

Panjgur

District Economic Profile



Turn Potential into Profit

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Government of Pakistan

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Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION TO PANJGUR.....	1
1.1 Map of District Panjgur.....	1
1.2 Brief Introduction	1
1.3 History	2
1.4 Topography.....	4
1.5 Population	4
1.6 Climate.....	4
1.7 Education.....	4
1.7.1 University of Makran	5
2. ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PANJGUR	6
2.1 Agriculture Sector.....	6
2.1.1 Dates Processing Facility:	10
2.2 Livestock Sector.....	10
2.3 Trading.....	10
2.3.1 Joint Border Markets	11
2.4 Embroidery	12
2.5 Real Estate	12
2.6 Minerals.....	13
3. POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR INVESTMENT	13
3.1 Cross-border Trade.....	13
3.2 Currency Exchange	13
3.3 Import-Export Business	13
3.4 Tourism.....	13
3.5 Agriculture	14
3.5.1 Dates Farming.....	14
3.5.1.1 Dates Processing Facility	14
3.5.1.2 Dates Cold Storage	14
3.5.1.3 Dates Packaging and Branding	14
3.5.1.4 Dates Distribution and Marketing	15
3.6 Livestock	15
3.6.1.1 Sheep and Goat Farming	15
3.6.1.2 Cattle and Dairy Farming.....	15
3.6.1.3 Poultry Farm	15
3.7 Renewable Energy	15
3.7.1.1 Solar Energy.....	15
3.7.1.2 Wind Energy	15
3.8 Embroidery	16
4. USEFUL WEB LINKS	16
5. PICTORIAL VIEW.....	17

INTRODUCTION TO SMEDA

The Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) was established with the objective to provide fresh impetus to the economy through the launch of an aggressive SME support program.

Since its inception in October 1998, SMEDA had adopted a sectoral SME development approach. A few priority sectors were selected on the criterion of SME presence. In depth research was conducted and comprehensive development plans were formulated after identification of impediments and retardants. The all-encompassing sectoral development strategy involved recommending changes in the regulatory environment by taking into consideration other important aspects including financial aspects, niche marketing, technology up gradation and human resource development.

SMEDA has so far successfully formulated strategies for sectors including, fruits and vegetables, marble and granite, gems and jewelry, marine fisheries, leather and footwear, textiles, surgical instruments, urban transport and dairy. Whereas the task of SME development at a broader scale still requires more coverage and enhanced reach in terms of SMEDA's areas of operation.

Along with the sectoral focus a broad spectrum of business development services is also offered to the SMEs by SMEDA. These services include identification of viable business opportunities for potential SME investors. In order to facilitate these investors, SMEDA provides business guidance through its help desk services as well as development of project specific documents. These documents consist of information required to make well-researched investment decisions. Pre-feasibility studies and business plan development are some of the services provided to enhance the capacity of individual SMEs to exploit viable business opportunities in a better way.

This document is in the continuation of this effort to enable potential investors to make well-informed investment decisions.

DISCLAIMER

This information memorandum is to introduce the subject matter and provide a general idea and information on the said matter. Although, the material included in this document is based on data/information gathered from various reliable sources; however, it is based upon certain assumptions, which may differ from case to case. The information has been provided on as is where is basis without any warranties or assertions as to the correctness or soundness thereof. Although, due care and diligence has been taken to compile this document, the contained information may vary due to any change in any of the concerned factors, and the actual results may differ substantially from the presented information. SMEDA, its employees or agents do not assume any liability for any financial or other loss resulting from this memorandum in consequence of undertaking this activity. The contained information does not preclude any further professional advice. The prospective user of this

memorandum is encouraged to carry out additional diligence and gather any information which is necessary for making an informed decision; including taking professional advice from a qualified consultant/technical expert before taking any decision to act upon the information.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The objective of the document is primarily to facilitate potential entrepreneurs in project identification for investment. The project may form the basis of an important investment decision and in order to serve this objective, the document/study covers various aspects of project concept development, start-up, and production, marketing, finance and business management. The purpose of this document is to facilitate potential investors, by providing them with a general understanding of the business with the intention of supporting potential investors in crucial investment decisions. The need to come up with reports for undocumented or minimally documented sectors attains greater imminence as the research that precedes such reports reveal certain thumb rules; best practices developed by existing enterprises by trial and error, and certain industrial norms that become a guiding source regarding various aspects of business set-up and its successful management. Apart from carefully studying the whole document one must consider critical aspects provided later on, which form basis of any Investment Decision

1. INTRODUCTION TO PANJGUR

1.1 Map of District Panjgur



Map of District Panjgur¹

1.2 Brief Introduction

Panjgur District is situated in the southwestern province of Balochistan, Pakistan. It is located approximately 554 kilometers west of Quetta, the provincial capital. Panjgur, known as "Five Graves" in Balochi is a district located in the western region of Balochistan province in Pakistan. Historically, Panjgur was one of the three tehsils of Makran District until July 1, 1977, when it became a part of Makran Division. Panjgur district is known as one of the largest growing regions of Mazafati or Muzati dates, a high quality table date. The other two districts within Makran Division are Kech (Turbat) and Gwadar. The administrative center of Panjgur is Chitkan.

Panjgur is renowned for its rich archaeological heritage, featuring ancient tombs, the historic Band-e-Gillar dam, remnants of a fort at Khudabadan (known as the historical fort of Nawab Kharan), and some remains of the old port of Issai. Additionally, the seasonal Rakshan River flows through the heart of Panjgur, dividing it into northern and southern parts.sub-divisions.²

¹<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Panjgur,+Balochistan/@26.7245109,64.2071303,9z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x3ec7d9e1aca8ef4b:0x745d9677e1404b58!8m2!3d26.7303217!4d64.1478236!16zL20vMDdoaGtu?entry=ttu>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panjgur_District

1.3 History

Panjgur District, deeply rooted in the historical tapestry of the Makran region, has traversed through the annals of time under the dominion of various regimes. The recorded history of this area traces back to the time of Prophet Dawood, where local inhabitants sought refuge underground to escape famine. Subsequently, Panjgur fell under the sway of several rulers, marking its historical journey.

At one point, it is believed that the area was under the possession of the Iranian King Kaus, succeeded by Afrasiab of Turan and then by Kai Khusrau, all hailing from Iran. The historical accounts continue with a succession of rulers, including Lehasp, Gushtasp, Bahman, Huma, and Darab, up to the year 325 BC. The region also witnessed the passage of Alexander the Great's army through Makran, then known as Gadrosia. The Greek historian Arrian documented his observations of the land, describing the climate as very hot, the soil as sandy, and the land as unfit for human habitation. Subsequently, the area came under the rule of Seleukos Nikator, one of Alexander's generals, who later ceded it to Chandragupta in 303 BC. Afterward, historical records become shrouded in darkness for centuries.

In the fifth century AD, after the death of Christ, the area was granted to Bahram-i-Gor (404 to 427 AD) as part of the dowry for Shermah's daughter. A significant event in the history of Panjgur occurred in 643 AD when Islamic forces under the command of Abdullah conquered Makran and reported to the Caliph Umar about the arid nature of the land. Successive Arab rulers maintained control over the area, and Arab geographers of the era, such as Ibn Haukal, Ibn Khurdadba, Al Istakhri, and Al Idrisi, characterized the region as "for the most part desert."

According to local legend, Muhammad bin Qasim also traversed the area on his way to Sindh. Although various invaders, including the Deilamis, Seljuks, Ghaznavids, Ghorids, Mangols, and Portuguese, conquered the land, local rulers such as the Hots, Rinds, Maliks, Buledais, and Gichkis, maintained authority as the conquerors had no intention of permanent settlement.

Two notable periods in the region's history are associated with local rulers, the Buledais and Gichkis. The Buledais gained prominence with the rise of the Zikri sect and were linked to the rulers of Maskat. They ruled for over a century, eventually converting to Islam in their later years. The Gichkis, also Zikris, rose to power with the support of the Zikri community and established their dominance. Internal conflicts among Gichkis led to multiple expeditions by Mir Nasir Khan I, with Panjgur as the first target. These expeditions aimed to eliminate the Zikris, as Mir Nasir Khan I followed a different Islamic faith. The outcomes of these expeditions resulted in revenue-sharing agreements between the Khan and the Gichkis. Mir Mehrab Khan, the successor of Mir Nasir Khan I, appointed Faqir Muhammad Bizanjo as his assistant (naib) in the area to exert control. This practice continued for more than 40 years until local influential individuals were appointed as naibs due to the ineffectiveness of non-local

appointees. The fragmented local population, coupled with foreign support, gave the Gichkis a dominant position, ultimately leading to their rule over the area.

The First Afghan War (1838-39) brought British attention to the region. Major Goldsmith's visit in 1861 and the appointment of an Assistant Political Agent in Gwadar in 1863 marked British involvement. In 1882, internal feuds led to the killing of Mir Gajian, Sardar of Panjgur and the Khan's naib, by Mir Nauroz Khan Nausherwani, Chief of Kharan. Internal disputes persisted for years. In 1903, an Assistant Political Agent was appointed with headquarters in Panjgur, also serving as the Commandant of the Makran Levy Corps to maintain peace and enforce the Khan of Kalat's authority. Panjgur remained under the Khan of Kalat's control during the colonial era, with British influence in local affairs.

After the partition of the Indian subcontinent, Makran, including Panjgur, joined the Balochistan States Union in early 1949. In October 1955, Makran attained the status of a district within West Pakistan. On July 1, 1970, following the dissolution of "One Unit" and Balochistan's elevation to provincial status, Makran became one of its eight districts. Panjgur was officially designated as a district on July 1, 1977. In its post-colonial history, Panjgur faced two significant natural disasters. In 1958-59, heavy rains and subsequent floods wreaked havoc, causing extensive damage to date trees and crops. In 1960, cholera outbreaks occurred in the villages of Bonistan and Isai, resulting in a tragic loss of lives. These villages continue to experience sporadic cholera cases due to a lack of clean drinking water.

Panjgur's name has two etymological interpretations. One suggests that it is a combination of two Balochi words, "panch" (five) and "gor" (grave), implying that five saints were laid to rest in the region, hence "panchgor," later simplified to "Panjgur." Another perspective relates it to geography, claiming that Panjgur signifies "panch" (five) and "kor" (stream), transformed over time to "Panjgur." Worth noting is that there is no human settlement called "Panjgur" itself. The district headquarters are located in Chitkan, which serves as a central point in proximity to eleven other villages along the Rakhshan River.

Panjgur also boasts several archaeological points of interest, including Kuhna Kalat, constructed with large baked red bricks, the tomb of Malik Asa, and an ancient dam known as Band-e-Gillar. Additionally, remnants of Nawab Habibullah Khan of Kharan's fort are found in the village of Khudabadan. The district houses numerous old shrines, including those of Shah Qalandar and Pir Umar, featuring distinctive architectural elements such as baked tiles adorned with figures of humans and animals.

This extensive historical account provides insight into the rich and varied history of Panjgur District, reflecting its role in the broader context of regional and colonial

history, as well as the challenges and developments that have shaped the district over time.³

1.4 Topography

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 Khara district, on the east by Awaran district, on the south by Kech (formerly Turbat) district and on the west by Iran. Total area of the district is 16,891 square kilometers.

1.5 Population

Following are the population details of Panjgur district:

ADMN - UNIT	POPULATION			
	Total	Male	Female	Trans Gender
Panjgur District	315,353	166,379	148,952	22
Gickh Sub-Tehsil	16,646	8,967	7,676	3
Gowargo Tehsil	16,329	8,424	7,905	-
Panjgur Tehsil	259,163	136,327	122,820	16
Parome Tehsil	23,215	12,661	10,551	3

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics⁴

1.6 Climate

Panjgur's climate, situated at an elevation ranging from 900 to 1350 meters above sea level, can be characterized as dry, arid, and cold. It falls within the category of a region known for its "warm summers and mild winters" in terms of temperature patterns.

This city has a hot climate with very hot summers and cold in winters. Precipitation mainly falls in two distinct periods: in the late winter and early spring from February to April, and in the monsoon in June and July.

1.7 Education

Mekran division has topped Balochistan in literacy rate and ranked 8th on the national level as per the 2017 census. Overall the literacy rate as per the 2017 census stands at 43.58 percent.

³ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271525886_Panjgur_A_District_Profile

⁴ <https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/2017/results/11301.pdf>

Public Sector Schools - Panjgur			
	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary	117	115	292
Middle	20	17	37
High	20	11	31
H/Sec	1	1	2
Total	218	144	362

Source: BEMIS⁵

In addition to government schools, Panjgur has over twenty private schools striving to deliver education. However, both sectors have shortcomings in providing quality education. On one hand, the condition of government schools is lamentably poor, with reports of the appointment of unqualified teachers through political connections and nepotism. Such unjust practices have significantly worsened the state of government schools, leading parents to consider private institutions as a more appealing option.

1.7.1 University of Makran

The establishment of a sub-campus of the University of Turbat(UOT) in Panjgur received official approval from the governing bodies of the University of Turbat. In March 2019, during a meeting of the University of Turbat's Academic Council, Finance and Planning Committee, and Syndicate, the recommendation to establish a campus in Panjgur was unanimously supported. Subsequently, in April 2019, during the 4th Senate meeting of the University of Turbat, presided over by H.E Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, the Governor of Balochistan and Chancellor of the University of Turbat, the proposal to establish a sub-campus in Panjgur was formally approved.

The University of Makran Bill, 2022 (Bill No.13 of 2022), was approved by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly on April 16, 2022, and received the Governor of Balochistan's assent on April 21, 2022. The UOT Panjgur Campus, which has been set up by the University of Turbat in Panjgur, was integrated into the University of Makran subsequently.

⁵ <http://www.emis.gob.pk/Uploads/PANJGUR%20DISTRICT%20EDUCATION%20PLAN%20FOR%202016-2017%20TO%202020-2021.pdf>

2. ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PANJGUR

Agriculture is the major economic activity followed by livestock farming, and government service. Trading community is involved in cross-border trade and trading is also a major source of earning.

2.1 Agriculture Sector

The agriculture sector in Panjgur District, Balochistan, forms the backbone of the local economy. This region is renowned for its date cultivation, with Panjgur's dates, particularly the "muzafati/muzati kajoor," being highly sought after for their quality and taste. Date farming is not only a source of income for local farmers but also a symbol of the district's rich agricultural heritage. In addition to dates, Panjgur's farmers cultivate various crops like wheat, barley, and other cereals, contributing to both local food security and economic sustenance. However, the sector faces challenges due to the arid climate and limited irrigation infrastructure. Despite these obstacles, the agriculture sector in Panjgur continues to be a vital lifeline for its residents, offering employment opportunities and sustaining livelihoods through traditional and time-tested farming practices.

Based on the Agriculture Statistics of Balochistan for the year 2020-21, here are the particulars concerning Panjgur/Panjgoor district, including crop information, production figures, and irrigated land details:

PANJGOOR DISTRICT

AREA , PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF ALL CROPS

2020-21

CROPS	Area in Hectares			Production in Tonnes			Yield in Kgs / Ha:		
	Irrig:	Un-Irrig:	Total	Irrig:	Un-Irrig:	Total	Irrig:	Un-Irrig:	Average
RABI CROPS									
Wheat	3,461	2,110	5,571	8,645	2,363	11,008	2,498	1,120	1,976
Barley	312	205	517	372	156	528	1,192	761	1,021
Rape Seed/ Mustard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumin	31	-	31	21	-	21	677	-	677
Gram	10	12	22	9	4	13	900	333	591
Mutter Pulse	21	3	24	12	1	13	571	333	542
Masoor	25	48	73	11	18	29	440	375	397
Vegetables	802	-	802	11,006	-	11,006	13,723	-	13,723
Fodder	300	-	300	11,497	-	11,497	38,323	-	38,323
Canola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sunflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Safflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Rabi Crops	4,962	2,378	7,340	31,573	2,542	34,115			
KHARIF CROPS									
Rice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum (Jowar)	81	32	113	89	26	115	1,099	813	1,018
Millet (Bajra)	63	30	93	53	18	71	841	600	763
Maize	64	30	94	66	25	91	1,031	833	968
Sesamum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castor seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moong	16	8	24	15	5	20	938	625	833
Mash	13	14	27	13	8	21	1,000	571	778
Moth	33	9	42	43	5	48	1,303	556	1,143
Fruits	19,796	-	19,796	124,484	-	124,484	-	-	-
Onion	197	-	197	2,589	-	2,589	13,142	-	13,142
Potato	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetables	418	-	418	3,682	-	3,682	8,809	-	8,809
Melons	253	-	253	4,888	-	4,888	19,320	-	19,320
Chillies	31	-	31	47	-	47	1,516	-	1,516
Fodder	359	-	359	9,076	-	9,076	25,281	-	25,281
Coriander	6	-	6	1	-	1	167	-	167
Garlic	25	-	25	173	-	173	6,920	-	6,920
Guar Seed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugarcane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton	91	-	91	87	-	87	956	-	956
Total Kharif Crops	21,446	123	21,569	145,306	87	145,393			
GRAND TOTAL	26,408	2,501	28,909	176,879	2,629	179,508			

During the year area and production of Moth crop damaged due to locust attack.

*Source: Agricultural Statistics of Balochistan (2020-21)

PANJGOOR DISTRICT

AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF ALL FRUITS

2020-21

FRUITS	AREA IN HECTARES			PRODUCTION IN TONNES	YIELD IN KGs / HECTARE
	BEARING	NON - BEARING	TOTAL		
RABI FRUITS					
Citrus	0	0	0	0	0
Banana	0	0	0	0	0
Papaya	0	0	0	0	0
Guava	0	0	0	0	0
Chikoo	0	0	0	0	0
Coconut	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rabi Fruits	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rabi Fruits	0	0	0	0	
KHARIF FRUITS					
Almond	1	7	8	2	2000
Apple	4	72	76	0	0
Appricot	0	0	0	0	0
Grapes	94	178	272	159	1691
Peach	0	0	0	0	0
Plum	0	0	0	0	0
Pear	0	0	0	0	0
Pomegranate	151	109	260	2379	15755
Cherry	0	0	0	0	0
Pistachio	0	3	3	0	0
Dates	17441	1523	18964	121825	6985
Mangoes	0	0	0	0	0
Fig	4	38	42	20	5000
Olive	0	110	110	0	0
Loquat	0	0	0	0	0
Other Kharif Fruits	13	48	61	99	7615
Total Kharif Fruits	17708	2088	19796	124484	
GRAND TOTAL	17708	2088	19796	124484	

During the year Apple and Grapes fruits area and prod: affected due to locust attack.

*Source: Agricultural Statistics of Balochistan (2020-21)

PANJGOOR DISTRICT
AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD OF ALL VEGETABLES
2020-21

VEGETABLES	AREA IN HECTARES	PRODUCTION IN TONNES	YIELD IN Kgs /HECTARE
RABI VEGETABLES			
Cabbage	2	34	17000
Carrot	190	2866	15084
Cauliflower	3	51	17000
Peas	165	1833	11109
Raddish	72	1303	18097
Turnip	90	1305	14500
Spinach	100	1694	16940
Beet Root	0	0	0
Broad Beens	130	1300	10000
Rabi Tomatoes	0	0	0
Other Rabi Vegetables	50	620	12400
TOTAL RABI VEGETABLES	802	11006	
KHARIF VEGETABLES			
Lady Finger	108	770	7130
Tinda	19	120	6316
Brinjal	73	691	9466
Bitter Gourd	10	85	8500
Bottle Gourd	13	96	7385
Pumpkin	36	430	11944
Luffa	24	171	7125
Kharif Tomatoes	125	1207	9656
Potato	0	0	0
Cucumber	10	112	11200
Other Kharif Vegetables	0	0	0
TOTAL KHARIF VEGETABLES	418	3682	
GRAND TOTAL	1220	14688	

*Source: Agricultural Statistics of Balochistan (2020-21)

2.1.1 Dates Processing Facility:

The UAE-Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE PAP) started commercial operations in April 2022 at a date processing facility in Panjgur, Balochistan. The construction of this facility, which required an investment of \$6.36 million, was reported by the UAE official news agency WAM.⁶

The project was built over an area of 5,710 square metres, adhering to the highest international specifications and standards, in terms of processing, packaging and storing of dates. It includes 15 production lines with a capacity of four tons per hour or more than 32,000 tons per day and contains refrigeration that can store up to 1,500 tons of ready-made dates. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) had funded the project under the UAE-Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE PAP).

2.2 Livestock Sector

The livestock sector in Panjgur District, Balochistan, plays a significant role in the local economy and the livelihoods of its residents. Livestock farming, including cattle, goat, camel and poultry farm is a fundamental component of the district's agriculture. The sector not only provides a source of meat and dairy products but also serves as a primary means of income for many households. Panjgur's arid climate has made livestock well-suited to the region, and traditional pastoral practices are prevalent. However, challenges such as limited access to veterinary services and modern breeding techniques exist. Despite these challenges, the livestock sector in Panjgur remains a crucial source of sustenance and income for the local population, contributing to the district's economic stability. Efforts to improve livestock management and healthcare can further enhance the sector's productivity and profitability.

2.3 Trading

The trade sector within Panjgur District, situated in Balochistan, is an essential element of the local economy, contributing significantly to the region's economic vitality. Panjgur serves as a pivotal trading hub, facilitating the exchange of goods and fostering commercial activities for the nearby rural areas and Iran. This sector encompasses a diverse array of products, ranging from agricultural items such as dates, cereals, and livestock, all of which find their way into local markets.

The cross-border trading sector of Panjgur, particularly with neighboring countries like Iran, is a crucial element of the district's economic activity and holds considerable economic significance. Cross-border trade with Iran provides substantial economic benefits to Panjgur and the broader region. It contributes to income generation,

⁶ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/953174-production-begins-at-6-36m-uae-funded-dates-project-in-panjgur>

employment opportunities, and economic growth. This trade not only supports the local economy but also fosters economic ties between Panjgur and Iran.

The remoteness of these areas and the government's inability to provide efficient governance drive the local population to engage in illegal trade and smuggling activities. Due to the lack of jobs in Balochistan, people living in border districts rely on trade along with Iran for their livelihoods. People use Iranian pick-up trucks called Zamyad to transport oil from Iran to Pakistan and make a living in the process. This trade is informal and does not take place through official channels. It is a source of livelihood for thousands of people across Balochistan. The survival of locals is on illegal border trading and they earn their bread and butter from border trading. There are also many products which are being imported legally from Iran.⁷

The most prominent feature of southern Balochistan highways are the blue Iranian pick-up trucks known locally as Zamyads. Their presence shows how the new highways have given a boost to the scale of the informal economy in the province. Mostly non-custom paid, these Zamyads are solely used for oil and diesel smuggling in Balochistan as well the illegal transport of other Iranian goods such as cooking oil and soap. Loaded with blue barrels in the back, they can be spotted across the province. The M-8 highway has made it easy to access the Iranian border towns as a significant portion of the highway passes near the border.

Apart from the Frontier Corps (FC) and the customs department, levies, excise and police personnel have also established check posts on major highways of Balochistan from where Zamyads pass to reach their destinations. At times, the provincial government bans the smuggling of oil. The smugglers often complain that they have to pay half of their income at different security check posts and to Arbabs. A story published earlier in this very magazine, elaborated the role of the Arbab: "The Arbab are Baloch on both sides of the Pak-Iran border who are in direct contact with each other. When a Pakistani Arbab receives an order through his Iranian counterpart, he sends his Zamyads to the border. The Pakistani Arbab can make around 40,000 rupees off one truck full of oil or diesel."

From time to time, the government imposes a ban on the illegal trade of oil and groceries, but a large population depends on these goods. Due to border closer, time to time the transporters and the local population launched protests against such ban.

2.3.1 Joint Border Markets

On April 21, 2021, an MOU was signed between Pakistan and Iran, with the objective of establishing border markets at various locations in two phases. During Phase I, three border markets will be developed in Mand (Kech), Gabd (Gwadar), and Chedgi

⁷ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1508935>

(Panjgur). In Phase II, an additional three border markets will be created in Mashkel (Washuk), Paroom (Panjgur), and Jalagi (Kech)."

A joint border market between Pakistan and Iran represents a significant opportunity for economic cooperation and trade expansion between these two neighboring nations. The establishment of a joint border market in Chedgi, Panjgur, holds significant promise as a pivotal cross-border trade and economic cooperation hub between Pakistan and Iran. Located strategically along the border, this market serves as a formalized platform for legal and regulated trade activities, facilitating the exchange of various goods and commodities. The Chedgi border crossing have 34 shops and 20 Kiosks to facilitate the traders and locals.

2.4 Embroidery

Panjgur is well-known for its special kind of handmade embroidery. Pakistan has many remarkable crafts, but Balochi embroidery stands out. It's considered an ancient skill that's passed down from one generation of women to the next. This craft has its roots in the vast and open lands of Balochistan, celebrating a nomadic way of life. Many of the patterns in Balochi embroidery are inspired by nature, and some come from the pottery of the Mehrgarh civilization, which was one of the world's oldest civilizations and once existed in Balochistan's Bolan district.

Most of the artisans and wearers of these crafts are women. Balochi women practice this embroidery every day to keep their skills sharp. While machine embroidery is available now, handcrafted and personalized shirts (kameez) are more valuable. The embroidery covers the front of the kameez, as well as the cuffs of the sleeves and the open trousers (shalwar). Bright-colored threads, small mirrors, and skilled stitching are essential for the final product. Hand embroidery is not just famous in Pakistan but is also highly regarded in the Gulf countries. The most extravagant dresses are made for brides, sometimes selling for as much as Rs 100,000 and taking several months to complete. Everyday wear is more affordable, but many believe that the women who create these beautiful works of art deserve more recognition and fair compensation for their hard work. In the Panjgur district, many women support their households through embroidery.

2.5 Real Estate

Panjgur District's real estate market faces significant challenges that make it difficult to be categorized as a prosperous or dynamic sector. One of the primary reasons is the district's predominantly rural nature, with limited urbanization and no industrialization. As a result, the demand for commercial and residential properties remains comparatively very low. The district's economic activities, primarily centered around agriculture, livestock and cross border trading/ smuggling, do not typically drive substantial real estate investment or development.

2.6 Minerals

Though there is no record of any detailed survey for exploration of minerals in the district, the Inspectorate of Mines has reported mining of Antimony in the area of Korkian and Padkas.⁸

3. POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR INVESTMENT

Panjgur District offers various investment opportunities across different sectors. While the district may face certain challenges, including its predominantly rural character, there are several sectors where investment potential exists.

3.1 Cross-border Trade

Panjgur's proximity to the Iranian border provides an opportunity for cross-border trade. The border is used for the import and export of various goods, including food products, construction materials, and consumer goods. There is potential for investment in transport and logistics infrastructure to facilitate cross-border trade, such as the development of warehouses and trucking services.

3.2 Currency Exchange

The border area is a hub for currency exchange, as traders from Iran and Pakistan use the area for exchanging currencies. Investing in currency exchange services can be a profitable venture, especially for those with experience in the financial sector.

3.3 Import-Export Business

Panjgur's location near the Iranian border also provides an opportunity for import-export businesses. Entrepreneurs can establish businesses that specialize in importing goods from Iran or exporting goods to Iran. Investing in transport and logistics infrastructure will be important for the success of such businesses.

3.4 Tourism

Although Panjgur is abundant in natural beauty and holds great potential for tourism investments, the current state of peace and stability in the region requires significant effort and investment. Opportunities exist in the tourism sector, including the development of hotels, resorts, and critical infrastructure. These prospects encompass eco-tourism, cultural tourism, and adventure tourism ventures. Despite the challenges, investments in cultural and adventure tourism can offer enriching experiences for tourists, enabling them to deeply engage with the local culture and explore the captivating natural scenery of this border region.

⁸ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271525886_Panjgur_A_District_Profile

3.5 Agriculture

The agriculture sector in Panjgur, which predominantly relies on traditional farming methods, holds significant opportunities for growth and modernization. By introducing modern farming technologies and practices, such as improved seeds and mechanized equipment, farmers can substantially increase their productivity and income. Encouraging crop diversification towards high-value crops like fruits and vegetables can mitigate risks and enhance economic returns. Investment in efficient irrigation systems can address water scarcity issues and ensure consistent crop yields. Providing training and education on sustainable and pest-resistant farming techniques can empower local farmers with essential skills. Furthermore, promoting value addition through food processing, organic farming, and improving marketing and distribution channels can create new income streams and access to broader markets. Leveraging government support programs and collaborating with agricultural research institutions can facilitate this transformation. These opportunities have the potential to not only enhance agricultural productivity but also contribute to the overall economic development of Panjgur District.

3.5.1 Dates Farming

Dates are widely consumed in Pakistan and are also exported to other countries. The demand for dates is increasing due to their health benefits and their use as an ingredient in various food products. The global market for dates is expected to grow at a CAGR of 3.6% between 2020 and 2025. Panjgur is a major producer of dates in Pakistan, and the district has a favorable climate for date farming. The dates produced in Panjgur are of high quality and are in high demand due to their taste and texture.

3.5.1.1 Dates Processing Facility

Panjgur is renowned as a major hub for date production in Pakistan, thanks to its favorable climate and high-quality date varieties. The demand for dates, both domestically and internationally, is on the rise, driven by their recognized health benefits and versatile use in various food products. By setting up a modern processing facility in Panjgur, investors can capitalize on this growing market demand.

3.5.1.2 Dates Cold Storage

Dates have a short shelf life and require proper storage to maintain their quality. Investing in cold storage facilities can provide an opportunity to store and preserve dates for longer periods, ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality products.

3.5.1.3 Dates Packaging and Branding

Investing in packaging and branding can provide an opportunity to create a unique brand identity and attract customers. The packaging can be designed to cater to the local and international markets, and the branding can be used to differentiate the products from competitors.

3.5.1.4 Dates Distribution and Marketing

Investing in a distribution network can provide an opportunity to reach a wider customer base. The marketing strategy can be designed to target both the local and international markets, and the products can be marketed through various channels, including online marketplaces and social media platforms.

3.6 Livestock

3.6.1.1 Sheep and Goat Farming

Sheep and goat farming is another traditional livestock business in Panjgur district, and investing in this business can provide an opportunity to produce high-quality meat, wool, and leather products.

3.6.1.2 Cattle and Dairy Farming

There are only few dairy farms established in the district. Due to the perishable nature of the product and high demand milk prices are comparatively much higher in the district. Investing in this business can provide an opportunity to produce high-quality milk and dairy products. The business can also include the production of other cattle products such as meat and leather.

3.6.1.3 Poultry Farm

Poultry farming in the district has got great scope for improvement. Poultry farming is a rapidly growing business in Panjgur district, and investing in this business can provide an opportunity to produce high-quality eggs and poultry meat. The business can also include the production of other poultry products such as feathers and manure.

3.7 Renewable Energy

Panjgur district of Balochistan has great potential for renewable energy development due to its favorable weather conditions and abundant natural resources. Investing in renewable energy projects in Panjgur district can provide an opportunity to contribute to the economic development of the region while also promoting environmental sustainability.

3.7.1.1 Solar Energy

Panjgur district has an abundance of sunlight throughout the year, making it an ideal location for solar energy projects. Investing in solar energy can provide an opportunity to produce electricity and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This can include the installation of solar panels for residential, commercial, or industrial use.

3.7.1.2 Wind Energy

Panjgur district has strong wind resources, especially in the coastal areas. Investing in wind energy can provide an opportunity to produce electricity and reduce reliance

on fossil fuels. This can include the installation of wind turbines for residential, commercial, or industrial use.

3.8 Embroidery

Embroidery is a traditional handicraft in Panjgur district, and investing in an embroidery business can provide an opportunity to produce high-quality embroidered products such as clothing, handbags, and home décor items. Embroidery work is the main handicraft done by women of the area with excellent skill and craft. Mostly it is done on women's dress for personal use. Some more skilled women receive orders to make dress for other women. The business can also include the production of other textile products such as bedspreads and cushion.

4. USEFUL WEB LINKS

Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)	www.smeda.org.pk
Government of Pakistan	www.pakistan.gov.pk
Ministry of Industries & Production	www.moip.gov.pk
Ministry of Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education	http://moptt.gov.pk
Government of Punjab	www.punjab.gov.pk
Government of Sindh	www.sindh.gov.pk
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	www.khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk
Government of Balochistan	www.balochistan.gov.pk
Government of Gilgit Baltistan	www.gilgitbaltistan.gov.pk
Government of Azad Jamu Kashmir	www.ajk.gov.pk
Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP)	www.tdap.gov.pk
Security Commission of Pakistan (SECP)	www.secp.gov.pk
Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI)	www.fpcci.com.pk
State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)	www.sbp.org.pk
Punjab Small Industries Corporation	www.psic.gop.pk
Sindh Small Industries Corporation	www.ssic.gos.pk

Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC)	www.phdec.org.pk
Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTC)	www.pvtc.gop.pk
Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA)	www.tevta.org
Pakistan Readymade Garment Technical Training Institute	www.prgmea.org/prgtti/
Livestock & Dairy Development Department, Government of Punjab.	www.livestockpunjab.gov.pk
Punjab Industrial Estates (PIE)	www.pie.com.pk
Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC)	www.fiedmc.com.pk

5. PICTORIAL VIEW











BADAL HUSSAIN BALOCH PHOTOGRAPHY





