



Pakistan-China Luxury Bus Service

In spite of India's objection, Pakistan and China have launched a luxury bus service passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) from Lahore (Pakistan) to Kashgar city (China's Xinjiang province).

- It is part of an initiative to connect the two countries via road under the USD 60 billion **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**.

One Belt One Road (OBOR) and CPEC

- OBOR is one of the major initiatives of China focusing on improving connectivity and cooperation connecting Asia to Europe and Africa.
- It has two dimensions: **Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB)**, a land route and the 21st-century **Maritime Silk Road (MSR)** an ocean route.
- Launched in 2015, CPEC is one of the flagship projects of SREB. It provides rail-road connectivity between Gwadar in Balochistan, Pakistan to Xinjiang province of China and passes through PoK.
- It is one of the largest bilateral initiatives between China and Pakistan with a budget of around \$46 billion. CPEC is considered as a boon to struggling Pakistani Economy.

India's Concern

- CPEC passes through Indian Territory, thus **interferes with India's sovereignty and territorial integrity**.
- There is a lack of transparency around the way the project is funded. It is considered as a **part of Chinese policy of debt-equity swap**.
- **It may disrupt and destroy Himalayan Ecology**.

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