

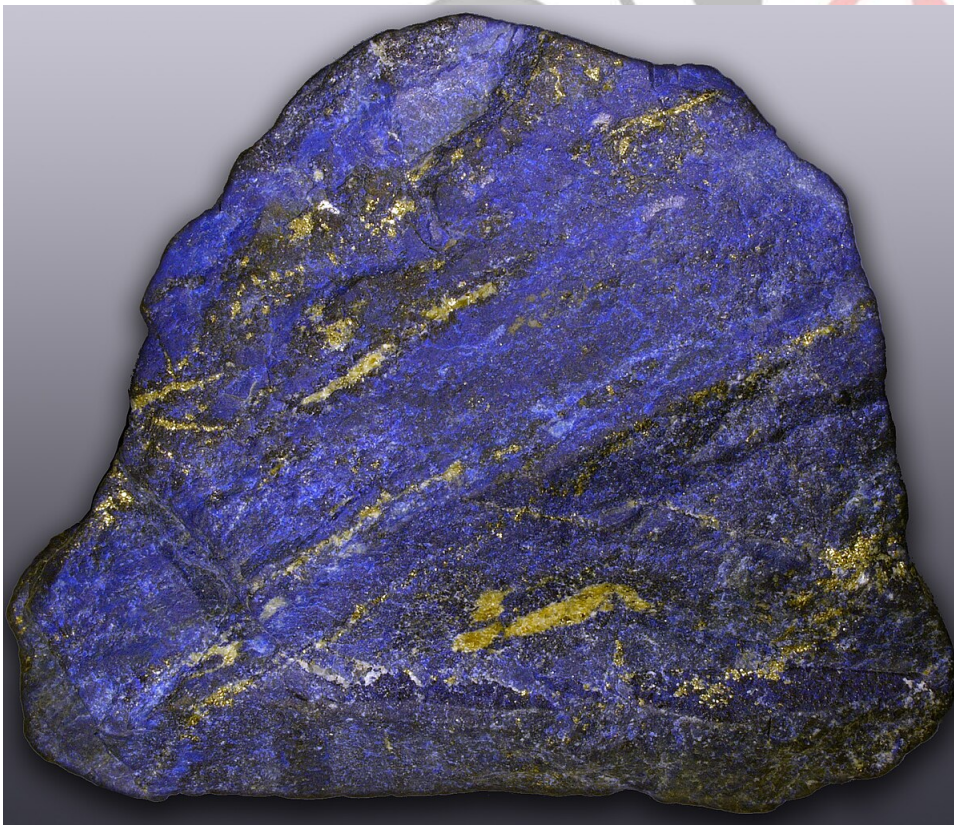


Lapis lazuli

[Source: TH](#)

Lapis lazuli, a [metamorphic rock](#) and **semi-precious gemstone** known for its deep blue color, symbolizes wealth, power, and status across ancient civilizations.

- **Etymology:** The name originates from Latin ("lapis" = stone) and Persian ("lazuli" = blue).
- **Composition:** The intense blue color comes from **lazurite** (25-40%), influenced by sulphur content. Presence of **calcite** reduces blueness, while **pyrites** add a golden shimmer.
- **Major Sources:** Though found in multiple countries like Chile, Russia, and the US, but the finest lapis lazuli comes from **Afghanistan's Badakhshan province**, where it has been mined for over 6,000 years.
- **Significance in India:** Traders in India imported lapis lazuli from Badakhshan as early as **1000 BC**, with ornamental pieces found in [Indus Valley sites](#) like **Mohenjo-daro and Harappa**.
- **Global Usage:** Ancient Egyptians used it for jewelry and cosmetics, while **Renaissance artists** ground it into ultramarine pigment for paintings.



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