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India To Again Boycott China's Belt and Road Forum in Beijing

By **EurAsian Times** · April 7, 2019

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India is likely to boycott the second Belt and Road Forum which will be held in Beijing, China in late April 2019. The Belt and Road project is an ambitious initiative by China to undertake development and infrastructure projects across different continents.



China Marching Towards Europe Through New 'Best Friend' Serbia

Serbia, a non-EU member is China's 'best friend' in Europe, with Beijing engaging in a number of massive projects in the Balkans. Though Serbia may seem like an unlikely partner, it has nonetheless helped China's European push. Beijing is establishing a significant foothold on Europe's southeastern doorstep, increasing its influence in countries that will likely ... Continue reading

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"There is no change in our stand that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," a source here said.

India had boycotted the first such summit hosted by Beijing in May 2017 on the ground that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of BRI, runs through the Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir illegally occupied by Pakistan.

The source said no country could participate in an initiative which ignored its core concern on sovereignty.



China Building Fighter-Jets for Pakistan under CPEC Deal: US Reports

China rejected US media reports that claimed that it has hatched a secret plan to build fighter jets and other military hardware in Pakistan as part of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Baluchistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese President ... Continue reading

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The source said India, per se, was not opposed to connectivity initiatives. In fact, connectivity was integral to India's diplomatic and economic initiatives in the region and in Africa. In this connection, the source drew attention to the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), an initiative of India and Japan to undertake infrastructure projects in Asia and Africa.

But India, the source said, was quite clear that financing practices and sovereignty issues must be transparent while pursuing such initiatives.

Asked if China had asked India to participate in the forum to be held this month, the source did not give a straight reply but stated that Beijing had been requesting New Delhi to reconsider its decision.

China's top diplomat and President Xi Jinping's key aide Yang Jiechi, who is overseeing the preparations for the forum, was recently in India for a "Track II" dialogue when he again appealed to New Delhi to attend the forum to be held this month.

However, China has so far turned a blind eye to India's legitimate concerns over the ambitious CPEC project, which, many believe, would make Pakistan a permanent "client state" of China.



Hint For India – Huawei, ZTE Massive Security Risk: Japan Warns Companies

In a massive setback to Huawei Technologies and ZTE, the Japanese Government has issued guidelines managing key infrastructure across 14 sectors to refrain from obtaining communications equipment which may be vulnerable to security risks such as sensitive information leaks and system shutdowns, reports Nikkei Asian Review. Japan-India Space Partnership Aimed To Check Russia and China ... Continue reading

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Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and leaders of nearly 40 other countries are expected to attend the forum. Others expected to attend it include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. There are reports that Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte might also attend the forum which could further split the European Union (EU) on its commercial ties with China.

The US has also made it clear that it would not send high-level officials to the forum, expressing concerns over opaque financing practices, poor governance and disregard for internationally accepted norms and standards by China.

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