



Monthly Round Up  
**India's Misplaced  
Apprehensions About  
CPEC**

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New Delhi under Modi's Hindutva regime has presumably once again started attacks on Chinese workers and officials in Pakistan. A suicide attack targeted a motorcade carrying Chinese nationals at the Gwadar Eastbay

Expressway Project on 20 August 2021, which killed two Pakistani children and injured one Chinese worker. This comes only a month after nine Chinese nationals were killed when a bus carrying Chinese engineers and workers to the

site of the Dasu Dam was attacked. There is obviously only one reason for these attacks; to destabilize Pakistan and harm China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) venture.

The development comes after the Taliban were taking control of Afghan provinces one by one in recent weeks. Now that Taliban are in Kabul and Ghani exited the country, it appears that there is little room for India and its proxies to operate from Afghanistan. In a knee jerk reaction, Indian proxies started attacking Chinese workers and officials in Gwader. Let me explain why New Delhi is so obnoxious about CPEC.

India, since the very beginning, has decided to stay away from CPEC and is seeing it as an intimidation or encirclement of its geostrategic interests. Conventional wisdom has it that India is upset about CPEC at two ends. One is Gwadar, where the Chinese are establishing a maritime presence. The corridor will also strengthen security cooperation between Pakistan and China; the core of which will be consolidation of the naval cooperation between the two sides. This would contribute to the balance of power in the region, against the US courting India, assigning the lead role in the Indian Ocean, which is unacceptable to both China and Pakistan.

The other is Jammu and Kashmir, where merging of Pakistani and Chinese territorial and military frontiers will internationalize the Kashmir issue, which India certainly does not want. New Delhi is also bothered about China's mounting investment in Pakistan, largely pouring in nuclear energy to assist Pakistan's plans to build six nuclear reactors in coming few years, with more in the pipeline. India also seems to be annoyed as it has eyes on energy resources in Central Asia and Afghanistan to satisfy its energy needs since long, but China has eaten up many of these opportunities in recent years. Once completed, the CPEC venture would amplify China's strategic footprints in the Indian Ocean and would alter the regional power matrix forever. Beijing would then be a much more dominant in the Indian Ocean - even though geographically speaking China is not an Indian Ocean power - because CPEC offsets the Indian tactics for taking advantage of Chinese weakness in the Indian Ocean by blocking the Strait of Malacca in times of conflict.

It is a known fact that India, to this day, has been reluctant to accept the notion of a stable Pakistan and is always engaged in activities that would disrupt its peace and stability. Now with the current Modi government in New Delhi, the ideological Hindutva regime has become far more belligerent with the confessions of its sitting ministers about sponsoring state terrorism in Pakistan to ensure India's interests. This is why CPEC is a venture that India doesn't want to materialize, because it would transform Pakistan into an international hub for trade and connectivity and would place Pakistan at the center of international politics and diplomacy.

According to an IMF forecast, CPEC is predicted to boost Pakistan's economy manifolds. The forecast mentions that Pakistan's GDP will approach \$4.2 trillion by 2050 from the current \$988 billion. The 3,200 km-long CPEC corridor is planned to connect the world's second largest economy, China, with the Middle East and Central Asia, reducing the alternative sea route distance - via the Malacca Strait - by 10,000 km. The report estimated that the economic corridor would create some 700,000 direct jobs between 2015 and 2030, and add up to 2.5 percent to the country's growth rate.

It is pertinent to note that CPEC is a demonstration of the vow of the leadership of China and Pakistan to work together for the shared benefit of their people and peace, prosperity and socio-economic advancement of the region. India's opposition to the project is in fact the opposition to the brighter future of the region. Instead of nurturing needless and uncalled for opposition to this dynamic project, the Indian leadership ought to focus on upgrading the plight of their own people and disentangling them from generational traps of miserable poverty, hunger, disease and socio-economic backwardness.

New Delhi ought to realize that in our contemporary times, medieval politics would soon become redundant. The future belongs to economics and connectivity. India should not be agitated over Pak-China cooperation through the CPEC, rather stable Pakistan is in favour of India as it wants to achieve its high economic growth with the help of regional stability.