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## Indian hegemonic designs and China

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The land of yellow soil China is the world's largest country with an area of 37,05,387 square kilometres. Its population is over 1.2 billion. However, since 1949 Chinese military top brass, with the support of her nation, has made their country strong enough to meet any aggression with iron hands. After the collapse of Soviet Union, China emerged as second superpower. The world renowned economists have declared China as an emerging global economic power. China has a dispute on shared 3,500 kilometres border with India. The relations between two states have remained tense since inception of China. Apart from other conflicts, territorial dispute is the major one, which led to Sino-India War in 1962 and New Delhi received a great setback in the shape of her armed forces' defeat. The demarcation of the 3,500km border between China and India remained unresolved even after culmination of Sino-India war. China emerged in a better position after the confrontation, due to her superior forces and supply lines. India has border disputes with China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, whereas China has borders with 14 countries but has no territorial dispute with them except India. In particular, Arunachal Pradesh province in northeastern India has continued to be a bone of contention with increased oratory from both sides over the past few years. It is worth mentioning that after almost 47 years or so India and China have moved their forces to borders because of increase in tension. According to "India Today" and "Indian Express" Indian Army had moved armoured vehicles to the North Sikkim plateau in the late 1980s, the small detachment has now been replaced by the heavier and more powerful T-72 Main Battle Tanks and modern BMP troop carriers. As per newspaper reports, the mobilisation took place after repeated Chinese 'transgressions' last year in the Finger Area; a one kilometre stretch of land in the northern tip of Sikkim that overlooks a valley called Sora Funnel and is considered a strong defensive position. The question arises why India once again went for mobilisation of her forces after so many years. Probable answer could be that after the post cold-war era India went close to US because of the reasons; (1) capturing one of the largest market, (2) assisting Americans in containing China, (3) placing Watch dog in Asia to look after her interests, (4) prolonging her stay in the region for getting permanent hold over CAR states and (5) desire of becoming future global power. On June 9, the Chinese Global Times published an editorial entitled "India's Unwise Military Moves," which denounced India's troops deployment. A thinly veiled warning was explicit within the article:

“India’s current course can only lead to a rivalry between the two countries. India needs to consider whether or not it can afford the consequences of a potential confrontation with China.” An affiliate of the People’s Daily published a Chinese language article on June 12 which says “India is a paper tiger”, say experts. It is a provocative article, even referring to India as a paper tiger is a throwback to the language of Mao. The confrontation between India would amount to cow hitting to bull. Therefore, it is evident that India has the desire of moving forward to complete her hegemonic desire of expansion through any means. To complete her aim she even never let her old (Soviet Union) and present (US) masters to know about her covert motives of becoming future global power. In this context Indian leadership always acquired requisite armaments to get dominance over strategically significant Indian Ocean. It is interesting to know that Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean and 45 states are encircling resources enriched ocean. All most 30,000 ships annually pass through these routes. The important sea routes are passing through Indian Ocean region. India believes that China and Pakistan are the only hindrance in her hegemonic designs of influencing region and becoming future global power. Anyhow to complete her design, India has planned to spend \$150 billion over the next five years as well as a market opened to foreign participation and collaboration. The current defence spending is expected to top \$34 billion in 2010. She possesses second largest air force in the Asia Pacific region along with substantial naval, coastal and army aviation assets, all of which are planning for substantial modernization, acquisition of new assets and upgrading of existing capabilities in line with India’s rapid economic growth. As the aerospace defence industry’s leading flagship conference in the region, the third annual Air Power India 2009 international conference offers unrivalled market insights, business leads and networking opportunities. Brig. (retd) Gurmeet Kanwal, director of Centre for Land Air Warfare Studies (CLAWS), said that China’s policy is to confine India to the backwater of the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea, as it no more considers the Indian Ocean Region as Indian domain. With this perception, China could choke commerce through IOR. To say the least this is a hasty conclusion, and is in line with Indian thinking that People’s Republic of China is a dangerous enemy. Speaking on “India’s response to security challenges from China in Indian Ocean Region,” he said, “With the Chinese encirclement strategy, commerce through the Indian Ocean Region could be easily choked by way of disruptions of trade routes through sea. Defence of far-flung island territories and delineation of maritime boundaries are some of the maritime challenges for India, Brig Gurmeet Kanwal reiterated. India is busy developing blue water navy, with two aircraft-carriers, twenty submarines, 25 warships and hundreds of missile boats to defeat the Chinese Navy. India has also launched its first indigenously made nuclear powered submarine ‘INS-Arihant’ (Destroyer of the enemy). Thus, she has joined an exclusive club of US, Russia, China, France and the UK with the launch. The 6000-tonne submarine will undergo sea trials for two years before being commissioned for full service. Russia has already built in 2004 three Krivak class frigates --- INS Talwar, INS Trishul and INS Tabar -- - for India. These frigates were armed with eight BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missile systems and not the Club-N/3 M54TE missile system, which was installed on previous frigates. The Krivak class frigate has dead weight of 4,000 metric tons and a speed of 30 knots, and is capable of accomplishing a wide-range of maritime missions, primarily hunting down and destroying large surface ships and submarines. India is to receive three Russian Krivak IV Class Frigates by 2012. On July 28, 2009 Pakistan Foreign Office said that such a step would destabilise the region and would have a detrimental effect on regional peace. He further added that continued induction of new lethal weapon systems by India is injurious to regional peace and stability. The induction of nuclear submarine by India has really started the arms race in the region. Pakistan, and China’s worries in this connection are awfully genuine. China is also watching ambitious desire of Russia with regard to Indian nuclear

expansion. She also started building necessary naval armament to counter Indian design of confining China. In short induction of nuclear submarine would be taken as nuclear pollution of sea by India. Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Basit said Pakistan would take all measures to ensure strategic balance in the region. The induction of nuclear submarine has really upset the balance of power in the region. In the past, India has been fully supported by US and Russia against China. Russian leadership has forgotten that India who always been patted by her prior to its disintegration has joined American bloc. The Indian race of naval expansion and buildup is to threaten, block and stifle Pakistani sea lanes, encircle China and dominate Indian Ocean. India has become a big threat in general to the region and particularly to Pakistan's security and survival. On the other hand US and its Western allies always posed that Pakistan is more prone to internal threat rather than external. US and India know that Pakistan and China are real time-tested friends of the region and cannot move away from each other. India is their common enemy and always planned to create insurgency in Pakistan and China. RAW, with the help of her master agency CIA, keeps on staging sabotage plots against Beijing through Dalai Lama movement. In short, world community should ask India to abide by the international laws and resolve territorial disputes bilaterally for permanent regional peace.