



THE BALOCH FACTOR: DECODING CHINA-PAKISTAN TIES AND INDIA'S STAKES

ABSTRACT

As China expands its sphere of Influence in the heart of Asia, Pakistan struggles to keep its internal security challenges at bay. This might turn out to be an opportune moment for India to increase its stakes in the region.

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The Baloch Factor: Decoding China-Pakistan ties and India's stakes

Introduction

China is diversifying its engagements in Pakistan in CPEC 2.0 by including sectors like agriculture, digital infrastructure, sustainable energy and so on. PM Sharif is giving anxious statements, stressing on making CPEC 2.0 successful to please the bosses in China. Interestingly, Sharif and the Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir are also selling its minerals to the US most of which lie in the Baloch area, where the Chinese are currently finding it difficult to work due to the militancy. A deal worth \$500 million was signed between **Pakistan's Frontier Works Organisation and Missouri-based US Strategic Metals** to establish a poly-metallic refinery.



Source: *The Balochistan Diaries*

It will be interesting to see the US and China both engaged in influence operations in Pakistan in the coming times to counter the Baloch militancy, securing their individual interests, while Rawalpindi sells off whatever little is left in Pakistan. The Pakistan's government continue to blame India for supporting the Baloch insurgency, though without any substantial proofs, which the Indian government denied vehemently. Balochis have been ignored by the Pakistan's

government. Their home is rich in mineral but they do not benefit from their the exploitation, they are today settled across Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.



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BALUCH INSURGENCY

SEPT 2025

Attacks on Chinese engineers working on Gwadar project

JULY 2025

Operation Baam launched by BLA, targeting military installations, telecommunication towers etc. across government buildings

FEB 2025

BLF attacked CPEC road construction sites in Kharan and Kech districts

**OCTOBER
2024**

Suicide attacks by BLA near Karachi Airport killing 2 Chinese nationals

**OPERATION
ZIR PAHAZAG**

Ongoing BLA's campaign to disrupt Chinese projects

Issues of Balochis with China's CPEC

- CPEC does not benefit the locals but exploits their resources.
- Solidarity with Uyghur Muslims in China
- Alleged ethnic cleansing in Baloch, by reducing Baloch community to minority.
- Human rights violation by Pakistani establishment.
- They view CPEC as a product of neo-colonialism.
- Damage to their land's ecology.

Pakistani Personalities involved

1. Lt.Gen(Retd) Asim Bajwa, former Chair, CPEC
2. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal
3. Dr. M.Muzammil Zia
4. Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed, Chief of ISI

Pakistani Stakeholders

1. Director General of Frontier Corps (Balochistan)
2. Special Security Division (SSD)
3. ISI

Chinese Personalities involved:

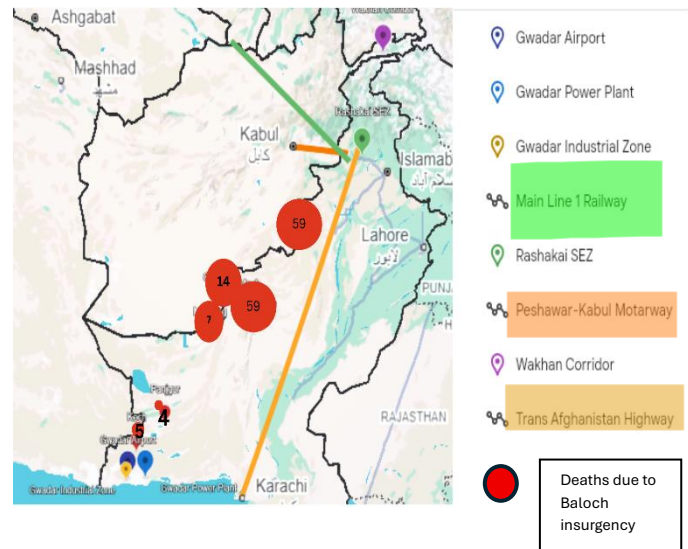
1. He Lifeng, Vice Premier of China
2. Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Minister
3. Sun Weidong, Vice Foreign Minister of China



4. Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman, NDRC of China
5. Pang Chunxue, Charge d’Affairs of Chinese Embassy

Chinese Stakeholder

1. China Communication Construction Company
2. China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd.
3. China Harbor Engineering Company
4. China Huadian Corporation
5. Shanghai Electric
6. China National Nuclear Corporation
7. Dongfang Electric Corporation
8. China Three Gorges Corporation
9. China State Construction Engineering Corporation



10. China Harbour Engineering Corporation
11. China Railway Engineering Corporation
12. Chia Railway Construction Corporation

The Dragon’s Plan

It appears that Pakistan is an adoted village of China, but with added vested interests. China will gain direct access to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, use

its excess capacity to fulfil its neo-colonialist objectives, draining Pakistan of its left-over resources and trapping it in debt. The PM Sharif is already in pressuere to implement the CPEC 2.0, eager to please the bosses in China. Due to uncertainties in Balochistan, the CPEC 2.0 is diversifying into service and agricultural sectors, and involving the private sector. It will not be suprising if China further enchroches into PoK region leveraging its deep military and intelligece networks with Tajikisatan in the North and Pakistn in the West.

To counter the Baloch issue, China is already making moves in Iran. As Israel and US increased their offensive on Iran, China took the oportunity to increae its strategic and economic engagement wit Iran, sliping in the ‘management of Baloch insurgents as well, strering clear the path for the Pakistan’s government, and securing its vital interests in the region, as evident during a quadrilateral meeting on September 25,

2025, the foreign ministers of China, Iran, Pakistan, and Russia expressed deep concern over terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan, explicitly naming the BLA and Jaish al-Adl as serious threats to regional stability.

What's next for India?

India needs to fasttrack the infrastructure development projects including Chabahar and INSTC. USA's current tariffs will make engagements with Iran tough, but prioritising national interest India's diplomatic channels would strengthen strategic, economic and security partnership in the region. Central Asia remains a less explored geography, engaging with countries like Tajikistan will give a competitive edge over China. India has experience in dealing with terrorism, which can be shared with Tajikistan as it faces increasing illegal activities from Afghanistan. This might include India's strategies in intelligence gathering and community deradicalization, helping Tajikistan counter groups like **the Islamic State-Khorasan or Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan**. Economically, safer borders could boost trade and connectivity initiatives, like linking to India's Chabahar Port. Diplomatically, it strengthens ties in forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), promoting a balanced regional approach. Since India maintains cordial relations with Afghanistan, further engaging in development activities in the country should be considered, especially in the light of the Baloch insurgency. India needs to act swiftly and proactively to secure its interest in the region.

September News Review

Sr No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1.	02-09-2025	Political	High Commissioner of Kenya visits PTA office	The Nation
2.	04-05-2025		Govt to Punish Teachers Associated With Political and Religious Parties	Pro Pakistani
3.	11-09-25		President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif marked Air Force Day with calls for national unity and resilience amid ongoing security threats	Daily Independent
4.	11-09-25		Pakistan, Azerbaijan to open 'Asan Khidmat Markaz' in Islamabad	Daily Times



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5.	16-09-2025		Imran Khan vows no surrender, calls for nationwide protests on Sept 27	Tribune
6.	16-09-2025		Pakistan: Imran Khan refuses to cooperate with cybercrime investigators at Adiala Jail	Babushahi
7.	18-09-2025		Imran Khan writes to Pakistan SC seeking justice, cites prison hardships	The Print
8.	02-09-2025	Economy	Finance minister holds meetings with PBOC governor, ICBC chairman in China	The Nation
9.	02-09-2025		Gold surges to new all-time high	The express tribune
10.	04-09-2025		Oman-Pakistan Business Forum highlights opportunities for enhanced economic cooperation	Pakistan Observer
11.	05-09-2025		Three Discos to be privatised in first phase, ADB delegation told	The Nation
12.	05-09-2025		Pakistani state-owned firm announces major oil, gas discovery in Attock district	Arab News
13.	05-09-2025		Finance Minister reviews food prices, inflationary trends amid flood impact	Brecorder
14.	13-09-2025		Pakistan eyes \$250M with first Panda bonds	Daily Times
15.	14-09-2025		Pakistan to issue first Panda bonds before December: report	Daily Times
16.	14-09-2025		Pakistan eyes EU investment in oil, gas, IT and agriculture	Arab News
17.	18-09-2025		Pakistan, China agree to form consortium to finance \$7 billion railway project under CPEC	Economic Times
18.	02-09-2025	Foreign Affairs	High Commissioner of Kenya visits PTA office	The Nation
19.	05-09-2025		Pakistan, Bangladesh eye Islamic seminary exchanges amid warming relations	Arab News



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20.	06-09-2025		Pakistan's Educast partners with Oman's Health 24 Hakim to launch medical tourism platform.	Arab News
21.	02-09-2025		Ishaq Dar, Azerbaijan FM discuss regional, int'l developments	Dunya News
22.	05-09-2025		Uzbekistan increases flights between Tashkent and Islamabad	Dunya News
23.	08-09-2025		Pakistan Navy finds vast gas reserves beneath sea with China	Arab News
24.	12-09-2025		Pakistan continues to support peace in Gaza, positioning itself as a mediator	MOFA, Pakistan
25.	13-09-2025		Zardari calls Pakistan-China friendship unbreakable bond	Daily Times
26.	20-09-2025		Will Saudi Arabia now back Pakistan in war against India? Defence pact Khawaja Asif big claim	Hindustan Times
27.	18-09-2025		Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Pact 18 September, 2025	The Sansad TV
28.	19-09-2025		Pakistan says UNSC vote against lifting Iran sanctions risks regional stability	Arab News
29.	19-09-2025		Pakistan Sends Protest Note to Kabul Amid Rising Tensions	Tolo News
30.	02-09-2025	Social	40 recharge sites to help in reviving groundwater levels	The Nation
31.	05-09-2025		CM's Skilled Punjab Initiative: Over 1,000 transgender enter workforce	Pakistan Observer
32.	11-09-2025		Senate committee rules 372 Peca cases illegal, orders immediate withdrawal	Geo News
33.	09-09-2025		Shebaz Sharif directs NDMA to speed up relief operations in flood hit areas	Dawn
34.	13-09-2025		Civil society groups and legal advocates highlighted concerns over the shrinking	K21 News



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			space for free expression	
35.	14-09-2025		PTI continued its protest campaign, demanding justice for detained members	K21 News
36.	04-09-2025	Security	Satellite Images Show Pakistan Begins Reconstruction At Nur Khan Air Base Damaged In Indian Strikes	Times of India
37.	04-09-2025		Pakistani Taliban kill two border troops as presence increases	Alarabiya English
38.	05-09-2025		New opium capital of the world risks funnelling millions to terrorists	The telegraph, AOL
39.	06-09-2025		Air Vice Marshal Shahryar Khan promised a strong and modern defense posture, citing past successes and vowing to defeat India	Caliber
40.	09-09-2025		Terrorists of Bannu FC HQ suicide attack belonged to Afghanistan	Dunya News
41.	04-09-2025		19 soldiers martyred, 45 terrorists killed in KP operations	Daily Times
42.	15-09-2025		Pakistan Adopts New Border Strategy to Counter Militants from Afghanistan	Khamma Press
43.	19-09-2025		Post-Operation Sindoor, major Pakistan terror groups shifting base to Afghanistan border	Times of India



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