western Punjab. At the same time, the Brahvis had been gradually gaining strength and their little principality at this time extended upto Wadh (Khuzdar). From 1556 to 1595, the country was under the Safavids of Persia. In the time of Akbar, the area upto Kachhi was part of the Mughal Empire and from 1638 A.D; it again remained under the sovereignty of the Safavids until the rise of the Ghilzai power.

Meanwhile the Baloch and Brahvi territory (comprising the present district of Kalat) was consolidated into an organized state under the Ahmedzai Khans of Kalat. The Mirwanis (from whom the Ahmedzais are descendants) were living in Surab near Kalat and having taken Kalat from the former Hindu rulers of the Sewa dynasty extended their power thence. They



fell for a short time under the power of the Mongols, but later regained their sovereignty and held Kalat, for some generations until the rise of Mir Ahmed, the progenitor of the Ahmedzai family in 1666--70 A.D., who since then held the Khanate of Kalat. During the first part of the 19th century, Nadir Shah made several expeditions on the northeastern Balochistan. It was at this time that Mir Nasir Khan I (who is the historical hero known as Nasir Khan, the Great) ascended the throne of Kalat. His rule was vigorous, although his political position was that of the head of a confederacy of chiefs and not that of a sovereign ruler. During the 44 years of his reign (1750--94) the Brahvi power reached to its zenith. The Khanate extended to the districts of Quetta, Kalat, Harrand and Dajal. Nasir Khan asserted his authority over Panjgur, Kej, Kasarkhand, Dizak and Kharan. His death was followed by half a century of internal strife, decay and disintegration, during which, however, the Khanate survived together with the nominal sovereignty of the successors of Ahmed Shah Durrani. By then nearly the whole of the area came under the British rule.

The political connection of the British with Kalat commences from the outbreak of the first Afghan War in 1839, when this area was traversed by a British army from Sindh and afterwards occupied. In the British attack on Kalat in 1840, Mir Mehrab Khan, the ruler was killed. His son, Mir Nasir Khan II was later raised to the throne (masnad) by the tribesmen and regained possession of Kalat. In 1842, consequent upon the British withdrawal from Afghanistan the occupied districts were returned to the Khan of Kalat. The British negotiated with the Kalat State in 1854 and according to the terms of the treaty, British political agents were deputed to Kalat during the next twenty years. In 1874, Sir Robert Sandeman was sent to Balochistan whose policy was one of conciliatory intervention, tempered with lucrative employment and light taxation. Shortly afterwards he was able to conclude with Khan Khudiadad



Khan of Kalat the treaty of 1876, which brought Kalat under the British sovereignty and provided stronger political control. To consolidate the territorial extension already made, Balochistan was made a separate agency under an agent to the Governor General. At the end of the Second Afghan War by the treaty of Gandamak (May 1879), Pishin, Sibi, Harnai, and Thal-Chotiali were ceded by Amir Yaqub Khan of Kabul to the British Government. During the succeeding years, expeditions were led against the Kakars of Zhob and Bori and the chiefs of Shirani and those areas were occupied. In 1887, all these areas were declared to be the British territory.

In 1883, the British permanently took the Niabat of Quetta (comprising the present Quetta Tehsil) and the Bolan Pass on lease from Kalat State. In 1899, Nushki and in 1903, the area irrigated by the Sindh canals, known as the Nasirabad Sub-Division was similarly acquired from the Kalat State on a perpetual lease. In 1940, the relation between the Kalat Khanate and the Chiefdom of Kharan became strained and there were clashes between them in Garjak and Khudabandan villages. The British authorities intervened and a settlement was effected under which Khan was recognized as a separate minor state under the direct control of the British Political Agent.

In early 1948, Kalat State formally acceded to Pakistan and became part of the Balochistan State Union. In October 1955 with the unification of the provinces of the Punjab, N.W.F.P., Sindh and Balochistan, the State of Kalat, along with the other states of the Balochistan States Union were merged into one province while Kalat became a separate district and was placed in the charge of a Deputy Commissioner in 1954.

## **12. Kech**

Kech, the land of a romance legend, has always been a place of importance for its geographical location. It has been, and still is, the centre of Mekran region; geographically,

socially, and politically. Kech district is located from 25 -24 to 26 -39 north latitudes and from 61 -49 to 64 -31 east longitudes. It is bounded on the north by Panjgur district, on the east by Awaran district, on the south by Gwadar district, and on the west by Iran. Total area of the district is 22,539 square kilometers.

The district is mountainous in its character and the direction of the mountain Ranges is from northeast to southwest. It lies between two important mountain Ranges, i.e., the Mekran Coast Range, which separates it from Gwadar district in the south and the Central Mekran Range, which separates it from Panjgur district in the north. The elevation of the district Ranges between 100 to 1400 meters above sea level. Most of the western part of the district is relatively at a low elevation compared to the eastern one. The Kech valley is well known for its hot weather.

Gokprosh, an offshoot of the Mekran Coast Range, starts from Tal-e-Sar, due south of Oshap in the Kech valley and runs due westward to Baho Kalat in Iran, separating Pidarak from Shahrak and Sami, and Nigwar from Tump and Mand. It consists of a single ridge at the eastern end which gradually widens into the usual collection of parallel ridges as it approaches the western boundary of the district. Here the little valley of Kastag is found enclosed within it. Midway in its length, the Nihing and Kech rivers join at Kaur-e-Awaran and form Dasht River.

The Central Mekran Range is in the north of Kech. At the northeastern end, the main mass consists of a single ridge known as the Koh-e-Patandar but opposite Gwarjak in Mashkai, this ridge bifurcates. Opposite Sami this ridge is called Sami Koh and between Kech and Buleda is known to the people of Kech as the Buledai Band and to those of Buleda as the Kech Band. The latter name is more common. Westward the Range includes the area of closed drainage known as Balgattar and the valley of Buleda.



The major rivers and streams of Kech district include Dasht River, Nihing River, Basol River, Kech kaur, Gish kaur, and Kil kaur.

Known history of the area dates back to the time of prophet Dawood, when people entombed themselves to avoid famine. The area is said to be possessed by Iranian King Kaus followed by Afrasiab of Turan and then by Kai Khusrau, again an Iranian. Then there is a long list of rulers, including Lehrasp, Gushtasp, Bahman, Huma and Darab, to the year 325 BC when an army contingent of Alexander the Great passed through Mekran, then known as Gadrosia, on its way from India to Macedonia. Greek historian Arrian has commented on the land, environment and people of the area. He found the climate very hot, the soil sandy and the land inept for human settlement. Afterwards, Seleukos Nikator, one of Alexander's generals, who lost it to Chandragupta in 303 BC, ruled the area. Then the tract of history is lost in darkness for centuries and in the fifth century after the death of Christ, we find the area being given to Bahram-i-Gor as a part of dower of Shermah's daughter. An ascertained account of the area is found in 643 AD, when Islamic army under the command of Abdullah conquered Mekran and wrote to the caliph Omar about aridity of the land. Arabs ruled the land one after the other. All the Arab geographers of the era, like Ibn Haukal, Ibn Khurdadba, Al Istakhri and Al Idrisi, have described the country as "for the most part desert". In the 10th century Ibn Haukal notices that the ruler of Mekran was an Arab, Isa bin Madan, who had established his residence in the city of Kech which was half the size of Multan. According to a local legend, Muhammad bin Qasim also passed through the area on his way to Sindh. Although many invaders, like the Deilamis, the Seljuks, the Ghaznivids, the Ghorids and the Mangols, conquered the land yet mostly the local rulers, including Hoths, Rinds, Maliks, Buledais and Gichkis, exercised authority in the area as the conquerors had no intentions to stay here.

### **13. Kharan**

The ancient name of Kharan was Karan or Qaran. "According to the historian Istakhari, its name was Qaran after the name of the Qaran or Barfen Mountains. The Koh-i-Kharan is also mentioned in Kitab-i-Masalik-o-Mumalik". Kharan was notified as a district in 1951 and started functioning on 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1952.

Kharan lies between 26 - 52 to 29 - 22-north latitudes and 62 - 35 to 66 - 10-east longitudes. The greatest length from north to south is 175 km and the greatest width from east to west is about 235 km and its total area is 48,051 square km. The boundaries of Kharan are to the north formed by the Ras-Koh Range which separates it from the Gidar Surab, Rodenjo and Dasht-i-Goran valleys in Kalat and Besima in Awaran district. In the south, it is bounded by the Siah Range, separating it from the Rakhshan valley and Panjgur district in Mekran, in the west and southwest its boundaries touch the Iranian border.

The early history of Kharan is obscure. It is mainly a record of the fights and forays in which the chiefs and the inhabitants were continuously engaged. Being poor and barren, it did not tempt any of the conquering nations which from time to time in the 14<sup>th</sup> century A.D. conquered other territories. It is said that the Nausherwanis were in power in the north east of Iran. Chaotic conditions were then prevailing in Iran and the ruler of that country considered them responsible for this. Accordingly, they were compelled to migrate towards Sisstain, bordering the present Kharan district. It is said that the first man who entered into Kharan from this tribe was Mir Abbas Khan. The Nausherwanis spread over the entire area and selected Rakhshan (present Basima) as their settlement. Prior to the entry of Nausherwanis, the Peerakzais dominated the Rakhshan area. Mir Abass entered into matrimonial relations with this tribe and afterwards gained control over the Peerakzais tribe.



Mir Azad Khan surrendered his sovereignty to the British Government in 1884.

The general characteristic of the district is that it is a broad desert plain occupied by alluvial accumulations. The important characteristic features of the district are the accumulations of wind-borne sand, in large masses, which are formed into crescent shaped dunes. Along the hilly areas, gravel plains are found which are subject to occasional heavy showers in the hills, causing floods, carrying many of the boulders in to the plain below. These floods have spread pebbles over large areas in the desert. The desert area occupies the centre of the district and runs from Hamun-i-Mashkel on the west to the Carr hills on the east. It is bisected in the centre by the line of the Boddo River and chains of "Nawars" at its extremity. The general name of the tract is "Registan" or "Hit" (desert). The deepest sand lies between Humagai and Washuk making this part of the district almost impassable.

The plain area, irregularly quadrilateral in shape is about 333 km in length and 67 to 133 km in breadth. It varies in elevation from 769 m on the northeast to 492 m in the southwest.

#### **14. Khuzdar**

Khuzdar was notified as a separate district on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1974. Previously, it was included in Kalat district. Khuzdar used to be the main city of Jhalawan. Khuzdar district is in the southeastern part of Balochistan. It lies between 25 -42 to 28 -52 north latitudes and 66 -15 and 67 -25-east longitudes. The greatest length from north to south is about 318 kilometers and the greatest width from east to west is about 175 kilometers. Its total area is 43,261 square kilometers. Khuzdar is about 1,600 meters above the sea level.

The district is bounded by Kalat district in the north and northwest, Kachhi, Larkana and Dadu districts in the east, Lasbella district in the south and Awaran district in the

southwest and west. The general character of the district is mountainous, consisting of numerous ridges and valleys of varying width. The important hill Ranges are Jhalawan, Moda, Pab and Kirthar. Mula, Mosina, Nal and Kalachi are the main rivers in the district.

The history of Khuzdar, like that of the rest of Balochistan, is in great obscurity. Very little definite information is available about the area before the advent of the Arabs who ousted the Rai dynasty of Sindh in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that some parts of the army of Alexander the Great traversed the country when the conqueror was in the Indus valley (presently upper Sindh). The central position of Khuzdar, as the point of convergence of roads from Multan (via the Mula pass), Mekran and Kundahar (province of Afghanistan) made it a very important place for the Arabs invading Sindh. It is probable, too, that its moderate climate made the locality acceptable to them. In the time of the Arabs, Khuzdar was protected by a small fortress. The strong fortress was probably on the peak overlooking the valley, which is now known as Biradari (Shahi Bagh). An Arab poet wrote about Khuzdar, "what a beautiful country is Kusdar (Khuzdar). How distinguished are its inhabitants."

Therefore, the Arabs made frequent attacks upon Khuzdar and in 664 AD, in the caliphate of Muawiya, Al-Manzar, son of Al-Jarud-al-Abdi, who had been appointed to the frontiers of India after conquering Nukan and Kikhan, captured Khuzdar. Al-Manzar is said to have died here. During the caliphate of Al-Mutasimbillah (833-41 AD), Omar, who was nominated as governor of Sindh, transferred the inhabitants of Khandabel (Gandava) to Khuzdar.

In 976 AD, Khuzdar was governed by an Arab named Muin bin Ahmed. A year later Amir Nasir-ud-din Subuktegin commenced a series of invasions to India. He conquered Khuzdar, but its possession was restored to its previous rulers through a treaty. The treaty stipulated that immediately a sum



of money was to be paid and that the ruler would thereafter send a tribute every year. Subuktegin again attacked the recalcitrant ruler. During the days of Mahmood Ghaznivi, the rulers of Khuzdar again became disaffected and withheld the tribute. Mahmood Ghaznivi marched to Khuzdar and took the rulers by surprise. It was indeed owing to Mahmood's possession of Khuzdar that his subsequent conquests in Sindh were chiefly effective. Khuzdar was included in Mahmood's territory in 1031 AD.

With the downfall of the Ghaznivids, Khuzdar passed to the Ghorids and then to Nasir-ud-Din Kabacha. In 1225 AD, Khuzdar submitted to Shamsuddin Altamash.

Afterwards, the country appears to have passed to the suzerainty of the Mughals. In 1590 AD Abdul Fazal speaks of the Zehri section of the Baloch tribe. Decline of the Mughal power was followed by the rise of the Brahvis to a position of greater or lesser independence.

During the reign of Mir Mahmood Khan, Pottinger visited Jhalawan in 1810 AD, traveling to Kalat via Bela and Khuzdar. He described Khuzdar as a small town not having more than 500 houses.

The influence of Hindus from Multan and Shikarpur appears to have been very great, so much, that the keys of the town gate were entrusted to the then senior Brahmin every night. During the 18th century, the people of Khuzdar were very religious. The rulers of that period seriously implemented the Islamic Laws. Since the death of Gauhar Khan, chief of Jhalawan, the area has enjoyed a long period of repose.

Khuzdar region was full of Karezes and lush green cultivation at the times it was a province of Khurasan. Khuzdar was situated on the route for caravans taking merchandise on camel back to the port Mekran for export to Middle East countries. The forces of Muhammad bin Qasim passed through this area gaining access to Sindh through the Mula pass. The

mud-fort in Khuzdar was built by the Khan Khudiadad Khan in 1870, during a war with Jams of Lasbella.

In 1903, the British government appointed a political agent at Khuzdar to carry out the administrative affairs of the government. This administrative system continued till the partition of India. Before March 1974, Khuzdar was a subdivision of Kalat district. To serve the people and solve their problems at their doorstep, Khuzdar was awarded the status of district on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1974. Khuzdar was divisional headquarters of Kalat Division till 14-8-2001 when the Division was disbanded.

The district headquarters is 302 kilometers from Quetta. It lies at an elevation of 1,249 meters above sea level and is situated on the RCD highway connecting it to Iran and Karachi.

A number of mounds of archaeological interest have been found in Khuzdar. The most important one is Meri Bhar or Palace Mound. It is believed to be the seat of the last Mongol governor of Khuzdar, Malik Chap, who was killed by Kurd inhabitants of Khuzdar.

The "Shahi Bagh" at Khuzdar gives an indication of its condition in ancient times. Many old dams and tombs are scattered throughout the district. A beautiful mosque, symbol of modern Islamic architecture on the RCD highway in Khuzdar, attracts many people.

### **15. Kohlu**

Kohlu is situated at the southern end of the Sulaiman Range and consists chiefly of narrow parallel ridges of closely packed hills which form the gradual descent from the Sulaiman plateau into the plains. They are intersected by numerous hill-torrents and ravines and generally speaking are barren and rugged. The area may be divided into 4 portions: (1) Kohlu; (2) Kahan including Tadri, Daho and Bambor; (3) a portion of Phelawagh, Nesao and Janatali; and (4) Mawand and Gamboli.



The mountain Ranges of Kohlu district may be described as presenting a series of limestone ridges, forming more or less parallel valleys; the Ranges lie, to the east of 69°E, from northeast to southwest and to the west of that line from northwest to southeast. They include the Dungan (2,091 m), Lakar (2,078 m), Sialu (2,473 m), Tikil or Tikhil (2,099 m), Batur (1,751 m), Jandran (2,050 m), Bibartak (1,916 m), Siah Koh (1,678 m), Kup, Chappar (1,425 m), Sir Ani (1,155 m), Shatrak (1,158 m), Turki Koh, Tatra (1,225 m), Rastrani (914-1,219 m), Danda Range including Nafusk (1,145 m), Bambor (1,490 m) and Gurandani, and Sunari Range (1,716-1,750 m). The principal passes in the district are the Bibartak, the Wanga, the Narial, the Mezhlir, the Sinni, the Ormazhi or Bar, the Nari, Kuchali and Spintangi on the Sibi-Harnai road; the Arand between Khajak and Kot Mandai; the Angur between Gamboli and Sembar; the Sembar between Gamboli and Thal; the Pazha between Beji and Thal; the Kuba Wanga between Bala Dhaka and Kohlu; the Mar between Kohlu and Vitakri; the Lunial between Bor and Kui; the Dojamak on the Kohlu-Kahan road; the Dangar in the Shatrak Range; and the Nafusk between the Marri and Bugti areas.

With the exception of the streams of Nesao, Phelawagh and Janatali, which flow to the east, the main direction of the rivers is almost due west. The principal rivers are: Lahri; Bor; Rod Baladhaka; Rod Barg; Beji and Dada, both of which are affluents of the Nari and have a perennial supply of water; the Talli stream (known as the Sundimari, Chakar Thank, Karmari and Manjra in different localities) which rises in the hills bordering on Kohlu and has an intermittent flow of perennial water; and the Nal, also called the Gandhar, which carries off the drainage of the Makhmar, Suri Kaur and Kahan valleys. It is a fine stream at Tratani but disappears before it reaches Lahri, except during floods.

Kohlu, also known as Marri country, has always been an arena of political insurgence or tribal vendettas. It was a



deserted area and there was no permanent human settlement before inhabitation of Marris in this area. That is the reason that the history of Kohlu district is primarily a history of the Marri tribe. However, Kohlu town and its surroundings have been predominantly occupied by Zarkoons.

It is said that in early times Kalmati Kupchani and other Baloch tribes roamed this land. Mir Chakar Khan, the Rind hero of Baloch romance, is the person from whom history of this area starts. After his quarrels with Lasharis and his expulsion from Sibi, he took refuge in this area. After some time he migrated to the east of Indus along with his tribe but a small section of Puzh Rinds opted to stay in this area under the leadership of Bijar Khan. He had with him Ali Khan, Mando Khan and Khalu Khan, Rinds, a blacksmith (Lohar), a gardener called Khangra, and a Negro named Shaheja. These men founded the Marri tribe in the first quarter of the sixteenth century. The Bijarani clan was founded by Bijar Khan, the Loharani by the blacksmith and the Ghazani by Gazzo or Ghazan, a Buledi boy adopted by Ali Khan. These small groups gradually increased and began a career of raiding and conquest, but later on as their strength became constantly lessened by raids and incursions it became necessary to recruit from outside. Thus, Brahvis, Balochs from other parts of Balochistan, Khetrans, Afghans and Jats gained easy admission to the tribe. There were many blood feuds and tribal wars in which the Marri tribesmen were killed. An easy admission to Marri tribe helped the tribe to maintain its strength.

The other remarkable tribe in Kohlu is the Zarkoon tribe. This tribe was once forced by the Bugti tribe to desert Kohlu but later Marris offered them a defensive and offensive alliance. According to a treaty, the area surrounding Kohlu town was given to the Zarkoons.

It is claimed that the Marris were subjects of the Khan of Kalat and it was after the death of Mir Nasir Khan I that the Marris felt themselves free of any control. They started



devastation in all directions and got engaged in wars and blood feuds with different tribes.

The Marri tribe gave much trouble to the British government and kept on attacking the British interests. The British army occupied Kahan in May 1840, but shortly afterwards they were forced by the Marris to evacuate the place. On and off the British authorities signed treaties with the Marris but the law and order situation could not be improved. The Marris always thought the British as illegal occupants of their territory. Thus everything related to the British – men, allies or installations – was supposed to be attacked. In 1898 AD, Sardar Khair Bakhsh Khan Marri along with many of his tribesmen migrated to Kabul as a protest against the British occupation. However they came back after some time unconditionally.

After the Indo-Pak partition, this area remained a political agency. The tribal leadership started voicing for unity of Baloch tribes and an independent Balochistan. Nationalist sentiments grew rapidly and after the arrest of the Khan of Kalat in 1958 the tribesmen started a guerrilla – although on limited scale – against the government. The army was sent to control the movement but its presence further deteriorated the situation. Mir Sher Muhammad Marri took the leadership of the movement which was called 'farrari movement'. This movement ended in 1969.

After the dismissal of the first elected government of Balochistan in 1973, a serious conflict started between the government and the political leadership of the province. While responding to the situation, the tribesmen in Kohlu started a large-scale insurgence in the area and after a strong military operation they migrated to Afghanistan along with their leaders. Coincidentally, the history repeated itself and Sardar Khair Bakhsh Khan Marri (Chief of Marris now a day) went into voluntary self-exile and reached Kabul in 1981.

For the up rising in Kohlu the presence of military forces has been considered necessary to keep the situation in control. However, the government made many efforts to develop affinity among the tribesmen. Various incentives and concessions have been awarded to the local elders. Although the Marri returned back from Afghanistan in 1991 responding to an appeal by the Pakistani government, the political situation still cannot be called satisfactory. Development activities are still hard to be carried out independently of tribal elders. The tribal-political leadership is of the view that the land of Kohlu district is communal property of the Marri tribe. Thus, before exploiting any natural resource, the government should negotiate with the tribal elders. However, this and some other issues have resulted in internal dissension and the Bijarani clan has opted its own standpoint. The law and order situation always happens not to be satisfactory in the area due to uncontentment of the people of the area from the done of the governments. This is evident from an attempt by the Bijarani tribesmen to occupy the district headquarters in 1997.

Kohlu was given the status of district on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1974 and reshaped in July 1983. At present the district is comprised of three sub-divisions – Kohlu, Mawand and Kahan – with its headquarters at Kohlu.

The shrine of Mast Tawakali at Maidan Gari near Kohlu is a place of interest in the district.

## **16. Lasbella**

The district of Lasbella derives its name from the words LAS which signifies a plain, the greater part of the area being a flat plain, and Bela, the principle town of the district. Uthal is the district headquarters. The district Lasbella is situated between 24° -54' to 26° -37' north latitude and 64° -02' to 67° -28' east longitude. It is bounded on the north by Khuzdar district, in the west by Hala offshoot of Pub mountain Range of



district Awaran, in the south by Arabian Sea and in the east by Dadu, Karachi east and Karachi west districts of Sindh.

Lasbella was notified as a district on 30th June 1954. In October 1955 the unification of the former provinces of Punjab, NWFP, Sindh and Balochistan took place. The Balochistan States Union was formed into Kalat division. However, in December 1960 Lasbella was declared a separate district and placed as a part of Karachi division. Later on, it was transferred to Kalat division of Balochistan Province.

From the early period of history till the rise of the Aliani family of the Jamoot tribe in the middle of the eighteenth century, only a few facts are known regarding the early history of Lasbella.

Alexander the Great passed through Lasbella on his way back from India and, according to the accounts of his march given by Sir Thomas Holdich, left Patala in Sindh in the beginning of September 326 BC. After Alexander's death, one of his generals, Seleukas Nickator, became ruler of central and western Asia. The sub-continent and Lasbella were presumably included in his inheritance. For many centuries after this, nothing can be traced about the history of Lasbella.

In the seventh century, the ruler of Armanbel (which is believed to be the present town of Bela) was a Buddhist Somani and Rai Sahiras, the king of Hind, elevated him for his loyalty and devotion. Chach usurped the throne of the Rai dynasty of Sindh and marched to Bela in 636 AD. Chach was cordially received at Bela and was well impressed with the loyalty of the people of Bela. He then marched west towards Mekran.

The district lay on the route followed by the Arab General, Muhammad-Bin-Qasim, who entered Mekran in 712. A.D. On his way to Sindh, Mchammad-Bin-Qasim marched through Bela accompanied by Muhammad Haroon, the governor of Mekran. Muhammad Haroon died in Bela and his tomb is



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there. The power of the Arabs lasted towards the end of the tenth century.

Afterwards, the district appears to have come under the influence of the Sumras and Sammas, who asserted their independence when the power of the Abbasid caliphs declined. The Sumras gained a position of supremacy in the middle of the eleventh century. The Sammas under Jam Omar eventually overthrew them in 1333. The Sammas reigned till 1523 when they were defeated and their power was completely broken by Shah Hussain Argon. The succeeding period is again obscure. The chiefs of the Gujar, Ranjha, Gunga and Burfat tribes, who are still to be found in Lasbella, are said to have exercised a semi-independent power previous to the rise of the Aliani family of the Jamoot tribe, to which the present Jam of Lasbella belongs.

When the British advancement extended beyond Sindh and to the states of Kalat and Lasbella, Jam Mir Khan-II was exercising powerful political control over the affairs of these areas. On the occasion of the 3rd rebellion in 1869, when the Jam was marching on to Kalat with a large force, a clash was averted by the intervention of the British Political Officer. The negotiations were however abortive and Jam Mir Khan refused to pay allegiance to the Khan and was banned to British India.

In December 1876 an agreement was signed between Sir Robert Sandeman and Mir Khudiadad Khan, the Khan of Kalat, and Jam Ali Khan who represented his father, Jam Mir Khan, the Jam of Bela. In consequence of this agreement, Jam Mir Khan was released from his confinement in British India in the spring of 1877, after accepting the conditions that he acknowledged the Khan's sovereignty, in accordance with the ancient usage.

Jam Mir Khan at first inclined to let his son Jam Ali Khan carry on the government, but ultimately took the administration in his own hands. Jam Mir Khan died in January 1888, leaving three sons. His eldest son Haji Jam Ali Khan was installed at



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Bela in January 1889 by Sir Robert Sandeman, the British Agent to the Governor General in Balochistan. Sir Robert died on January 29th, 1892 in Bela and was buried in Bela garden.

Haji Jam Ali Khan died in 1894 and was succeeded by his son Jam Mir Kamal Khan, who subsequently ruled over the state for 50 years. His successors, first his son, Jam Mir Ghulam Muhammad Khan, and later his grandson Jam Ghulam Qadir Khan continued to hold the post Masnad under the same conditions and without any significant event until Pakistan came into existence on 14th August 1947. At this time, Lasbella along with Kharan and Kalat states acceded to Pakistan and later became part of the Balochistan Province.

Geographically, the district can be divided into the alluvial plain surrounding Bela extending southwards up-to the Bay of Sonmiani and the hilly regions situated east and west of this plain. The plain itself consists of alluvium deposits of Porali and other rivers. At the edge of the plain, around the margins of the adjoining hilly regions and near the coast, lie raised sea-beaches, situated some 15 to 25 meters above sea level. The east of the alluvial plain exhibits the greatest variety of rocks forming the Anticlinal Ranges, which are separated by valleys. The hilly region is situated on the west of the alluvial plain of the Porali and extends along the Mekran coast. The whole of the eastern part of the district is mountainous. The plain in the centre, comprising the greater portion of the district, is triangular shaped. The principal hill Ranges are on the western slopes of the Kirthar Mountains, as far as the north of Lak Phusi. The other side includes the main ridge of the Pub Range with parts of the Khude or Khudo and part of the Pub Range. The third side; comprises the lower slopes of the Mekran coast.

The Mor Range and Khude is surrounded by Sman Branch of Kolachi River on the south; Hub River on the east and Gidar Dhor River on the west. Valleys of the Kharari or Khanrach and the Mithri, Mohbar and Chebechi torrents are situated in the south. From its entrance into Lasbella district, the Porali



River runs over a stony course and has low banks as far as Mangia, where it passes through clay soil. At Shah Lakhra, a dam has been constructed. About 89 km north of Shah Lakhra, a branch of the Porali River, known as the Titian River, takes off and eventually flows into the Siranda Lake.

### **17. Loralai**

The name of the district is derived from the Loralai stream, a confluent of Anambar or Nari, to the north of which the town of Loralai is situated, the headquarters of the district. The district borders on Zhob and Killa Saifullah in the north, on Pishin and Ziarat in the west, on Kohlu and Sibi in the south and on Barkhan and Musakhel districts in the east. It covers an area of 9,933 square kilometers. Loralai Town is at an elevation of 1,450 meters.

The early history of the area comprising the present Loralai district is shrouded in obscurity and can only be guessed from the general history of Balochistan. About 1383 AD, the Maliks of the Kurat Dynasty who swayed the scepter in Kundahar, succumbed to Amir Timur, and Kundahar together with other areas constituting the old Ghaznavid Kingdom fell into the hands of the latter. These territories which were conferred by Timur on his grandson Pir Muhammad, and which are mentioned as extending to the frontiers of Sindh, would presumably have included the Loralai district. Babar, after conquering Kabul, made a move towards India and on his return via Sakhi Sarwar passed through Balochistan. The province remained under the Mughals until 1559 AD, when it passed into the hands of the Safavid kings of Persia under whose reign it remained until 1595 AD. It was then again acquired by Emperor Akbar. Under Akbar's regime, the territory of Duki which was generally garrisoned, formed one of the dependencies of Kundahar province and provided a contingent of 500 horses and 1000 foot soldiers, besides other contributions. In 1622 AD, Kundahar again passed to the



Safavids when Shah Abbas conferred the Government of Pishin and its tribal dependencies, which probably also included Duki, upon Sher Khan Tareen.

Later Emperor Shah Jahan made great efforts to regain the province of Kundahar from the Safavids and with this end in view, in 1655 AD, sent a large expedition consisting of over 104,000 men under his elder son prince Dara Shikoh. After a lengthy investment, Dara Shikoh had to abandon the siege of Kundahar and returned. This was the last attempt on the part of Mughals to regain Kundahar which was now lost to them forever. The province continued to be under the rule of the Safavids, but the Afghan inhabitants had become so highly discontented owing to the persecutions by the Persian governors that there was an uprising under Mir Wais Ghilzai, who established the Ghilzai power in Kundahar in about 1709 AD. After ruling about 30 years, the Ghilzai power gave way to Nadir Shah who in 1737 AD marched on Kundahar and after a severe struggle, Mir Hussain Khan, the last of the Ghilzai rulers, submitted. In 1747 AD, Nadir Shah was assassinated and the Afghans with a view to organize a regular government of their own, selected Ahmed Shah Durrani, a ruler of Kundahar, towards the end of the same year. Ahmed Shah at first attempted to administer the valley as a Kundahar district and appointed a governor named Agha Jan to represent him. This man irritated the Tareen tribe considerably and they murdered him. Ahmed Shah indignant at this act Marched on Thal with a strong force. The Tareens surrendered to him. An annual tax of Rs.3, 104 (Kaldar) was levied on the Tareen cultivators living on the Thal and Anambar perennial streams.

The Barakzais under the first Amir of Afghanistan, Dost Muhammad, followed the Durranis in about 1826 AD, and almost the entire district came under the nominal rule of this dynasty. According to the Treaty of Gandamak, signed on the



25th May 1879 AD Duki and Thal Chotiali land with other parts of Balochistan passed into the hands of the British.

The steps by which the different parts of the district came under British control have been gradual. With the increase of British influence, most of the tribes petitioned to be taken under British protection and expressed their willingness to pay revenue. By 1884 AD, the British administration in the form of an Agency was established. During the early eighties, some murderous attacks were made upon British subjects by different clans of Kakars under the influence of Shah Jahan of Zhob. Accordingly, British troops were moved into Zhob and Sir Robert Sandeman held a darbar at Bori. The chiefs of the Bori valley attended this meeting and surrendered after the defeat of Shah Jehan. On the 22nd November 1894 AD, the Bori and Zhob chiefs reached an agreement accepting the supremacy of the British Government and promised to put a stop to further raids and to pay a fine of R.20, 000. Gradually, administrative control was strengthened. On the 1st November 1887 AD, the district was declared a part of British India. In 1947, prior to the creation of Pakistan, a referendum was held by the British in which the tribesmen of Loralai district, like other districts of the Frontier Region, opted for Pakistan.

The district consists of a mountainous area and valleys running through the various Ranges. The valleys contain alluvial accumulations while the formation of various hill Ranges consists of earth, sand and limestone. Some portions are rocky. The hill Ranges consist of rugged mountains varying in elevation from 924 to 3100 meters. The main Range is the Sulaiman Range which runs from the Gomal River in the north to the Indus in the south. It stretches through the district on the east in one continuous chain of mountain peaks. The other prominent Ranges are Kerasar Range in the west of the district, Murdarghar on the north of Sinjawi, Sialu which forms the south-west boundary of the Thal plain, Dubai on the northwest corner of the same plain, Kru in the centre of the



district and Gadabar which forms the boundary of the Bori valley. The Bori valley formed by the Damanghar and Kru Ranges lies in the north of the district running east to west. The next important valley is the Thal Chotiali valley which is so low and flat that when viewed from the neighbouring hills, it looks like an inland sea.

The drainage of the western and central portions of the district is provided by the Anambar River and its tributaries while the eastern drainage bursts through the Sulaiman Range into the Indus valley. The principal tributaries of the Anambar are the Kohan Siah, Lakhi and Loralai streams. The Narochi River which rises northeast of the Chamalang valley with its tributary Baldehaka is next in importance. The Thal and Beji rivers irrigate parts of Duki and Thal plains.

Although floods caused by the hill torrents are not very common in this district, sometimes with heavy rains hill torrents take up formidable size, causing loss of cattle and property.

### **18. Mastung**

The district derives its name from the locality Mastung. According to locals, "Mastung" is made up of two words Mas and Tung. In Brahvi, language Mas means mountain and Tung means hole. Mastung is situated at the bottom of Lack pass. When someone crosses the Lack Pass from Quetta, before entering into Mastung City, he feels that he is passing through a hole.

Mastung district is situated 50 kilometer south of Quetta. It lies between north latitudes 26. 56' to 28. 57' and east longitudes 65. 52' to 66. 35', the greatest length from north to south is 58 kilometers and the greatest width from east to west is about 82 km. Its total area is 5,896 square kilometers.

Mastung borders to Quetta in the north, Kalat in the south, the Bolan Pass in the east and Chaghi in the west. In general, the districts mountainous consisting of a series of parallel

mountain Ranges north and east, which lie at an elevation from 1500 to 2000 meters above sea level.

Mastung used to be a sub-division of Kalat district. Due to administrative reasons, it was separated from Kalat in July 1991 and was given the status of a district. From 18 February 1992, Mastung has functioned as a separate district. Mastung was given another name (Khudabad) by Ahmedzai Khan but it was never popular.

Little is known of the history of Mastung up to 977 AD, i.e. before the conquest of Balochistan by Mahmood Ghaznavi. History reveals that Muslim rulers ruled Balochistan from about the 7th century onward. It is likely that the Sewas, who belonged to the Rai-dynasty of Sindh, were ruling the Kalat State before the 7th century.

It is most likely that the Sewas may have obtained the possession of Kalat after the fall of Sultan Feroz of Delhi. The Sewas were Hindus who were deprived of power in Sindh about the middle of the 15th century.

Between 1530 and 1545 Mastung was part of Kundahar Sarkar which at that time was under the rule of Kamran Khan. It was in the summer of 1543 that Emperor Humayun on his retreat from India came to Mastung via Sibi. He camped in a garden close to Mastung (Pringabad). Humayun had to leave his son Akbar, who was only one year old, in Pringabad and escaped with his party via Nushki to Garmsel and Herat (Afghanistan). On Humayun's return, two years later, Kundahar again came under his rule. Between 1556-1595, Kundahar and its dependencies remained under the Safavid dynasty and later it was again acquired by the Mughals. During the period of Mughal emperor Akbar, Mastung was a part of the eastern division of Kundahar Sarkar.

The Ain-i-Akbari (Akbar's Laws) mentions Mastung as having a mud fort and paying annual revenue of 10 Tumans and 8,000 Dinars in money and 470 Kharwars in grain, and as furnishing a contingent of 100 horses and 500 foot.



The decay of the Mughal power coincides with the rise of the Brahvis to a position of near independence. This state of affairs remained for twelve generations till the rise of Mir Ahmed who ruled from 1695 to 1696. At this time, Mastung was the capital of Kalat State and was under Nadir Shah who used to appoint the Khan. In 1736, he appointed Mir Muhabat as Khan of Kalat. Ahmed Shah Abdali was the successor of Nadir Shah.

Ahmed Shah Abdali dispatched a force against Mastung in 1749. Mir Muhabat was defeated. Mir Nasir Khan was nominated in his place. From that time till 1839, Khanship remained in the younger branch of the family. Nasir Khan ruled for 44 years from 1750 to 1794 and is the historical hero of the Brahvis. He is known as "The Great". During his reign, he rendered much assistance to Ahmed Shah in his numerous expeditions to Persia and India.

Ahmed Shah bestowed Quetta, Mastung, Harrand and Dajal on Nasir Khan "The Great". In 1839 when Mehrab Khan was Khan of Kalat, the British army attacked and took Kalat. In 1854, a first treaty was signed between the Khan and the British. The British received some concessions, including permission to build railway and telegraph lines through Kalat territory. This situation prevailed till the partition of the sub-continent.

The Khan of Kalat announced to merge his state with Pakistan and in 1948, Kalat State was incorporated in Pakistan. Since then, Kalat and Mastung are parts of Balochistan.

## **19. Musakhel**

Musakhel is located from 30 -17 to 31 -28 north latitudes and from 69 -28 to 70 -15 east longitudes. It is bounded in the north by the Dera Ismail Khan district, in the east by the Dera Ghazi Khan district, in the south by the Barkhan district, and in the west by the Loralai and the Zhob districts. Total area of the district is 5,727 square kilometers.



*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

The district is mountainous for the most part with an exception of the main valley known as Musakhel Sahra. The two principal Ranges running from north to south are the Surghar and Torghar branches of the Sulaiman Range. The former lies in the west and comprises the Satyara (2405 m), Khiazah (2187 m), Charkundae (2316 m), and Kakal (1807 m). The Torghar lies in the east and includes the Nashtarghar or Mizri Roh (3109 m), Chappar, Salai, Narai, Tiar (2329 m), Buj (2323 m), Hazargat (2455 m), and Behu (2429 m).

The valley of Musakhel Sahra lies from southwest to northeast and it is enclosed on all sides by hills. It is divided into two parts by the Tang or Vihowa stream, the northern portion being called the Bar and the southern the Lar Sahra. Besides the Sahra it has a number of smaller valleys, the drainage of which, uniting below Khan Muhammad Kot, forms the Luni river or northern branches of the Sanghar. The Bar Sahra comprises tracts of Talao, Ghund, Baha, Talai, and Ulmai. Lar Sahra, which is much smaller than Bar Sahra, is divided into two unequal portions by the Razana stream which joins the Toi near its exit from the Gat defile. The western portion contains the Loghai and Daman tracts. The general elevation of the Sahra valley varies from 900-1,200 meters.

The general drainage of the valley is from west to east and is carried by three main streams: the Toi, Luni, and the Sanghar. In the northeast, the Zamarai country is drained by the smaller hill torrents: the Ramak and Guzai. The Toi is formed by the junction of the Razana, Tang, and Kharspun or Tangi Sar and is known beyond the boundaries of the district as the Vihowa river. The Sanghar, which at its sources is known as the Lang and Zarni, and in its further course, where the two tributaries meet, as the Drah, drains the Drug valley. The important affluents of the Luni are the Rod, Lori Tang (made up of Dab and Khajuri), Kingri, and Sarin.

Musakhel, all hilly and green, is hard to be traced in the historical descriptions, as there is no isolated account of the



area available. However, by studying the history of Kundahar and northern Balochistan little can be ascertained about Musakhel. According to the early history, this area, being a part of Kundahar province, has been ruled by the Ghaznavids, Maliks of Kurat Dynasty, Amir Timur and his successors (1383-1470 AD), Sultan Hussain Mirza of Herat (1470-1480 AD), and Amir Shuja-ud-Din Zunoon (1480-1504). In 1505 AD, the Mughals conquered the province of Kundahar and held it till 1559 AD when the Safavid Kings of Persia acquired it. The Mughals regained the province in 1595 AD but lost it again in 1622 AD, to the Safavid Kings of Persia. This time, the Safavids, conferred the government of Pishin and its tribal dependencies upon Sher Khan Tareen. He, after 7 years, refused to submit to the governor of Kundahar and became semi-independent, but had to retreat later on. In 1709 AD, the Afghan inhabitants rose under Mir Wais Ghilzai and established the Ghilzai power in Kundahar. The Ghilzai power was terminated by Nadir Shah in 1737 AD. After the assassination of Nadir Shah in 1747 AD, the first democratic government was established in Kundahar by the Afghans as they elected Ahmed Shah Durrani as their ruler. In 1826, the first Amir of Afghanistan, Dost Muhammad Barakzai, took hold of the area and annexed it to Afghanistan.

After the first phase of the Afghan war of 1878-79 AD, the British took control of the northern areas of Balochistan under the Treaty of Gandamak. During 1879-84 AD, efforts were made to extend the British influence over the Khetrans and Musakhels of the, now Musakhel, territory. The Musakhels took part in outrages committed by the Kakars under Shah Jahan in 1884, but surrendered to the British government on the conclusion of the expedition in the same year. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1887, the whole area was declared part of British India. Zhob agency was formed in 1890 and Musakhel territory was annexed to it. Musakhel was made a Tehsil in 1892 and was transferred to Loralai district in October 1903.



In 1905, the Musakhel Tehsil comprised 61 villages and the total population, according to 1901 census, was 15,537 (8,374 males and 7,163 females). The principal tribes represented were: Isot Afghans (1,941); Jafar Afghans (1,026); Panri Afghans (10,144) including the Musakhel clan (9,748) the principal divisions of which were the Belkhel (7,662) and Laharzai (2,086); and Saiads (271). The chief language spoken was Pushto.

Musakhel remained a Tehsil of Loralai district till 1<sup>st</sup> January 1992 when it was notified as a district as a result of splitting Loralai district into 3 districts, Loralai, Musakhel, and Barkhan. Although Musakhel is an old human settlement there is no remarkable archaeological site.

## **20. Nasirabad**

Nasirabad is named after the great Baloch leader Nasir Khan Noori, the founder of the Baloch Confederation. He ruled the Kalat Khanate from 1747 to 1794. The district was notified in 1974. For three years, from 1987 till 1990, the district was known as Tamboo. Tamboo is a small village 40 km west from the district's headquarters Dera Murad Jamali. Nasirabad district is a flat plain area. There is no hilly or mountainous area in the district. The area is formed of alluvial soil and has slopes from north to south with an elevation of about 50 to 100 meters above sea level. Being the part of Kachhi basin (plain), the area is located between longitude 68° 30' and 67° 10', and latitude 27° 53' to 28° 39'. It is bounded in the north by Bolan district, in the west by Jhall Magsi and Jaffarabad, in the south by Jaffarabad, and in the east by Dera Bugti agency. The total area of the district is 3,387 sq. km. The area is bifurcated by the national highway (N 65), starting near Micro Levy post after Notal to Shahi Chowki.



## **21. Panjgur**

There are two predominant etiologic explanations about the word Panjgur. One says that the word is a combination of two Baloch words panch, means five, and gor, means grave. It is said that five Aoliya (saints) were laid to rest in this land. Therefore the area was called as panchgor which later on became Panjgur. Some people claim that the original word was Panchnur (five lights) in reference with the five saints. The second perspective is a geographical one. Some people say that Panjgur is land of panch (five) kor (stream). The word panchkor char.ged, with the passage of time, to Panjgur. It is worth mentioning here that there is no human settlement named Panjgur. The district headquarters are stationed at Chitkhan, which is to some extent a central place and in close vicinity of e. even other villages within a radius of 3-4 kilometers alongside the bank of Rakhshan River.

Panjgur is located from 26 -14 to 27 -18 north latitudes and from 63 -07 to 65 -24 east longitudes. It is bounded on the north by Kharan district, on the east by Awaran, on the south by Kech (formerly Turbat) district and on the west by Iran. Total area of the district is 16,891 square kilometers.

The district is mountainous and the direction of the mountain Ranges is from northeast to southwest. It lies between two important mountain Ranges, i.e., the Siahan Range, which separates it from Kharan district in the north, and the central Mekran Range, which separates it from Kech district in the south. The elevation of the district Ranges between about 900 to 1350 meters above the sea level. Most of the western part of the district is relatively at a lower elevation as compared to the eastern parts. A characteristic feature of Panjgur district is its areas of closed drainage, locally known as kaps, in Parome and Balgattar. The biggest of these kaps, near Parome, is about 20 kilometers in diameter. Ordinarily these are dry but after heavy rain the water rushing from the surrounding hills forms a shallow lake. After evaporation of the



water the lakebed is covered with a thin layer of salt which appears like an expanse of dazzling whiteness. Salt is obtained from kaps which contains a high percentage of Sodium Chloride.

The main river used for irrigation in the whole district is Rakhshan with its tributaries the Gowargo, the Jawan Gazz, the Newan kor and Asken. Tank is the only other running stream with its affluents the Gichk and the Raghai.

Panjgur, being an integral part of the Mekran for centuries, has passed through the corridors of history under various regimes. Known history of the area goes back to the time of prophet Dawood, when people entombed themselves to avoid famine. The area is said to be possessed by Iranian King Kaus followed by Afrasiab of Turan and then by Kai Khusrau, again an Iranian. Then there is a long list of rulers, including Lehrasp, Gushtasp, Bahman, Huma and Darab, till the year 325 BC. An army contingent of Alexander the Great passed through the Mekran, then known as Gadrosia, on its way from India to Macedonia. Greek historian Arian has commented on land, environment and people of the area. He found the climate very hot, the soil sandy and the land inept for human settlement. Afterwards, the area was ruled by Seleukos Nikator, one of Alexander's generals, who lost it to Chandragupta in 303 BC. Then the tract of history is lost in darkness for centuries and then we find the area being given to Bahram-i-Gor (404 to 427 AD) as a part of dower of Shermah's daughter. An ascertained of the area is found in 643 AD when Islamic army under the command of Abdullah conquered Mekran and wrote to the Caliph Omar about the aridity of the land. Arabs ruled the land one after the other. All the Arab geographers of the era, like Ibn Haukal, Ibn Khurdadba, Al Istakhri and Al Idrisi, have described the country as "for the most part desert". According to a local legend, Muhammad bin Qasim also passed through the area on his way to Sindh. Although many invaders, like the Deilamis,



the Seljuks, the Ghaznivids, the Ghorids, the Mangols and the Portuguese, conquered the land, mostly the local rulers, including Hots, Rinds, Maliks, Buledais and Gichkis, exercised authority in the area as the conquerors had no intentions to stay there.

Two regimes of local rulers, of Buledais and Gichkis, are worth mentioning here. The Buledais gained power with rise of the Zikri sect. These rulers are said to be connected with the rulers of Maskat and were called Buledais in reference with the valley of Buleda where they resided. The Buledais ruled the area for more than a century up to the year 1740. In the last years of their regime they embraced Islam. The Zikri folk joined hands with the Gichkis, who also were Zikris by faith. After complete take-over of the area, the older branch of Gichkis took hold of Panjgur. The family feuds and internal dissension between Gichkis resulted in nine (either partially or fully successful) expeditions by Mir Nasir Khan I. Panjgur was the target of his first expedition. It is said that the main motive behind all these expeditions, made by Mir Nasir Khan I, was to eliminate the Zikris as he belonged to (anti-Zikri) Muslim faith. These expeditions resulted in the division of revenues between the Khan and Gichkis. Mir Mehrab Khan, grand successor of Mir Nasir Khan I, appointed Faqir Muhammad Bizenjo as his naib (assistant) in the area to keep a stronghold. This naib represented the Khan in this area for more than 40 years. Afterwards local influentials were appointed as naibs of the Khan due to ineffectiveness of non-local naibs. Foreign support and fragmented local population of Balochs gave the Gichkis super-ordination and they became Hakims (rulers) of the area.

The first Afghan war (1838-39) directed attention of the British to the area. Major Goldsmith visited the area in 1861 and an Assistant Political Agent was appointed in Gwadar in 1863. In 1882, Mir Gajian, Sardar of Panjgur and Khan's naib was killed by Mir Nauroz Khan Nausherwani, Chief of Kharan. These kinds of internal feuds continued for years. In 1903, an



Assistant Political Agent was appointed to the area with his headquarters at Panjgur. He was also an ex-officio Commandant of the Mekran Levy Corps, appointed to enforce Khan of Kalat's authority and to maintain peace at the borders. Panjgur remained under control of the Khan of Kalat during the colonial era; however, the British rulers had influence in the affairs of the area.

After division of the Indian subcontinent into two sovereign states, Mekran joined the Balochistan States Union in early 1949 along with Kalat, Lasbella and Kharan. In October 1955, Mekran was given the status of a district of former West Pakistan province after its accession to Pakistan. On 1st July 1970, when "One Unit" was dissolved and Balochistan gained the status of a province, Mekran became one of its 8 districts. On 1st July 1977, Mekran was declared a division and was divided into three districts, named Panjgur, Turbat (renamed Kech) and Gwadar. Panjgur was notified as a district on July 1, 1977. In the post-colonial history, Panjgur faced two natural disasters. In 1958-59, heavy rain for a whole week resulted in heavy flood, which destroyed the date trees and other crops. In 1960, cholera spread in the villages of Bonistan and Isai costing hundreds of lives. These two villages still have occasional incidence of cholera due to the lack of clean drinking water.

Among objects of archaeological interest may be mentioned Kohna Kalat, in the construction of which large baked red bricks have been used, and which is said to have been destroyed by the Persians; the tomb of Malik Asa and others which are constructed of glazed bricks with rough figures of mer and animals upon them; an ancient dam, named Band-e-Gillar; and remnants of the fort of Nawab Habibullah Khan of Kharan in the village of Khudabadan. There are many old shrines including those of Shah Qalandar and Pir Omar in the district. The shrine of Shah Qalandar is made of baked tiles.



Some decorative tiles have figures of human and animals engraved on them.

## **22. Pishin**

Pishin district lies between  $30^{\circ} 04'$  to  $31^{\circ} 17'$  north latitudes and  $66^{\circ} 13'$  to  $67^{\circ} 50'$  east longitudes. The district is bounded by Killa Abdullah in the north, Killa Saifullah in the east, Quetta and Ziarat in the south and Afghanistan in the west. Its length from north to south is about 68 km and its width from east to west ranges from 8 to 38 km. The area of the Pishin district is 5,850 sq. km. The general character of the district is mountainous. Its northern half is covered by Toba Plateau. The mountains are fairly uniform, with long central ridges from which frequent spurs descend. These spurs vary in elevation from about 1,500 to 3,300 meters.

The principal stream is the Pishin Lora, flowing from Barshore in the northeast into the Shorarud valley near Burj Aziz Khan. Its principal affluents in Pishin are the Muchka from the north-west, the Shorarud and the Kakar Lora. The Pishin Lora flows up to Bund Khushdil Khan and some of the water finds its way towards the north. From there it flows into Afghanistan.

Another stream is the Surkhab Lora. It flows from Sher Ghundi and near Shadazai, it joins the Pishin Lora. A third stream is the Kakar Lora, which is composed of many small Loras and streams coming from the Takato hills. The Kakar Lora irrigates Manzaki and three villages of Haiderzai.

The district Pishin was a part of Quetta Pishin district. In 1975, it was separated from Quetta for administrative reasons. It derives its name from the locality Pishin. Pishin is a modernized form of 'Pushang', which is an old Persian name for the Arabic Fushang. Myth attributes the origin of the name to a son of the Emperor Afrasiab and Fushing was the spelling used in the records of the Afghan government.

Up to the middle of the 18th century, when Quetta finally passed into the hands of Brahvi rulers, the history of Pishin is identical with the province of Kundahar. The earliest mention of Pishin is in the avestic writing in which Pishinorha is described as a valley in an elevated part of the country and containing a barren level plain (dasht).

Little is known of the history of Quetta Pishin. Upto 13th century AD, it was in 1221 that Kundahar and its dependencies passed into the hands of the Mughals. During the first half of the 15th century, Kundahar was under the rule of the Timurs' successors and it was probably at the beginning of this century that the Tareens, who now hold Pishin, emigrated from their original homes in the Takht-i-Sulaiman and made their way into Pishin.

Between 1530 and 1545, the province of Kundahar was in the possession of Mirza Kamran the brother of the Emperor Humayun. After his death in 1556, Kundahar and its dependencies were restored to the Safavid kings of Persia and they remained under Persia until 1595, when they were again acquired by the Mughals. It is mentioned in Ain-i-Akbari that Shal (Quetta) and Pushang (Pishin) were included in the eastern division of the Kundahar Sarkar. In 1622, Kundahar was again brought under the Safavid dynasty and with the exception of a short period remained under Persia.

The Safavid Monarch Shah Abbas gained possession of Kundahar in 1622. He conferred the government of Pishin and tribal dependencies upon Sher Khan the Tareen.

The end of the 17th century witnessed the rise to prominence of the Brahvis power and it is probable that Quetta and Pishin both suffered from the encroachment of Brahvis and that Quetta fell into their hands in the time of Mir Ahmed whose reign lasted 30 years, from 1666 to 1696. The Ghilzai, Mir Wais obtained possession of Kundahar in 1709 and it is curious that this feat was accomplished in connection with Pishin Brahvi history relates that around 1725 Pishin has been



annexed by Mir Abdullah, the then Khan of Kalat, after an engagement with the Ghilzais near Kundahar. However, in 1733 Shah Hussain Ghilzai made a move against the Brahvis and he dismantled the fort of Pishin and garrisoned it. Moving forward, he crossed the Ghaza Bund and took Quetta. He advanced to Mastung where the Brahvis submitted. Quetta remained after that time under Kundahar and was transferred to Nadir Shah on his taking that place. Later on, it is said that Ahmed Shah Durrani finally conferred it on the Brahvis after the campaign in eastern Persia in 1751, when he received gallant aid from Nasir Khan-I, the Khan of Kalat.

During the period of the first Afghan war, Quetta fell into British hands in 1839. After the British retired in 1842, Pishin and Shorarud were occupied by the Afghans. The first phase of the Afghan war closed with the signing of an agreement in May 1879 stating that the district of Pishin along with some other districts was to be ceded to the British government. It was in 1882 that final orders were given for the permanent retention of Pishin and British authority was extended over the little valley of Shorarud.

When Quetta district was handed over to the British government on April 1883, it was combined with Pishin into a single administrative charge and Sir H.S. Barnes was appointed the first political agent.

Before its occupation in 1878 and its subsequent assignment in 1879, Pishin always formed part of the province of Kundahar. The Batezai Tareens played important part as Governors. Before the British occupation and up to 1882 it was under an assistant to the Governor General. From 1883 onwards, when Pishin was combined with Quetta and Shararud, together they fell under one political agent, the Deputy Commissioner.

This situation remained till the partition of the sub-continent in 1947. Till 1975 Quetta and Pishin was a single administrative unit. In 1975, Pishin was separated from Quetta

and was given the status of a district. In 1993 Pishin was bifurcated into Pishin district and Killa Abdullah district. Now there are three districts; Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah which before partition came under one administrative district, known as Quetta- Pishin.

### **23. Quetta**

The name Quetta originates from the Pushto word Kwatta which means a fort. However, the old name of the area is Shall Kot. In the beginning, the town was situated within the walls of fort "A Miri" which is now used as an arsenal. Quetta district lies between  $30^{\circ} - 03'$  and  $30^{\circ} - 27'$  N and  $66^{\circ} - 44'$  and  $67^{\circ} - 18'$  E. The total geographical area of Quetta district is 2653 Sq. km.

The general character of the district is mountainous. The hill Ranges are fairly uniform in character consisting of long central ridges from which frequent spurs descend. These spurs are intersected by innumerable gorges and torrent beds. They vary in elevation from about 1,254 to 3,500 meters. The Maslakh, the Chiltan, the Murdar and Zarghoon are the important mountain Ranges in the district. Quetta lies in the active seismic region; therefore earthquakes occur from time to time. The worst earthquake occurred in May 1935, when a large part of Quetta was destroyed and 40,000 people died.

There is no perennial river in the district. The Quetta Lora comes out near Sariab and traverses the western side of the Quetta valley. This Lora carries rain and wastewater near Baleli and continues northward through the Kuchlak valley. Water of Quetta Lora is used for irrigation in villages like Khazi, Samungli and Nohsar.

The district is bounded on the north by district Pishin; on the east by Ziarat; on the south by Mastung and on the west by district Killa Abdullah. Quetta (about 5,500 ft above sea level) is surrounded by Chiltan hills in the west, southwest & south (10480 feet), in the east by Murdar hills (8000 to 10446 feet),



in the north by Zarghoon (11170 to 11738 feet), & Takatu (11340-11390 ft) and in the north west by Muslakh (7000-7972 ft.) it is the southern most point in a line of frontier post and in the system of strategic roads and railways near the north west (Afghanistan) border. Commanding the Bolan and Khojak passes, the British occupied Quetta in 1876. Incorporated as municipality in 1896, Army Command and Staff College was opened in 1907.

Till the middle of the eighteenth century, the history of Quetta district is identical with the history of Kundahar. In the eleventh century it was part of the Graeco-Bactrian Empire. After that it remained under the Kingdom of the Amir Sabuktagain and Mahmood Ghaznavi till the thirteenth century. In 1470, the Kundahar Kingdom was succeeded by Timur. Between 1530 and 1545, the Province of Kundahar was in the possession of Mirza Kamran (The brother of a Mughal ruler). In 1622 the Kingdom was brought under the sway of the Safavid dynasty and remained there until 1709. Later Ghilzai came into power and ruled the area. Thereafter, Quetta was transferred to Nadir. Later on history relates that Ahmed Shah Durrani finally conferred Quetta to the Khan of Kalat as a shall (present), thus called Shall Kot, too.

The British Government occupied Quetta during the first Afghan war in 1839. Just after three years, in 1842, it came back into the hands of Khan of Kalat. Due to its strategic importance, it was reoccupied by Sir Robert Sandeman in 1876.

On 26 May 1876, a treaty was signed by Amir Yaqoob Khan of Afghanistan with the British Government at Gandamak. Thus the conflict which emerged as a result of the first and second Afghan war came to an end.

In 1883, Quetta was formed into a separate single administrative unit (Quetta - Pishin district). Due to its geo-strategic importance, the British built Quetta as a garrison town. They extended the roads and railway network to



Afghanistan and Iran. This situation remained unchanged till the partition of the Sub-continent in 1947.

Under the one-unit system from 1955 to 1970, Quetta and Kalat were the administrative units in West Pakistan. After abolishing the unitary system, Quetta was declared as Capital of Balochistan. Till 1975, Quetta and Pishin were a single administrative unit. In that year Pishin was declared a separate district.

Very little is known about the human settlement in the district. However, it is certain that the Afghans and Brahvis are recent immigrants. The Pushtoons appear to have entered the district from the north east, emigrating from their home round the Takht-i-Sulaiman. Kasis (A branch of Afghan) are said to have migrated from their home around the Takht-i-Sulaiman about eight centuries ago. They made their first settlement at Samli, a village near Quetta City. The Brahvis are an offshoot from the Kalat territory and their presence in the district dates back to the eighteenth century.

With the passage of time, Quetta began to expand and soon it turned into a beautiful small town. The British paid special attention to its cleanliness. However, 31 May 1935 was a black day in the history of Quetta. An earthquake destroyed Quetta City completely. The Cantonment area survived to a great extent.

The reconstruction started soon after. Till 1947 Quetta was a small town. People used to call it small London. However, rapid population growth in terms of rural - urban migration, and influx of Indian refugees increased the population at Quetta. Influx of Afghan refugees during the 1980s helped the slums to grow. New settlement in the form of housing schemes emerged at Satellite Town, Jinnah Town, Samungli Town, Model Town and Shahbaz Town. In Kachi Abadis, slums also begun to develop. The process of settlement continues. Now Quetta has turned into an over-populated city.



There are some mounds and Karezes of ancient time in the district. The most important archaeological site is Quetta Miri (a mass of indurate clay). The base of Miri is 183 meter long by 122 meter wide and rises 24.4 meter above the plain. The Miri is now used as an Arsenal. Among other noticeable mounds are one between Katir and Kuchlak, known as the Kasiano Dozakh, Tor Ghundi near Baleli and Tor Wasi between Panjpai and Muhammad Khel. Besides, some Karezes of archaeological interest are found at Kirani, Sariab and Kechi Baig.

Hanna stream is the important source of drinking and irrigation water in the district. It rises in the western slopes of the Zarghoon Range near Urak, about 21-Km northeast of Quetta. It enters the Quetta valley near the Staff College and drains its northern parts. The Hanna stream is joined by the Sora Khula and Ghundak Rud nala above Sheikmanda village.

#### **24. Sibi**

The Sibi district is situated on longitude of 67 to 69 degree north and 29 to 30 degree east. It is bounded on the north by Ziarat district, on the South by Kohlu and Kachhi district, on the east by Kohlu and Loralai districts and on the west by Kachhi and Mastung districts. The district is named after its headquarters, the town of Sibi, which in its turn derives its name from Siwi, a Hindu lady of Sewa race who is said to have ruled over this part of the country in former times.

The British colonial influence started extending to Sibi region in the late forties of the 19th century, when in 1839, Misri Khan, the head of Panri tribe, tendered his services to Shah Shuja, and was taken into British service with a number of his followers, who were styled the "Baloch Levy". Subsequent events are a story of long and intense tribal wars that paved the way for ultimate annexation of the Sibi region to the British colonial empire. An entertaining account of the political events after Misri Khan's induction into British service

is given in an old (undated) Gazetteer of Sibi; of which relevant excerpts are presented below:

"In March 1841, Mr. Ross Bell, the Political Agent in upper Sindh, deputed one of his assistants with a detachment of troops, under the command of Colonel Wilson of the Bombay Cavalry, to collect the arrears of revenue due from Khajaks of Sibi on behalf of Shah Shuja. The detachments was accompanied by Misri Khan and on the Khajaks refusing to comply with the demands, attacked the town, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Reinforcements from Bagh were sent up under General Brooks. Nevertheless, before they could arrive the Khajaks abandoned their town; the barricades of them were demolished.

The Khajaks were permitted to return during the following year and the town was rebuilt. From November 1841 to September 1842 an Assistant Political officer, resided at Sibi. When the British troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan on the termination of the war, the district was handed over by the British to the Khan of Kalat, but it does not appear to have been occupied by him, and in 1843 again came under the Baruzai rule upto the second Afghan war Sibi continued to be held by the Baruzai chiefs as governors of the Afghan rulers; but owing to the constant raids and encroachments of the Marris, the country was, at the request of the Sardars and people, occupied at the commencement of the war by a detachment of troops from Jacobabad.

In November 1887 the Kach-Kowas and Harnai valleys, Sibi, Duki and Thal-Chotiali were declared parts of British India. Owing to the disputes between the Zarkuns and the Marris, Kohlu was brought under the British protection and added to the Thal-Chotiali district in 1892. In February 1891 Sanjawi was again transferred to Thal-Chotiali, and Barkhan was added in April 1892. On reconstruction of the district in October 1903, the Barkhan, Duki and Sanjawi Tehsils were



transferred to the new Loralai district, and the name of the Thal-Chotiali district was changed into that of Sibi district."

The district underwent reorganization in the post-independence period to create Nasirabad division, Dera Bugti district, Kohlu district and Ziarat district. Following the post-1947 administrative re-organization, the district's territorial jurisdiction has shrunk from 11,390 sq. miles as it was in 1903, to 7,796 sq. miles. The old description of it being a district covering vast and varied climatological zones, as it once was, is no longer true.

## **25. Zhob**

The district is named after the river Zhob. It is a Pushto word which means oozing water. The Zhob River has a total length of about 410 kilometers. It is the only river in the country that follows a northeastern course. It springs from the Kahn Mehterzai Range, passes about 4 kilometers from Zhob City and finally flows into the Gomal River near Khajuri Kach. Zhob city was previously called Fort Sandeman, named after Robert Sandeman, the first Agent to the Governor General of Balochistan. The Prime Minister of Pakistan of that time Z. A. Bhutto changed the name on July 30 1976. Traditionally, Fort Sandeman was called Appozai, named after a village situated two kilometers away.

The Zhob district lies from 30°-28' to 32°-50' north latitudes and from 67°-50' to 70°-20' east longitudes. Zhob district is situated in the extreme northeast of Balochistan. Afghanistan lies to the northwest, while South Waziristan Agency (FATA) lies to the north of Zhob. The eastern boundary is marked by the Suleiman Range and D.I.Khan district. Loralai and Musakhel district border on the south and Killa Saifullah district on the immediate west.

The lowest point of the district is 1500 meters above sea level. People live up to 2500 meters. The highest peak in the district is Takht-i-Suleiman at 11,340 ft.

The tribes inhabiting the area are indigenous to the land. Zhob is the cradle of the Afghan race. Qais Abdul Rashid, who is believed to be one of the progenitors of the Pushtoons or Afghans, lived in the Suleiman Mountains near Zhob. He was born in 575 A.D and died in 661 AD. Natives call the place where he is buried "Da Kase Ghar" (the mountain of Qais). The Chinese pilgrim Hiven Tsiang who visited India in 629 AD, described the Afghans as living in Zhob. The area was ruled by Nadir Shah from 1736 to 1747 and by Ahmed Shah Abdali from 1747 to 1773. It was part of the Afghan dynasty when the British penetrated it in 1881. A number of areas now in Zhob, Killa Saifullah, and Pishin districts were ceded to British Indian Balochistan after the Durand line in 1893. They soon became a district.

Zhob district is the second oldest existing district of Balochistan, after Quetta. It was raised to district level in February 1890, under Captain MacIvor as the first Political Agent.

The district has an important geo-strategic location. It links Afghanistan, South Waziristan Agency, D.I.Khan district, Killa Saifullah, Loralai, and MusaKhel.

## **26. Ziarat**

The district derives its name from Ziarat (shrine) of Baba Kharwari, a highly esteemed saint of the area who lived here in the early eighteenth century. The shrine is located about nine-km south of Ziarat town. The Ziarat district was established in 1986 by upgrading the Ziarat sub-Tehsil of Sibi district, to the present level. It is one of the four districts of the Sibi division; the other three are Sibi, Kohlu and Dera Bugti. Population-wise, it is the smallest district of Sibi Division.

The district is mostly mountainous area. It is roughly a rectangular piece of country comprising several valleys. The principal valleys are Kawas, Kuch, Chuthair, Ziarat, Zindra,



Mangai, Munah, etc. The altitude Ranges from 1800 - 3,488 meters. Ziarat district is bordered on the north by the districts of Pishin, Loralai and Killa Saifullah, on the south by Sibi district, on the east by Loralai and to the west by Pishin and Sibi district.

The history of Ziarat during the British colonial administration is the same as that of the Sibi district of which it was a part until 1986. The area came under British colonial influence by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was made a part of British India in 1887 like the rest of the old Sibi district. Two years earlier, in 1885, the British Government had acquired land for construction of a civil station (at the present Ziarat town), on payment of Rs.1,400,000 from Saragzai tribe. Before the creation of Sibi district (in 1903), Ziarat used to be the summer headquarters of Thal and Chotiali district (Duki Sinai Sub Division). Later when the Sibi district was created in 1903, it became Sibi district's summer headquarters. It formed a part of Shahriq Tehsil of Sibi district till 1974 when it was given the status of a sub-Tehsil.

Before Independence, the camp offices of the Agent to the Governor General in Balochistan; the Revenue Commissioner, Balochistan; the Civil Surgeon, Balochistan; the Political Agent and the Colonisation officer, Nasirabad, used to shift to Ziarat during the summer. Following the creation of Sibi Division in 1974, the divisional offices shifted to Ziarat during the summer.

The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, spent his last days at Ziarat Residency which is now a National Monument. The local people believe that the Quaid-e-Azam had in fact breathed his last here in Ziarat, contrary to the official reports that he expired in Karachi on 11 September 1948, the day he was shifted there from Ziarat. The residency building is a majestic piece of architecture, but people visit it primarily for its association with the Quaid-e-Azam.

**Khalifat Peak:** This is the second highest peak in the province, 3,488-m high, and presents a real challenge to climbers. The district is blessed with an overall natural beauty. There are many more places of interest than those mentioned above. In the summer season, thousands of tourists visit the area.

### **The Table of the districts**

The following table of the districts and their population growth in the last three censuses is based on statistics of the population of the then all 26 districts and Six Divisions. The 26 districts of Balochistan were reduced to 22 in 2000 while the six divisions were abolished in December 2000 in requisition of Devolution Plan. But later in 2002 on december 01<sup>st</sup>, 2002 four defunct districts were restored.



*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

Divisions/ Districts.	Area in Sq. km	POPULATION IN (000)		
		Sept.72	Sept.81	Sept.98
<b>Balochistan</b>	<b>347,190</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>4332</b>	<b>6511</b>
<b>Quetta Division</b>	<b>64,310</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>1719</b>
Quetta	2.653	252	382	759
Pishin	5.850	249	202	366
K. Abdullah	5.264	(a)	176	391
Chaghi	50.543	65	121	203
<b>Zhob Division</b>	<b>46,200</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>997</b>
Zhob	16.520	103	223	276
Loralai	9,829	104	235	300
K- Saifullah	10,609	69	139	189
Musakhel	5.728	39	91	139
Barkhan	3.514	45	62	100
<b>Sibi Division</b>	<b>27,055</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>490</b>
Sibi	7,796	89	99	179
Ziarat	1,489	18	32	33
Kohlu	7,610	56	71	98
Dera Bugti	10,160	53	104	180

*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

<b>Nasirabad Division</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>1056</b>
Jafferabad	2,445	180	265	421
Nasirabad	3,389	44	129	243
Jhall Magsi	3,078	75	68	104
Bolan	8,036	147	237	288
<b>Kalat Division</b>	<b>138,033</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>1433</b>
Kalat	6,621	72	209	236
Mastung	5,896	75	132	164
Khuzdar	43,261	146	276	409
Kharan	48,051	77	128	197
Awaran	21,630	52	110	114
Lasbella	12,574	125	188	313
<b>Mekran Division</b>	<b>54,646</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>816</b>
Kech	22,539	148	380	410
Gwadar	16,891	91	112	179
Panjgur	15,216	57	161	227



**Balochistan Population data Sheet of district for the year 2004, 2011 and 2021.**

Districts.	Area in Sq. km	Balochistan's Projected population in the following years. (with growth rate of 2.64) Population in thousands			
		Sept.98	2004	2011	2021
Balochistan	347,190	6511	7595	8868	10727
Ziarat	1,489	33	39	45	55
Zhob	16,520	276	318	372	449
Kech	22,539	410	478	558	676
Sibi	7,796	179	209	244	295
Quetta	2,653	759	879	1026	1241
Pishin	5,850	366	425	496	600
Panjgur	15,216	227	271	316	382
Nasirabad	3,389	243	285	332	402
Musakhel	5,728	139	155	181	219
Mastung	5,896	164	191	222	269
Loralai	9,829	300	344	402	486
Lasbella	12,574	313	362	422	511
Kohlu	7,610	98	115	135	163
K- Abdullah	5,264	391	428	500	605
Khuzdar	43,261	409	483	564	682

*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

Kharan	48,051	197	239	280	338
Kalat	6,621	236	275	322	389
K- Saifullah	10,609	189	224	261	316
Jhall Magsi	3,078	104	127	149	180
Jafferabad	2,445	421	501	585	708
Gwadar	16,891	179	215	251	303
Dera Bugti	10,160	180	210	245	296
Chaghi	50,543	203	234	274	331
Bolan	8,036	288	333	389	471
Barkhan	3,514	100	120	140	169
Awaran	21,630	114	137	160	193
Source: National Institute of Population Studies.					

**Balochistan's districts, their population and area with percentage**

Below is given the statistics regarding the recent geographical area and the population of the all-22 districts of Balochistan based on the census of 1998. The previous 26 districts of Balochistan were reduced to 22 in 2000 while the six divisions were abolished on August 14, 2000 in requisition of Devolution Plan.

Name of the district	Population Total	Pop. %	Area Total	Area %
Quetta	757575	11.63%	1688	0.49%
Pishin	375608	5.77%	7874	2.27%
Chaghi	202562	3.11%	50545	15.56%



*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

K.Abdullah	381293	5.68%	3238	0.93%
Loralai	482037	7.40%	17260	4.97%
Zhob	276495	4.25%	20297	5.85%
K.Saifullah	188729	2.90%	6831	1.97%
Sibi	210740	3.24%	9613	2.77%
Ziarat	82768	1.27%	3301	0.95%
Kohlu	97786	1.50%	7610	2.19%
Dera Bugti	180404	2.77%	10160	2.93%
Nasirabad	663771	10.19%	5832	1.68%
Kachhi	359983	5.53%	9297	2.68%
Khuzdar	499164	6.28%	35380	10.19%
Kalat	235758	3.62%	6622	1.91%
Mastung	165218	2.54%	6861	1.98%
Kharan	197418	3.03%	48051	13.84%
Awaran	114427	1.76%	29510	8.5%
Lasbella	313405	4.81%	15153	4.36%
Kech	409879	6.29%	22539	6.49%
Panjgur	227349	3.49%	16891	4.87%
Gwadar	178989	2.75%	12637	3.64%
----	<b>6511358</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>347190</b>	<b>100%</b>

(Planning and Development Department)

## CHAPTER 6

### *Rivers in Balochistan*

#### **1. Hingol River**

The Hingol River is the largest and longest river in Balochistan. Its length is 350 miles, which drains over an area of 13,050 square miles of mountain and plateau extending from south of Kalat to the Arabian Sea at Hingol. Its flow is not perennial and may remain dry for several months. The highest point in the basin is at Lakra (9623 feet) east of Surab.

#### **2. Porali River**

The Porali River flows in the south of Bela. The length of Porali River is 100 miles while it drains over an area of 774 square miles. The basin is predominantly mountainous and the valley narrows and incised except for a reach in the headwaters in the vicinity. The highest point in the basin is the Nal Range

#### **3. Beji River**

The Beji River drains over an area of plateaus and ridges. The basin downstream from Ghatti Bridge consists mainly of rugged. A major tributary, the Dadu River, which drains in Harnai area, joins the Beji River. The Beji River at some places is almost perennial. The total basin area to Babar Kach is 6,434 square miles and the median basin elevation is 4,500 feet.

#### **4. Bolan River**

The Bolan River drains over an area of 1,560 square miles and its length is 65 miles (estimated) that is contributed to two principal tributaries, the Bolan, which drains in Bolan Pass, and the Moro/Dardan River which drains an area of mountain ridges and valleys east of Kalat. There happens a broad active alluvial plan extending from Mach to Gokurt. The spreading of tributary flows, over this plan, results in the reduction of downstream flood peaks and supports alluvial groundwater storage. The highest point in the basin is at Koh-i-Maran (10,730 feet) and the median basin elevation is 5,356 feet.



**5. Khost River**

The Khost River drains over an area of 467 square miles of dissected plateau in upland of Balochistan in Ziarat district. The area has been affected by intense tectonic activity and which has deranged the drainage pattern. Broad mature valleys give way to steep gorges aligned along tension cracks. Perennial springs are numerous.

**6. The Dasht River**

It drains over an area of 8,280 square miles in south while its length is 255 miles. With the exception of a few short perennial reaches of tributaries fed by springs, flow in the basin is intermittent, but pools may remain along the flat alluvial valleys of the principal tributaries; Nihing and Kech Rivers.

**7. Lehri River**

The Lehri River drains over an area of 1333 square miles of rugged hill Ranges oriented east to Tangi is situated where the river discharges from the hills into the northeast side of the Kachhi plain.

**8. Zhob River**

This is the famous river of the Zhob Division, it starts from Kwa Kand. After having been through the valleys of Zhob and Killa Saifullah it reaches to river Gomal completing a journey of 240 miles. At some places water flows whole year but the quantity of water is very less. Dams are built on it for agriculture purpose.

**9. Kiner River**

This river starts from Toba Kakari and flows towards east, to some distance along with the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan and joins Gomal River.

**10. Loralai River**

Many tributaries fell in this river. They have different names in different places, near by Loralai it is named as Loralai River.

### **11. Nari River**

It passes Loralai River in close proximity. As it reaches Babar Kach, it gets the name Nari. A big dam on this river forms Nari Gajj nearby Sibi, which supplies water for irrigation to the areas located near by Sibi. It goes on supplying district Bolan and district Jhall Magsi, and joins Bolan River. The length of the Nari River is about 300 miles.

### **12. Mula River**

Its proximal end gets its inception from the mountains in Khuzdar. It flows to Tehsil Gandawa where it distributes several minor tributaries. The length of this river is 85 miles.

### **13. Hub River**

This river flows out from the Pub Mountain. It runs in north south direction in district Lasbella and falls in Arabian Sea. A dam has been built on it which supplies water to Karachi city and irrigates a considerable area.

### **14. Rakhshan River**

Many tributaries get combined to form the Rakhshan River which drains between Central Mekran Range and Siahan Range. This river irrigates some areas in Kharan and Panjgur.

### **15. Kech River**

It drains in Mekran and has Nihing River as its main tributary which flowing from Iran when enters in Balochistan falls in Kech River near Nasirabad. The Kech Kuar then ultimately joins Dasht River.

### **16. Pishin Lora**

The Pishin Lora drains over an area of 2988 square miles including the valleys of Pishin and Quetta and the uplands of the Toba Kakari Range in the north and the Zarghoon, Takatu and Murdar Ranges in the east and thus, Pishin Lora flows into Afghanistan. The total length of Pishin Lora is 250 miles.



## CHAPTER 7

### **Archaeological Sites in Balochistan**

Most sites in northern and central Balochistan belong to 2600 BC relating to Indus Civilization. Southern Balochistan, however, continued to be inhabited by a people labeled "Kula." Following are the important archeological sites found in Balochistan:

#### **1. Bakker Buthi**

Bakker Buthi is a small Harappan site located in the Khanrach Valley, a remote area bordered by the More and Pub Ranges, in Bela.

#### **2. Greater Hub Valley**

The Andhar Range which is marked by a flat top and deep fissures rises to 1250m, while the Kirthar and Khude Ranges reach 1400 meters and 1600 meters above seal level. This valley was inhabited by a people labeled "Kula."

#### **3. Mehargahr**

Mehargahr's site is not only the oldest in Balochistan but in the entire South Asia as being the representative of the neo Stone Age. Located on the bank River Bolan near settlement of Raisani tribe in Bolan district, Mehargahr reveals the 7000 years old cultural heritage of the area.

#### **4. Arabic Inscription, Jalwar Kharan**

These are on stones and were inscribed during the early period of Islamic rule.

#### **5. Damb Sadaat, Quetta**

This archaeological site lies nine miles south of Quetta, where remains of pre-historic culture known as Sadaat Culture have been discovered. The people of Sadaat culture used ovens, ate meat and drank wine. They did not grind corn but pounded it with a pestle. Some figurines of goddess have been found. Pottery discovered bears some signs, which might be the oldest script in Pakistan

**6. Domed Mausoleums**

These are pre-Islamic mausoleums, square in shape, sometimes double storied. They have ornamental burnt bricks around them bearing the images of different animal figures, geometrical designs and human imprints.

**7. Gabrband (Dams of the fire worshippers)**

These wall shaped dams built with large stones for storing rainwater can be found in Kharan, Chaghi, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Panjgur, Turbat and Kalat districts.

**8. Gondrani cave dwellings, Lasbella**

They are situated 9 miles off from Bela towards north. The people of this area would dwell into the caves. These caves are yet present in Gondrani.

**9. Greek statues, Quetta**

These metallic statues were found in the excavation of Quetta Miri in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**10. Hinglaj shrine, Lasbella**

This shrine is situated on the bank of Hingol River and is/was considered the second largest pilgrimage of Hindus in pre-partition period.

**11. Hinidan Tomb, Lasbella**

These tombs are found in Lasbella and Pasni. Though Islamic in nature yet, that bear the animal engravings on them.

**12. Mill stones, Shahrak Turbat**

They are six feet in diameter and were probably used for grinding wheat.

**13. Monastery Hill, Loralai**

Situated near Loralai town, these are remains of old fortification.

**14. Noshero, Kachhi**

About 2,600 BC old settlements, 6 Km from Mehargahr, pottery and stones weapons have been discovered.



**15. Peerak, Sibi**

This site was discovered 12 miles off from Sibi in 1957 and excavation started in 1968.

**16. Spin Ghundai, Habeebzai Pishin**

Fragments of pottery, glass, copper and iron were found during excavation in 1881.

**17. Tomb of Sassi and Punnoq, Lasbella:**

According to the legends, Sassi born in Hindu family fell in love with a prince of Kech, Mekran. Both died in the frenzy of love at Paboli Naka, Lasbella, and were buried there.

**18. Killi Gul Mohammed**

It is an archaeological site, a few miles northwest of Quetta. Here are the remains of an ancient civilization when people did not even know the use of pottery. These people used stone knives, bone needles and points.

**19. Rana Ghundai**

It is an archaeological site. There are mounds from which remains of a culture have been found with affinity to the Hissar culture of northeastern Iran around 3,500 B C. The red pottery found belongs to a period earlier than the Indus valley's civilization.

**20. Gati**

It is 6 miles from Gwadar. There are ancient ruins from where the remains of numerous small bones have been discovered. Different kinds of earthenware, shell ornaments, beads, grinding stones, copper bracelets and coins have been discovered. The coins appear to be of Greek origin.

**21. Hindian**

Situated near the confluence of the Hindian stream with the Hub River 50 miles from Karachi are highly ornamental sepulchers of unknown origin, which afford evidence of

subterranean burial. They face south to north and are built of yellowish sandstone the form of vertical burial which these tombs exhibit is attributed to Syria as opposed to the Rumi practice of underground burial.

### **Discovery of Dinosaurs fossils in Balochistan**

Balochistan has always been on the road of civilization with its matchless pre-historic & historic testimony. The discovery of more than 1500 fossilized bones of dinosaurs in and around Vitakri area, Barkhan, Balochistan have given a unique distinction to the most backward province of Pakistan. These (73-65 million years old) fossils of dinosaurs were discovered 2000 in the upper Pub Formation.



## CHAPTER 8

### **Lakes and Passes in Balochistan**

Though Balochistan is an arid province yet there are some lakes called Hamun in the local language. The following are the main lakes in Balochistan:

#### **1. Hamun-i-Mashkail**

Hamun-i-Mashkhal, in Chaghi district, is an area of inland drainage and dry lakes (hamuns), the largest of which is Hamun-i-Mashkhal which is 54 miles long and 22 miles wide

**2. Hamun-i-Murgho.** It is in Kharan district.

**3. Hamun-i-Lora.** It is in Chaghi district. Its length is about 20 miles while its width is 10 miles.

**4. Zangi Nawer Lake:** it is in Chaghi district.

**5. Hamun-i-Sarandah:** it is in Lasbella district. It is situated north to south in the middle of Lasbella district. Its length is nine miles while its width is two miles.

#### **6. Hanna Lake**

The famous Hanna Lake is nine kilometers from the Quetta city. Hanna is a natural lake which has its presence since centuries. This lake spreads over an area of more than 200 acres. The lake has an average depth of 30 to 40 feet and in some seasons, it is over 50 feet. The catchment area of the lake spreads over a large tract composed of the mountains of Zarghoon and many natural springs. The Hanna Lake was properly designated when the British had set up a cantonment and staff college in Quetta. In the 1920s, they built a dam north of the lake to use its water for drinking and irrigation. For the same end in view, they built four dams, including Wali Tungi and Spin Karez dams, in 1945 to be used for the provision of drinking water to the people of Quetta City and cantonment.

### **Kap**

A characteristic feature of Panjgur district is its areas of closed drainage, locally known as kaps, in Parome and Balgattar. The biggest of these kaps, near Parome, is about 20 kilometers in diameter. Ordinarily these are dry but after heavy rain, the water rushing from the surrounding hills forms a shallow lake. After evaporation of the water, the lakebed is covered with a thin layer of salt which appears like an expanse of dazzling whiteness. Salt is obtained from kaps which contains a high percentage of Sodium Chloride.

### **Passes of Balochistan**

The following passes are there in Balochistan.

- 1 **Khojak Pass**, It joins Quetta with the bordering city of Chaman.
- 2 **Mazari Pass**: It joins Chaghi with Afghanistan.
- 3 **Gunshairo Pass**: It joins Dalbundeen with Afghanistan.
- 4 **Mula Pass**: It joins Khuzdar to Kachhi plains.
- 5 **Bolan Pass**: It is an important natural gateway through the Central Brahvi Range in Balochistan province, Pakistan, connecting Sibi with Quetta by road and railway. For centuries, it has been a route for traders, invaders, and nomadic tribes between India and higher Asia. It comprises a series of long, narrow valleys or gorges and extends for 55 miles (89 km) from Rindli in the south to Darwaza near Kolpur in the north. Its widest point (16 miles [26 km]) is in the Laleji Plain south of Mach. The Nari-Bolan Canal Project provides for the irrigation of about 24,000 acres (9,700 hectares) by means of damming the monsoon flow of the Bolan River in the Sibi.



## CHAPTER 9

### **Historical Forts national monuments in Balochistan.**

There are innumerable forts of primeval ages all over Balochistan.

#### **1. Kharan Fort**

Mir Azad Khan Nausherwani the ruler of Kharan constructed it.

#### **2. Chakar Fort Sibi:**

Mir Chakar Khan Rind, a great Baloch chief, constructed this fort during 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **3. Rani Fort, Chautair:**

This fort is situated 4 miles short of Chautair district Loralai.

#### **4. Punnoo Fort, Kech:**

The ruin of this fort is situated seven miles off Turbat.

#### **5. Kalat Fort:**

Now in ruin was constructed by Khans of Kalat and later destroyed in the earthquake of 1935.

#### **6. Fort Sandeman**

It has many lovely spots all round it. Sheenghar (green hill) about 10,000 feet high is covered with pine forests and is one of the loveliest spots in the valley and the best area for shooting Chakor.

#### **7. Quetta Fort**

It is the fort of Khan of Kalat which is situated on Zarghoon road and was leased to the British. Now a day, it is used as Arsenal Depot by Pakistan Army.

### **Museums and national monuments in Balochistan**

The following are the main museums and national monuments in Balochistan:

#### **1 Quaid-e-Azam Residency, Ziarat.**

It is a beautiful two-storey building with modern super-structure and some of the loveliest lawns in Ziarat. From the

balcony of the upper floor as well as from the lawns down below the entire valley appears laid out for view. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan was very fond of the captivating summer resort. He spent his last days in this Residency. The furniture used by the Father of the Nation is lying at its original place. The Residency is to be converted into a National Museum.

There is an other beautiful building Ziarat Residency known as the Governor's House, with its lush green lawns and flower gardens commands a striking view of the whole valley

- 2 **Quetta Archaeological Museum.**
- 3 **Geological Museum of GSP Quetta.**
- 4 **Staff College Museum Quetta Cantt.**
- 5 **Kech Museum, Turbat.**



## CHAPTER 10

### **Natural Resources of Balochistan**

#### **Mineral Resources**

The 39 minerals, both in metallic and non-metallic forms, have reportedly been discovered yet in the province. Gas was discovered in 1952 at Sui and in 1985 Quetta received gas. These minerals have only 3% share in the provincial GDP. Besides gas marble, barite, fluoride, Chromite, coal are also having their contribution. Exploration of fluorite mines at Dilband, being mined at present. The annual production is 1000 tons. The client of such mineral is Pakistan Steel Mills, Chemical Plant Complex D.G Khan, which needs a quantity of 6000 tons per annum. There are some more sites which, reportedly, have huge deposits such as Sabreen in Marri area and Morov range in Bangulzai area. The exploitation of such deposits will save a huge amount of foreign exchange.

Iron ore was in Dilband with an approximately over 200 million tons. The explorations of Lead-Zinc deposits in Lasbella distract in progress.

### **Metallic Mineral Resources of Balochistan**

Mineral/ Commodity	Ore Reserves in tons	Location	Quality
Aluminum (Bauxite)	74,000,000	Ziarat, Kalat	High to Medium Grade.
Chromite	F.L.D.	Wadh, Kharan	Medium to High Grade
Copper	500,000,000	Saindak, Chaghi	Low to Medium Grade
Lead/Zinc Ore	46,000,000	Lasbela, Khuzdar	Medium to High Grade
Gold	30	Saindak, Chaghi	N.E.
Silver	50	Saindak, Chaghi	N.E.
Iron Ore	+600,000,000	Chaghi, Kalat	Low to Medium Grade
Platinum	NE	Muslim Bagh	N.E.
Tungsten	NE	All over Balochistan	N.E.
Lithium	NE	North Balochistan	NE

### **Non-Metallic Mineral Resources Of Balochistan**

Mineral/ Commodity	Reserves (In Tons)	Location	Quality
Barite	30,000,000	Lasbela, Khuzdar Balochistan	Mostly drilling mud type
Building Stones	V.L.D.	Many districts of Balochistan	Good
Cement Raw Material	V.L.D.	All over Balochistan	V. Good



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Clays (including China Clay)	+34,000,000	Balochistan Sindh	Good
Coal	184,000 M.T.	Sindh, Balochistan	Medium to low grade
Dolomite			Lig. A to Bit. A
Fire Clay	100,000,000	N. Balochistan	Good
Fluorite	100,000	Kalat	Good
Fuller's Earth	F.L.D.	All Balochistan	Good
Gemstone	NE	Northern Balochistan	Good
Lime stone	V.L.D	All over Balochistan	Good
Magnesite	12,000,000	Wadh Balochistan	Medium
Gypsum and Anhydrite	350,000,000	Balochistan, Sindh	Good
Marble Aragonite	V.L.D.	Chaghi Balochistan	V. Good
Phosphate	22,000,000	Balochistan South East	Medium to low grade
Rock- Salt	V.L.D.	North East Balochistan	V. Good
Silica- Sand	V.L.D.	North East Balochistan and	Medium
Soap Stone	600,000	Some Locations in Balochistan	Good
Sulphur	800,000	Koh-i-Sultan - Balochistan	V. good
Antimony	NE	K, Abdullah, Kharan, Panjgur	Good

## Oil & Gas:

Oil was first discovered in Kohlu agency in 1884 when the railway track from Sibi to Huarnai was being laid. While the prospects of finding oil in Khuzdar, Lasbella, Dera Bugti and Kohlu are very high with the similar amount of reservations of the tribal people who believe that the resources shall be utilized for non-Balochistani. Gas is being extracted from Sui, Lotti, Pir- Koh, ouch, while from Zarghoon, Lasbella, Durraiji, and Barkhan large deposits of gas have been found. Balochistan has innumerable reservoirs of oil and gas. The daily production from different gas fields is quite satisfactory as from Sui it is 500 million cubic feet (C/F), from Uch 260 million C/F, from Peerkoh 150 million C/F, from Loti 50 million F/C, from Zarghoon southern 17 million C/F and from Gundran 12 million C/F daily (Poverty Alleviation Programme 1998).

Mr. Ghazzanfer Abbas, director of GSP and a famous geologist stated this. He said that around six billion barrels of oil and 9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas resources are said to be in the Mekran coast which is yet to be exploited and brought under use of national development. He further added that around 1.3 billion metric tons of copper reserves are in Chaghi district only. Around 412 million tons are within the Saindak area where the basic studies carried out and preliminary exploration took place during the trial period. He further added that massive Chromite reserves are there in Zhob, Khuzdar and Lasbella districts which are being exported due to its fine quality. Similarly, there are deposits of lead and zinc in the central Balochistan. (Dawn 17-12-1999)



## CHAPTER 11

### Forestry, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries in Balochistan

#### Livestock:

As per estimation that more than 30 million livestock is found in Balochistan, this makes 48% of livestock of Pakistan (Poverty Alleviation Programme 1998). Balochistan produces annually 16 to 20 million-kg wool. For the treatment of animals, there are 665 dispensaries and 54 veterinary hospitals in Balochistan which, according to 1996 animal census, has the 48% of livestock of the country in this province.

According to 1998s Poverty Alleviation Programme Government of Balochistan, the animals of different category present in Balochistan with their percentage were:

<b>Livestock Population &amp; Percentage distribution By provinces</b>			
Administrative Unit	Sheep	Goats	Camels
( Animals in Millions)			
Pakistan	23.5	41.2	0.8
Balochistan	<b>10.84</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>0.338</b>
<b>Animal in Percentage Distribution</b>			
Balochistan	<b>46 %</b>	<b>23 %</b>	<b>41 %</b>
Punjab	26 %	37 %	23 %
Sindh	16 %	24 %	28 %
NWFP	12 %	16 %	08 %

#### Fisheries in Balochistan

The 770-km long coast of Balochistan has potential of the annual catch of 1,25,000 tons which can easily be extended to 3, 00,000 tons per annum.

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Following is the table showing the existence and annual catch of the fish in Balochistan.

1	Total: potential	3,00,000 tons
2	Present Catch	1,30,000 tons
3	Catch taken By Sindh	60-70,000 tons
4	Total Catch	2.00,000 tons
5	Incremental potential	1,00, 000 tons

Existing fish stocks In Metric Tons(M.T)			The maximum sustainable yield ( Fish Catch Potential in Tons)		
1	Cartilaginous	65,000 MT	1	Cartilaginous	32,500 Tons
2	Large Pelagic	14,000 MT	2	Large Pelagic	7,000 Tons
3	Small Pelagic	250,000 MT	3	Small Pelagic	1,25,000 Tons
4	Demurral	22,8000 MT	4	Demurral	14,000 Tons
5	Crustaceans	15,000 MT	5	Crustaceans	7,000 Tons
			6	Sub total	293,500
			7	Under estimation (of Cartilaginous fish )	15,000 Tons
				Total maximum sustainable Yield	308.500 Tons

(Source Poverty Alleviation Programme, P&D Dept, 1998)



### **Agriculture:**

From the vast land of Balochistan, as much as 11.77 million acres cannot be cultivated and remains arid and barren due to non-availability of water. Cotton cultivation bore amazingly positive results in Balochistan. Cotton is being cultivated over an area of 40,000 acres, which can easily be expanded over an area of 2,00,000 acres.

The apple in Balochistan is more than four lac tons. The date production is about 4, 25,000 tons, which makes 70% of the national production. The following is the annual production of different fruits in Balochistan.

S/No	Fruits	Tons
1	Apple	480,169
2	Almond	46,166
3	Apricot	168.508
4	Grapes	72.842
5	Peaches	33.215
6	Pomegranate	86.714
7	Cherries	2,020
8	Plum	40,956
9	Dates	404.053

Source , Agriculture Dept

### **The Canal Irrigation in Balochistan**

Since there is no perennial river in Balochistan, thus there is lack of canal irrigation in Balochistan. By the virtue of Indus River Balochistan receives a chunk of water in only Nasirabad district for irrigation purposes. This irrigation

system is called Pat Feeder Canal. This canal has the length of 1125 km while its drains are 1600 km in which cultivate an area of more than 5 lac acres in Balochistan.

### **Karezes of Balochistan**

Karezes (under ground water channels are found all over Balochistan) These water channels are dug for irrigation purposes and even at present are prevalent, some of these Karezes are believed to be of Zoroastrian period. There had been innumerable Karezes in Balochistan which now have reduced to a very vulnerable number due to scarcity of rains and excessive pumping out by the tube wells.

### **Balochistan's Water Share from Indus River**

Balochistan has a share from the Indus River according to Indus Water Accord 1991. The province is entitled to additional water, during the summer season, subject to the condition that the additional reservoirs are created.

The following is the table of water share of Balochistan.

(Million Cubic Meters.)	Kharif (MCM)	Rabi (MCM)	Total (MCM)
Perennial	3,520	1,260	4,780
Seasonal	2,062	210	2,272
Total MCM	5,582	1,470	7,052

### **Forests in Balochistan**

Since Balochistan is considered to be a desolate region, yet there are different patches of forest. The total area of forest in Balochistan is 112629 hectares with following breakup. The coniferous forest 145207, irrigated plantation 115, reverian Bela forest 14182, scrub forest 574435, coastal forest 17145 and Rangelands forest is 375205 hectares.



### **Mangrove Forests**

Mangrove is common in the Indus delta and near Karachi, both in Sindh. However, in Balochistan comparatively small mangrove patches occur along the coast in three locations each covering about 2000 ha: Mirani Hor, Kalamat Hor and Gwadar bay. The first and last consist mainly of *Avicennia* *marina* and *Rhizophora* *apiculata*. An *Alba* replaces *marina* Kalamat Hor but combines with the same *Rhizophora* mangrove is naturally a highly dynamic ecosystem depending on sediments and fresh water from rivers that build up deltas and estuaries and changes course in the process. Due to scarcity of other trees along the Balochistan coast, mangroves are chopped for fuel wood and fodder. As a consequence, the mangrove patches in Balochistan may disappear over the next decades. Mangrove is assumed to be widely sown as being nursery ground for fish and shrimp.

### **Harboi National Park**

Harboi is 40-km away in east of Kalat and about 590 km from Karachi, 173 km from Quetta and 120 km from Bolan Road. This spot is situated at an altitude of 9600 feet and covers about an area of 13,000 sq. km with more than 3.5 million trees of evergreen and everlasting Juniper forest over an area of 109,230 hectares.

### **Hazar Gunji National Park**

It is situated in the southwest of Quetta City at a distance of 20 km. In 80s the area of national park was 5099 hectares including Hazar Gunji state forest and Chiltan reserves but in the later period some more areas have been included in the area and now it comprises over an area of 27421 hectares out of which 2102 hectares are in Quetta district and 25364 hectares are in Mastung district. This national park is situated at altitude of 3313 meters with extinct specie of wild goat's family called the Chiltan Markhor.

## **Ziarat Juniper Forest**

Ziarat is one hundred and thirty KM off from Quetta. Ziarat valley has many peculiarities despite being a hill station on about an altitude of 8000 feet. Ziarat is glorified with maintaining the second largest area of Juniper forests in the world which spreads over an area of, 51,335 hectares. Now Ziarat Juniper forest has become a prey of a disease Dwarf Mistletoe: a parasite which sticks with branches & trees and halts the regeneration process of the forest, thus with a period of 25 to 30 years a healthy tree becomes the part of the fuel wood stock.



## CHAPTER 12

### **Electronic and Print Media in Balochistan**

The electronic and print media in Balochistan consists of the following components:

#### **The News Agencies in Balochistan**

There are nine news agencies in operation in Balochistan. They are:

- 1 Associated Press Of Pakistan (APP)
- 2 Pakistan Press International (PPI)
- 3 News Network International (NNI)
- 4 On Line (OL)
- 5 Universal News Agency (UNA)
- 6 Asian News Network (ANN)
- 7 South Asian News Agency (SANA News)
- 8 Balochistan News & Feature Services (BNS)

#### **Newspapers in Balochistan**

In the province of Balochistan, there are as many as 38 daily new papers published regularly from Quetta and elsewhere. Among them there are 30(thirty) of Urdu, 04(four) English, 03(three) Pushto and 01(one) Balochi. The main dailies / periodicals are as given below:

S.No	Name of the Newspaper
1	Aftab, Quetta
2	Al-Fajar, Quetta
3	Assap, Turbat
3	Atimad, Quetta
4	Awaam, Quetta/Hub

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5	Azadi, Quetta
6	Bakhabbar, Quetta
7	Balochistan Express, Quetta
8	Balochistan News, Quetta
9	Balochistan Times, Quetta
10	Bolan, Hub
11	Dawn Quetta
12	Dunya, Quetta
13	Eagle, Hub
14	Independent,, Quetta
15	Intikhaab, Hub
16	Jang, Quetta
17	Kohistan, Quetta
18	Lashkar, Quetta
19	Mashriq, Hub
20	Mashriq, Quetta/ Hub
21	Meezan, Quetta
22	Nara-e-Haq, Quetta
23	Nawa-e-Watan, Quetta
24	Nawa-Zawand, Quetta
25	Public, Quetta
26	Saddaqat Quetta
27	Sahil, Quetta



28	Shaal, Quetta
29	Tameer-e-Balochistan, Mastung
30	Tijarat, Quetta
31	Zamana, Quetta

**Weeklies/Fortnightly and Monthly**

No	Name of the periodicals
1.	Weekly Eilum, Mastung
2.	Weekly Barishna, Quetta
3.	Weekly Hawaad, Quetta
4.	Weekly Ittefaq, Quetta
5.	Weekly Muslim, Mastung
6.	Weekly Quetta Urdu, Quetta
7.	Weekly Millat, Quetta
8.	Weekly Ahwaal, Sibi
9.	Weekly Amaach, Mastung
10.	Weekly Goonj, Quetta
11.	Weekly Public, Zhob
12.	Weekly Express, Quetta
13.	Weekly Kehkashah, Quetta
14.	Weekly Sabz Sawera, Quetta
15.	Weekly Khana Badosh, Mastung
16.	Weekly Kashtkar, Mastung
17.	Weekly Gidan, Mastung
18.	Weekly Baloch Dunya, Quetta
19.	Weekly Mashal, Quetta
20.	Weekly Hall, Quetta
21.	Weekly Quetta Times, Quetta
22.	Weekly Business, Quetta
23.	Weekly Dastak, Quetta

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24.	Weekly Mujahid, Quetta
25.	Weekly Barish, Quetta
26.	Weekly Gidroshia, Quetta
27.	Weekly Subh-e-Nau, Chaghi
28.	Weekly Chang, Quetta
29.	Weekly Murad, Jaffarabad
30.	Weekly Aghaz, Quetta
31.	Weekly Shaheen, Mastung
32.	Weekly Pukkar, Quetta
33.	Weekly Sanobar, Quetta
34.	Weekly Children Express, Qta
35.	Weekly Siasat, Quetta
36.	Weekly Awaz-e-Pakistan, Qta
37.	Weekly Akhbar-e-Balochistan
38.	Fortnightly Pasban, Quetta
39.	Fortnightly Aks-e-Bloan, Quetta
40.	Fortnightly Khulq, Quetta
41.	Fortnightly Zamir, Mastung
42.	Fortnightly Parbat, Quetta
43.	Fortnightly Kozak, Chaman
44.	Fortnightly Din, Quetta
45.	Fortnightly Hina, Quetta
46.	Fortnightly Qaumi Awaz Turbat
47.	Monthly Baloch, Quetta
48.	Monthly Baloch Dunya, Multan
49.	Monthly Kushboo, Quetta
50.	Monthly Fankar, Quetta
51.	Monthly Baloch Zind, Quetta
52.	Monthly Zindgi, Quetta
53.	Monthly Balochi Labzank, Hub
54.	Monthly Noken Daur, Quetta
55.	Monthly Photographer, Quetta
56.	Monthly Zindman, Turbat
57.	Monthly Sahar, Quetta



58.	Monthly Waqt, Quetta
59.	Monthly Soughat, Hub
60.	Monthly Chagird, Quetta
61.	Monthly Akhbar-e-Balochistan
62.	Monthly Ehtisab, Hub
63.	Monthly Sangat, Quetta
64.	Monthly Chiltan, Quetta
65.	Monthly Taqdeer, Quetta
66.	Monthly Tehreek, Quetta
67.	Monthly Asap, Turbat
68.	Monthly Jehanuma, Quetta
69.	Monthly Chattan, Quetta
70.	Monthly Mehwer, Quetta
71.	Monthly Pushto, Quetta
72.	Monthly Imroz, Quetta
73.	Monthly Sun, Quetta
74.	Monthly Sameen, Quetta

### **Radio Stations in Balochistan**

The institution of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation was set up in Quetta in 1956. The Radio Pakistan Quetta is the only centre in Pakistan where daily 42 hrs programmes are broadcasted in four local languages besides national language Urdu and official language English. The following is the setup of Radio Pakistan in Balochistan.

No	No of the Radio Station	Date of opening	Capacity
1	Radio Pakistan Quetta	October 18, 1956	150 KW.MW
2	RadioPakistan Turbat	January 01,1981	250 WATT
3	RadioPakistan Khuzdar	January 17, 1981	300K.WATT
4	Radio Pakistan Sibi	September1, 1989	250 WATT
5	Radio Pakistan Zhob	April 21, 1998	10 KWATT
6	Radio Pakistan Loralai	August 24, 1989.	10K.WATT
The FM 101 Radio Service started in Quetta on July 6, 2002 first ever in Balochistan (Source Radio Pakistan)			

### **Pakistan Television in Balochistan**

Pakistan Television Quetta center started its function on November 26, 1974 with Mr. Taufeeque Ejaz as its first General Manager. PTV Quetta centre telecasts programmes in four languages: namely, Urdu, Balochi, Brahvi, and Pushto. There are 17 TV boosters functional in Balochistan while the other four are under construction.

### **Quetta Press Club**

Press club in Quetta was established in 1959 with the name of Quetta – Kalat division Press Club with Maullana Muhammad Abdullah as the first president of the club.

### **Journalist Associations in Balochistan**

To protect the rights of the journalists and the editors, there established many organizations in Balochistan. the first ever association in this regard was “ The Journalist Association” with Mr. Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai as the first president of the association. Later on, the editors of the newspapers also established their association with the name of “Editors Association” with Mr. Maullana Muhammad



Abdullah as the first president. The Weekly Editors Association also existed to look after the interests of the weekly Newspapers.

Now in Balochistan there are many organizations looking after the interests of the press people, they are Balochistan Union of Journalists, Balochistan Editors Council, Balochistan Hawkers Association (Anjuman-e-Ittihad-e-Ikharfrooshan) etc.

## CHAPTER 13

### High Court and law enforcing forces in Balochistan

#### Balochistan High Court

During the One Unit, there was one High Court in the West Pakistan unit; called West Pakistan High Court which had its three Permanent Benches in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar and two Circuit Benches in Quetta and Bahawelpur.

With the dissolution of one unit and the emergence of Balochistan as the fourth province of Pakistan on 01 July 1970, there rose the need of the establishment of High Court in the province. Since there was no High Court in the province, as a temporary arrangement, a high court of Sindh and Balochistan provinces was jointly established called Sindh-Balochistan High Court in 1970. The following were the Chief Justices of the Sindh-Balochistan High Court From 1970 to 1976.

No	Name of the Chief Justices	Duration
1	Mr. Justice Abdul Qadeer ud Din	----
2	Mr. Justice Tufail Ali Abdul Rehman	----
3	Mr. Justice Abdul Qadir Shiekh	----

In 1976, the government of Balochistan decided to separate its high court from Sindh and thus Balochistan high court came into being. The following are the chief Justices of Balochistan high court till July 2002.

#### Chief Justices of Balochistan High Court

N o	Name of The Chief Justice	Duration
1	Mr. Justice Khuda Bukhsh Marri	1-12-1976 to 16-7-1977 18-9-1978 to 23-3-1981



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2	Mr. Justice Abdul Hayee	16-7-1977 to 23-7-1978
3	Mr. Justice .M.A.Rasheed.	24-7-1978 to 18-9-1978
4	Mr. Justice Zakaullah Lodhi	25-3-1981 to 19-10-1984
5	Mr. Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhry	29-10-1984 to 30-3-1985 29-3-1987 to 13-12-1989
6	Mr. Justice Ajmal Mian	30-3-1985 to 29-3-1987
7	Mr. Justice Mir Hazar Khan Khoso	13-12-1989 to 29-9-1991
8	Mr. Justice Munawer Ahmed Mirza	29-9-1991 to 16-11-1996
9	Mr. Justice Amirul Mulk Mengal	17-11-1996 to 22-4-1999
10	Mr. Justice Iftikhar Ahmed Chaudhry	22-4-1999 to 4-2-200-
11	Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal	4-2-2000 to 28 -4 2000
12	Mr. Justice Raja Fayyaz Ahmed	28-4-2000 to date
Source( Balochistan High Court)		

### **The Ombudsman**

The institution of Ombudsman was first introduced in Balochistan on March 20, 2001 when Mr. Sikander Khan Advocate was appointed the first Ombudsman of Balochistan.

### **Pakistan Army in Balochistan**

Out of the fourteen corps of Pakistan Army, the Twelfth Corps is deployed at Quetta. The 12 Corps of Quetta

came in to being in 1976. The first Corps Commander of Quetta Corps was Maj. Gen. Azher Saeed. Earlier Quetta was a garrison under a General Officer Commanding at Quetta who would lead Quetta and Karachi Corps under his supervision. Besides Quetta Corps, there are three Brigade Headquarters in Sibi, Loralai and Khuzdar. The Famous Command and Staff College and Infantry School Quetta are the Institutions of grace for Pakistan Army around the world. Besides regular army, there are Para-military forces like Frontier Corps (Mekran Scouts, Ghazabund Scouts) and Coast Guard etc operative in Balochistan.

### **Pakistan's Nuclear Tests in Balochistan**

In district Chaghi, Ras-Koh was the site when on may 28, 1998, at 3:30 p.m., Pakistan carried out the nuclear tests and became the seventh country in the world and first Muslim nuclear power in the world community.

### **Police Organization in Balochistan**

In Balochistan there are 79 police stations with six ranges and more than 16,000 (excluding the Levies Force which is busy in carrying out the law and order in the rural areas of Balochistan) staff of police department which implements law and order in less than 10% areas of Balochistan.

### **Balochistan Levies Force**

Balochistan Levies operates in 90% of the province with the strength of more than 12,000 men. They are recruited from the local tribesmen and remain at the disposal of district administration.

### **Jails in Balochistan**

There are four district jails and 06 jail/prisons in Balochistan. The oldest one in central Jail Much established in 1929. Then comes Quetta district Jail which was constructed in 1939. The roughly number of prisoners in all ten jails of Balochistan was 2000 on July 17, 2002.



## CHAPTER 14

### Education, Literature and Health Facilities in Balochistan

#### Educational facilities in Balochistan

The following are the colleges, universities and other educational institutes in public sector in Balochistan.

S/ No	Status of the college	Male	Female	Total
1	Degree Colleges	16	3	19
2	Intermediate Colleges	20	18	38
3	Commercial Colleges	1	Nil	1
4	Polytechnics Institutes	1	1	2
5	Law colleges	Both F/M		2
6	Medical Colleges	Both F/M		1
7	Universities	Both F/M		2
8	Physical Training colleges	Both F/M		1
9	Agriculture college	Both F/M		1
10	Elementary Colleges	3	2	5
11	Technical Training Centers	7	1	8
12	I.T University, Quetta.	Both F/M		1
13	Homeopathic College	Both F/M		1
14	Tibbiya Colleges	Both F/M		1
15	Residential Colleges	Both F/M		3

Source: Education Department, Balochistan

**The number of schools and their gender distribution in Balochistan**

Name of the District	High Schools			Middle Schools			Primary Schools		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Quetta	22	22	44	27	22	49	256	154	410
Pishin	21	5	26	43	12	55	479	125	604
K.Abdullah	17	3	20	13	4	17	358	34	392
Chaghi	12	3	15	22	8	39	220	123	343
Loralai	11	4	15	34	7	41	462	138	600
K.Saifullah	10	3	13	18	6	24	292	103	395
Zhob	13	1	14	25	3	28	365	65	430
Barkhan	10	1	11	14	3	17	356	98	454
Musakhel	7	2	9	5	3	8	172	47	219
Sibi	14	7	21	12	5	17	165	73	238
Ziarat	7	2	9	9	4	13	89	53	142
Kohlu	6	1	7	18	4	22	258	53	311
Dera Bugti	15	1	16	30	3	33	232	56	288
Nasirabad	10	1	11	14	3	17	229	105	344
Jafferabad	24	5	29	29	5	29	526	215	714
Bolan	19	4	23	13	7	20	338	57	395
Jhall Magsi	8	2	10	19	4	23	159	65	224
Kalat	13	2	15	23	6	29	244	57	301



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Khuzdar	17	2	19	23	6	29	391	77	468
Awaran	11	0	11	10	1	11	170	52	222
Mastung	11	4	15	16	8	24	211	83	294
Kharan	10	1	11	25	2	27	242	82	324
Lasbella	14	4	18	29	3	32	360	117	477
Turbat	31	4	35	24	15	39	314	207	521
Panjgur	14	4	18	15	5	20	170	118	288
Gwadar	10	1	11	11	6	17	148	59	207
TOTAL	357	89	446	521	155	676	7206	2416	962
									2

Source: Balochistan Developmental Statistics (P&D Dept)

### Vice Chancellors of Balochistan University

Balochistan University was established in 1970. This University now has 34 departments for different disciplines. The following were the Vice Chancellors in University of Balochistan.

S/ No	Name of the Vice Chancellor	Duration
1	Justice ® Durab Patel.	10-10-1970 to 11-10-1972
2	Prof. Karar Hussain.	12-10-1972 to 05-12-1976
3	Brig. ® Agha Akber Shah.	06-12-1976 to 23-05-1986
4	Muhammad Hassan Baloch	24-05-1986 to 18-04-1989
5	Prof. Shakrullah Baloch	19-04-1989 to 27-03-1990

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6	Dr Shaukat Hussain Baloch	28-03-1990 to 11-01-1991
7	Prof. Muhammad Khan Raisani.	12-01-1991 to 16-10-1993
8	Prof. Shakrullah Baloch	16-10-1993 to 25-10-1993
9	Dr D.K. Riaz Baloch	26-10-1993 to 26-07-1997
10	Prof. Bahadur Khan Rodini.	27-07-1997 to 28-01-2001
11	Justice M. A. Rasheed	29-09-2001 to - date

### **Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education**

There was no board of intermediate and secondary education in Balochistan rather the students of Balochistan would appear in Lahore Board or Multan Board for the examinations. In 1969 federal government constituted The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Quetta with Mr. Sheikh Jaffer Ali as the First Chairman. However, this institution became part of Balochistan University when in 1970 the University of Balochistan was established. Later in 1976, government of Balochistan constituted Balochistan Board of intermediate and secondary Education (BISE). Prof. Khalil Ahmed Siddiqui was the first Chairman of the Board. There are four branches of BISE viz Khuzdar, Turbat, D.M.Jamali and Loralai.

### **Regional Languages Literary Academies**

#### **Baloch Academy**

Balochi Academy in Balochistan was established in 1961 with Mr. Sardar Khan Gishkori as its first Chairman. This



Academy has 210 books on its credit on all aspects of literature, poetry, drama, novel research work, biographies etc.

It is worth mentioning that the first translation/ interpretation Holy Quran was done in Baloch by Maullana Hazoor Bakhsh Jatoi to encounter the Baloch version of the Bible, in 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The famous poets writers and researchers of Balochi are Jam Durrak, Mast Tawakali, Shay Mureed, Rahm Ali Marri, Mulla Fazzul, Atta Shad, Mir Gul Khan Naseer, Bashir Baloch, Bashir Baidra, Surat Khan Murri, Mir Ahqil Khan Mengal, Munir Qummi, Baig Muhammad Baigul, Wahid Buzdar, Hakeem Baloch, Sher Muhammad Murri, etc.

### **Pushto Academy**

Pushto Academy in Balochistan was formed in 1971 and Dr. Khudaidad Khan was the first president of the academy. Since its formation till July 2002, this academy has 39 publications on its credit on all aspects of literature, poetry, drama, novel research work, biographies etc.

It is to be noted that no translation/ interpretation of Holy Quran has been done in Pushto in Balochistan. From classical period to modern age, the following are the prominent poet of Pushto language in Balochistan, namely: Peer Mohammed Kakar, Abdul Salam Ashaizai, Syed Mohammed Rasool Faryadi, Abul Khair Zaland, Sultran Mohammed Sabir, Serwar Sawdai, Dr. Rubnawaz Mail, Saood Gohar, Abid Shah Abid, Abdul Karim Baryalay and many more.

### **Brahvi Academy**

Brahvi in Balochistan Academy was established on July 07, 1966 with Mir Abdul Rehman Kurd as the first president. This academy has 120 books on its credit on all aspects of literature, poetry, drama, novel, research work, biographies etc.

It is to worth mention that the first translation of Holy Quran was done by Maullana Mohammed Omer Deenpuri in 20<sup>th</sup> Century. While in the later part of the century, the interpretation of Holy Quran was realized by Maullana

Mohammed Yaqoob Shah Sharodi. The famous Brahvi poets are Malik Dad Kalati, Maullana Muhammad Omar Deenpuri, Taj Muhammad Tajal, Yaseen Bismil, Ishaq Sooz etc.

### **Brahvi Adabi Society**

Brahvi Adabi Society was formed in March 1978 with Mr. Khudaidad Gul as the first president. This society has 60 publications on its credit till July 2002 on all aspects of literature, poetry, drama, novel research work, biographies etc.

### **Mullah Fazul Academy Turbat (Kech)**

It was established in Kech in 1986-87 in Turbat to promote the literary activities in the divisional head quarters of Mekran. The first president of the Academy was Mr. Ibrahim Abid. This academy has the honour of publications on Varsity of topics.

### **Labzanki Caravan Turbat (Kech)**

This literary academy was established in Turbet in 1985. The first president of the academy was Mr. Ghani Perwaz. This academy has many publications on its account ranging on all sorts of works of literature.

### **Brahvi Arts Academy**

This academy was established in 1979 with Abdul Jabber Yar as its first president. It aims at projecting the Brahvi culture and dramas. This academy has seven books on its credit. This academy has started Chiltan Awards for best performance.

### **Sports Facilities in Balochistan**

The statistics of Balochistan sports department reveals that there are the following sports stadiums or centers available in the province.



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<b>Location</b>	<b>Types of Facilities</b>	<b>Seating Capacity</b>
Chaman	Chaman Stadium	2000
Dalbandin	Dalbandin Stadium	700
Gwadar	Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo Stadium	4500
Jhatpat	Jhatpat Stadium	4000
Kalat	Kalat Stadium	6000
Khuzdar	Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo Stadium	2000
Loralai	Loralai Stadium	3000
Mastung	Mastung Stadium	400
Noshki	Noshki Stadium	700
Panjgur	Panjgur Stadium	4000
Pasni	Pasni Stadium	2500
Quetta	Quetta Stadium	5000
Quetta	National Sports Training Centers Gymnasium	2000
Quetta	National Sports Training Centers Squash Court	200
Sibi	Sibi Stadium	1000
Turbat	Turbat Stadium	6000

### **Health Facilities in Balochistan**

The Development Statistics of Balochistan reflects the following data of health facilities in Balochistan. There are four government hospitals in Quetta: namely, Sandeman Provincial Hospital, Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Helpers Eye Hospital and Fatima Jinnah Chest & General Hospital. While 21 district Headquarters Hospitals are also functional. On Tehsil level 11 Civil/Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals, (69) Rural Health Centers with 690 beds, (511) Basic Health Units, 21 T.B. Clinics and Mobile Dispensaries are also operative. 50 beds Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Hospital, Hub and Shiekh Zaid Hospital in Kharan are functional, too. The Total number of doctors in Balochistan on July 15, 2002 is 1718. While round about 5000 bed available for patients in all the hospitals/centers of Balochistan.



## CHAPTER 15

### **Infrastructure & Transportation**

#### **Transportation facilities in Balochistan**

Since Balochistan enjoys the stretching distances and sharing of the common border with two neighbouring countries, there appears to have an infrastructure in the province. The following are the main components of the said infrastructure in the province.

#### **Pakistan Railways in Quetta Division (Balochistan)**

The British introduced railways in the region January 14, 1880 only for defense purposes and the first division of Railways was established in Quetta on 17-4-1892. Mr. S.B Azid was the first Divisional Superintendent after the establishment of Pakistan.

<b>Name of the section</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Sibi-Quetta	140.94Km	Functional
Quetta-Chaman	140.14Km	Functional
Sibi-Khost	140.14Km	Functional
Spizaund-Taftan	612.74Km	Functional
Bostan-Zhob	295.17Km	Non- Functional

The total Length of laid down railway track is 1329.13Km, which has 39 tunnels (Khojak 3.29Km, being the longist). There are 69 railway stations in Balochistan, out of which 16 temporarily while 16 Stations permanently closed and only 37 Stations are functional. Quetta to Sibi section has the largest number of railway tunnels, which number 21, out of which Paneer Tunnel is the longest (3190-ft). The only tunnel

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named after a female in Bolan section is Merry Gain tunnel in Bolan Balochistan.

### **Airports in Balochistan**

There are twelve airports in Balochistan, viz, Quetta, Sibi, Khuzdar, Loralai, Zhob, Kharan (Shimsi), Sui, Dalbandeen, Panjgur, Turbat, Jiwani, Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara. Four of these are international airports, namely, Quetta, Turbat, Gwadar and Pasni.

### **Seaports in Balochistan**

Balochistan possesses a very long coastal belt about 70% of Pakistan's total coastline. However, no deep-water seaport is there rather small ports are there to facilitate the fishing operations carried in the coastal area of Balochistan. These ports are in Sonmiani, Ormara, Pasni, Gwadar and Jawani. Now with the help of Chinese government, the government of Pakistan is building a deep-sea port in Gwadar with the cost of RS 14.5.

### **Gas Consumption in Balochistan.**

The natural gas was discovered first in Sui Balochistan in 1952. This gas was extended to Karachi in 1954 and in 1958, this gas reached Lahore and in '60, it reached to Peshawar. Nevertheless, Quetta received the gas supply in 1985. Still a major part of Balochistan and major cities lack gas facility.

Following is the detail of gas consumers and their category up to July 1, 2002.

S.No.	Type of Consumers	Number of consumers
1	Domestic	1,24,018
2	Commercial	1493
3	Industrial	50
Total	-----	1,25,561

(Source SSGC)



### **Main gas pipelines**

The following mainlines are laid in Balochistan, besides the mainlines from Sui to the rest of the country and Quetta.

<b>Mainline</b>	<b>Length</b>
Quetta To Mastung	45 km
Quetta To Huramzai Karbala	72 km
Kuchlak To Bostan	15 km

### **Telephone facilities in Balochistan**

There are 93,562 telephone subscribers in Balochistan while the installed capacity is 1, 24,332 upto April 30, 2002. The total number of telephone Exchanges in Balochistan is 231 out of which 123 are auto digital while the the remaining 108 are manual.

### **Electricity facilities available in Balochistan**

Up till may 30, 2002 the following was the number of electricity consumers and their category:

<b>S/No</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Total number</b>
1	Government	5783
2	Commercial	63795
3	Agriculture	15263
4	Domestic	265467
5	Industrial	1982
6	Others	05
Total		3, 52,295
Source	QESCO	

While the total village electrification was 3515 out of 12,370 villages of Balochistan.

**Power projects their location & capacity in Balochistan**

1. Habibullah Energy Ltd. Quetta, Balochistan 140 MW
2. Uch Power Limited Dera Murad, Balochistan 586 MW (3146 total capacity)
3. Hubco power project Balochistan 1292MW.

**Number of Motor Vehicles Registered in Balochistan.**

According to the statistics of Excise and Taxation Department Government of Balochistan that till July 1<sup>st</sup> 2002, 2, 50,353 vehicles were registered in Balochistan, out of which 1,10,000 were only registered in Quetta district and rest are stood registered in 21 districts of Balochistan. These vehicles include all types of private, public, government, four wheel, six wheel, 10 wheel, bikes, rickshaws etc.

**The Postal Services in Balochistan.**

The established postal services arrived with the British colonialists. Moreover, there was only one post office in Quetta, now called GPO Quetta, after the devastating earthquake of 1935, the Quetta GPO was built in 1939. Now in Balochistan there are 558 post offices along with 06 GPOs in Quetta, Khuzdar, Turbat, D.M Jamali, Sibi, and Loralai.



## CHAPTER 16

### INDUSTRIALIZATION IN BALOCHISTAN

#### **Industrial Activities in Balochistan**

According to the Industries Department, following industrial Units are operative in Balochistan.

S. No.	Name of the Industry	Total Units	Closed Units	Units in Operation
1	Flour mills	24	Nil	24
2	Plastic	12	6	6
3	Ship Breaking	37	10	27
4	Pharmaceutical	11	2	9
5	Ghee/Cooking Oil	08	4	4
6	Power Generation	04	Nil	4
7	Biscuit	10	3	7
8	Textile Mills	34	18	16
9	Engineering	20	10	10
10	Cement	02	1	1
11	Polyester	07	Nil	7
12	Metal production	16	9	7
13	Fruit/ Juices	10	6	4
14	Others	85	49	36
Total		280	118	162

Source: Industries Department

The following industrial areas are there in Balochistan

1. Industrial Area Quetta.
2. Industrial Area Hub.
3. Industrial Area Gaddani.
4. Industrial Area Winder.
5. Industrial Area Bostan.
6. Industrial Area D.M.Jamali.

### **Chamber of Commerce & Industries in Balochistan**

Balochistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries Quetta was established in 1973 and Mirza Muhammad Ibrahim was its first president. There are four Chamber of Commerce and Industries; Balochistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Chaman Chamber of Commerce, Lasbella Chamber of Commerce and Industries Hub and Balochistan Agriculture Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

### **The Banks in Balochistan**

Beside the State Bank of Pakistan, there are round about 200 branches of banks and other financial institutions in Balochistan with given break up, National Bank 53 branches, Allied Bank 36 branches, United Bank 42 branches, Muslim Commercial Bank 37 branches, Askari Bank 02 branches, Union Bank 01 branch, Soneri Bank 01 branch, Grindlays Bank 01 branch, Schon Bank 01 branch, Bank of Punjab 02 branch, Khaiber Bank 01, Al -Faysal Bank 01 branch, Al-Habib Commercial Bank 01 branch, Agricultural Development Banks, etc and 16 National Saving centers.

### **Co-operative Societies in Balochistan**

According to the statistics of Registrar Co-operative Societies till June 30, 2000, there were 365 societies with 24,936 members while the working capital was Rs.121.851 million.



## CHAPTER 17

### **The Mega Projects in Balochistan**

#### **Mirani Dam Project: -**

Mirani Dam project is located on Dusht River, about 30 miles away from Turbat in Mekran, Balochistan. Dusht River is non-perennial stream with the catchment area of over 7960 sq. mi. The groundbreaking ceremony of the project took place on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2001. The project will cost RS 4.25s billion and will complete in 36 months. This dam has the gross storage capacity of 3, 02, 000-acre feet and the annual irrigation release will be 1.14,000-acre feet. The height of the dam will be 127 feet and will irrigate an area of 33,200 acres.

#### **Kachhi Canal Project: -**

This project is in the province of Balochistan and will irrigate the Kachhi plain. This canal will originate from Taunsa Barrage in Punjab and will come to Balochistan after completing a journey of more than 500 km and will irrigate 7, 13,000 acres. The initial cost is estimated to be RS 28 billions. This is worthy to mention here that before recent modifications, this canal was to originate from Mithan-Kot and a Barrage was to be built with entire control with the government of Balochistan, but later this design was abandoned and the plan from Taunsa was approved by the provincial government in May 2002.

#### **Daulatabad to Gwadar gas pipeline project**

At a summit in Islamabad, the presidents of Pakistan, Turkmenistan and the Chairman of Afghan interim government signed a memorandum of understanding for laying a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to Port City of Gwadar of Pakistan. This line will be brought from the Daulatabad gas fields of Turkmenistan, which is speculated to be the seventh greatest field in the world for its production and natural

reservoirs of gas. An international consortium of USA, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea first started Daulatabad gas pipeline moot in mid 90s, the principal company was Union Taxes. The length of the pipeline will be 1500 km with the cost of \$ 2 billion. This pipeline will pass through the districts of Chaghi, Panjgur, Kech and Gwadar as to reach to its pumping station at Gwadar.

### **Gwadar Deep Sea Port**

In the federal PSDP of 2001-2002 an amount of RS1000 million was allocated for Gwadar Deep sea Port project while the project cost was estimated to RS 14. 905 billion including FEC (Foreign Exchange Component of RS 8.764 billion). The said amount was allocated for the project in the ECNEC meeting held on 28- 2-2002 for the commencement of the project on 23 rd March 2002. The first phase of the project will be financed through a mix of public sector financing and Chinese aid and will be completed within period of 36 months from the date of commencement. While the second phase of the project will be completed thoroughly with private financing of RS 31.44 billion including FEC (Foreign Exchange Component) of RS 22.01 billion) on BOO/BOT basis.

### **Coastal Highway**

The construction of 552-km coastal highway, starting from Liari to Iranian border town Gubd, with an amount of RS 11 billion, will open the bluer, cleaner and warmer waters of Mekran coast for tourism after 36 months period when the road would have been constructed.

### **Hingol Dam**

Hingol River is situated in Mekran on which a dam is to be constructed. The area of the dam is 92,500 acres and the storage capacity is 10.70 acre feet while this dam will generate 0.30 megawatt electricity. This dam is to irrigate an area of 12,000 acre; it will be completed be within three years period from date of commencement with a cost of RS 4 billion.



### **Saindak Project in Balochistan**

Saindak Metals Limited (SML) at Saindak is situated in district Chaghi, Balochistan, 650 km west of provincial capital of Quetta and 1,275 km from Karachi. The project is linked with RCD Highway by road. The estimated deposits of Copper in the area are over 400 million tons with 19 years project life. The annual production of the project will be 15,800 ton annual , with 1.5 tons gold and 2.8 tons silver (copper content over 99.1% and gold content of 105 gram/ton achieved during trial production)

## CHAPTER 18

### FIRST IN BALOCHISTAN

1. The first Matriculate in Balochistan was Muhammad Ibrahim Khan.
2. The first Graduate in Balochistan was Jam Noorullah Khan.
3. The first M.A in Balochistan was Sardar Khan Gishkori.
4. The first Muslim Journalist in Balochistan was Khalilur-Rehman Siddiqui.
5. The first MBBS in Balochistan was Mr. Saleem Bakhtiar.
6. The first Mayor of Quetta was Zakariya Kasi.
7. The first Ph.D. in Agriculture in Balochistan was Dr. Abdul Hamid Bajoi
8. The first FCPS Male Surgeon in Balochistan was Dr. Abdullah Jaffer
9. The first FCPS female Doctor in Balochistan was Shahnaz Baloch.
10. The first Chief Commissioner after establishment of Pakistan for Balochistan was Mr. Jeffrey Prier.
11. The first Regional Director of Radio Pakistan Quetta was Mr. K.G Ali.
12. The first announcer from Radio Pakistan Quetta Mr. M.A Kazim.
13. The first Corp Commander of Balochistan (12 Corp) was Maj.Gen.Azher Saeed.
14. The first Member in 1947's Constituent Assembly from British Balochistan was Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai.
15. The first female parliamentarian in Balochistan Assembly was Ms. Fazeela Aliani.



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16. The first leader of the house in Balochistan Assembly was Sardar Attaullah Mengal.
17. The first leader of opposition was Jam Ghulam Qadir Khan.
18. The first Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly was Sardar Muhammad Khan Barozai.
19. Balochistan was the first and only province which adopted Urdu as Official Language in the first Assembly of Balochistan.
20. The first female from Balochistan who in 1962's election became the member of National Assembly was Mrs. Khdiya. G.Khan.
21. The first Chief Justice of Balochistan was Justice Khuda Bukhsh Marri.
22. The first Chief Secretary of Balochistan was A.B. Awan.
23. The first Governor of Balochistan was Lt. Gen. Riaz Hussain.
24. The first Chief Minister of Balochistan was Sardar Attaullah Mengal.
25. The first government in Balochistan was dismissed after nine months.
26. The first female Senator from Balochistan was Dr.Noor Jahan Panaizai.
27. The first Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University was Justice (R) Durab Patel.
28. The first Agent to Governor General (AGG) was Sir Robert Sandeman.
29. The first Muslim Agent to Governor General (AGG) was Lt. Col. SM. Khursheed.
30. The first Assembly of Balochistan had 21 members.
31. The first religious institution in Balochistan was Maktahbah-I-DurKhani.
32. The first school in Balochistan was Anglo vernacular Middle school established in 1881 at Quetta.

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33. The first school for girls was Lady Sandeman Girls School established in 1889.
34. The first College established in Quetta was Science College established in 1948.
35. The first Girls College established in Quetta was Government Girls College Quetta established in 1951.
36. The Radio Pakistan's broadcasting service in Balochistan first started on October 17, 1956.
37. The first visit of Quaid-e-Azam to Balochistan took place on June 23, 1943.
38. The first Commissioner of Quetta Division was R.K.M. Sakar.
39. The first political organization established in Balochistan was Anjuman -e- Ittihad Balochan.
40. The first ever Woolen Mill in Pakistan was established in Balochistan at Huarnai.
41. The first ever huge deposit of natural gas was discovered in Balochistan in 1952 in Sui.
42. The first PTV telecasting from Quetta started on November 26, 1974.
43. The first Ombudsman of Balochistan is Mr. Sikander Khan Advocate.
44. The first post Office in Balochistan established at Quetta was General Post Office, Quetta.
45. The first state of Balochistan which joined Pakistan was State of Lasbella.
46. The first Newspaper from Balochistan during British rule was monthly Balochistan Advertiser.
47. The first weekly from Balochistan was the Balochistan Gazette.
48. The first English daily from Balochistan during British rule was the daily Balochistan Gazette.
49. The first Urdu daily from Balochistan during British rule was daily Rasth-goh.



50. The first Urdu daily from Balochistan after independence was daily Ittihad.
51. The first budget of the province of Balochistan was of Rs 21 crore. Out of which 14 crore were for non-development and 7 crore for development purposes.
52. The first General Manager of PTV Quetta was Mr. Tuafeeq Ejaz.
53. The first printing press installed in Quetta was Albert Press.
54. The first Chief Secretary of Balochistan from Balochistan was Mr. Faqir Muhammad Baloch.
55. The first Inspector General of Police in Balochistan was Chaudry Fazl-e-Haq.
56. The first Chairman of Pushto Academy was Dr. Khudaidad Khan.
57. The first Chairman of Balochi Academy was Mr. Sardar Khan Gishkori.
58. The first president of Brahvi Academy was Mir Abdul Rehman Kurd.
59. The first president of Brahvi Adabi Society was Mr. Khudaidad Gul.
60. The first president of Quetta Press Club was Maullana Muhammad Abdullah.
61. The first president of All India Muslim League in Balochistan was Qazi Muhammad Issa.
62. The first President of Muslim Student Federation (MSF) was Sardar Khair Muhammad Tareen.
63. The first Salar of Muslim National Guard was Malik Jan Muhammad Kasi.
64. The first Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Engineering & Technology Khuzdar was Agha Abdul Qadir Baloch.
65. The first British who visited Balochistan as a trader/ tourist was Henry Pottinger.

66. The first Treaty between State Of Kalat and British India was concluded in 1886 named Treaty of Mastung.
67. The first Khan of Kalat who was martyred in 1839 fighting against British was Mir Mehrab Khan.
68. The first British resident in the Court of Khan of Kalat was Lieutenant Henry Green.
69. The first News agency in Balochistan was APP.
70. The first national Urdu Newspaper in Balochistan was Daily Jang Quetta.
71. The first man from Balochistan to reach the designation of Chief of Army Staff was General Muhammad Musa.
72. The first Chairman of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) was Prof. Khalil Ahmed Siddiqui.
73. The first Board level examination held in Quetta in 1928 was of Matriculation.
74. The first school established by the Muslims in Quetta was Islamia Primary School in 1908.
75. The first Balochi weekly was Oman by Maullana Khair Muhammad Nadvi.
76. The first Pushto Daily from Balochistan was Hewad.
77. The first Political Agent of Zhob Agency in 1890 was Captain MacIver.
78. The first Post Master General of Balochistan was Muhammad Naeem.
79. The first Balochi daily newspaper from Balochistan was daily Nawa-e-Watan.
80. The first Brahvi periodical from Balochistan was weekly Heelum.
81. The first Balochi to Balochi dictionary is Syed Gunj by Syed Zahoor Shah Hashimi.
82. The first ever political party in Kalat State was the Kalat State National Party.



83. The first ever demand for reforms in Balochistan was presented in the famous fourteen points of Quaid-e-Azam.
84. The first ever demand for reforms in a resolution regarding Balochistan was tabled by Maullana Ghulam Bahik Bairung in the then Indian Central Assembly in 1936.
85. The first ever book on the demands and rights of Balochistan was co-authored by Mr. /Mrs. Qazi Issa with the title of "Balochistan : Case & Demand"
86. The first president of "Editors Association" was Mr. Maullana Muhammad Abdullah.
87. The first Advocate General in Balochistan was Mr. Muhammad Ahmed Mirza.
88. The first Deputy Commissioner/Political Agent of Quetta was Sir H.S.Barnes in 1883.
89. The first district in Balochistan was Quetta-Pishin which was established in 1883.
90. The first National Identity Card was issued in Balochistan to Mr. Muhammad Akram bearing the No 601-38-000001.
91. The first Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways in Quetta division was S.B Azid on 14-8-1947.

92. The first Vice Chancellor of IT University in Balochistan is Mr Muhammad Abbas Chaudry.
93. The first Female Pro-Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University is Miss Razia Babar.
94. Mrs. Zubaida Jalal was the first ever women of Balochistan elected on two seats of National Assembly in the elections of October 10, 2002.
95. Mir Zafarullah Jamali is the first ever Prime Minister of Pakistan who is from Balochistan.
96. Ms Meleha is the first ever female pilot who belongs to Balochistan.
97. The first country to establish its Council General's Office in Balochistan was Iran.
98. The first ever Urdu newspaper of Balochistan on Internet is daily Azadi Quetta.
99. The first English daily of Balochistan available on Internet is daily Balochistan Express Quetta.
100. The first ever evening Newspaper from Quetta is daily Lushker Quetta.

## **Balochistan a Statistical View (2001)**

Population	6.5 million (census.1998) (5.11% of Pakistan)
Population growth rate	2.64%
Area	3,47,190, Sq.km (44% of Pakistan)
Coast Line	770 Sq. km (70% of Pakistan)
Number of districts	26
Commisionerats	6 (Defunct)



**Education**

**Literacy Rate**

Pakistan	Balochistan
47%	26.6%
(Female)	
33%	15%
Primary School	
68.3%	49%
Enrolment	
(Female)	
9.2%	21%

**Village Electrification**

75%	25%
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Total Number of Villages in Balochistan is round about 12,370

**Roads**

Shingle	18, 478 km
Black Top	2, 259 km

Length of National Highways in Balochistan is 2,371 km which is 36% of National Highway's road network (6600) in Pakistan.

**Mineral Production ( 2001)**

1- Coal	17,726	(00) Tons
2- Marble	13261	(00) Tons
3- Barite	327	(00) Tons
4- Chromite	321	(00) Tons
5- Fluorite	01	(00) Tons

**Agriculture Sector (2001)**

Geographical Area	34.73Million Hectares
Reported Area	19.37Million Hectares
Cultivated Area	02.11Million Hectares
Irrigated Area with Dubari	0.84 Million Hectares

<b>Fruit &amp; Crops</b>	Average Production	Production in 2001(Hectares)
Fruits	12,297	14310
1- Wheat	3,817	8716
2- Vegetable	269	3849
3- Rice	1584	4339
4- Barley	293	399
5- Jawar	235	231
6- Maize	34	73
7- Cotton	404(bale)	1,19261(bale)



### **Altitude of Different Cities of Balochistan**

The following is the measurement of different cities of Balochistan above sea level.

Name of the City	Altitude
1. Quetta	5,500 ft
2. Ziarat	8,000 ft
3. Chaman	4,034 ft
4. Uthal	2,555 ft
5. Loralai	4,699 ft.
6. Zhob	4,543 ft
7. Sibi	735 ft
8. Mach	3,246 ft
9. Fort Munro	6,303 ft
10. Kalat	7,000-8,000 ft.
11. Turbat	360 to 5040 feet
12. Khuzdar	4497 ft
13. Kahn Metherzai	8200 ft
14. Nasirabad	180 to 360 ft

### **Balochistan related Abbreviations**

GoB	Government of Balochistan.
BHU	Basic Health Unit.
BHC	Balochistan High Court.
BMC	Bolan Medical College.
PAC	Public Accounts Committee.
DPR	Directorate of Public Relations.
QESCO	Quetta Electric Supply Company.
BCCI	Balochistan Chamber of Commerce & Industries
BDA	Balochistan Development Authority
QMC	Quetta Municipal Corporation.
DMD	Directorate of Mineral Development.

B-WASA	Balochistan Water and Sanitation Authority.
RAB	Regional Accountability Bureau.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency.
TTBB	Trade Testing Board Balochistan
BWR	Bureau of Water Resources.
BoS	Bureau of Statistics.
BCS	Balochistan Conservation Strategy.
HITE	Hub Industrial & Trading Estate.
LIEDA	Lasbella Industrial Estate Development Authority.
<b>BIDA</b>	<b>Balochistan</b> Irrigation & Drainage Authority
<b>BMIADP</b>	<b>Balochistan</b> Minor Irrigation and <b>Agriculture</b> Development Programme.
<b>BTDMP</b>	<b>Balochistan</b> Trial District Management Programme.
<b>ADPB</b>	Area <b>Development</b> Programme Balochistan.
<b>BNRMP</b>	Balochistan <b>Natural</b> Resources Management Programme.
<b>BPEDP</b>	Balochistan <b>Primary</b> <b>Education</b> Development Project.
<b>GISB</b>	Geographical Information <b>System</b> Balochistan.
<b>IMPLAN</b>	Improving the System for the <b>Development &amp; Planning</b> in Balochistan.
<b>LB&amp;RDD</b>	Local Bodies & Rural <b>Development</b> Department.
<b>LCC&amp;I</b>	Lasbella Chamber of Commerce & Industries.
<b>QPC</b>	Quetta Press Club.
<b>BUJ</b>	Balochistan Union of Journalists.
<b>BCIAP</b>	Balochistan <b>Community</b> Irrigation and <b>Agriculture</b> Project.
<b>KPP</b>	Khushal Pakistan Programme.
<b>BRUWAS</b>	Balochistan Rural Water and Sanitation <b>Project</b> .
<b>UoB</b>	University of Balochistan.



BISE	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Balochistan.
BPSC	Balochistan Public Service Commission.

### **Balochistan General Information**

- The railway station at the highest altitude in Balochistan is Kahn Mehterzai station at 8200 ft.
- The highest peak in Balochistan is Takht-e-Sulaiman with the height of 11, 340 ft.
- The areawise biggest district in Balochistan is Chaghi.
- The area wise smallest district in Balochistan is Quetta.
- The most populated district in Balochistan is Quetta.
- The least populated district in Balochistan is Ziarat.
- The lengths of Khojak tunnel is 2.5 miles or 12870 ft.
- The Khojak tunnel was constructed in 1888.
- Khojak tunnel is 6398 ft above sea level.
- Radio Pakistan Quetta is the only Center in Pakistan which broadcasts 42 hrs programmes in a day.
- There were two Commissionaires in Balochistan during One Unit.
- The border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is called Durand Line which is 1400 Km long.
- Balochistan is the only province of Pakistan which is linked with two international borders.
- Islamia High school is called Little Aligarh.
- The hottest place in Balochistan is Sibi.
- The coldest place in Balochistan is Muslim Bagh.
- Robert Sandeman is called the conqueror of Balochistan. He is buried in Lasbella.
- Balochistan University was established in 1970.
- The population of Balochistan in 1947 was 8, 80,000.
- Before independence, there were four States in Balochistan namely, Mekran, Kharan, Lasbella and Kalat.

## *Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

- In Balochistan the elections for the first Provincial Assembly were held on 10th Dec, 1970
- The total number of the members of the first Provincial Assembly was 21.
- There was just one woman seat and Ms Fazeela Aliani was the first woman member.
- The leaders of Lasbella, Kharan, and Mekran States signed the tool of accession with Pakistan on 17th March 1948.
- Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir represented the states in the constituent Assembly while the British Balochistan was represented by Nawab Muhammad Khan Jogezi.
- The first political organization of Balochistan is called Association of Balochistan Alliance.
- NAP and JUI made the first political cabinet of Balochistan.
- The first session of Balochistan Assembly was held on 2nd May 1972.
- Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo inaugurated the new building of Balochistan Assembly on 28th April 1987.
- The first Govt, of Balochistan remained for about 9 months.
- The Governor rule was imposed in province for 2 months.
- In 1976, Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto dismissed the Govt of Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir, declaring him incapable. The speaker of the Assembly Mr. Mohammed Khan Barozai was made the Chief Minister.
- The largest forest of Juniper in Pakistan and the 2nd largest of the world is in Ziarat.
- In Balochistan, the High Court came into being in 1976.
- The most severe earthquake in Balochistan came on 31st May 1935. This termed the lives of about 40000 people.
- Balochistan's marble is legendary in Europe as the best quality marble is found in Chaghi.
- British first stepped in Balochistan in 1838.



*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

- Robert Sundeman, called "The Conqueror of Balochistan" within the British circle, is buried in Lasbella,
- The Coastal line of Mekran is about 770 km long, which is 70% of the gross coastal area of Pakistan.
- Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai is called the "Gandhi of Balochistan".
- Mir Ghaus Bukhsh Bizenjo is called the "Father of Balochistan".
- The longest Railway tunnel of the Sub-continent is "Khojak".
- The borders of Balochistan are connected with Iran and Afghanistan.
- The first religious seminary of Balochistan is "Maktaba-i-Durkhani Dhadar" which was Balochi and Brahvi medium.
- The first school in Balochistan was Anglo Vernacular Middle School which was established in 1881.
- The first girls' school was Lady Sandeman School which was established in 1889.
- Quaid-e-Azam gave the name of Little Aligarh to the Islamia School.
- The army training institute Command and Staff College, famous all over the world, was built in 1907.
- The first Persian Poetess in Balochistan was Rabia Khuzdari who belonged to Khuzdar.
- Quaid-e-Azam spent his last days in Ziarat to which he gave the name of "The Switzerland of Pakistan".
- Quaid-e-Azam first came to Balochistan on 22nd June 1943.
- The Mehargahr archeological site is as old as 6000 BC to 9000 BC.
- The old name of Gandawa was Kandabel.
- The total area of Balochistan is about 347190 sq. km.
- Under One Unit, there were two commissionerates in Balochistan i.e. Quetta and Kalat.

- Pakistan television Quetta centre started its regular transmission on 26 Nov 1974.
- Radio Pakistan Quetta was established on 17th Oct 1956.
- The old name of Mekran was Gadrosia.
- The length of Khojuk tunnel is 12870ft.
- The height of Toba hills is 8100 ft.
- The height of Muslukh Range is 7000 to 7972 ft.
- The height of Chiltan Mountains is 10480 ft.
- The height of Murdar hills is 8,000 to 10,480 ft.
- The height of Zarghoon hills is 1170 to 11738 ft.
- The height of Takatuo hills is 11340 to 11390 ft.
- The Khojuk tunnel was constructed in 1880.
- Quetta Division of Railways was established on April 17, 1892.
- Zubaida Jalal was the first women parliamentarian who was elected on general and reserved seats of Balochistan.

### **Balochistan's Participation in the Assemblies during and before One Unit**

In the first Constituent Assembly there was a member to represent the British Balochistan; namely, Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai. Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir, on the other hand, represented the states in the constituent Assembly. In the second Constituent Assembly Dr Khan was the representative of Balochistan. During one unit from 1956 to 1958t, when the whole West Pakistan was declared to be one province, there were 12 members in the provincial assembly of West Pakistan from Balochistan. They were: 1) Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir, 2) Saleh Muhammad Mandokhail, 3) Abdul Khaliq Kakar, 4) Nawabzada Baloch Khan Nausherwani, 5) Sardar Mehboob Ali Magsi, 6) Sardar Attaullah Mengal, 7) Nawab Khair Bukhsh Marri, 8) Sardar Muhammad Khan Jomezai, 9) Sohail Khan Malizai, 10) Nawab Ghaus Bukhsh Raisani 11) Nabi Bukhsh Zahri, 12) Mir Nabi Bukhsh Khoso.



## *Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

Under the 1962 constitution, the following were the members of National assembly from Balochistan elected on April 28, 1962. They were: 1) Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir, 2) Begum Khadija G. Khan, 3) Nawab Khair Bukhsh Marri, 4) Mir Darya Khan Khuso, and 5) Sardar Attaullah Mengal.

The elections for provincial assembly of West Pakistan held on May 08, 1962 got the following to be members of provincial Assembly. They were: 1) Mir Abdul Baqi Baloch, 2) Muhammad Rafique Babo, 3) Mir Nabi Bukhsh Zahri, 4) Nawab Yousaf Ali Magsi, 5) Mir Hummul Khan, 6) Mir Muhammad Murad Khan Jamali, 7), Sardar Doda Khan Zahri, 8) Mir Ahmed Nawaz Bugti.

The following were elected members of Provincial Assembly of West Pakistan from 1965 to 1969 in the elections of 1965, Muhammad Rafique Babo, Nawab Yousaf Ali Magsi, Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai, Nawabzada Shiekh Omer, Sardar Muhammad Ishaq Khan and Muhammad Hashim Lassi.

### **The Provincial Allocation of National Assembly Seats for Election 2002**

Province	General	Women	Total
Balochistan	14	3	17
NWFP	35	8	43
Sindh	61	14	75
Punjab	148	35	183
FATA	12	Nil	12
Islamabad	2	Nil	02
Minorities	10	Nil	10
Total	282	60	342

**The Provincial Allocation of the seats of Senate of Pakistan for Election 2002**

Province	Gen	Women	Technocrat	Total
Punjab	14	4	4	22
Sindh	14	4	4	22
NWFP	14	4	4	22
Balochistan	14	4	4	22
FATA	08	Nil	Nil	08
Islamabad	02	01	01	04
Total	66	17	17	100

**Seats of Provincial Assemblies for election 2002**

Province	Gen	Woman	Non-Muslim	Total
Balochistan	51	11	3	65
Punjab	297	66	8	371
Sindh	130	29	9	168
NWFP	99	22	3	124
Total	577	128	23	728



**Governors of Balochistan**  
**(From July 01, 1970 to December, 2002)**

S. No	Name of the Governor	Duration
1	Let. Gen, Riaz Hussain	1-7-70 to 21-12-71
2	Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani	28-12-71 to 3-4-72
3	Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo	29-4-72 to 14-2-73
4	Nawab Muhammad Akber Bugti	15-2-73 to 1-6-74
5	Khan Mir Ahmedyar Khan.	3-6-74 to 5-7-77
6	Justice ® Khuda Bakhsh Marri	5-7-77 to 18-12-78
7	Let. Gen, Rahim ud din	18-12-78 to 21-3-84
8	Let. Gen, F. S. K Lodhi.	22-3-84 to 07-07- 84
9	Let. Gen, Khushdil Khan Afridi	8-07-84 to 31-12-85
10	Gen, ® Muhammad Musa	31-12-85 to 12-3-91
11	Justice ® Hazar Khan Khoso	13-3-91 to 12-7-91
12	Sardar Gul Muhammad Jomezai	13-7-91 to 19-7-93
13	Brig. ® Abdul Rahim Durani	19-7-93 to 19-5-94
14	Let. Gen, Imranullah Khan	19-5-94 to 10-4-97
15	Mir Abdul Jabber (Caretaker).	10-4-97 to 22-4-97
16	Mian Gul Aurangzaib.	22-4-97 to 18-8-99
17	Syed Fazal Agha	18-8-99 to 12-10-99
18	Justice ® Amirul Mulk Mengal	25-10-99 to 31-01-03
19	Let ® Gen Abdul Qadir Baloch	01-02-03 to date

*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

**Chief Ministers of Balochistan.**

The below is the list of the chief ministers of Balochistan from 1972 to 2002.

S/ NO	Name of the Chief Minister	Duration
1	Sardar Attaullah Mengal.	02-5-72 to 13-2-73
2	Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan	27-4-73 to 31-12-75
3	Muhammad Khan Barozai	07-12-76 to 04-7-77
4	Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan.	6-4-85 to 29-5-88
5	Mir Zafarullah Jamali (Caretaker).	24-6-88 to 02-12-88
6	Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali.	02-12-88 to 04-12-88
7	Justice ® Khuda Bakhsh Marri (Caretaker).	24-12-88 to 5-2-89
8	Nawab Muhammad Akber Bugti.	05-2-89 to 6-8-90
9	Mir Humayun Marri (Caretaker).	7-8-90 to 17-11-90
10	Mir Taj Muhammad Khan Jamali.	17-11-90 to 22-5-93
11	Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi	30-5-93 to 19-7-93
12	Mir Nasir Mengal (Caretaker).	19-7-93 to 20-10-93
13	Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi.	20-10-93 to 11-8-96
14	Mir Zafarullah Jamali (Caretaker).	10-11-96 to 22-2-97
15	Sardar Muhammad Akhtar Mengal	22-2-97 to 08-07-98
16	Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali.	13-8-98 to 12-10-99
17	Jam Muhammad Yousaf	01-12-2002 to date



### **Balochistan's Cabinet**

The present Balochistan cabinet came in to existence when Jam Muhammad Yousaf sworn in as Chief Minister of Balochistan on December 01, 2002. The following are the members of the Balochistan's present cabinet.

<b>S/ No</b>	<b>Name of the Minister</b>	<b>Portfolios</b>
1	Maulana Abdul Wasey	P&D / Irrigation
2	Hafiz Hamadullah	Health / P.H.E
3	Prince Faisal Daud	C & W
4	Hafiz Hussain Ahmed Sherrodi	Local Government, Information and I.T
5	Maulana Faiz Muhammad	Labour, Hajj & Auqaf and Minorities affairs, Industries,
6	Molvi Faizullah	Agriculture, Food,
7	Sardar Masood Khan Looni	Mines and Mineral Development.
8	Mr. Abdul Wahid Siddiqui	Education
9	Syed Ehsan shah	Finance
10	Sardar Sananullah Zehri	Home&Tribal Affairs
11	Mr. Amanullah Notizai	Excise & Taxation
12	Lt. Col ® Muhammad Younus Changazi	Forest & Wildlife and Environment
13	Mir Abdul Redman Jamal	S&GAD

14	Mir Muhammad Asam Kurd Gallo	Revenue, Relief and Land Utilization & Settlement
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### **Balochistan's Budget for 2002- 03**

The total budget was a tax-free budget of Rs29.79 billion including current revenue expenditure of Rs19.75 billion and a total development outlay of Rs10.03 billion. A revenue surplus of Rs6.67 billion as total resources in the coming fiscal year was being estimated at Rs26.43 billion. This included provincial revenue of Rs1.53 billion and federal transfers totaling Rs24.89 billion.

While the over all budget deficit was of Rs1.9 billion. The federal government provided Rs654 million to facilitate transition to the new system. The Provincial Finance Commission of Balochistan government has recommended distributing 31 per cent of total resources to the district governments, to be called "Provincial Allocable Amount". In addition, the districts would get the total amount falling as Balochistan's share from out of the receipts of additional 2.5 per cent GST levied by the federal government.

Out of the total current expenditure of Rs19.75 billion, 22 district governments will get Rs7.79 billion, which is 31 per cent of the provincial resources. From the total development, outlay of Rs10.03 billion proposed for the 2002-03, the 22 districts are expected to get Rs1.52 billion while the provincial administration is set to utilize Rs8.51 billion.

The federal government provided grants to undertake Khushal Pakistan projects totaling Rs1.6 billion, for education reforms Rs329.5 million, social welfare schemes for petroleum exploration Rs22.5 million, Quetta water supply Rs73 million, remodeling and extension of Rabi canal Rs90 million, Turbat Mand Road Rs40 million, maintenance of law and order Rs226.9 million and Drought Emergency Relief Assistance



Rs960 million, the minister informed the public. In the new fiscal year, for the law and order the allocation is Rs2.86 billion while for police reforms for which Rs200 million, for General administration Rs2.84 billion, for social services RS 2.20 billion, for education budget to Rs1.17 billion have been allocated.

### **National Finance Commission award (NFC)**

Under the article 160 of the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the federal revenues are distributed among the provinces on the basis of population. The National Finance Commission usually comprises of eleven members ; two from federal government and two from each of the provinces and one official expert. According to the principles set for the last NFC award in 1997, the federal revenues after deduction of 5% collection charges by the federal government will be distributed with a ratio of 62.5% for federal government and 32.5% for all the four provinces. The provincial receipt from the federal revenues as per the principle of population are as under:

Census	Punjab %	Sindh %	NWFP %	Balochistan %
1981	57.88	23.28	13.54	5.33
1998	57.36	23.71	13.82	5.11

### **Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC)**

Balochistan Public Service Commission was set up in 1973. Cap @ Salah Muhammad was the first Chairman of BPSC who became Chairman on 13-08-1973. Before the establishment of BPSC, the government of Balochistan and the government of Sindh had agreed to set up a joint Public Service Commission with the name of Sindh -Balochistan Public Service Commission (SBPSC) at Karachi. Mr. Ferooz Nana was the first Chairman of SBPSC while Mr. Muhammad Ali Durrani was the first member from Balochistan.

### **Local Body's Setup in Balochistan**

After the devolution plan and the grass root democracy, there established 558 union Councils in Balochistan each comprising 21 member including Nazim and Naib Nazim. The number of Tehsil Councils/Governments is 78 while there are two town governments, 21 district governments and one city government in Balochistan. There are 10,602 Councilors, and 1320 Nazims and Naib Nazims in Balochistan.

### **Bund Khushdil Khan**

Some 48 miles from Quetta is the valley of Pishin with its numerous fruit orchards. Ten miles farther from Pishin is a man-made lake called Bund Khushdil Khan. Its cool gently rippling blue waters attract many visitors for duck shooting in early winter.

### **The Jabal-e- Noor-ul- Quran of Quetta**

This Quran associated mountain is situated in the Chiltan Mountains, in the west of Quetta City on a few killo meters distance, on the western bypass of the Quetta City. Wherein the scared task of preservation of the pages and the damaged copies of the holy scripts is being carried out. This consists of twelve caves, each in length of about 200 feet.



**Balochistan's Projected population in the following years. (With growth rate of 2.64) for the year 1998, 2004, 2011 and 2121**

Districts.	Area in Sq. km	Population in thousands			
		Sept 98	2004	2011	2021
<i>Balochistan</i>	<i>347,190</i>	<i>6511</i>	<i>7595</i>	<i>8868</i>	<i>10727</i>
Ziarat	1,489	33	39	45	55
Zhob	16,520	276	318	372	449
Sibi	7,796	179	209	244	295
Quetta	2,653	759	879	1026	1241
Pishin	5,850	366	425	496	600
Panjgur	15,216	227	271	316	382
Nasirabad	3,389	243	285	332	402
Musakhel	5,728	139	155	181	219
Mastung	5,896	164	191	222	269
Loralai	9,829	300	344	402	486
Lasbella	12,574	313	362	422	511
Kohlu	7,610	98	115	135	163
Khuzdar	43,261	409	483	564	682
Kharan	48,051	197	239	280	338
Kech	22,539	410	478	558	676
Kalat	6,621	236	275	322	389
K- Saifullah	10,609	189	224	261	316

*Comprehensive Balochistan General Knowledge.*

K- Abdullah	5,264	391	428	500	605
Jhall Magsi	3,078	104	127	149	180
Jafferabad	2,445	421	501	585	708
Gwadar	16,891	179	215	251	303
Dera Bugti	10,160	180	210	245	296
Chaghi	50,543	203	234	274	331
Bolan	8,036	288	333	389	471
Barkhan	3,514	100	120	140	169
Awaran	21,630	114	137	160	193

Source: National Institute of Population Studies, Islamabad.



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In 1995, Qasim Mengal joined Provincial Information Service as Information Officer. After serving for seven years in Information Service, he switched over to Balochistan Finance and Accounts Service in 2002 as Assistant Executive Officer.

Qasim Mengal has been contributing articles in leading National and Local Newspapers encompassing different aspects of Balochistan since 1997.



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