

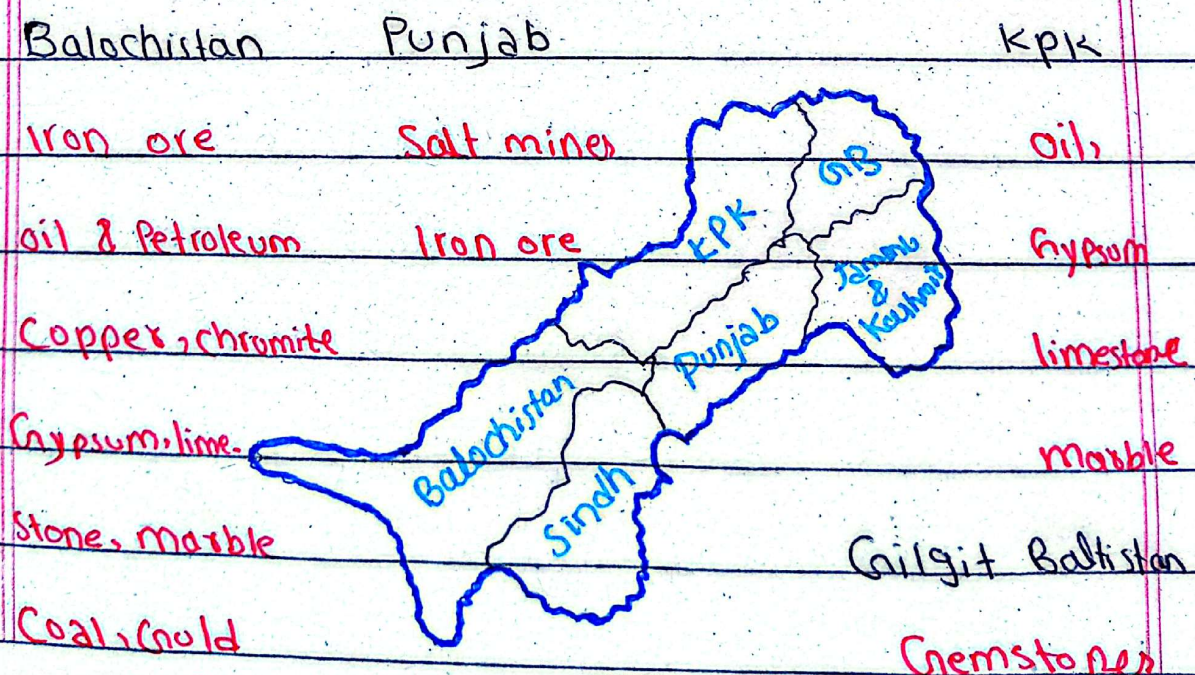
Give a resume of the mineral resources of Pakistan and Comment why have we not able to Capitalize...

Introduction:

Pakistan is often termed as "mineral marvel" due to its abundant wealth of mineral resources. High/Rich deposits of untapped gold and copper are present in Balochistan. Further coal, oil and petroleum, Chromite, Bauxite, gem stones, salt mines, china clay and rocky salts to mention few. Lack of investment, poor infrastructure, political instability, security concerns, poor governance, lack of skilled labor, technological ineffectiveness and environmental concerns are the reasons why we are not able to capitalize upon this resource base.

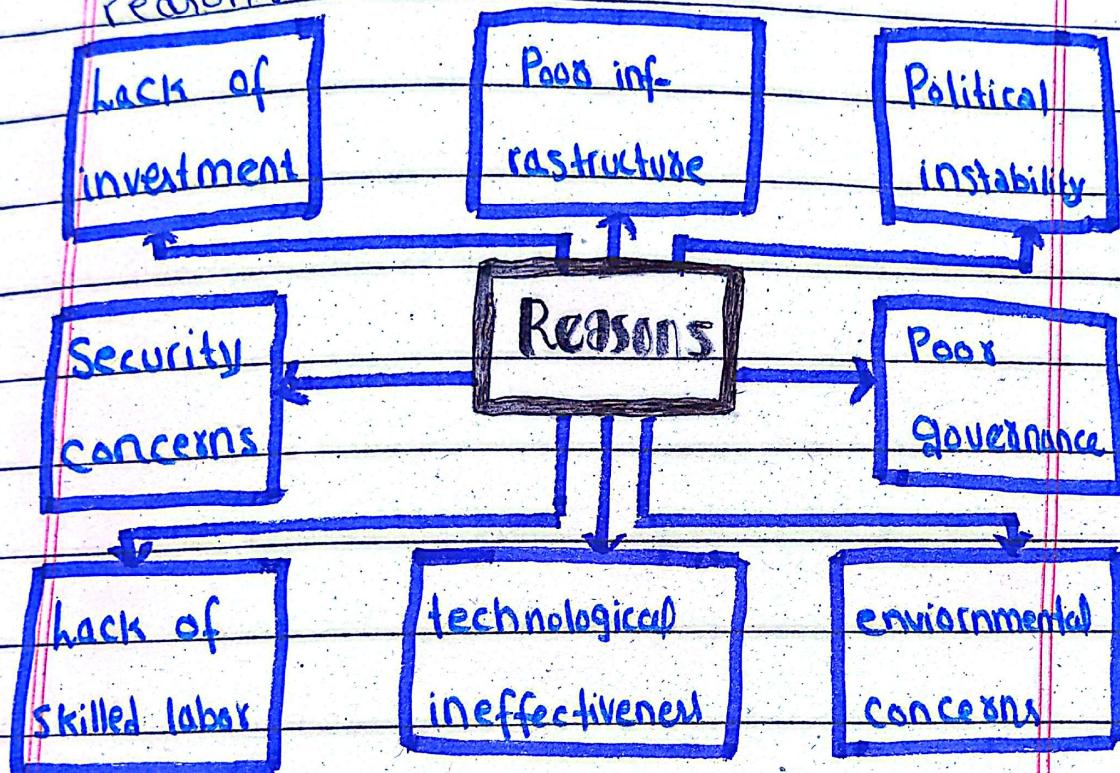
(II) Resume of mineral resources of Pakistan:

World largest gold and copper reserves are present in Reko Diq of Chagai district. Gas and petroleum resources are also present in Balochistan. Gilgit Baltistan is enriched with gemstones like emeralds, rubies, topaz, and aquamarine. Sindh coal field is among world largest coal reserves. Oil reserves are present in KPK and Balochistan. Gypsum, Limestone, and marble are also present in both these provinces. Iron ore and chromite is present in Balochistan.



(III) Reasons behind the inability to capitalize resource base:

Despite the high potential of resource base, we are unable to capitalize it due to following reasons:



i) Lack of investment hindering to capitalize resource base:

The government is unable to provide ease of doing business in the country. This resulted into loss of investors

Confidence. To capitalize rich resource base of Pakistan it needs both local and foreign investment. So, the lack of investment is hindering to capitalize resources.

Ishrat Hussain in her book asserted that government should provide ease of doing business to attract investment. (Governing the Ungovernable)

ii) Poor infrastructure limiting to explore minerals:

Another hurdle in the way of capitalizing resources is the poor infrastructure to explore and mine minerals. The government is not paying enough attention towards improving infrastructure.

Huge capital is required to build effective infrastructure

to mine and explore minerals.
lack of investment is resulting
into low capital.

Source: Ministry of planning, initiative &
Development.

iii) Political instability - little attention towards tapping mineral and resources:

Political instability is
one of the major reason behind
the untapped mineral and
resources. The leaders remained
busy in sustaining their power
So, they pay little attention
toward exploring and mining
minerals.

Political instability in country
results into poor investment
and little attention towards
the development. Source: IPRI

iv) Security concerns obstruct in the way of exploring resources:

The government did not pay enough share to the locals while extracting resources from their provinces. This resulted into feelings of alienation and marginalization. So, they started attacking on the workers.

To resolve the security concerns, govt. should build consensus with the provincial govt. and locals while exploiting their resources. Source: ISSI

v) Poor governance diverting the resources for their vested interest:

Poor governance results into widespread corruption and

lack of transparency. The fund which are allocated for developmental projects or exploring the resources goes into the pockets of corrupt leaders. As a result, resources remain untapped.

Ishrat Hussain in her book argues that 95% of developmental projects goes into pockets of corrupt officials. only 5% is spend on there projects.
(Governing the ungovernable)

vi) Lack of skilled labor resulting into poor exploring and mining:

Skilled labor is very essential for the exploration and mining of minerals. But Pakistan lacks there skilled labor due to poor investment

in skills development programmes,
lack of training and education
in the country.

To explore and mine minerals,
skilled labor is hired from
other countries which require
high cost to pay them.

Source: Islamic Scientific School.

vii) Lack of advanced technologies hindering to capitalize rich resource base:

Pakistan has not advanced
technologies for exploring
and mining minerals. To
develop this technological
capacity huge capital is
required which is missing
due to poor governance and
lack of investment.

Outdated and poor technologies

used for mining are unable of effectively trace and extract minerals. Source: ISSI

viii) Environmental concerns limiting the extraction of resource:

Ignite coal and Ignite oil exploration raises environmental concerns. This is discouraged by the other countries and international organisations. So, these concerns limits the exploration of these resources which are present in large amount in Sindh.

The environmental concerns associated with exploration of certain resources limit the ability to extract them.

Source: Ministry of Climate Change

Conclusion:

Hence, from above discussion it is clear that Pakistan is enriched with mineral resources. Certain factors are the reasons behind the unexploration of these minerals. By resolving these factors, the economic growth, social development and prosperity will be ensured.