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Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC September 20, 2017 PRESS COVERAGE DAY 2

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE

India involved in terror activities on CPEC route: Khurram Dastagir

By News Desk

Published: September 20, 2017

PHOTO: PID

Defence Minister Khurram Dastagir Khan has said India is involved in terrorism activities on the route of the multibillion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Referring to the arrest of self-confessed Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, Khurram said: "Calling India the region's 'only' peace-maker is wrong. Kulbhushan Jadhav's arrest is the biggest evidence of New Delhi's involvement in terror activities in Pakistan," he said while addressing the CPEC conference held in Islamabad on Wednesday.

"Although every country can benefit from the biggest economic project, India is involved in nothing but carrying out directly or indirectly terrorism activities on the CPEC route, the minister added.

'India won't allow IoK to be part of CPEC'

Geographical location and policy of confrontation among countries are creating obstacles for the regional development, Khurram said. "Indo-Pak dispute is also a hurdle on the path to development".

The CPEC project, the minister said, is confronted with numerous challenges while conspiracies are being hatched to limit China's influence in the region. "Pak-China relations are not against any country but in favour of the regional development and differences can be resolved through dialogue," he added.

Referring to Trump's statement and America's policy on terrorism, he said: "Many countries didn't accept the US policy as according to them it had strategic flaws. Pakistan's sacrifices for the regional peace are however being neglected".

Khurram went on to say that New Delhi is blaming Islamabad for its diplomatic issues while state oppression against those fighting for their rights is rampant in the occupied Kashmir. "The two neighbouring countries can move towards betterment by resolving the Kashmir issue."



No room for self-proclaimed, artificially boosted states in South Asia security matrix

PARVEZ JABRI

SEP 20TH, 2017 20:09

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Engr Khurram Dastgir said on Wednesday that in the South Asia security matrix, there was no room for the self-proclaimed and artificially boosted states.

He was addressing at the concluding session of the two-day National Conference 'Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC' organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute and the Hanns Seidel Foundation here at a local hotel.



The minister said that the recently announced US policy on South Asia underscored a greater role for India in Afghanistan and the region, while not acknowledging the exponential contribution, counterterrorism success, and sacrifices of Pakistan for peace and regional stability.

"There are strategic contradictions in the US approach, and most key regional and global players have not supported this declared US policy since it envisages India to be a Net Security Provider in the region.

"Regional security in the 21st Century can only be ensured through relationships and collaborations based on mutual trust and equality," he added.

He said that South Asia was undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalized economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation would be indivisible from others. "It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction", he said.

"The possible reason for limited cooperation lies in deep-rooted historic political differences due to colonial legacies and territorial disputes, which have not allowed the environment of trust to prevail and is being exploited by the extra regional states for their geopolitical interests."

Khurram Dastgir said that political issues and conflicts had not allowed the strategic and economic interests of the region to take precedence. He said amidst these complex security threats, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was a significant flagship project, which had gained global attention and had the potential to bring a paradigm shift in the destiny of this entire region. "But here the caveat is that peace amongst the regional countries is a pre-requisite for success of this initiative."

The success of CPEC, he said hinged on the ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region.

"Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country and seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the global and regional players," he added.

Meanwhile, there was unanimous agreement by the conference delegates that China had never changed its stance towards Pakistan and remained steadfast in supporting it at the international level. China's push to block anti-Pakistan statements in the recent BRICS Declaration is one example of that. It was pointed that the CPEC is offering a development counter-narrative to Balochistan's

grievances, and the Government of Pakistan should involve the local people and engage the country's young men and women in CPEC projects.

In the session on 'Regional Security and CPEC' chaired by Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President and Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Dr. A. Z. Hilali, Chairman from the University of Peshawar provided a detailed overview of China's economic development and said that CPEC was a recognition of Pakistan's strategic location.

Professor Dr. Moonis Ahmar, from the University of Karachi discussed his paper on 'Development of CPEC: Impact of Regional Cooperation to End Extremism in the Region'. He said that engaging youth in projects covered under CPEC particularly roads, railways, solar and thermal power production would not only enhance their talent and skills, but also utilize their energies in a positive manner.

Dr Khurram Iqbal from the National Defence University in his presentation opined that at the global level, America's response to CPEC was difficult to read, while the Corridor has made Russia's access to Warm Waters possible. Within South Asia, Afghanistan is a reluctant supporter of CPEC given its own internal economic imperatives; whereas Bangladesh is playing both sides with Maldives and Nepal supporting the project enthusiastically. He highlighted that India misperceived CPEC because it feared Pakistan might convert her newly acquired wealth into military muscle and obstruct India's rise.

Discussing 'CPEC's Impact on Pakistan-Iran Security and Trade Relations', Dr. Muhammad Alam Khan from the University of Balochistan said Pakistan had specific security policy for India, whereas Iran felt threatened by Israel and the US. He stressed that Pakistan should invite Iran to join CPEC to minimize the influence of India in the region, especially in Balochistan province, in addition to providing a direct link between China and Iran.

Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal from Quaid-i-Azam University said at the international level, India was pushing its non-violence and neutrality propaganda, while at the regional level, it was the polar opposite.

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President of IPRI thanked the participants, media and the delegates for making the conference a success. He appreciated China's diplomatic support by acknowledging Pakistan as a country on the front lines in the struggle against terrorism and its great sacrifices and contributions in trying to make the region a haven of stability and sustainable development.

No room for self-proclaimed, artificially boosted states in South Asian security matrix: Khurram

National Conference on 'Changing Security Situation in SA & Development of CPEC'
Mohammad Arshad

Defence Minister Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan, Wednesday, said that there was no room for the self-proclaimed and artificially boosted states in the South Asian security matrix. He further said that there were strategic contradictions in the US approach, and most key regional and global players had not supported this declared US policy since it envisaged India to be a Net Security Provider in the region. Addressing the concluding session of the Two-Day National Conference 'Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC' here, Defence Minister said that the recently announced US policy on South Asia underscores a greater role for India in Afghanistan and the region, while not acknowledging the exponential contribution, counterterrorism success, and sacrifices of Pakistan for peace and regional stability.

The Minister said that South Asia was undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalized economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation will be indivisible from others. 'It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction.

The possible reasons for limited cooperation lies in deep rooted historic political differences due to colonial legacies and territorial disputes which have not allowed the environment of trust to prevail and is being exploited by the extra regional states for their geopolitical interests.

Consequently, political issues and conflicts have not allowed the strategic and economic interests of the region to take precedence. Amidst these complex security threats, China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a significant flagship project which has gained global attention and has the potential to bring a paradigm shift in the destiny of this entire region. 'But here the caveat is that peace amongst the regional countries is a pre-requisite for success of this initiative.' While Pakistan has demonstrated its keen and sincere endeavors to resolve the issue of Kashmir through dialogue in lines with the UN Security Council Resolutions, India has always been shying away from the talks, on one pretext or the other where its new generations continue to carry the banner of Azadi. 'the success of CPEC hinges on our ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region. Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country and seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the global and regional players,' he concluded.



Only mutual trust, equality can ensure regional security, says Dastgir

• National

16 HOURS AGO BY STAFF REPORT

- *Defence minister says US approach to region contains strategic contradictions*
- *'Success of CPEC based on national consensus, positive geopolitical relations'*

Defence Minister Khurram Dastgir on Wednesday said that in the South Asia security matrix, there was no room for self-proclaimed and artificially boosted states.

He was addressing the concluding session of a two-day national conference titled: 'Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC', organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute and the Hanns Seidel Foundation at a local hotel.

Regional security in the 21st Century can only be ensured through relationships and collaborations based on mutual trust and equality," he said. The minister said that the recently announced US policy on South



Asia underscored a greater role for India in Afghanistan and the region, while not acknowledging the exponential contribution, counter-terrorism success, and sacrifices of Pakistan for peace and regional stability.

"There are strategic contradictions in the US approach and most key regional and global players have not supported this declared US policy since it envisages India to be a Net Security Provider in the region.

He said that South Asia was undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalised economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation would be indivisible from others. "It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction", he said.

"The possible reason for limited cooperation lies in deep-rooted historic political differences due to colonial legacies and territorial disputes, which have not allowed the environment of trust to prevail and is being exploited by the extra regional states for their geopolitical interests."

Khurram Dastgir said that political issues and conflicts had not allowed the strategic and economic interests of the region to take precedence. He said that amid these complex security threats, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was a significant flagship project, which had gained global attention and had the potential to bring a paradigm shift in the destiny of this entire region.

“But here the caveat is that peace amongst the regional countries is a pre-requisite for success of this initiative.” The success of CPEC, he said, hinged on the ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region.

“Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not against any other country; it seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the global and regional players,” he added.

Meanwhile, there was unanimous agreement between the conference delegates that China had never changed its stance towards Pakistan and remained steadfast in supporting it at the international level. China’s push to block anti-Pakistan statements in the recent BRICS Declaration is one example of that.

It was pointed that the CPEC is offering a development counter-narrative to Balochistan’s grievances, and the government of Pakistan should involve the local people and engage the country’s young men and women in CPEC projects.

No room for self-proclaimed, artificially boosted states in South Asia security matrix: Dastgir

September 20, 2017

ISLAMABAD, Sep 20 (APP): Minister for Defence Engr Khurram Dastgir said on Wednesday that in the South Asia security matrix, there was no room for the self-proclaimed and artificially boosted states.

He was addressing at the concluding session of the two-day



National Conference 'Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC' organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute and the Hanns Seidel Foundation here at a local hotel.

The minister said that the recently announced US policy on South Asia underscored a greater role for India in Afghanistan and the region, while not acknowledging the exponential contribution, counterterrorism success, and sacrifices of Pakistan for peace and regional stability.

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approach, and most key regional and global players have not supported this declared US policy since it envisages India to be a Net Security Provider in the region.

"Regional security in the 21st Century can only be ensured through relationships and collaborations based on mutual trust and equality," he added.

He said that South Asia was undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalized economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation would be indivisible from others. "It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction", he said.

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The success of CPEC, he said hinged on the ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region.

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Meanwhile, there was unanimous agreement by the conference delegates that China had never changed its stance towards Pakistan and remained steadfast in supporting it at the international level.

China's push to block anti-Pakistan statements in the recent BRICS Declaration is one example of that. It was pointed that the CPEC is offering a development counter-narrative to Balochistan's grievances, and the Government of Pakistan should involve the local people and engage the country's young men and women in CPEC projects. In the session on 'Regional Security and CPEC' chaired by Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President and Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Dr. A. Z. Hilali, Chairman from the University of Peshawar provided a detailed overview of China's economic development and said that CPEC was a recognition of Pakistan's strategic location.

Professor Dr. Moonis Ahmar, from the University of Karachi discussed his paper on 'Development of CPEC: Impact of Regional Cooperation to End Extremism in the Region'. He said that engaging youth in projects covered under CPEC particularly roads, railways, solar and thermal power production would not only enhance their talent and skills, but also utilize their energies in a positive manner.

Dr Khurram Iqbal from the National Defence University in his presentation opined that at the global level, America's response to CPEC was difficult to read, while the Corridor has made Russia's access to Warm Waters possible. Within South Asia, Afghanistan is a reluctant supporter of CPEC given its own internal economic imperatives; whereas Bangladesh is playing both sides with Maldives and Nepal supporting the project enthusiastically. He highlighted that India misperceived CPEC because it feared Pakistan might convert her newly acquired wealth into military muscle and obstruct India's rise.

Discussing 'CPEC's Impact on Pakistan-Iran Security and Trade Relations', Dr. Muhammad Alam Khan from the University of Balochistan said Pakistan had specific security policy for India, whereas Iran felt threatened by Israel and the US. He stressed that Pakistan should invite Iran to join CPEC to minimize the influence of India in the region, especially in Balochistan province, in addition to providing a direct link between China and Iran. Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal from Quaid-i-Azam University said at the international level, India was pushing its non-violence and neutrality propaganda, while at the regional level, it was the polar opposite.

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President of IPRI thanked the participants, media and the delegates for making the conference a success. He appreciated China's diplomatic support by acknowledging Pakistan as a country on the front lines in the struggle against terrorism and its great sacrifices and contributions in trying to make the region a haven of stability and sustainable development.

Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC

DNA News | September 20, 2017

ISLAMABAD, SEPT 20 (DNA) – ‘In the South Asia security matrix, there is no room for the self-proclaimed and artificially boosted states.’ This was stated by the Federal Minister for Defence Engr



Khurram Dastgir Khan in the concluding session of the Two-Day National Conference ‘Changing Security Situation in South Asia and Development of CPEC’ organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Islamabad today.

Speaking to a packed hall, he said that the recently announced US policy on South Asia underscores a greater role for India in Afghanistan and the region, while not acknowledging the exponential contribution,

counterterrorism success, and sacrifices of Pakistan for peace and regional stability.

‘There are strategic contradictions in the US approach, and most key regional and global players have not supported this declared US policy since it envisages India to be a Net Security Provider in the region. In the South Asia’s security matrix, there is no room for the self-proclaimed and the artificially boosted states. Regional security in the 21st Century can only be ensured through relationships and collaborations based on mutual trust and equality,’ he underscored.

The Minister said that South Asia is undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalized economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation will be indivisible from others. ‘It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction’, he said. The possible reasons for limited cooperation lies in deep rooted historic political differences due to colonial legacies and territorial disputes which have not allowed the environment of trust to prevail and is being exploited by the extra regional states for their geopolitical interests. Consequently, political issues and conflicts have not allowed the strategic and economic interests of the region to take precedence. Amidst these complex security threats, China Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a significant flagship project which has gained global attention and has the potential to bring a paradigm shift in the destiny of this entire region. ‘But here the caveat is that peace amongst the regional countries is a pre-requisite for success of this initiative.’ While Pakistan has demonstrated its keen and sincere endeavors to resolve the issue of Kashmir through dialogue in lines with the UN Security Council Resolutions, India has always been shying away from the talks, on one pretext or the other where its new generations continue to carry the banner of Azadi. ‘the success of CPEC hinges on our ability to deal with intricate national security issues, forging national consensus and preventing negative geo-political influences in the region. Cooperation between Pakistan and China is focused on economic development through connectivity and is not.

against any other country and seeks to establish and sustain long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the global and regional players,' he concluded.

There was unanimous agreement by the conference delegates that China has never changed its stance towards Pakistan and remains steadfast in supporting the country at the international level, China's push to block anti-Pakistan statements in the recent BRICS Declaration is one example of that. It was pointed that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is offering a development counter-narrative to Balochistan's grievances, and the Government of Pakistan (GoP) should involve the local people and engage the country's young men and women in CPEC projects, whether related to communication linkages and infrastructural development, in order to curb

extremism and bring disenfranchised youth into the mainstream. It is in the interest of SAARC to offer full membership to China to boost the process of regional cooperation, and create a strategic balance in South Asia to positively shape the present and future of the region, they recommended.

In the session on 'Regional Security and CPEC' chaired by Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President & Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Dr. A. Z. Hilali, Chairman from the University of Peshawar provided a detailed overview of China's economic development and said that CPEC is a recognition of Pakistan's strategic location, but is also a 'double-edged sword bringing both opportunity and a threat to its internal and external enemies.' He informed the audience that majority of Afghan people and policymakers support CPEC, however, traditional communist elements and pro-India lobby are preventing Kabul from joining. Dr Hilali also said that through CPEC, Afghanistan will have the opportunity to stabilize its economy by enhancing its trade opportunities. He pointed out that Pakistan has constructed two roads leading from D.I.Khan to Angoor Adda and Ghulam Khan, linking with Paktika and Khost provinces of Afghanistan. He said that these roads will 'enable Afghan business community and investors to access the enormous consumer markets in South Asia, thereby increasing the country's exports and reducing the costs of imports.' In the end, he cautioned that 'operational and security risks in terms of geopolitics are present for CPEC and OBOR countries because the current world economy is still unstable, and changes in macro-economic industry and market environment will have an impact on cross-border investment.'

Professor Dr. Moonis Ahmar, Meritorious Professor from the University of Karachi discussed his paper on 'Development of CPEC: Impact of Regional Cooperation to End Extremism in the Region'. He said that engaging youth in projects covered under CPEC particularly roads, railways, solar and thermal power production will not only enhance their talent and skills, but will also utilize their energies in a positive manner. Given the growing 'youth bulge' in Pakistan, its involvement in CPEC-related projects may help dilute their frustrations, mitigating the threat of extremism in the country. He recommended that the GoP should promote massive economic activities and developmental projects so that those who are unemployed or idle are engaged. He also called on members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to invite China to become a full member.

Dr Khurram Iqbal from the National Defence University in his presentation pointed out that India's response to CPEC has barred the potential of this mega developmental initiative to address regional political faultlines by 'transforming ideological terrorism into Cold War era proxyism.' He opined that at the global level, America's response to CPEC is difficult to read, while the Corridor has made Russia's access to Warm Waters possible. Within South Asia, Afghanistan is a reluctant supporter of CPEC given its own internal economic imperatives; whereas Bangladesh is playing both sides with Maldives and Nepal supporting the project enthusiastically. He highlighted that India misperceives CPEC because it fears that Pakistan may convert her newly acquired wealth into military muscle and obstruct India's rise. He pointed out that 'increased Chinese economic stakes in the region have the potential to internationalize the Kashmir dispute,' and recommended that there should be a joint Sino-Pak stance on issues related to the use of proxy groups by India and greater Chinese support for a multilateral approach to Kashmir.

Discussing 'CPEC's Impact on Pakistan-Iran Security and Trade Relations', Dr. Muhammad Alam Khan from the University of Balochistan said that Pakistan and Iran have their own security priorities in South Asia and the Middle East. Pakistan has specific security policy for India, whereas Iran feels threatened by Israel and the US. He opined that the visit of Iranian President Rouhani to Pakistan recently and his desire to focus on Gwadar-Chabahar ports connectivity is an early sign that the government in Iran is focused on positive sum game instead of zero-sum game against each other. He

stressed that Pakistan should invite Iran to join CPEC to minimize the influence of India in the region, especially in Balochistan province, in addition to providing a direct link between China and Iran. 'The benefits from CPEC must be distributed according to an agreed formula based on people-centric approach to satisfy all stakeholders of the country', he concluded.

'India has rejected OBOR and CPEC to stop China from creating its own sphere of influence because it feels threatened by the latter's expansion and so has started its own parallel processes, according to Dr Muhammad Mujeeb Afzal from Quaid-i- Azam University. India is a status inconsistent state because in South Asia, it is perceived as a regional hegemon, while globally it wants to present a docile strategic posture through its soft diplomacy. He said that at the international level, India is pushing its non-violence and neutrality propaganda, while at the regional level, it is the polar opposite, using coercion and intervention over its smaller neighbours. He said that India has managed to develop concert with the United States in order to create hurdles for Pakistan given its relationship with China and the rapid development of CPEC.

In his vote of thanks, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President of IPRI thanked the participants, media and the delegates for making the conference a success. He appreciated China's diplomatic support by acknowledging Pakistan as a country on the front lines in the struggle against terrorism and its great sacrifices and contributions in trying to make the region a haven of stability and sustainable development.



RADIO PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN HAS ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED SINCERITY TO RESOLVE KASHMIR ISSUE BUT INDIA HAS SHOWN INTRANSIGENCE IN THIS REGARD: DASTGIR

Defence Minister says relations between Pakistan and India are marked by historical animosity.

04:26 PM, 20 Sep, 2017

Minister for Defence Khurram Dastgir says CPEC development will open fresh avenues of cooperation among regional actors.

He was addressing the concluding ceremony of two-day conference titled 'changing security situation in South Asia and development of CPEC' in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Minister said with one-fourth of world population and more than two-fifth of the poor, South Asia is simultaneously the fastest growing region in the world as well as with least regional economic cooperation.

He said relations between Pakistan and India are marked by historical animosity.

Khurram Dastgir said Pakistan has always demonstrated sincere endeavours to solve Kashmir issue but India has been shying away from facing reality of Kashmir.





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"Regional security in the 21st Century can only be ensured through relationships and collaborations based on mutual trust and equality," he added.

He said that South Asia was undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to globalized economic trends and rising interdependencies, wherein the prosperity and stability of one nation would be indivisible from others. "It is home to countries that share much with each other culturally and geographically, but ironically progressing independently rather than in conjunction", he said.

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Business Standard

Pak minister accuses India of sabotaging CPEC's route

Press Trust of India | Islamabad Last Updated at September 20, 2017 22:42 IST

Pakistan's defence minister Khurram Dastagir Khan today accused India of sabotaging the route of USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Unveiled in 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects Xinjiang province in northwest China with the deep-water Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea in southwestern Pakistan.

A part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road (B&R) initiative, the CPEC runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and India has raised objection to it.

"Although every country can benefit from the biggest economic project, India is involved in nothing but carrying out directly or indirectly terrorism activities on the CPEC route," Khan told a conference on CPEC in Islamabad.

He claimed CPEC was facing challenges due to conspiracies to limit China's influence in the region.

He alleged that the arrest of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav from Balochistan was the biggest evidence of India's involvement in terror activities in Pakistan.

Khan said the regional disputes were a hurdle to peace between Pakistan and India which in return was hurting chances of any effort for mutual development.

He claimed that the resolution of Kashmir would help both countries to improve their relations. (This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

Pakistan accuses India of sabotaging CPEC; claims it indulges in terror activities

Updated: Sep 20, 2017, 11:40 PM IST

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Unveiled in 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects Xinjiang province in northwest China with the deep-water Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea in southwestern Pakistan. A part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road (B&R) initiative, the CPEC runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and India has raised objection to it.

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Pakistan minister Khurram Dastagir Khan accuses India of sabotaging CPEC's route

Pakistan's defence minister Khurram Dastagir Khan today accused India of sabotaging the route of USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



By: [PTI](#) | Published: September 21, 2017 12:41 AM

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Google Plus Pakistan's defence minister Khurram Dastagir Khan today accused India of sabotaging the route of USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. (Image: IE)

Pakistan's defence minister Khurram Dastagir Khan today accused India of sabotaging the route of USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Unveiled in 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects Xinjiang province in northwest China with the deep-water Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea in southwestern Pakistan. A part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road (B&R) initiative, the CPEC runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and India has raised objection to it.

"Although every country can benefit from the biggest economic project, India is involved in nothing but carrying out directly or indirectly terrorism activities on the CPEC route," Khan told a conference on CPEC in Islamabad. He claimed CPEC was facing challenges due to conspiracies to limit China's influence in the region. He alleged that the arrest of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav from Balochistan was the biggest evidence of India's involvement in terror activities in Pakistan.

Khan said the regional disputes were a hurdle to peace between Pakistan and India which in return was hurting chances of any effort for mutual development. He claimed that the resolution of Kashmir would help both countries to improve their relations.



Pakistan is plotting to harm the CPEC, India

By News State Bureau | Updated On : September 20, 2017 11:50 PM



Pakistan's Defense Minister Khurram Dastagir Khan has accused India of trying to harm the CPE. Starting in 2015, the CPE made with the cost of 50 billion dollars connects the Shinjianag province of China to Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

India has opposed CPE and China's ambitious project OBOR project. CPE passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir due to which India is opposing it from the beginning.

Khan said, "This plan will benefit all the countries. India is not connected to anywhere but it is trying to make it vulnerable to terrorist activities in some way.

They claimed that the CPEC is being tried to fail because the conspiracy is going to reduce China's influence in this area.

He said that it is clear from the arrest of Kulbhushan Jadhav that India is involved in terrorism in Pakistan's Balochistan.

He said that due to regional problems peace between the two countries is becoming difficult because India is ignoring all efforts of Pakistan.