

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DAILY DAWN AND THE HINDU: EXAMINING CPEC NARRATIVES

Waleed Ahmad^{*1}, Zarmina Gul²

^{*1}PhD Scholar Communication University of China; ²Lecturer, NUML Islamabad

^{*1}waleed.sheraz01@gmail.com; ²zgul@numl.edu.pk

Corresponding authors*

Received: July 20, 2024 Revised: August 20, 2024 Accepted: September 10, 2024 Published: September 21, 2024

ABSTRACT

This study, titled "Comparative Analysis of Daily Dawn and The Hindu Coverage Examining CPEC Narratives," examines how print media in Pakistan and India portray the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with a focus on *Daily Dawn* and *The Hindu*. Grounded in framing theory, the study investigates how these newspapers selectively emphasize specific features of CPEC to influence public perception. The study uses content analysis to explore the dominant frames applied to key aspects such as infrastructure development, international stakeholder responses, and the portrayal of CPEC as either an economic or political endeavor. The findings show that *Daily Dawn* adopts a predominantly optimistic tone, with an emphasis on infrastructure and development (22.73%), the security of Chinese workers (20.45%), and international collaboration (20.45%). In contrast, *The Hindu* emphasizes infrastructure (33.33%) but frames CPEC through a political lens, with 22.22% of its coverage portraying the project as a geopolitical threat to Indian sovereignty. These opposing perspectives illustrate the media's role in shaping national narratives, while also highlighting the broader implications for regional relations and the development of public opinion regarding CPEC.

Keywords: CPEC, framing theory, print media, infrastructure, energy, development, security, regional influence.

INTRODUCTION

Background of CPEC

The launch of the BRI belt and road initiative is the new shaping of the foreign policy of the China through which the Chinese authorities want a kinship across the continent and it is also appraise to be the big transition in the foreign policy of the China. The maritime routes from China to Europe via Southeast Asia and Africa are what the BRI refers to as its "road." On the other hand, the term "belt" refers to overland routes that pass through Central Asia and terminate in Europe. There are numerous infrastructure projects that involve building roads, railroads, and bridges, which is just one part of the BRI because China valued infrastructure development more than any other aspect of the initiative (Teo et al., 2019)

When analyzing the dominating frames used by *Daily Dawn* and *The Hindu*, it is critical to understand how framing theory explains the

selective focus placed on certain parts of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Frames are cognitive constructs that guide how audiences interpret information, shaping public discourse. By emphasizing specific narratives, like as development prospects vs geopolitical worries, these media not only inform but also shape their readers' perceptions of CPEC. The conflicting frames used by *Daily Dawn* and *The Hindu* highlight the importance of national context in media representation, demonstrating how various objectives and historical narratives can result in dramatically different interpretations of the same event. This framing not only reflects the newspapers' editorial positions, but it also has a significant impact on shaping public opinion and national narratives about regional development programs.

Building many economic corridors is an objective of BRI. With the possible exception of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was created for Pakistan, these corridors aim to link a number of nations. Considering Pakistan's role in this massive development attempt is seen as the belt's buckle, CPEC stands out in the BRI. The port city of Gawader in Pakistan and the far western area of China would be linked by this corridor. Due to Pakistan's geographic location between China and its energy suppliers in Africa and the Middle East, this is a crucial trade route for China (Yousaf and Fiaz, (2018)

The China Pakistan economic corridor is the leading project of the ONE BELT AND ROAD (OBOR) and the project officially started in April, 2015. The multibillion-dollar CPEC project gives Pakistan and the region as ensemble with much-needed possibilities for economic growth and political stability. (Rahman & Shurong 2017). [CPEC] is expected to cost over 46 billion dollars, of which at least 35 billion will go towards the energy industry. It is important to note that, assuming all of these investments materialize, CPEC will match all foreign direct investment inflows into the country from 1970 to the present (Miller, 2017). By the end of 2030 the project will end up and will benefit the China in way that the connectivity with the Middle Eastern countries will be much lesser from where the China purchased energy in the form of oil because it will reduce the distance to just 12000 kilometers (Butt, 2015).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure and economic project that aims to link the Gawader Port in southwest Pakistan with China's Xinjiang province through a network of roads, railroads, and pipelines. The project, which is a component of China's bigger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is regarded as a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, which has struggled in recent years due to political instability and security issues. The CPEC is anticipated to boost regional connectivity, bring in foreign investment, and generate thousands of employments, but it has also sparked worries about the sustainability of the debt, the impact on the environment, and the potential security ramifications (Garlick, 2018). The CPEC is portrayed differently in both Pakistani and Indian media; on the one hand, it is presented as a game-changer and creator of the opportunities from the

project for the Pakistani people, while on the other, it is presented as a potential danger to Indian interests (Umer et al., 2018)

The CPEC has typically been described in Pakistan as a paradigm-shifting initiative that will lead to economic growth, job creation, and infrastructural development. The relevance of CPEC for Pakistan's economic development and strategic significance has been emphasized in Pakistani media, as it will not only give Pakistan a chance to resolve its energy issue but will also enhance its connectivity with China and other nations in the area. The advantages of CPEC for the Baluchistan province, which has historically been underrepresented in the nation's economic development, have also been emphasized by Pakistani media. The project has also been designed as a symbol of Pakistan's strengthening ties with China, with some outlets pointing out the strategic importance of the relationship. CPEC has also been framed as a major initiative that may assist address the country's chronic energy shortages, and some outlets have highlighted the potential for the development to help bridge Pakistan's infrastructure gap (Boni & Adeney, 2020).

Although with the more positive portrayal on Pakistani media some media outlet also criticizes because of the lack of transparency and accountability of the project with that they also point out the potential for environmental damage and displacement of local populations of the Gawader Baluchistan where the people time to time they record protest against the government of Pakistan and also against the Chinese [CPEC] authorities as well and so many separatist movement militant attacked the Chinese engineer and worker and they all this the both countries government to give bullet proof cars for travelling. Over all the media of Pakistan portrayal CPEC as a country inspiration and economic growth and regional as well as the geopolitical situation of the country of the region (Siddiqui, 2023).

In contrast, the Indian media has been more skeptical of the CPEC, frequently portraying it as a strategic danger to India's interests. Indian media has drawn attention to worries over the project's potential effects on security, particularly in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which is along the corridor's projected route. The enormous Chinese investment in the project has also sparked worries

in the Indian media about Pakistan's potential debt trap. Additionally, some analysts in India have contended that CPEC is a component of China's larger strategic plan to encircle India and establish its hegemony in the region. Some media outlets have expressed concern about the project's potential security repercussions, particularly in relation to the Gawader port, and have framed it as an effort by China to encircle and contain India. The project's economic effects on India have also been emphasized in Indian media, with some publications raising concerns about the possibility of losing jobs and market share to Chinese firms. Some reports have also criticized the project's lack of accountability and transparency, raising questions about the conditions of China's loans and Pakistan's potential for amassing significant Chinese debt. In addition, the strategic ramifications of the CPEC project have frequently been discussed in the Indian media, particularly in light of China's expanding regional dominance. According to some accounts, the project could provide China a strategic advantage in the area and could one day act as a Chinese military outpost (Khan et al., 2016).

India's long-standing geopolitical competition with China, worries about Pakistan's alleged backing for terrorism, and the project's effect on India's strategic and economic interests have all influenced how the project has been framed in the media (Hameed & Shahzad, 2020)

It is also the golden opportunity for India to not take part in this project which will not benefit the economy of the India but it will also the help in the regional stability of the region. The CPEC is already got approval from almost 60 countries but because of the long battle of the both country the India not want to join the project (Ranjan, 2015). But India are viewing the project with the eye of politics and the government is thinking that it caused the problem from Gilgit Baltistan which is both disputed area between the both countries. The Indian government and media is also raising their voice because of the extension of [CPEC] to third country Afghanistan the foreign minister of India said that "such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity." According to the spokesperson, "India firmly and consistently rejects projects in the so-called [CPEC], which are in Indian Territory that has been unlawfully taken over by Pakistan." Such

embraces have been denounced by Indians as "inherently unlawful, illegal, and intolerable (Rajagopalan, 2022).

Among these divergent viewpoints, it is critical to go further into the prevailing frames used by Pakistani and Indian media to portray CPEC, recognizing differences in the media's framing among the two nations, and determining the various factors that form these narratives. Thus, this study aims to answer the following research question.

1. Which dominant frames of CPEC are portrayed by Daily Dawn and The Hindu?

Significance of the study

This study provides an evaluation of how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is portrayed in Daily Dawn and The Hindu, offering an understanding of media framing and narrative. Examining representation in both Pakistani and Indian newspapers helps to comprehend bilateral ties, regional stability, economic ramifications, and media debate. Its conclusions are important for policymakers, stakeholders, and everyone interested in Indo-Pak ties and the larger implications of the CPEC. Present also study identifies that how the CPEC is framed in the media might affect the project's success or failure. While negative media coverage can foster skepticism and resistance, positive media coverage can inspire public support and draw investment. As a result, understanding how the media is portraying CPEC might help us better appreciate the opportunities and obstacles the project may face.

Literature review

In communication studies and media analysis, the term "framing" refers to the act of identifying, emphasizing, and presenting specific elements of a message or topic in order to affect how the audience perceives it. Framing is the process of giving a message or issue a certain interpretation or meaning by the use of language, pictures, representations, and other means of communication.

Framing might be utilized to bring attention to specific parts of a problem while minimizing or ignoring others, to provoke a particular response from the viewership, or to connect the issue to certain ideals or interests. Depending on the

framer's objectives and intentions, framing may additionally be utilized to present something in either a positive or negative way. Because it can affect policy choices and public opinion, media framing is particularly significant. The media can affect how the general public views and comprehends a topic by choosing specific frames and highlighting particular features of it (Robert, 2007)

Being one of your neighbors in the area China is Pakistan's second-largest trading partner after America. The first mutual agreement between China and Pakistan was made in 1963; thereafter, the FTA (Free Trade Agreement) were inked in 2006 and 2009 by the two nations. Infrastructure, development, transportation, railroads, and the energy industry are the main focuses of commerce between the two nations (Javaid & Javaid, 2016).

The famed Karakorum Highway, which connects China and Pakistan, is shared by both countries, and because of the friendly relations between the two countries, many refer to it as the "Fraternity Highway." Through taking Pakistan's internal route, Karachi and Gwadar ports were linked to Karakorum. (Ali, 2015)

China support Pakistan in every situation it is related to border issue or any other economic problems just like after 9/11 the Pakistan was under the pressure of the America and other world for supporting the terrorism in that scenario China did heavy investment in Pakistan to support Pakistan financially and economically. In the heavy investment they include to construct Gawader port in 2002 and re construction of Karakorum highways and in 2013 Gawader port was handed over to Chinese authority (Small, 2015).

After the project's full completion, it will benefit the entire area, not just Pakistan and China. (Hussain, 2017). Similar to OBOR Pakistan will be advantageous for Chinese investors and stakeholders after the finish of the gigantic CPEC project. Africa, the Middle East, and America are all associated with China via the Corridor. Through Chinese advancements in technology, one other advantage is the chance to look into the region's natural resources. (Irshad & Xin, 2014).

It is fairly apparent that the mass media is considered to be the main information source in the modern age of internationalization where the public at large gets firsthand knowledge about international relations and which shapes opinions

about a nation. (Mcnelly & Izcaray, 2016) According to (Ross, 2006) media play a significant role in international politics and conflicts because people rely on them to provide fast, accurate information about faraway events. The CPEC project is receiving increased attention from regional south Asian press and international news organizations as a consequence of its importance. American and Indian media appeared to be against the construction endeavor, while Chinese and Pakistani media seemed to be in favor of it. (Saleem, 2008).

India has been the source of the greater part of the criticism directed towards the CPEC, particularly the social press-active Indian media. Given that Indian media is more thoroughly watched than Pakistani media, the only practical response to India's criticism is to use social media to target any anti-Pakistan propaganda. The government and certain lawmakers utilized Twitter to target Indian propaganda against the CPEC, as was the case in the CPEC case (Ahmed et al., 2019)

(Ramay, 2018) argues that "campaigns have been established in the digital arena to defame countries in order to build roadblocks for impeding the process of development. The excessive criticism of the [CPEC] s the best illustration for Pakistan.

The Dawn news in their article emphasis on the development, economic, and strategic aspects, while giving political, social, and other issues only marginal importance. Significant posts tend to be positive, although negative posts may additionally have an impact on results. Political, social, and economic topics do not feature in any of China Daily's posts, and all of its posts only contain neutral frames. Instead, China Daily demonstrates themes relating to development, the economy, and strategies (Shah et al., 2020).

(Rajan, 2015) invented the term "trilateral collaboration" between Pakistan, China, and India as well as Middle Eastern and later European countries. He also proposed the idea of constructing "mini economic corridors" next to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is located on the border between India and Pakistan. The Aksai Chin region and the state of Arunachal Pradesh are two regions where there is a conflict with China, and China has proposed the CPEC in such a way as to put India's sovereignty in jeopardy or break it. The CPEC project is being resisted by the Indian government, according to

Indian media, in order to reduce the influence of China in the region while avoiding it from losing its strategic positioning and resource access. (Pant, 2012)

Indian media appropriately takes Indian CPEC policy into account when covering the topic. This is shown by the persistent converging stance in all selected newspapers and the frequent negative framing of Pakistan and China (Khan et al., 2016) in news discourse across traditional and social media, Indian media lambasted China and painted a poor picture of the CPEC (Husain, 2019) Media framing is critical in molding public perceptions of complicated problems like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major infrastructure project with regional consequences. While CPEC is extremely important to both Pakistan and China, how it is portrayed in the media differs greatly between the two neighbors. This study uses framing theory to investigate the opposing narratives around CPEC in Pakistani and Indian media, with a focus on two hypotheses.

Theoretical framework

In order to achieve certain objectives, the media often uses framing as a key tool. By concentrating on more sentimental aspects rather than the context of an issue, media tend to secure the interests of the elite and the financial interests of media owners. In the framework of the international communication arena, media often advance national policies and agendas to safeguard national interests. The construction of the CPEC will transform traditional commerce and development conceptions since it would promote regional growth and connectivity. As a result, regional nations, particularly those that share direct geographical borders with Pakistan, have expressed a strong interest in the project. Foreign ties with other nations, geo-economics relationships, the sociopolitical climate, and cultural as well as ideological differences and conflicts are all factors that affect how international news is covered. In worldwide news coverage of events and issues, economic interest is regarded as being of the utmost importance. The origin of framing theory can be attributed to the Walter Lippmann (Coleman, 2010) He was the pioneering academic to present the idea of how the media may create a straightforward framework so that the audience can effortlessly perceive events. According to (Entman, 1993), "To frame is to

select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described" and further elaborate that (Entman, 1991) "frames are information-processing schemata that works by emphasizing certain pieces of reality and omit certain others" (Entman, 1993) elaborates frames further, pointing out the presence or absence of specific key phrases in the text

The best media theory that completely explains this media monopoly is media framing. It makes the argument that the media may frame any news in a way that best serves them in order to influence how viewers believe. The media can shape public opinion in support of or against any cause, project, nation, and organization through this function (Entman, 1993).

In the current study, it is noted how media coverage of news stories and how media influence public opinion are noticed. According to these periodicals, the highlighted concerns are of utmost importance, and there is a strong emphasis on incorporating these issues into public discourse. Framing According to the framing theory, media draws attention to particular occurrences and then contextualizes them. According to this hypothesis, how something is presented to a person affects the decisions they make as they digest the information. Associated with the current research in the current study, it was found that some concerns were highlighted significantly while others received less attention in the content of a few selected publications. Some articles compare the political and economic aspects of CPEC while ignoring solutions to these problems. It implies that actual obstacles are not the main focus, but rather the creation of public hype (Afzal & Naseem, 2018)

Methodology

This study is a content analysis methodology. A technique called content analysis is frequently used to examine the content of many types of data, including oral and graphical data. It supports the utilization of phenomena or any occurrence into predefined categories for the study's better comprehension and simplicity of interpretation (Harwood et al., 2003) it is a methodology that can be applied both qualitatively, typically during the study creation stage, and in quantitative form,

when measuring the occurrence of events (Stemler & Steve, 2001) Bertrand & Huges (2005) explains it as an approach devised to study media material using a social science framework and a linear perspective on communication content. In the classical way of content analysis process, messages of communication are captured using an objective and systematic system of classification criteria, creating data that can then be further compared and summed up. An inferential and descriptive procedure, content analysis. Similar to the exploratory nature of the descriptive sort of content analysis, the deductive type analysis is used to extrapolate the findings over the population as a whole. It is acceptable to state that there is a connection between environments and events (William, 1964)

The domain of this study is the published in the newspaper "Daily Dawn" and The Hindu" these both are the leading English newspaper of the Pakistan and India. The date will be collected from 1st November 2022 to 15th November 2023. The population for the relevant study is the news, editorials, and columns of the two aforementioned newspapers within the specified time period that contain the word "CPEC" or China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the categories given below. The sample of the study is drawn from the population news editorial, articles, columns is to analyze the articles of the both newspaper of the specific times. The Unit of analysis of this study is News (articles) of the selected newspaper from the both countries. After the analysis that we will form the three categories which be positive, negative and negative. Which will analyze the data in easy and understand able manner.

Following categories are made to investigate the framing of CPEC in the leading press of Pakistan and India from 1st November 2022 to 15TH November 2023

- Trade economy and investment
- Infrastructure and development
- Energy and power sector
- Security of the Chinese worker
- Response from national stake holders
- Response from international stake holders
- China threat to the region discourse by India media
- Indian media portray CPEC in political way as compare to economic corridor

Findings

Daily Dawn views CPEC positively, emphasizing infrastructure and development (23.26%), trade, economy, and investment (16.28%), the energy and power industry (13.95%), and Chinese workers' security (20.93%). The framework emphasises CPEC's potential for Pakistan's economic growth and regional development, focusing on bilateral connections with China and infrastructure benefits. The Hindu takes a more critical approach to CPEC, with 63% of their coverage depicting it adversely, with a focus on political issues rather than economic rewards. The Hindu emphasises the supposed "China threat" and the project's impact on Indian sovereignty, particularly in areas such as Gilgit-Baltistan. It also emphasises India's concerns over Pakistan's debt and strategic security risks raised by Chinese activity in the region.

Pakistani media (Daily Dawn) portrays the CPEC as a development opportunity for Pakistan, emphasizing its economic potential and China's role as a strategic partner. On the contrary, Indian media (The Hindu) takes a political stance, depicting CPEC as a geopolitical threat, emphasizing problems of sovereignty and security. The positive presentation of CPEC in Pakistani media encourages popular support and emphasises future economic growth, whilst the negative framing by Indian media attempts to align public sentiment with India's strategic interests. This demonstrates how media framing can have a substantial impact on public perception about complicated geopolitical projects such as CPEC.

Daily Dawn, Pakistan's leading newspaper, primarily frames CPEC as a developmental and economic opportunity for Pakistan, highlighting the potential benefits in areas like infrastructure, energy, trade, and security, with a strong focus on the positive economic impact. The coverage emphasizes CPEC's role in improving Pakistan's connectivity with China, as well as its potential to address the country's energy shortages and infrastructure needs, particularly in underdeveloped regions such as Baluchistan. This framing positions CPEC as a transformative initiative, crucial for Pakistan's economic growth and regional stability.

The Hindu, an Indian daily, views CPEC more critically, portraying it as a geopolitical and security concern rather than an economic initiative. It focuses on the strategic risks that India faces,

particularly in relation to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the expansion of Chinese influence in the region. This underscores India's concerns over sovereignty, as *The Hindu* frequently discusses CPEC in the context of China's growing regional dominance and the potential for a Chinese "debt trap" for Pakistan.

The differences in framing have a direct impact on how the public sees the CPEC. In Pakistan, Daily Dawn's positive framing contributes to a narrative of economic prosperity and opportunity, increasing popular support for the enterprise. The emphasis on infrastructure development and energy solutions distinguishes CPEC as a revolutionary endeavor for Pakistan's future. In India, The Hindu's emphasis on the political and security aspects of CPEC is consistent with the Indian government's worries, perhaps leading to a more skeptical or antagonistic view of the project among the Indian population. The negative framing emphasises India's geopolitical rivalry with China and the possible threats to Indian sovereignty, notably in disputed areas such as Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Dawn

Table 1

| Categories | Positive | Negative | Neutral |
|---|----------|----------|---------|
| Trade economy and investment | 14 | - | - |
| Infrastructure and development | 20 | - | - |
| Energy and power sector | 12 | - | - |
| Security of the Chinese worker | 14 | 4 | |
| Response from national stake holders | 6 | - | - |
| Response from international stake holders | 12 | 02 | 04 |
| China threat to the region discourse by India media | - | - | - |
| Indian media portray CPEC in political way | - | - | - |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| as compare to economic corridor | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|

This table categorizes Daily Dawn's coverage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into positive, negative, and neutral tones. The analysis finds a largely positive frame, particularly in infrastructure and growth, with a focus on Chinese workers' security. In contrast, unfavorable opinions are rarely covered, demonstrating that Daily Dawn's coverage of CPEC is mostly positive.

Dominant Framing with Percentages for The Dawn

Table 2

| Categories | The Dawn | Percentage |
|--|----------|------------|
| Trade economy and investment | 14 | 16.28% |
| Infrastructure and development | 20 | 23.26% |
| Energy and power sector | 12 | 13.95% |
| Security of the Chinese worker | 18 | 20.93% |
| Response from national stake holders | 06 | 6.98% |
| Response from international stake holders | 18 | 20.93% |
| China threat to the region discourse by India media | 00 | 0.00% |
| Indian media portray CPEC in political way as compare to economic corridor | 00 | 0.00% |
| Total | 88 | 100% |

This table shows the dominant framing of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Daily Dawn, including coverage frequencies and percentages. At 23.26%, "Infrastructure and Development" is the most prioritized area. "Security of Chinese Workers" and "Response from International Stakeholders" are the next two

most important categories, each at 20.93%. Notably, Indian media does not cover CPEC as a geopolitical danger or in a political context, underscoring Daily Dawn's emphasis on the positive aspects of CPEC and maintaining an optimistic narrative.

The Hindu

Table 1

| Categories | Positive | Negative | Neutral |
|--|----------|----------|---------|
| Trade economy and investment | - | - | 02 |
| Infrastructure and development | | 04 | 02 |
| Energy and power sector | - | 02 | - |
| Security of the Chinese worker | - | 02 | - |
| Response from national stake holders | - | - | - |
| Response from international stake holders | 02 | - | 02 |
| China threat to the region discourse by India media | - | 02 | - |
| Indian media portray CPEC in political way as compare to economic corridor | - | 04 | - |

This table categorizes The Hindu's coverage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as positive, negative, or neutral. The analysis reveals substantial negative framing, particularly concerning infrastructure development and the security of Chinese workers, with The Hindu portraying CPEC as a geopolitical threat through four negative references. In contrast, there are few favorable or neutral mentions, suggesting that The Hindu emphasizes concerns and skepticism

surrounding CPEC, thereby promoting a negative outlook on the project.

Dominant Framing with Percentages for The Hindu

Table 4

| Categories | The Hindu | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Trade economy and investment | 02 | 11.11% |
| Infrastructure and development | 06 | 33.33% |
| Energy and power sector | 02 | 11.11% |
| Security of the Chinese worker | 02 | 11.11% |
| Response from national stake holders | 02 | 11.11% |
| Response from international stake holders | 04 | 22.22% |
| China threat to the region discourse by India media | 02 | 11.11% |
| Indian media portray CPEC in political way as compare to economic corridor | 04 | 22.22% |
| Total | 18 | 100% |

This table shows the dominant framing of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in The Hindu, including coverage frequencies and percentages. The category "Infrastructure and Development" receives the most attention, accounting for 33.33% of the coverage. Additionally, the portrayal of CPEC as a geopolitical threat and its political framing each account for 22.22%. Other categories, such as trade economy and investment, the security of Chinese workers, and responses from stakeholders, receive equal emphasis at 11.11%. This framing reflects The Hindu's critical stance toward CPEC, raising concerns about its implications for regional stability and sovereignty.

Dominant Framing of both newspaper

Table 5

| The Hindu | Percentage |
|--|-------------------|
| Infrastructure and development | 33.33% |
| Response from international stakeholders | 22.22% |
| Indian media portrayal CPEC in political way compared to economic corridor | 22.22% |
| Number of articles | 14 |
| The Dawn | Percentage |
| Infrastructure and development | 22.73% |
| Security of the Chinese worker | 20.45% |
| Response from international stakeholders | 20.45% |
| Number of articles | 56 |

This table compares the dominant framing of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in both Daily Dawn and The Hindu. In The Hindu, "Infrastructure and Development" leads with 33.33%, followed by "Response from International Stakeholders" and "Indian Media Portrayal of CPEC in a Political Context," each at 22.22%. In contrast, Daily Dawn emphasizes "Infrastructure and Development" at 22.73%, with "Security of Chinese Workers" and "Response from International Stakeholders" each at 20.45%. Notably, Daily Dawn published significantly more articles (56) compared to The Hindu (14), highlighting the differing coverage volumes and framing approaches between the two newspapers. Total number of eighty eight has been published in the daily dawn of Pakistan and eighteen article published in the Indian newspaper The Hindu. Which discuss the CPEC in extensive ways that China Pakistan economic corridor is big opportunities for the region to be develop in future whereas the government of the both the countries are taking interest that to complete cpec as soon as possible the deadline of the completion of the corridor is 2030.

Category 1 The print media Pakistan portrayal "trade economy and investment" in positive manner total 14 article has been published in the "Daily Dawn" (see table 01) where as the "The Hindu" also reported the same category but in the neutral way they just quote the Pakistan foreign

minister Bilawal Zardari that CPEC is a massive infrastructure undertaking between China and Pakistan that aims to improve connectivity and spur economic growth (see table 03)

Category 2 Print media in Pakistan and India have presented Pakistan's "Infrastructure and Development" both favorably and unfavorably in relation to CPEC growth. In the Pakistani newspaper "Daily dawn" total 20 article are published which is reporting the same issue and all article in the positive manner (see table 01) while in the Indian newspaper six article are published on the same stance four were reporting the CPEC in the negative way and two article have neutral stance (see table 03)

Category 3 Regarding the development of the CPEC, the media in Pakistan and India have presented the "Energy and Power Sector" of Pakistan constructively, while the Indian media have presented the sector in a wholly a negative light. The "Daily Dawn" reported this category in 12 articles which was completely positive (see table 01) While the Indian print media "The Hindu" published six articles which portrayal CPEC development in the unfavorable manner(see table 03).

Category 4 "security of the Chinese worker" the Daily Dawn published 18 article (see table 01) in which 14 were positive with respect to CPEC development and 4 were criticizing the Chinese worker which were arrested in blasphemy cases while one article is published in "The Hindu" which not portrayal CPEC development in the positive way (see table 03)

Category 5 While Indian print media did not cover this category with regard to the creation of six articles that explicitly cite the "Response from national stakeholders" citing the CPEC with respect to the development and prosperity of the region, Pakistani media reported the national stakeholder in a positive manner (see table 01)

Category 6 Print media in Pakistan and India have presented the "response from international stakeholder" in both positive and negative ways, with a total of eighteen articles published in the "Daily Dawn", of which twelve portray the CPEC in a favorable way, four in negative way, and two on a neutral matter (see table 01) In the Indian newspaper "The Hindu" coverage of this issue, one article was neutral which discussed Pakistan, China, and the addition of Afghanistan in the

CPEC, and the other article was negative one which criticizing the president xi on Sri Lanka s issue (see table 03)

Category 7 While in this category “China threat to the region discourse by India media” Pakistan print media didn’t report any article or news. This category is added just to know about the Indian print media that what they discussing about the China as a country and what they predicting form China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Two article has been published in the Indian newspaper “*The Hindu*” which was clearly portrayal cpec in negative manner and were discussing that China is threat to region and because of cpec they want their influence in the region (see Table 3)

Category 8 “Indian media portray CPEC in political way as compare to economic corridor” four article has been published in the Indian newspaper “*The Hindu*” which clearly indicating that Indian media is portraying cpec in negative way and their discourse are more politically and compare to discuss the regional development. India media criticize the Gwadar port because it is in Baluchistan and why project is in the going on in Gilgit Baltistan because of disputed territory. And they have problem from the development of region because of that China will influence the region. Although Pakistan media didn’t report the same matter in the media discourse (See Table 3)

Discussion and Conclusion

According to the study, Pakistani media provides more detailed coverage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) than their Indian counterparts. Pakistani media intensively covers different facets of the CPEC, including infrastructural development, economic ramifications, and bilateral interactions aimed at boosting Pakistan's economy. CPEC, on the other hand, is portrayed negatively by Indian media, which emphasizes the political aspects of the project above its economic advantages. This highlights a divide in the narrative of the CPEC between Pakistani and Indian media outlets. The negative portrayal of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the Indian media has the ability to impact public opinion not just within the country but also in other nations. In a strategic endeavor to fight Chinese economic dominance in the region, the Indian press has constantly attacked China's involvement in CPEC infrastructure

projects. Indian newspapers' reportage demonstrates a united approach, indicating a collective knowledge of their country's worries regarding the CPEC and the economic linkages between Pakistan and China.

As Khan et al. (2016), point out the Indian media has consistently portrayed CPEC negatively, emphasizing security and sovereignty concerns. This is consistent with the findings of our study, which show *The Hindu* portraying CPEC as a geopolitical threat to India's interests, reinforcing India's narrative of regional supremacy and the security risks posed by Chinese involvement. According to Umer et al. (2018), while Pakistani media focuses on CPEC as a transformative economic endeavor, Indian media portrays it as a strategic threat. This aligns with the research findings, which show that *Daily Dawn* emphasizes CPEC's potential for infrastructure development and economic growth, while *The Hindu* focuses on geopolitical concerns and challenges to Indian sovereignty.

The CPEC has received critical attention in Indian media, highlighting a different discourse surrounding the project. Along with talks about the CPEC, the Indian press delves into Pakistan and China's policies, as well as their bilateral relations, contextualizing their reportage within a larger geopolitical framework. Analysis suggest that China's support for Pakistan and hostility to India are viewed as attempts to assert regional supremacy. Addressing regional uncertainties is seen as crucial to realizing all the potential of the CPEC plan. Media organizations from China and Pakistan need to work together to create awareness and sway public opinion in order for the CPEC to be successful. In the eight categories, Pakistani media source Daily Dawn portrayed the CPEC project positively in 88% of cases, negatively in 8%, and neutrally in 4%. During the six-and-a-half-month period, The Hindu covered CPEC in eighteen articles, addressing the eight areas listed earlier. It is worth noting that eight articles addressed identical themes, for a total of twenty two pieces.

The Indian publication The Hindu framed the CPEC largely negatively, accounting for 63% of coverage, whereas favorable framing accounted for only 9.09%, represented by just two article referencing a speech by Pakistani Foreign Minister, Bilawal Zardari. 27.27 percent of the coverage was

neutral about the CPEC. This data highlights an official government of India policy-aligned tendency of unfavorable framing of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the Indian media.

References

1. Rahman SU, Shurong Z (2017) Analysis of Chinese Economic and National Security
2. Miller, D.T. (2017). The China Pakistan Economic Corridor: Indicator of Chinese Strategic Energy Goals and a Challenge to the Open Procurement Status Quo. Jackson School of International Studies. University of Washington, Seattle Washington. Retrieved from web.isanet.org/Web/.../HKU2017-s/.../a30ae7f2-83ba-4b48-b15c-3ebbe670d948.pdf
3. Yousaf, Z., Ahmad, M., & Fiaz, M. (2018). Framing of China Pak economic corridor (CPEC) in the leading press of Pakistan and China. *The Pakistan journal of social issues*, 3(1), 163-172.
4. Ranjan, A. (2015). The China-Pakistan economic corridor: India's options. *Institute of Chinese Studies*, 10(1), 1-25.
5. Javaid, U., & Javaid, R. (2016). Strengthen Geo-Strategic Bond of Pakistan and China Through Geo-Economic Configuration. 54(1), 123-142.
6. Rajagopan, R.P. (2022). India's Latest Concern with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Delhi: THE DIPLOMAT.
7. Ali, G. (2015). China and Pakistan Prepare to establish Economic Corridor. Small, A. (2015). *The China-Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics* (Vol. 1). Hurst and Company Publishers Ltd, London.
8. Hussain, M. (2017, June). China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Challenges and The Way Forward.
9. Irshad, M. S., & Xin, Q. (2014). A new perspective of the China-ASEAN free Trade Area and the story of Top Ten Products. *European Journal of Business and Management*, 18, 1-8
10. Ross, S.D. (2006). (De) constructing conflict: a focused review of war and peace journalism
11. Entman, R. M., & Rojecki, A. (1993). Freezing out the public: Elite and media framing of the US anti-nuclear movement.
12. Harwood, G. T., Garry, & Tony. (2003). An Overview of Content Analysis. *Agenta Connect*, 3(1st December 2003), 479-498.
13. Entman, R. M. (1993). Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51-58. doi:10.1111/j.1460-2466.1993.tb01304.x
14. stemler, & steve. (2001). An overview of content analysis. *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation (PARE)*.
15. William J. Paisley, Identifying the Unknown Communicator in Painting, Literature and Music: The Significance of Minor Encoding Habits, *Journal of Communication*, Volume 14, Issue 4, December 1964, Pages 219-237, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1460-2466.1964.tb02925.x>
16. Teo, H. C., Lechner, A. M., Walton, G. W., Chan, F. K. S., Cheshmehzangi, A., Tan-Mullins, M., ... & Campos-Arceiz, A. (2019). Environmental impacts of infrastructure development under the belt and road initiative. *Environments*, 6(6), 72.
17. Umer, U., Sharma, B. P., & Hussain, N. (2018). A community of common destiny or geopolitics? Representations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in transnational press. *Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism*, 8, 399
18. Garlick, J. (2018). Deconstructing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Pipe Dreams Versus Geopolitical Realities. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 27(112), 519-533. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2018.1433483>
19. Boni, F., & Adeney, K. (2020). The impact of the China-Pakistan economic corridor on Pakistan's federal system: the politics of the CPEC. *Asian Survey*, 60(3), 441-465.
20. Siddiqui, K. (2023). Security of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Counterinsurgency in Balochistan. Taylor & Francis.
21. Khan, I., Farooq, S., & Gul, S. (2016). China-Pakistan economic corridor: news discourse analysis of Indian print media. *J. Pol. Stud.*, 23, 233.
22. Coleman, R. (2010). Framing the pictures in our heads: Exploring the framing and agenda-setting effects of visual images. In *Doing news framing analysis* (pp. 249-278). Routledge.
23. Afzal, S., & Naseem, A. (2018). China Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC): Challenges and prospects. *Pakistan administrative review*, 2(1), 209-222.