

**Paleo-Cretaceous iron ore deposits of Dubran, Danna-Nuralan and adjoining areas,  
Abbottabad District, Hazara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

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Iron ore is widely distributed in the world, ranks fourth in abundance in the Earth's crust and stands second to aluminum amongst all metals. It exists in the form of various minerals and compounds such as magnetite, hematite, goethite, siderite, limonite and pyrite. In Pakistan, the major iron ore deposits are given as under.

**BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE:** Dilband (Kalat Division), Chigendik, Pachinkoh, Amirchah, Chilghazi (Chagai District) 335 million tons reserves of Hematite and Magnetite.

**KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA:** Nizampur (Nowshera District), Langrial (Abbottabad District), Pezu (Lakki District), Dammer Nisar (Chitral District), with estimated 270 million tons reserves of Hematite, Laterite and Magnetite.

**PUNJAB PROVINCE:** Kalabagh / Chichali, Makarwal (Mianwali District) Chineot, and Sargodha area with 750 million tons reserves of Siderite, Limonite, Hematite and Goethite.

**SINDH PROVINCE:** Nooriabad (Dadu District), reserves not estimated, Hematite iron ore.

The Paleo- Cretaceous iron ore deposits occurring in the Abbottabad District were described previously as Langrial iron ore but in Dubran, Danna-Nuralan and adjoining areas thick strata of iron ore exist below the top of the Lockhart Formation of Paleocene age forming new horizon. This hematite ore exist in the form of disconformity with 45% to 60% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at average. The locals mine this ore on a limited scale and new deposits are being spotted out. If the area is properly studied geologically and the total reserves estimated, it will definitely enhance the production of iron.

At present, the in-situ reserves of relatively rich iron ore (Hematite, Laterite and Magnetite) in Pakistan are more than one billion tons while the commercial mining capacity for iron is only 30,000 tons/year. If the Paleo-Cretaceous iron ore deposits of KPK are explored, studied geologically in detail and proper modern mining techniques are adopted then a small steel plant can be installed using the local iron ore and will fulfill all the day to day requirements of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.