

INDIAN HYBRID WARFARE TOOLS IN BALUCHISTAN AND ITS IMPACT ON CPEC: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

India apparently used hybrid warfare methods in Baluchistan, which might be a big source of worry for South Asian security and, as a result, a factor undermining CPEC. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate how India seems to have gained influence in the Baluchistan region, as well as the methods and repercussions on the CPEC. This study presents an argument for the idea that there is concrete proof of India's use of covert techniques as part of its hybrid warfare strategy, based on a detailed examination of current events and specific academic works on the subject. As a result of the project's viability and security concerns, Pakistan constructed additional security measures along the CPEC route to effectively manage the situation. The conclusion of the study paper emphasises the importance of cross-regional and international partnerships, assistance investment in Baluchistan's development, the implementation of hybrid warfare counter-measures, increased security measures, and effective diplomatic communication. This article is produced in a strategic manner to address the complicated concerns regarding India's involvement in Baluchistan and their impact on the CPEC, ultimately demonstrating the benefit of the South Asian area via the development and spread of information and, finally, the realisation of peace.

Introduction

India and Pakistan have been at odds for many years, marked by territorial disputes, historical battles, and geopolitical tensions (Oren, 2016). This rivalry has expanded in recent years as both nations fight for influence and strategic advantage in South Asia (Ahmad & Begum, 2018). This research study examines a critical part of the ongoing conflict by focusing on the CPEC and Indian hybrid warfare strategies deployed in Baluchistan. Hybrid warfare, which mixes irregular warfare, political subversion, conventional military tactics, and information warfare, has become popular among governments seeking to achieve their objectives without participating in traditional armed conflict (Al-Saba, Fatima, & Khattak, 2023). The employment of hybrid warfare methods by India against Pakistan, focusing on Baluchistan in particular, has drawn condemnation and attention from across the globe (Allenby, 2017).

Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest province by area, has been unstable for many years due to ethnic and nationalist movements. Against this backdrop, India's suspected assistance to Baloch terrorist groups has compounded an already volatile situation (Almäng, 2019). Baluchistan's strategic significance is enhanced through the lens of CPEC, a vast infrastructure project connecting China's western provinces to the Pakistani port of Gwadar. The CPEC, as well as Pakistan's economic lifeblood, is a vital project in China's Belt and Road Initiative project (BRI), with significant geopolitical and economic implications (Angstrom & Ljungkvist, 2023).

Literature Review

Hybrid warfare, defined as combining conventional military techniques with non-military ones, has grown in popularity in recent years. This has provoked much scholarly debate as well as policy debate (Aoi, Futamura, & Patalano, 2018). The intricacy of current South Asian geopolitics necessitates familiarity with the literature regarding India's alleged employment of hybrid warfare methods in the Baluchistan region and its potential consequences on the CPEC (Fazal & Irfan, 2022).

The concept of hybrid warfare has garnered a lot of attention in the context of recent battles. Researchers have emphasized the need for comprehensive tactics for identifying and eliminating hybrid threats (Iqbal & Gul, 2021). It is worth noting that NATO and the US Department of Defense have explored the complexities of hybrid warfare (Muhammad, 2019). This conceptual framework provides the theoretical foundation for analyzing India's efforts in Baluchistan. Baluchistan's history is marked by recurring nationalist and ethnic movements calling for independence from Pakistan. The historical and sociological context of Baluchistan's upheaval is addressed in books such as Paul Titus' "Between the Mosque and the Military" (Batyuk, 2017) "In Afghanistan's Shadow", which give insights into the province's multifaceted dynamics. Numerous investigations and studies have shown that India has backed insurgency and Baloch nationalism movements. The Pakistani government and security agencies allegedly accuse India of providing financial, logistical, and spiritual support to terrorist outfits. Academic studies, such as (Beccaro, 2021), have extensively researched these assertions, looking at supporting material and India's intentions. The central focus of this research is the CPEC, whose geopolitical significance extends beyond economic development. Researchers have investigated the broader geopolitical implications of CPEC, emphasizing its role in China's Belt and Road Initiative and the altering dynamics in the region in his book "The China-Pakistan Axis." CPEC's shortcomings and security challenges, particularly considering the upheaval in Baluchistan were also studied (Benbow, 2014).

Baluchistan has had a severe influence on relations between Iran and Pakistan. Certain conditions have traditionally produced misconceptions and confusion, making the province pivotal in Pakistan-Iran relations. Their military cooperation demonstrates the political aspect of the Indo-Iranian alliance and the existence of RAW in Pakistan. India has a direct route to Pakistan through Iran, where it may undertake air operations and foment discord. Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest province by land area, has a border with Iran. Militant group movements near Pakistan's border with Iran pose security challenges to the government. Pakistan sees this as an India-backed decision designed to destabilize the province's law and order situation. The launch of CPEC has strengthened Baluchistan's geostrategic position by transforming Gwadar into a commercial hub, improving the province's infrastructure, and boosting its economy (Fazal & Irfan, 2022). The arrest of Kulbushan Yadav by Pakistani authorities in March 2016 showed Indian intelligence agencies' use of Iranian territory against Pakistan. Kulbushan Yadav utilized his Iranian passport to undertake anti-Pakistan espionage and sabotage activities. In accordance with Indian expectations, he was seeking to destabilize Baluchistan. The Indian Prime Minister has clearly recognized such goals. In 2016, on the eve of India's Independence Day, he addressed the nation and criticized the situation in Baluchistan. The leaders of the Baloch insurgency endorse the Indian government's view on Baluchistan, citing proof of Indian involvement in the province. The head of ISPR was told in March 2016 of the arrest of Indian spy Kulbushan Yadav, who disclosed his mission was

to damage CPEC, with Gwadar port as the key goal. "This is nothing less than state-sponsored terrorism," he said. There is no stronger evidence of Indian intervention in Pakistan (Fridman, 2017). The Afghan-Iranian relationship and Iranian interference in Baluchistan, since the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan, it has acted as a focal point for the Indo-Iranian nexus and remains a source of contention between Pakistan and Iran. To gain strategic advantages and strengthen their influence in Afghanistan, Indians have been financing rival groups. Because of Afghanistan's facilitation of Indo-Iranian ties, Pakistan's status in the region is under danger. India and Iran collaborated extensively to tackle the Afghan problem. Because Afghanistan is landlocked, it must pass via either Iran or Pakistan. Pakistan sees India's presence in Afghanistan as a possible threat owing to its assessment of India's significant influence there. In 2011, India and Afghanistan signed a strategic cooperation deal, enabling the two countries to maintain strong connections in opposition to Pakistan's objectives. India is now engaged in Afghanistan, providing substantial aid packages, infrastructural upgrades, and capacity building projects (Gasztold & Gasztold, 2020). To promote its geopolitical agenda and balance China, India today maintains strong ties with Iran and Afghanistan. India predominantly conducts terrorism in Baluchistan via consulates in Afghanistan along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border that act as terrorist hotspots.

Grare (2013) expresses that a mainstream of the population encourages Baluchistan's future within the federation of Pakistani also designates, at a grass root level, that Pakistan's harmony is less simulated than usually thought. The security forces failure to culmination the Baluchistan conflict by the arm force should recommend to Islamabad that Pakistani diverse culture will have to be succeeded administratively, not suppressed or crushed by military resources. The choice is eventually between the equal participation of Baloch peoples in law making processes or obsolete disintegration. If someone intended to find a peaceful solution, it will have to be dogmatic in nature. In Baluchistan, the Arm forces of Pakistan desired to eradicate the old-style and native structures to strengthen the writ of the state. It has indisputably managed to abolish old-style community structures, but in the procedure, it has naturally deteriorated the Pakistani federation and promotes the hindrance in creating harmony. In the present scenario, Baluchistan is thus a true reflection of the destiny of Pakistan (Hartwig, 2020).

The deliberate security dynamics of this age has altered expressively from ancient times. The old-style war-fighting means have been replaced by the latest ones, creating security situation multifarious. The modernizations in means of information, transportation, communication, and armed weapons have delivering states new paths to discover. In connection to this, the growth of non-state performer has increased the instability of the security atmosphere. Now, the states not only require defending their boundary from the opponent but also bound to protect its social political, economic, safety as well. The capability of states to concurrently utilize diverse means against their adversary has given way to the conception of hybrid war to flourish across the globe (Iqbal & Gul, 2021).

Different definitions of hybrid war but all descriptions of hybrid war debated by the authors all over this book are multifaceted and assimilate many different features of war into a single field. In the situation of the Russian idea of color insurgencies, hybrid warfare converts an administrative model that can suggest enhanced strategies to attain the wanted goals. In this situation, it is typically based on prevailing inter-state struggles that can carry out a civil war type of clashes (terrorism, protests). Like military encounters, uprisings go through a sequence of stages and having less undermining power. As is regularly the situation, however, remonstrations can go

parallel with armed force of some type; thus, they are naturally known as hybrid having both armed and non-armed activities. Military and dogmatic objectives become the identical and the emphasis turns to undermining the internal security. In this framework hybrid warfare, and insurgency within it, is not diverse from conservative war, although it is worth emphasizing that the outlays are diverse (Iqbal & Gul, 2021).

Khawaja and Zahoor (2020) express that Indian mass media has built an image which supplements the outline of BJP under Modi leadership. They have prepared war utilizing as a dogmatic dividend tactic to win the elections. Preceding practices and the existing situation predominant in India as well as Indian media's role in reciting a discriminatory literature against Pakistan and against the Muslim community have exposed the real Indian approach through their strategy makers and main leadership. Their emphasis needs to be moved from constructing walls to breaking obstacles and to cover the gap created by identity base politics to attain viable peace. Global community requires developing mutual code of conduct for broadcasting to encourage peace journalism. They required regulating the hate speech in contradiction of any group on ethnic or spiritual grounds. This will support in building a comprehensive global community where disgust for others is not the base ground of patriotism. The conduct of the Indian mass media as conflict creator is alarming for the harmony between the two nuclear countries of the globe. In such unstable nuclear situation, preferably the Indian mass media should moderate the tensions and perform as peace envoy instead of becoming war agitating state (Khawaja & Zahoor, 2020).

Jaspal (2019) expresses that Indian and its compatible nations have grown capable at utilizing hybrid war strategies to destabilize federation of Pakistan as well as targeting its national security. They have been utilizing propaganda, terrorism, fake news as well as gossips through mass media by engaging cyber machinery and manipulating common fault lines. While dividing the society and generating a rift among the institutions of the state through hybrid warfare tactics, India has now been creating such a situation as well as tension at boundaries and constantly violating worldwide boarder laws by firing at the border lines of Pakistan and engaged Pakistan military forces in such activities. Thus, the Pakistani administrative as well as ruling elite require reshaping its nationwide security policy to improve and advertise it socio-religious policy to restrict both society and any state from creating hybrid war application. Thus, the condition warrants the revision of inclusive policy connecting the whole nation to meet hybrid warfare violence (Jaspal, 2019).

Mirza and Babar (2020) express that the competences are dependent on the fault lines and exposures of the adversaries. The weak segments of Pakistan are very much prominent for Indian hybrid attacks. Beside from the conventional war and warfare strategies, India has been utilizing non-conventional approaches against Pakistan. Pakistan is a state having lot of security issues as well as security fault lines which India being an adversary is aware of. Verdicts following the strategic collaboration are interdependent. So, this strategic collaboration exposed to India that Pakistan is more anxious about its security and to deteriorate this, the basics of the security infrastructure require to be attacked. This infrastructure has numerous variables counting economic development and progress. Pathetic economy of Pakistan is a serious vulnerability which can be interpreted into the competency of Indian warfare strategies. Strategic collaboration is not free of the opportunities and conducts of the adversary. So, India is engaged in Hybrid conflict against Pakistan and this belief is not in denial. A number of examples and confirmations are available which evidently show that India is participated in the manipulation of different segments

where it discovers the vacuum, and this was proved by Kulbushan Yadav's case against Pakistan (Mirza & Babar, 2020).

Iqbal (2018) explains that the aim of Pakistani adversaries is to deteriorate the nation's economy so that it is incapable to allocate resources for its security need. A continuous pressure is established so that the Pakistan remains to be under stress to borrow from IMF. Hence the global trade as well as IMF debit is consumed as a hybrid weapon against the Federation of Pakistan. India being a major adversary never ever misses any chance to deteriorate the international image of Pakistan. The recent BJP government in Indian continuously in a struggle to utilizing the fault lines as well as flaws of Pakistan to further destabilize the federation and for that purpose Baluchistan is an easy target for Indian due its several internal issues of the province (Iqbal, 2018). Akhtar and Akram (2021) explain that the fruitful application of hybrid warfare is resulted by the manipulation of prevailing fault lines tendencies in the interior infrastructure of the state. These fault lines occur in diversity of shapes that make the background of the social order of any state. These are ethnic polarization, religious, political disparities and socio-economic among identity based social groups as well as minorities. Hybrid warfare in the first stage takes place by manipulating the secessionist and separatist groups through indirect tactics. The flaws in the form of weaknesses is easy to target and can disrupt national solidity within the whole territory of that nation. The instant threat to Pakistan's inner security is confronted by its prevailing fault lines. Therefore, these fault lines must be recognized and determined through nationwide security strategies. India is only anxious with maintaining regional supremacy by accumulating power posture through groupings with the super developed nations around the globe and creates unevenness in the Asian region. Indian multi-dimensional strategy of initiation hybrid war on Pakistan has intentionally designed into isolating the federation of Pakistan and destabilizing in diverse fields. Utilization of indirect tactics, using water as an armament, assisting uprisings in Pakistan, distressing CPEC, propaganda as well as media warfare; these Indian made tactics are being pragmatic against Pakistan (Akhtar & Akram, 2021).

Haider et. al, (2020) expose that the subtleties of Hybrid warfare in the federation of Pakistan are exclusive in contrast to other victims of hybrid intimidations. Pakistan has been wide-open to all major tools of hybrid warfare over the last two (02) decades. Pakistan faces a lot of challenges from internal as well as external sides. The societal flaws of the state are abused by our domestic as well as external opponents to create difficulties for Pakistan at numerous fronts. Various tools of Hybrid warfare are engaged in harmonization to attain multiple aims ranging from administrative disturbance to structuring anti-Pakistan narratives at global fronts. A varied range of performers including Non-State actors, states along with state-sponsored well assembled groups engaged Hybrid Warfare approaches against Pakistan over past two (02) decades. The awareness of this feature came only through the last couple of years. Pakistan requires adopting instant measures to recognize the tactics of Hybrid war as Pakistan is the only state which is fronting the full range of Hybrid war. The enhanced understanding of these subtleties of Hybrid warfare will play a vital role in evolving strategies to counter prevailing and future challenges being confronted by Pakistan to attain the objective of maintainable peace (Oren, 2016).

Hybrid warfare, similar to traditional combat, seeks to establish superiority over the opponent. Employing a combination of hybrid warfare tactics such as conventional armed forces, economic manipulation, diplomatic pressure, proxy utilization, inciting local rebellions, information warfare, and cyberattacks can cause significant disruptions to a targeted state, whether domestically or

internationally, if used strategically and in the right mix. Engaging in warfare offers an advantage to the initiator by allowing them to include all citizens and resources of the opposing side, rather than adhering to UN Laws and Geneva Conventions that safeguard human rights and ban attacks on non-combatants. The main purpose of using proxy troops is to weaken a certain country, which involves recruiting, funding, and backing terrorist organizations in their operations. The local dissatisfaction is amplified and highlighted, causing economic instability and negative reputation both domestically and internationally, all aimed at depicting the target state as a hazardous and unproductive place for investment (Ahmad & Begum, 2018). Hybrid warfare's information domain employs electronic and social media platforms to influence public opinion by spreading false propaganda and fake news, in order to damage a government's image and provoke citizen discontent. Statecraft is skillfully used in diplomacy as a kind of warfare to deliberately isolate and discredit a certain state among other countries. The initiator exploits the vulnerabilities of the target state to create an unfavorable situation that allows for the implementation of punitive actions against the target state. Offensive diplomatic skills include proficiency in national and international politics, statecraft, and diplomacy. The goal of economic sanctions, lawfare, and other deliberate irritations is to greatly weaken the economic might of a targeted country. (Al-Saba, Fatima, & Khattak, 2023)

Indian intelligence operatives are deployed. The world is becoming informed of India's involvement in Baluchistan due to significant efforts made by the foreign office, Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR), and Pakistani media. The RAW-NDS Nexus and Its Impact on Baluchistan Afghanistan's relationships with India and Pakistan have been characterized by fluctuations; maintaining good ties with one country typically leads to strained relations with the other. India has cultivated strong ties with Afghanistan and gained influence in the region after the events of 9/11. Kabul's Indo-Pak policy has evolved to be more pro-Indian. India is using its triumph in Afghanistan to its advantage against Pakistan. India strategically utilizes Afghanistan to undermine Pakistan as outlined by Lodhi (2016). The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has shifted from stable to very contentious. Afghanistan served as a sanctuary for terrorist and rebel groups targeting Pakistan, namely the Baluchistan region. The insurgency and bloodshed in Baloch areas are connected to the Afghan intelligence agency (NDS), with support from the Indian intelligence organization (RAW). The NDS-RAW nexus carries out clandestine activities in Baluchistan, leading to fatalities including as terrorist acts, bombings, and attacks on security personnel (Anees, 2017).

Research indicates that unidentified groups organize rallies and social media campaigns against Pakistan annually during UN Human Rights Council sessions (Machado, Alaphilippe, & Adamczyk, 2020). Challenges posed by Hybrid Warfare and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) China initiated the multibillion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The megaprojects include of special economic zones, energy projects, and advanced transportation networks. The purpose of CPEC is to boost the province's economic activities, leading to stability and prosperity. The locals are hopeful because of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Gwadar port, Special Economic Zones, and transportation network will facilitate the growth and development of the province's economy. The extensive initiative has been the target of disinformation efforts and frauds in India, the United States, and Western nations since it began. A disinformation campaign is being initiated to sabotage and hinder development initiatives (Hassan, 2019). Pakistan's economy is anticipated to gain

advantages from the significant Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). India is trying to sabotage the vast project by disseminating misinformation and launching terrorist attacks against it. India's hostile objectives against Pakistan are evident, whether it chooses to take covert or overt action. It is also displeased with China's substantial investment in CPEC. India has tried to sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by supporting a terrorist group it finances (Kamran, 2018). The BLA claimed responsibility for the hotel attack at the Gwadar Pearl Continental to sabotage the major project. An Indian intelligence organization was responsible for the attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi. The group was also accountable for the abduction and murder of Chinese engineers in Baluchistan. Brigadier (R) Abdul Basit Rana said that India's large-scale 5GW effort aims to obstruct Pakistan's progress, particularly targeting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Baluchistan. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations have attacked Baluchistan (Rana, 2021). (An Indian misinformation effort targeting Baluchistan and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has started on social media. India persists in supporting radical terrorist organizations based in Afghanistan that are hostile to the Pakistani government. Pakistan is countering this by maintaining transparency and collecting reliable information. India provides financial support to terrorists for carrying out assaults in Baluchistan. RAW and the Indian military have established bases in Pakistan's surrounding nations and are conducting operations against Pakistan (Hanif, 2018). Kulbushan Yadav's detention is a clear example of Indian interference in Baluchistan. He said in a video confession that India was supporting and orchestrating terrorism in Baluchistan to interfere with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

India's actions in Baluchistan have significant regional and global implications due to the significance of CPEC. A study by Moeed Yusuf and Ammar Rashid, published by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in 2017, found that the competition between India and Pakistan impacts regional security, especially concerning the Afghan peace process.

Objectives:

- To critically examine the Indian Hybrid Warfare activities used in the region of Baluchistan.
- To analyze the ramifications of India's actions on the region of Baluchistan.
- To explore the ramifications associated with the CPEC.

Research Questions

- What are the hybrid warfare activities India is doing in Baluchistan?
- What are the ramifications of India's actions on the region of Baluchistan?
- What are the ramifications associated with the CPEC?

Methodology

The study is based on the desk research method under qualitative approach. The data is gathered through secondary sources like books, published articles, newspapers, websites, and reports.

Indian Hybrid Warfare Activities against Pakistan

Pakistan has been witnessed a variety of hybrid war activities waged by India since its creation. According to the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), India has arrayed hybrid warfare against Pakistan in four different dimensions. In the first place, it launched an onslaught against the military. Secondly, it abetted social insecurity through disinformation and lack of trust in state institutions; third, its propaganda against Kashmir and the terror attacks at CPEC and related development projects are ranked last.

It is evident from history that during the East Pakistan disaster, India's use of hybrid warfare methods against Pakistan was visible in how they propagated Mujib's Six Points, the myth of the massacre, and the misery of refugees. Even after the separation of East Pakistan, Indian's involvement continued that deteriorated the image of Pakistan. During a speech in Kerala against Pakistan, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We will isolate you, and I will work for it" (MK, 2022).

Since 9/11, Pakistan has a wide array of multi-dimensional threats of being internationally isolated. It is mainly due to the over-exaggeration and allegations of India that Pakistan is an 'irresponsible state' and 'sponsor of state terrorism'. That narration was strongly opposed by Pakistan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) issued a press release that stated "Pakistan rejects baseless propaganda and irresponsible remarks by the Indian leadership" (MoFA, n.d.). Despite the rejection of all the allegations from Pakistan, as the time passes by India's hybrid warfare activities continued in Pakistan.

Ajit Doval, India's national security advisor, has also acknowledged to participating in subversive activities and diplomatically isolating Pakistan. The Indian email contacts that led to the FATF lobbying and the postponement of the New Zealand cricket match illustrate India's hybrid warfare methods against Pakistan.

"The Indian civil and military leadership has changed tack and started to talk about the launching of surgical strikes across Line of Control (LoC)" (Yamin, 2019). They continued to spread propaganda against Pakistan for being involved in terrorist activities in India through traditional means like print and electronic media and later through non-traditional means like propaganda through social media while maintaining their defensive stance. Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat(late) claimed in 2016 that the Indian army carried out surgical strikes in response against Kashmiri freedom fighters backed by Pakistan in Uri and Pathankot (Yamin, 2019). A film titled 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' released by India in 2019 mainly propagate the capability of Indian army for strong strikes and it also depict the Pakistani army in a poor light. Such tactics are continuously being used to weaken the image of Pakistani army and leadership. As a matter of fact, spreading disinformation rapidly is a matter of seconds in contemporary times through various social media tools. India is also using this tactic to destabilize the Pakistan

Manohar Parrikar, the Indian BJP's Defence minister, said unequivocally in May 2015 that "India will sponsor terrorism to counter-terrorism" (Nisar, 2019). In response to terrorist attacks on the Karachi Stock Exchange, the Lahore Johar Town bombing, the arrest in Kalbushan, and numerous other occurrences are on record. In 2020, Pakistan's ex-foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi announced to have a dossier on India's sponsorship of state terrorism. He claimed that the dossier contains irrefutable evidences about Indian involvement in Balochistan and also called India the biggest democracy is becoming a rogue state through its activities (Siddiqui, 2020). In July 2021, Ex-President of Pakistan Arif Alvi claimed that the use of Afghan soil by India against Pakistan for hybrid warfare. In the same spirit, a slew of other consistent events, such as India's support for the TTP and PTM, as well as its funding of subversive activities in Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, give enough evidence of India's continued attempts to undermine Pakistan's internal structure (Nisar, 2019).

Indian Hybrid Warfare Activities in Baluchistan

Balochistan's geo-strategic location makes it one of the most important locations in the world. Due to the geostrategic and geoeconomic importance, the world powers have always meddled in the

province of Baluchistan. However, Indian involvement in this province had led to insurgencies followed by suicide attacks, bomb blasts, and attacks on security forces. At present, Balochistan is being subjected to hybrid warfare activities massively to destabilize the province. India is also sponsoring insurgencies, abetting terrorism, sabotaging development projects, and publishing misleading and fake media reports to influence the minds of local communities and incite them against their state and its institutions. 'Global Times' has published its investigation report on the involvement and support to terrorism by India in Baluchistan.

India backed Militancy in Baluchistan

Balochistan's militancy has different dynamics, with tribal and sub-nationalist connotations. India is mainly responsible for instability in the province due to its resource potential and geo-strategic significance along future trade routes. Subramaniam (former Director of Indian Defence Studies) said in a symposium in 1971, that "what India must realize that the breakup of Pakistan is in our interest and an opportunity which will never come again" (Lanlan & Fandi, 2024). Therefore, India keeps continuing its efforts to destabilize Pakistan. It was mainly witnessed in Baluchistan from India's support for the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). Some European states pretended that the BLA and other militant groups from Balochistan are 'political opposition groups', but in reality, the country that is more engaged in these warlike activities is India.

The establishment of BLA was apparently aimed to gain rights for the Baloch community in Baluchistan. But in reality, it is revealed later that the commanders of BLA have Indian support and they sought medical treatments in India's hospitals under disguise or fake identities. In 2006, Pakistan designated BLA as a terrorist organization (Lanlan & Fandi, 2024).

In 2016, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) claimed to arrest an Indian spy named 'Kulbhushan Yadav' who had been working since 2013 to destabilize Pakistan. In his confessional video, he confessed to meeting with the Baloch insurgents to carry out warlike activities with their collaboration in Baluchistan. Commander Sarfraz Ahmed Bungulzai also claimed that India is supporting insurgent activities in Baluchistan. He claimed in a press conference that he thought his armed struggle was for the rights of Baloch, but later it was realized that "India was involved in all these conspiracies". He also claimed that a helicopter crash in 2022, in which a general and 5 other army officials of Pakistan were martyred, occurred, and Baloch Raj Aajoi Sangar (BRAS) had taken responsibility for that incident. This secessionist group took responsibility at the command of India. Further, he said that these commanders accept money from India, and "after taking money, they shed blood of their own Baloch".

Double Standards of India regarding Terrorism

India is a state that has multiple ethnic issues within its territories, but its views about terrorism by India and by Pakistan are really different. Ye Hailin (Deputy Director of the National Institute of International Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) claimed that India employs double standards towards terrorism: "If you look at India's media and think tank reports, you will find that their descriptions of the terrorist attacks in Balochistan are completely different from those of the situations in Kashmir" (Lanlan & Fandi, 2024).

Terror Attacks on China-aid Projects and CPEC

Pakistan and China has been in deep friendship for years and China has aided many development projects in Pakistan that became a major contributor to the Pakistani economy, like CPEC. Therefore, CPEC has immense importance for Pakistan. Gwadar port in Baluchistan helps to promote industrialization and facilitating infrastructure development in Pakistan. Therefore, these

projects became a target of some terrorist forces in Pakistan. Moiz Farooq (executive director of Pakistan-based Daily Ittehad Medis Group) told global times that Pakistan's rivals are supporting terrorist activities in Pakistan who has intentions to sabotage the friendship between these Pakistan and China. Targetting or hurting Chinese nationals in Pakistan is also another attempt in this regard. The suicide bombing outside the University of Karachi's Confucius Institute in 2022 killed 3 Chinese and a local driver. BLA took responsibility of that incident. Similarly terrorist attacks on Chinese engineers working in development projects also has same objective. Liu Zongyi (Director of the Center for South Asia Studies at Shanghai Institute for International Studies) said India was backing separatism, and terrorist activities in Pakistan to destabilize and split Pakistan while now it is backing hybrid warfare activities to obstruct and undermine the construction of the CPEC (MK, 2022).

Results and Analysis

The incidents and events mentioned above prove that India employs various covert tactics in Baluchistan, aligning with hybrid warfare. The techniques include providing financial assistance to insurgent groups, implementation of psychological operations, engagement in diplomatic initiatives to garner support from other nations for Baloch separatism, and training Baloch militants. The hybrid approach used by India aligns with its strategic objectives of weakening the CPEC and challenging Pakistan's regional influence (Maschmeyer, Abrahams, Pomerantsev, & Yermolenko, 2023). The escalating violence and instability in the region of Baluchistan have resulted in a dire humanitarian situation for the local population. Moreover, the province's socioeconomic development has been impeded by the disruption of essential services like healthcare and education. The report asserts that India's policies, although aligned with its geopolitical aims, have had detrimental effects on the well-being of the Baloch people, exacerbating their hardships (Shabbir, 2022).

The research results demonstrate the susceptibility of the CPEC to security vulnerabilities originating from the region of Baluchistan. The progress of the corridor has been impeded due to the occurrence of assaults targeting projects, infrastructure, and personnel associated with the CPEC, hence giving rise to apprehensions over the sustainability of the corridor in the long run. Pakistan has been compelled to enhance security measures along the CPEC route, resulting in the reallocation of financial resources away from the project's intended focus on fostering economic development (Ramazani, 2018).

The alleged engagement of India in the region of Baluchistan. The results indicate substantial evidence supporting the claim that India has aided insurgent groups and Baloch nationalism movements in Baluchistan (Iqbal & Gul, 2021). The primary elements of this engagement are financial support, covert instruction, and diplomatic backing provided to Baloch leaders. Recent events indicate a discernible pattern of Indian support towards these groups, with the explicit objective of causing destabilization in the region. (Magen, 2011)

Based on a comprehensive examination of recent events and insights gathered from expert interviews, it can be inferred that India's actions have contributed to the escalation of unrest and instability in Baluchistan (Libiseller & Milevski, 2021). The escalation of Baloch nationalism activities, aided by external support, has increased confrontations between insurgent factions and Pakistani security forces (Nadeem, Mustafa, International, & 2021, 2021). The region has seen a decline in economic development and overall security. The research findings indicate that India's alleged use of hybrid warfare tactics in Baluchistan has adversely affected the CPEC (Biddle,

2018). The project's susceptibility to Baloch insurgent actions is shown via recent incidents, such as attacks against staff and infrastructure associated with the CPEC. The circumstances have raised inquiries over the long-term viability and stability of the CPEC.

Findings

The investigation into India's suspected presence in the sub-Salween river reveals how a hybrid warfare approach was deployed in a varied manner. These clandestine methods encompass a variety of playing patterns, the most important of which is to harm Pakistan's area of influence in the region by causing disturbances in Baluchistan province. India's moves include not only financial involvement with rebel organisations, but also psychological efforts, participation in peace initiatives to achieve independence, and technical training for terrorists in this region. Similarly, if we disregard the long-term plan, the objective realised here is to unavoidably impede the sustenance and growth of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The Baluchistan Province's violence and political instability are directly related to the actions under investigation. Upgraded Baloch nationalist activities, purportedly sponsored by foreign adversaries, have been more contested, and security actions against the relevant persons have begun in due order. The irony of the situation is that the conflicts that have occurred in this area have only served to exacerbate the area's instability and insecurity, which has become a way of life in this conflict-ridden area, resulting in the breakdown of economies and the provision of basic services such as health care and education. As a consequence, the Baloch minority in that region has been the most severely impacted by the subsequent interruptions, resulting in a catastrophic humanitarian disaster. On top of the security concerns that the CPEC confronts, India's intervention in Baluchistan's affairs has significant ramifications. However, ongoing assaults (mostly) on CPEC personnel and equipment in Baluchistan render the corridor's future insecure (value). CPEC security has proven to be an extremely expensive enterprise for Pakistan. This is because travelling the whole CPEC route has historically been very perilous, with frequent security incidents. Someone is concerned about this alternative use of resources rather than the corridor's planned development of economic objectives, which simplifies the issue of the project's success and long-term economic impact. The next section will discuss several gadgets that India can use.

Proxy Support: Multiple separatist organisations who are directly connected with India and were purportedly provided funds, equipment, and training to undermine Pakistan's territorial integrity in Balush have made headlines.

Information warfare: Indian organisations are most likely to use social media manipulation, distribution, and propaganda to persuade the world that Pakistan is irrational and that it exploits Baluchistan for its own profit.

Diplomatic Pressure: India, on the other hand, has the ability to interfere in CPEC by utilising its platforms and diplomatic ties to promote the message of human rights violations in Baluchistan and elicit sympathy for a Baluch cause via media broadcasts.

Conclusion

To summarise, India's suspected use of novel hybrid warfare methods in Baluchistan is transforming a portion of South Asia's geopolitical terrain, as are the projected ramifications of this phenomena for the CPEC. These studies have provided valuable insights into the complex physics behind this unexpected discovery. In a summary, India's purported use of hybrid conflicts in Baluchistan is a crucial aspect threatening the security and completion of the CPEC. The

continuation of operations in Baluchistan has had an impact not just on security circumstances, but also on the region's economic and political landscape. The Baluchistan problem must be handled in order to build CPEC and restore regional stability; this should be a diplomatic step that addresses the fundamental cause of the conflict.

The main conclusions of this research are as follows: The main conclusions of this research are as follows:

- India deploys a wide range of hybrid warfare strategies, including a massive array of plans known as plan. The exercise has uncovered various covert activities conducted by India. Ramming with money, creating trust, increasing diplomatic pressure, and training Balochistan terrorists are some examples.
- As a result, the use of hybrid warfare tactics by other regional players has a delayed effect on Pakistan's supremacy in the region. The rapid escalation of violence and political upheaval in the province is undoubtedly a direct result of India's operations in Baluchistan.
- Baloch nationalists have increased their activities, causing a significant impact on the local economy. It also produced perhaps the most difficult scenario for Pakistani security forces. The CPEC region in Baluchistan has experienced not just physical assaults on its human resources and equipment, but also regular security issues, delaying the project's completion date. During the challenging times ahead, Pakistan boosted the number of guards along the corridor to guarantee its long-term resilience and security.

Recommendations

- Increase the study's budget in order to improve socio-communities by providing decent infrastructure, well-developed healthcare services, and enough education.
- It is critical to address the core causes of instability by encouraging work opportunities and activities that provide individuals with skills via employment.

Hybrid warfare varies significantly from other kinds of conventional fighting. The Detect, Deter, and Respond (DDR) strategy may be beneficial in dealing with hybrid conflict threats. Its goal is to establish new intelligence-sharing partnerships with other nations that will offer enough information to cope with. Effective institutional cooperation will be critical and essential in this circumstance.

- Developing specialised tools targeted at reducing the effect of hybrid warfare methods is one potential solution to the problem of warfare techniques observed in hybrid conflicts. Indeed, the instrumentalities might include a variety of tactics, such as an effective information transmission system and specialised monitoring of economic activities. The goal of the effort is to enlighten a large number of people about the problems of hybrid competition. Such an audience will include members of society, security agencies, and public authorities. When we talk regional methods, the first thing that comes to mind is the kind of mutual labour and team play that takes place in spheres made up of diverse geographical locations or regions. It includes diverse responsibilities, contributions, competences, and the capacity to speak of collective unity in the face of common issues, resolutions, and choices.
- Allow countries to interact peacefully by addressing difficulties connected to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); and
- Promote commerce, economic integration, and peace among South Asian nations via knowledge exchange and capacity development. To enhance the Indo-Pak discussion, try seeking assistance from international organisations or mediation process representatives.

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