

Can India's Necklace of Diamonds Strategy Defeat the China's String of Pearls

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Abstract: India has been making a “Necklace of Diamonds” to counter the “String of Pearls” created by China. Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Asian country and Somalia are a number of the countries wherever China is establishing maritime bases as a “String of Pearls” to boost its influence and military networks. The “Necklace of Diamonds” contains Changi service Base in Singapore, Chabahar Port in Islamic Republic of Iran, the belief Islands in Seychelles, and Duqm Port in Sultanate of Oman. China's investments in its String of Pearls exceed the investments created by Republic of India for its jewelry of Diamonds. Thus China's allies are possible to be stronger than India's. China has endowed US\$60 billion in Africa underneath its String of Pearls strategy, whereas India's largest investment for its jewelry of Diamonds amounts to \$8 billion, in Chabahar Port. The only noteworthy investment created by Republic of India that affects China considerably has been at Sabang, Indonesia, that is on the point of the Malacca Strait. Around eightieth of China's oil imports tolerate that strait, thereby creating India's presence within the region a degree of concern for China. India's jewelry of Diamonds additionally might not be as robust and effective as China's String of Pearls within the India-China border issue. Therefore, India-China border relations aren't regarding guns however additionally about the rising economic power of China that has resulted in countries being addicted to it for essential provides.

Keywords: India, China, Necklace of Diamonds, String of Pearls, Sabang, Chabahar Port, India-China Border.

1. Introduction

China's string of pearls strategy ensures establishing maritime bases in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Djibouti to enhance its influence and military network. India argues that China is trying to surround it with a network of dual-use port facilities in the Indian Ocean, the main concern here is Defence and Energy security China is even affiliated with Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen and Iraq, all currently splintered by conflict. Because of China's willingness to loan money to unreliable countries many experts have called BRI a

risk China's Belt and Road Initiative could be the next risk to the global Financial risk, eventually these countries will have to pay china back-but corruption and conflict make that payback unlikely, a report found that many countries indebted to china are vulnerable, including 8 that are at a high risk of being unable to pay, still China keeps on lending as there is more to the BRI than just economics, In Sri Lanka China loaned about 1.5 Billion dollars for a new deep-water port for the maritime port. However by 2017 it was cleared that Sri Lanka couldn't pay back the loan, so instead they gave China control of the port as part of a 99 years lease. China also controls the strategic port in Pakistan-where it has 40 year lease, its pushing for similar agreement in Myanmar and it just opened an actual Chinese naval base in Djibouti, these all signs of what we call String of Pearls theory. China is trying to establish a strong naval bases in the Indian Ocean that will allow it to station ships and guard shipping routes that move through the region, so while china is not getting its money back. China is using String of Pearls, Debt Trap, CPEC and Belt and road project as tools to encircle India. China is trying to enter the Andaman Sea, it is trying to get control over some parts of the Indian Ocean which is creating tensions across the countries. India-Japan and US have signed a treaty and together are working to counter China influence in the Indo-Pacific region. India has also introduced a new tri service by using the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where China is trying to create its focus. In response to the string of pearls, India has formed the Necklace of Diamonds to counter China influence in the region. India has to trying to strengthen its maritime security followed by strengthening relations with neighborhood to count China. Moreover China and India are also involved in war conflict related to the Brahmaputra Rivers where China is constructing dams which has an effect on the Indian being a downstream country in the use of water. Indian Ocean's very crucial region for India has 90% of the trade passes through the sea both export

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and import which can affect the trade business.

2. Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used an amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application –as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellants in a methodical and convenient way. Questions were asked to the common youth, survey, interviews –consisting of several interrogations which were dispersed among representatives of each contender group.

1) Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporate

1. China's string of pearls.
2. India's Necklace of Diamonds
3. India's other strategies to counter China.
4. Why Necklace of Diamond is not as successful as String of Pearls

3. Literature Review

India is also doing the same kind of thing to counter China's string of pearls. India has created the Necklace of Diamonds and suing the ports of other countries to help India counter China. The Necklace comprises of Changi Naval base in Singapore, Chabahar Port in Iran, Assumption Islands in Seychelles, Sabang Port in Indonesia and Duqm Port in Oman. PM Modi signed the India-Singapore Bilateral Agreement for Navy Cooperation in 2018 which allows Indian Navy ships logistical support, including refuelling at Singapore's Changi naval base. Strait of Malacca considered as one of the most busiest shipping lanes in the world. It is primary shipping lane between the Indian and the Pacific ocean. Also when Indian trade has to cross South China Sea, it doesn't need to depend on Andaman for refuelling, it can get the refuelling done at the Changi Naval Base, operations will become easy in future. Strait of Malacca is an important region from where maximum crude oil is passed and this is integral as it connects China with the rest of the world and India will have the capacity to block the strait of Malacca and India can threaten China's energy security. Chabahar Port in Iran, from the past 5 years the work is on, Chabahar port will not only connect India with Iran but also Afghanistan, India can reach Iran through sea and then India is constructing a highway and railways in the Afghanistan region which provide trade facilities between India and Afghanistan and from there we can enter central Asia. Gwadar port located very near to Iran and Pakistan, India can counter the Chinese built and have a check on Chinese submarines entering the region. In 2018, in Duqm port, India got military access we can save our energy security, it is located in the south-eastern seaboard of Oman, the port facilitates India's crude imports from the Persian Gulf. Indian facility is located right between the two important Chinese pearls-Djibouti and Gwadar India can keep an eye on Chinese activity in that region. In 2015, India and Seychelles agreed upon the development of the naval base in the region, military access was granted. This base is of strategic importance to India as China wants to increase its

presence in the African continent through the maritime route and assumption island lie on the major route. The Sabang Port in Indonesia, in 2018, India got the military access to Sabang Port which is located right at the entrance of Malacca Strait, near Nicobar Islands, a large chunk of trade and crude oil passes on to China through this region. Apart from this India is creating strong naval ties with Vietnam, Japan, France, Australia and the United States to counter China Naval and not just diamond Necklace, However it is a difficult task with China having economic relation with maximum countries.

4. Findings

India has signed treaty with Maldives and Singapore, to keep a check on China, The Sri Lanka, Maldives and India share a maritime neighborhood in the Indian Ocean and in order to boost its political and economy relation with its neighborhood countries, the navy plays a significant role. Sri Lanka and Maldives are located strategically close to all the major sea lines of communication. In 2020 meeting a number of matters were brought into the limelight of common issues and solutions were discussed including collaboration of maritime security and Indian Ocean. The 3 countries also discussed mutual cooperation in areas such as Humanitarian assistance in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), defence relief, joint naval exercise, capacity building, marine pollution, underwater heritage among other things, the countries have also agreed to improve intelligence sharing and includes issues such as terrorism money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking, the effect of climate change on the marine environment.

India has developed a proactive policy with the aim to transform the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into a tri-service command and as an economic hub and making it one of the key centres of India's defence and security strategy. The island was isolated in order to preserve the environment and look after the tribal welfare, national security and economic growth. The Andaman and Nicobar Island has remained unfastened, the island provides geostrategic presence in the Bay of Bengal and an access to South and South Asia.



Fig. 1. Strategy

The island can play an important role in promoting the

country's geopolitical leverage in the Indian Ocean Region. On 1st June, 2017 the government formed the Island Development Agency for the development of Islands for sustainable development of the island, in the first phase four islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been covered, the island plays a significant role in enhancing regional involvement of India with the Bay of Bengal littorals.



Fig. 2. India's necklace of diamonds Strategy

The policy has recommended to all navies of United States, Japan, Australia and France to promote naval cooperation. An amalgamation of economic and strategic factors has promoted the strategic salience of the Bay of Bengal. There are 572 islands and only 38 are inhabited which forms 30% of India's exclusive Economic Zone. The six degree and ten degree channel in the Andaman Sea which leads to the Malacca are important for the Sea Lanes of Communication where energy trade between Asia, Africa and Pacific is ongoing. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are at the convergence of the Indian Ocean and South China Sea and to the Pacific Ocean which forms an important center for Indo-Pacific. Regional navies of South Asian countries have been making regular visit to Port Blair the growing complexity between Indo-China Bilateral relations, these strategic convergence at the Andaman and Nicobar island may vex china and led to hostility between the two countries. China's growing interest in the Indian Ocean has expanded its maritime presences in the Indian Ocean Littoral through a continues arrangement of its naval forces, creating bases and access, ramping military diplomacy, increasing special political relations with littorals, it is suing the anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Adens to boost its presences which has increased threat for India. China has even entered India's EEZ without any notification. China engagement with Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Bangladesh has increased in the Bay of Bengal region. India's 55% of trade passes through Strait of Malacca which opens into South China Sea. If china controls the region, it will hamper the global trade practices and counties like India will directly get affected. Any belligerent action by china can hamper India's foreign trade passing through that region. India has signed a treaty with Japan for a sea corridor linking Africa with India and many other countries in the South Asia and Ocean, Asia Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC). India, Japan, US and Australia, the quadrilateral coalition has expanded their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and tackling the Chinese issues. China has followed Salami Slicing Tactic for most of its territorial claims, minor actions without provoking any reaction

from others over a period of time lead to a strategic shift in the ground realities in its favour, while the world is still vulnerable and recovering from pandemic, China has not shied away from flexing its military muscles against ALL of its neighbours.



Fig. 3. Routes

5. Challenges

First Iran has decided to proceed with Chabahar –Zahedan railway line project by itself citing delays in funding from India, moreover china's investments in it string of pearls exceed the investment made by India for its Necklace of Diamonds, Almost all nations have economies dependent on China and above all no country wants to get into a cold war with China Currently as China supplies essential pharmaceutical products to nations worldwide. The geopolitical competition has increased in the Indo-Pacific region between India and China. India's Act East policy and Chinese efforts to intensify its military influence in the region has created pressure in both the countries. India and China are having an open war in the land and water borders where China wants control over certain region. India is not part of BRI project. China and India trade has considerably declined.

6. Conclusion

The phase necklace of Diamond was first used in 2011 by Indian Former Secretary Lalit Mansingh. India is doing everything to protect its interest. India's Necklace of Diamond was made to counter China's String of pearls. However there have been a lot of strategy challenges in the successful implementation of it, as China has escalate its economic relation with almost 90% of the countries in the world, it has provided financial aid to majority of the countries even to countries run by terrorist groups. China's One Belt and Road Initiative is regarded as the world's risk project in terms of finance. However, India is increasing its relation with many countries like Japan, US, Sri Lanka to counter the China influence in the Asia region and especially in the Indian Ocean region, it has also adopted the Act East policy to gather more support against China, after the South China Sea conflict, most of the Asian countries are supporting India.

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