

Attacks by Baluchistan Liberation Army on Pakistan Army: More Lethal

August 28, 2024

Please read: 1. *A Brief BACKGROUNDER on China–Pakistan Economic Corridor, including information about Balochistan, on pages 2 -4;*
2. *A Brief BACKGROUNDER on JAMMU & KASHMIR, including information about the war of 1947-49 and the UN Resolution 47, on pages 4-6;*
3. *A Brief BACKGROUNDER on OBOR on page 7;*
4. *A Brief BACKGROUNDER on the HISTORY of GWADAR on pages 7-10;*
5. *A BACKGROUNDER on BALOCHISTAN on pages 10-11.*

Please read the EDITORIAL COMMENTS on page 6.

August 29, 2024: **Quetta**, Balochistan, Pakistan: “The recent deadly terrorist attacks in Balochistan were a “wicked scheme” devised by militants,” said Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** on Thursday, August 29, 2024, as he visited **Balochistan** to assess the security situation there.

In the latest flare-up of violence, dozens of militants affiliated with the banned **Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)** — a separatist outfit — launched numerous attacks on Sunday midnight across **Balochistan**, targeting security personnel as well as civilians.

BLA Groups attacked police stations, blew up railway tracks, and, disrupted Chinese projects for exploiting natural resources. **Hundreds of persons** including BLA attackers, security personnel of Pakistan’s Army and Police, who have been protecting the Chinese, and, who are working on CPEC projects, **are being killed every day.**

After his arrival in Quetta earlier today, **PM Shehbaz Sharif** chaired a high-level meeting of the National Action Plan’s Provincial Apex Committee.

The meeting was attended by **Ishaq Dar**, the Deputy PM, General **Asim Munir**, the Chief of Army Staff, **Sarfraz Bugti**, the Chief Minister of Balochistan, some other ministers of the Federal and Balochistan Governments and security officials. It was decided that Senior Police Officers should be appointed in **Balochistan** and they should be given incentives and facilities for working in places, where BLA is very active.

August 28, 2024: **Quetta**, Balochistan, Pakistan: On Sunday, August 25, 2024, started the recent spurt in violence in Balochistan (*Please see the MAP.1. on page 1 and the MAP.2. on page 2.*), leading to death of hundreds of personnel of **Pakistan Army**, the **Chinese** working on development projects under the \$65 Bn **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, the armed men of the militia of **Baloch Liberation Army (BLA)** and the innocent civilians.

---- A Brief BACKGROUNDER on **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor** ----

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), launched in 2013, is a 3,000 Km Chinese infrastructure network project under construction in Pakistan. This **Corridor** is aimed to secure and reduce the length of path for China's energy imports from the Arab countries.

This **Corridor**, when completed, will be a shorter path than the existing route through the **Straits of Malacca**, between **Malaysia** and **Indonesia**, which, in case of war could be blockaded by the adversaries of **China**.

The islands of '**Andeman and Nicobar of India**' can dominate the **Straits of Malacca**.

CPEC is a 3,000-Km long route of infrastructure projects connecting **China's** North-West Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the **Gwadar** Port on the Indian Ocean.

CPEC aims at developing a deep-water port at **Gwadar** in the **Arabian Sea** and a 'pipeline for carrying crude oil' and a road-and-rail line from this port to Xinjiang region in Western **China**. CPEC, when completed, would boost the trade between **China** and **Europe**, the **Arab countries**, **Africa** and the Eastern coast of **Americas**.

In Pakistan, CPEC aims to overcome an electricity shortfall, to develop the infrastructure and to modernize transportation networks. CPEC would help Pakistan shift from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy by establishing new industries in the CPEC Special Economic Zones. CPEC's potential impact on Pakistan has been compared to that of the Marshall Plan, undertaken by the United States in post-war Europe. Pakistani officials predict that CPEC will result in the creation of upwards of 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030, and add 2 to 2.5 %age points to Pakistan's annual economic growth. As of 2022, it is supposed to have enhanced Pakistan's exports. CPEC has provided 1/4th of its total electricity production.



*The MAP.1.: CPEC joins **Kashgar**, in **China**, with **Gwadar** port on the **Indian Ocean**.*

China acquired control of Gwadar Port on 16 May 2013.

CPEC: The MAIN PLANK of CHINA's **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI): As of early 2024, CPEC is the BRI's most developed land **Corridor**. China refers to CPEC as the revival of the Silk Road. CPEC is also seen as addressing a national security issue for China by economic development of the **Uttara Kuru** (i.e. “*Xinjiang*”) region, thus reducing militant influence on Muslim separatists of native **Uyghurs**. After the proposal from Chinese President **Li Keqiang** in 2013, the preliminary study on this project was done in 2014, which acknowledged the hostile environment and complicated geographic conditions but prioritized the importance of having a China-run port near the Gulf of Oman which serves as an important route for oil tankers. He said, “Once this **Corridor** is functional, the existing 12,000 km journey of oil transportation to China will be reduced to just 2,395 km. This is estimated to save China \$2 Bn per year.”

Since 2021, due to the growing pressure on **China** for being the world's biggest polluter, CPEC has also shifted its focus from coal-based energy investments in Pakistan to renewables.

In June 2022, the Karot Hydropower started commercial operations to provide cheap and clean electricity and aims to reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually.



*The MAP.2. location of **Balochistan in the Indian Sub-continent**
Population (Estimate 2023): 15 Mn; Area: 347,190 Km²; Density: 43/ Km²;
GDP (Estimate 2023): \$20 Bn; GDP/capita: \$1,621.
(References: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Balochistan> ,
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan, Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan))*



The MAP.3. 3,000 Km of road from China to the ‘Northern Areas of Pakistan’, including Gilgit-Baltistan and some other ‘areas of Jammu & Kashmir, administered by Pakistan’ (called “Azad Kahmir” by Pakistan) and going up to Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea, and passing through the provinces of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan & Sindh.

India’s Sovereignty: India has continuously opposed the CPEC since the **Corridor** passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir territory of **Gilgit-Baltistan**, a part of J&K State of India. Pakistan does not accept the claim of India on the State of J&K. Pakistan wants that the State of J&K should merge with it.

---- A Brief BACKGROUNDER on JAMMU & KASHMIR ----

On October 22, 1947, armed tribesmen and troops from Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province crossed the border into Kashmir, aiming to capture the State of J&K.

On 26 October 1947, the Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession, the legal document that ceded J&K to the Dominion of India as per the Indian Independence Act 1947.

India sent its Army to J&K on 26 October 1947. Since Pakistan refused to withdraw from the territory of J&K, a war started between India and Pakistan. India took the case of Pakistan’s attack on Jammu and Kashmir to the United Nations on January 1, 1948. This led to the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 on April 21, 1948, which addressed the conflict and

recommended steps for a peaceful resolution. Key Points from the UNSC Resolution Number 47:

- i. Ceasefire: The resolution called for an immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan.
- ii. Withdrawal of Troops: It recommended that Pakistan withdraw its tribesmen and nationals who had entered Jammu and Kashmir for fighting. Following this, India was to reduce its military presence to the minimum necessary to maintain law and order.
- iii. Plebiscite: The resolution proposed that the future status of Jammu and Kashmir be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.
- iv. Commission: The resolution established the **United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan** (UNCIP) to oversee the implementation of the resolution and to mediate between the two countries.

On 27 July 1949, the Military Representatives of India and Pakistan signed the Karachi Agreement, formally called the Agreement Between Regarding the Establishment of a Cease-Fire Line in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in the presence of the Truce Subcommittee of the UNCIP.

The signatories were:

- Lt. Gen. **S. M. Shrinagesh**, on behalf of India
- Maj. Gen. **W. J. Cawthorn**, on behalf of Pakistan
- **Hernando Samper** and **M. Delvoie**, on behalf of the UNCIP.

The other members of the Indian delegation were Maj. Gen. **K. S. Thimayya**, Brig. **Sam Manekshaw**, Maj. **S. K. Sinha** (who acted as the aide-de-camp for Gen. **Srinagesh**), and the secretaries of the Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs. The Pakistani delegation included Maj. Gen. **Nazir Ahmed** and Brig. **Sher Khan** and civil servants M. Ayub and A. A. Khan. The military representatives of the two sides negotiated for a week starting 18 July to demarcate the positions under their control.

S. K. Sinha stated that the Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** briefed the Indian delegation before the Karachi meeting, wherein he informed them that the UN Resolution conceded the legality of Kashmir's accession to India and, so, any "no man's land" would belong to India. The Pakistani delegation would need to produce proof to the UN Commission of factual positions of their control for all the territory they claim. Sinha stated that, based on this principle, the agreement demarcated several hundred square miles of territory on the Indian side even though there were no Indian troops in that territory.

*EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com asks the Spokesperson of India's Army to inform the people about why the Military Delegation at the meeting of July 18, 1949, convened by UNCIP at Karachi, signed away the Gilgit-Baltistan (or Northern) Areas, contrary to the instructions by the then Prime Minister, as stated by General **S.K. Sinha** (Please see the paragraph, above). The people of India have a right to demand the Army to give an explanation for this dereliction of duty by the Military Delegation. www.DiGiNews360.com calls on the India's Army to put on record its explanation, so that the discussion on the issue can come to an end.*

The ceasefire line of 1949:

The 830 Km long ceasefire line, established in the Agreement, started from a Southernmost point just West of the Chenab river in Jammu. It ran in a rough arc Northwards and then North-Eastwards to the map coordinate NJ9842, about 19 Km North of the Shyok river.

From the map point NJ9842, it runs due North to the international boundary with China, at a distance of about 60–65 Km.

Since there were no troops in that area of inaccessible glacial terrain, no effort was made to extend the ceasefire line between NJ9842 and the China border. This area, of the Siachen Glacier, eventually became a bone of contention between India and Pakistan.

Another anomaly arose at the Southern end of the ceasefire line in Jammu. From the terminus of the ceasefire line to the international boundary between Indian and Pakistani Punjab, there was a gap of over 200 Km, which was covered by a recognised "provincial boundary" between Pakistani Punjab and the Indian State of J&K. India generally referred to this boundary as the "international border", whereas Pakistan referred to it as the "border" or the "working border".



The MAP.4. J&K with the current Line of Control defined in 1972 (similar to that of 1949)

(Reference: <https://balochistantimes.com/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-an-introduction/>)

---- A Brief BACKGROUNDER on OBOR ----

One Belt One Road (OBOR) or the **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI) is China's one trillion dollars transport and trade infrastructure grand vision to connect China to the rest of the world. Announced in 2013, **belt** refers to the road and railway networks, and, the **road** to the sea routes. It features several economic corridors:

1. China India-Myanmar Economic Corridor,
2. China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor,
3. China-Central Asia West Asia Economic Corridor,
4. New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor and
5. **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor** (CPEC).

---- A Brief BACKGROUNDER on the HISTORY of GWADAR ----

CPEC: It's a part of **China's** OBOR initiative aimed at promoting **Chinese** trade in the Middle East. 2,700 Km long, the CPEC connects the Western **Chinese** city of **Kashgar** to **Balochistan's** port city of **Gwadar**.

Gwadar, located in South-Western Balochistan, is supposedly derived from two Balochi words: **gwat** meaning *air or wind*, and, **dar** meaning *door*.

The History of Gwadar (Extracted from the Story by **Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, the South Asia head of Eurasia Group in his conversation with IndiaToday.In): (Reference: India TODAY at <https://tinyurl.com/yxvy2ba8>): In 1783 CE, the Khan of Kalat, **Mir Noori Naseer Khan Baloch**, gifted the port **city** of Gwadar, along with Peshukan and Sur Bander, two fishing villages adjoining the **city**, to Muscat's prince, **Sultan bin Ahmad**. "Both prince Sultan and the Khan of Kalat had an understanding that if the prince ascended the throne of Oman, he would return Gwadar to the latter." In 1783, Gwadar was administered by a British Assistant Political Agent. The Agent started administering it on behalf of the Sultan after the Khan gifted Gwadar to the Sultan. (The Agent was administering it for the Khan before its Gift.)

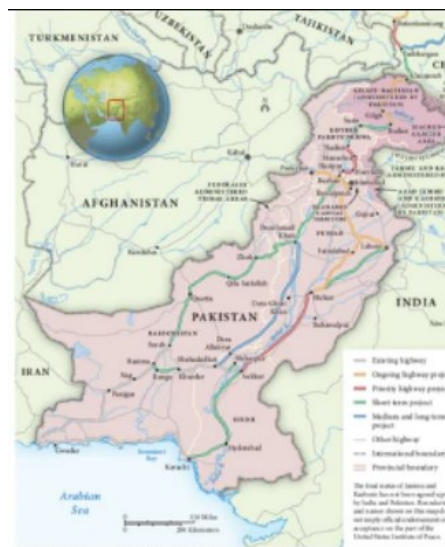
However, **Sultan Bin Ahmad** kept Gwadar as his base for raids on Arabia, across the coast, even after ascending the throne of Muscat. This bred a thorn of contention between the two.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: From the latter half of the 18th century CE till WW II, the United Kingdom was the dominant power in the area. The considered view of www.DiGiNews360.com is that the Sultan or the Khan acted on what any one of them wanted to do, after obtaining the approval of UK's representative in the area.

There were further proposals between 1895 CE and 1904 CE, both by the Khan of Kalat and the Government of (British) India to purchase Gwadar from the Omanis, but no decision was reached, according to archivist Martin Woodward's article 'Gwadar: The Sultan's Possession'.

(Reference: <https://www.qdl.qa/en/gwadar-sultan%E2%80%99s-possession>)

The dispute continued during the twentieth century. The importance of the dispute increased in 1914 both for Kalat and the British, when the Burmah Oil Company began to investigate the possibility that oil existed within the boundaries of Gwadar. The Khan of Kalat started demanding that Gwadar be handed over to him.



The MAP.5. CPEC

The Sultan wanted British help against the rebels in Dhurfur, the largest governorate of Oman and located in the Southern part of Oman. Since the Khan and the British were not yet able to decide about Gwadar, the Sultan stated in a telegram of 19 April 1914 that he would 'give the British Government Dhurfur [Dhofar]' in return for military help against rebels. (Dhurfur is the largest governorate of Oman and it is located in the Southern part of Oman.)

INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE of GWADAR: The Gwadar deep seaport's strategic location became more valuable, when China visualized a pipeline for carrying crude from Arab countries to Kashgar, in Western part of China. China planned a road beside the pipeline for providing a shorter and lower cost path between the Arab countries, Africa, Europe and the entire East coast of the Americas.

In 2017, Pakistan government handed over Gwadar to China on a 40 years lease for the implementation of **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, a long-

term plan to build along the **Corridor**, in Pakistan, ports, an airport, motorway, railway tracks, highways, energy projects, electricity power stations, coal power stations, hydro power stations, gas power stations, thermal power stations, metro lines, electric lines, communication lines, fiber optic lines and dams.

The plan was officially announced in November 2014 by China and the construction work began in April 2015. It was initially supposed to cost USD 46 billion but the amount has now surged to USD 62 billion.

IMPORTANCE of CPEC for CHINA: China's economy depends almost entirely on imports and exports. Around 80% of China's oil supplies come from the Arab countries and Iran, a distance of 13,000 Km. The CPEC project, after its completion, will shorten the route for China's energy imports to 2,700 Km, which will save China \$2 Bn a year.

Currently, China uses three routes for its exports: 1. Pacific lane; 2. Atlantic lane; 3. Indian lane.

If China wants to export to Europe, the goods must pass through 15 ports.

Over 55% area of China is undeveloped and 94% of Chinese live in the Eastern coast and only 6% live in the Western part of China, because there is no seaway for trade to the Western part.

CHINA'S REGIONAL CHALLENGES: There are a number of disputed islands, including Paracel, Spratley and Scarborough Shoal, which are jointly claimed by **China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia or Indonesia**. China wants to control the South China Sea because it's an important trade route for most East Asian countries and it has large oil and natural gas reserves.

China has heavily militarized the region claiming the South China Sea (*Please look for "Nine-Dash Line" in a map of the South China Sea.*) has belonged to **China** for thousands of years.

China has always been interested in helping develop Balochistan's natural resources. The story began in the 1970s when China and Pakistan found deposits of natural resources in the **Chagai area** in a joint geological survey. China soon realized how valuable

----A BACKGROUNDER on BALOCHISTAN----

Balochistan is a sparsely populated land mass which has huge reserves of gas and minerals. As an example, Pakistan and China have signed a contract for the

development of the Saindak copper-gold mines worth \$350 Mn. Pakistan's natural gas comes from Balochistan.

Balochistan is bound by the **Arabian Sea** to its South. It shares international borders with **Iran** to the West and **Afghanistan** to the North. It is bordered by the Pakistani provinces of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** to the North-East, **Punjab** to the East and **Sindh**. Located in the South-Western region of the country, Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan by land area but is the least populated one. It is bordered by the Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the North-East, Punjab to the East and Sindh to the South-East. Balochistan is an extensive plateau of rough terrain divided into basins by ranges of sufficient heights and ruggedness. It has one of the world's largest deep-sea ports, the Port of Gwadar lying in the Arabian Sea.

Although it makes up about 44% of the land area of Pakistan, only 5% of it is arable and it is noted for an extremely dry desert climate. Despite this, agriculture and livestock make up about 47% of Balochistan's economy.

The name "Balochistan" means "the land of the Baloch". Aside from Quetta, the second-largest city of the province is **Turbat** in the South, while another area of major economic importance is the port city of **Gwadar** on the Arabian Sea, an emerging future business hub.

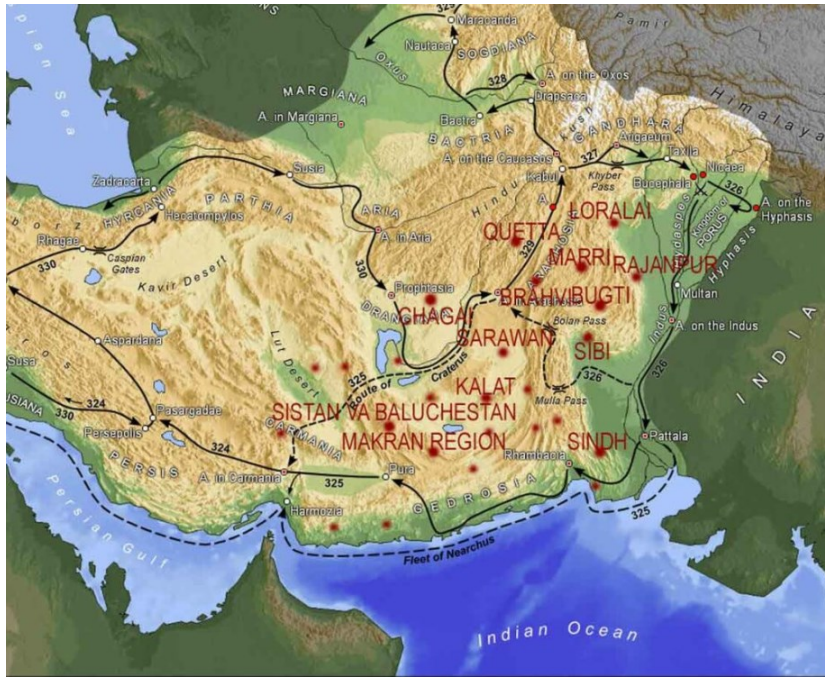
For administrative purposes, Balochistan is divided into seven divisions: Kalat, Makran, Nasirabad, Quetta, Sibi, Zhob, Loralai and Rakhshan. The eighth division - Loralai Division - was created by bifurcating Zhob Division.

Each division is under an appointed commissioner. The eight divisions are further subdivided into 36 districts:

(Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan, Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balochistan,_Pakistan))



The MAP.6.: The Eight Divisions of Balochistan



The MAP.7.: The Plateau, the Mountains etc of Balochistan



The MAP.8.: Baloch Liberation Army -2021 is more active in the 6 places, shown in the map.

BLA has another active center in **Turbat** in Kech District.

Chalgri area of **Bhamboor hills** of **Dera Bugti** district was the place, where Pakistan's gunships killed the Nawab **Akbar Khan Bugti** (1927-26) and his family members on August 26, 2006.

(Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbat>)
