

**Preliminary geology of the soapstone deposits of the Golen Gol Area, Chitral District,  
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

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Good quality of Soapstone / talc deposits are located 36<sup>0</sup>00' 23" N and 72<sup>0</sup>07' 59" E in the upper Golen Gol Area, Chitral district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Survey of Pakistan toposheet No.42 D/4 at an altitude of about 3283 m. The Golen Gol is a tributary of the Chitral River and joins the Chitral River on the main Chitral-Buni road at about 20 kms from the Chitral town.

The deposit is associated with in white coloured dolomite of the Cretaceous Reshun formation, which is exposed between the Tirich Fault Zone in the north and the Main Karakoram Thrust (MKT) in the south, near the collision zone of the Asian Plate and the Kohistan Island Arc. Beside dolostone, marble, red siltstone and phyllite are the components of the formation.

This Soapstone is of white and light gray colour and is found in pockets and lenticular lenses. Alumina and Iron percentages are low and the MgO percentages are high in the white coloured soapstone samples. It was concluded that the Golen Gol deposits of soapstone is confined to the Reshun Formation of the Cretaceous age and is a Skarn type of deposit, formed by the metasomatism of the dolomite of the Reshun Formation.

Talc is used in many industries such as paper making, plastics, in the manufacture of paints and coatings, in rubber and food industry, electric cables, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic and ceramics etc. A fair weather and good conditioned road is recommended for the development of the mineral potential of the area.