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Q2. Five new members..... way of the organization?

A 1- Introduction:

BRICS being initially an alliance of four members for collaboration in various field in pursuit of their national interests. This alliance includes cooperation on economic expansion by facilitation of trade among the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Their collaboration resulted in their efforts to counter balance the western influence. Now they decided to include more countries initially five members were granted access to get benefited ~~the~~ from the BRICS alliance by joining them. With the addition of these five important trans-continental countries BRICS will have more influence including geo-economics and politics. However, with the benefits of influences there are also some hurdles in their way. That needs to be addressed for more possible outcomes for the region and participating countries.

## 2- Geo-economics Implications due to Expansion:

The expansion of BRICS by adding five different countries has a certain implications geo-economically.

### (a) Energy dominance increase economic strength of BRICS:

Newly added countries including global energy supplier like Saudi Arabia, Iran will enable BRICS countries to get benefitted and gain more economic strength.

### (b) More access to important trade Routes:

The inclusion of UAE and Egypt will benefit the BRICS countries to get lucrative deals and concessions in trading routes. In this way their economy will get strengthened.

## 3- Political Implications of BRICS expansion:

The calculated induction of new members in BRICS is to gain political leverage and strengthen the position of BRICS in global arena.

### (a) Inclusion of trans-continental important powers lead to political influence:

The countries of different possessing political power in global affairs will like Saudi-Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Iran will increase the political power and influence of BRICS.

### (b) Strategic Important Energy and Trade routes; Increase political power:

added countries are located on <sup>either</sup> important trade route or possess trade potential. The newly Not only trade but they also have major energy resources needed by the world. By these important position and resources they possess influence on global political landscape.

### 4- Hurdles in the way of BRICS due to expansion:

Although there are geo-economic and political implications of expansion of BRICS but there are certain hurdles in the progress of the organization, as well.

## (c) KSA & UAE rivalry with Iran:

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inclusion of KSA & Iran and UAE is to get benefited from their geoeconomic and political power but they also have history of rivalry which is deep rooted.

## 5- Conclusion:

The expansion of BRICS has its own benefits for the pioneer countries and the newly joining countries but there are potential hurdles as well in the way of the visioned progress of the organization. These can be minimized by engaging with them in convergent issues of mutual interest.

Q3 India - Middle East . . . . . of the two projects.

Q1 Introduction:

The launch of India-Middle East Economic corridor is seen as a competitor to the Belt and Road Initiative of China by various scholars or analysts. These two projects can either be seen as competitor or promotion of their trade and investment as well in order to gain political and economic interests. The projection of notorious image of BRI and promotion of IMEC project by western media can impact their future discourses. There are various potential and future discourses prospects of these two projects to the region and global community as well.

2- Projection of IMEC as competitor to BRI:

The projection of IMEC as competitor to the BRI by media especially by western media will hamper their potential benefits of to the region. But there is strong possibility these projects can be misused to gain vested interests.

### 3- Potential and future prospects of IMEC:

IMEC has many benefits not only for India but also for the region. But there are challenges to erid power politics, as well.

#### (a) Alternate trade route:

Instead of relying on Chinese economic corridor IMEC has provided an alternate trade route aiming to counter the economic and strategic gains of China. In this way it is projected as competitor to BRI.

#### (b) Counter Chinese Influence in the Region:

The development made by China in the form of BRI has made China influential in the region and India is also aspiring for major regional power. For that purpose it was necessary to launch an alternate route in the form of IMEC to counter Chinese influence in the region. This initiative is being taken by the support of west.

### (c) Increase Indian Influence: IMEC:-

This project will help India to increase its influence in the region and pursue its hegemonic ambitions. This process is exacerbated by the support of west, also to contain china policy of west.

### (d) Interests of Major players in IMEC:

Basically the China containment policy of west especially the US has materializes the IMEC corridor. There are various countries having interest in IMEC like The US, India, Israel, EU and GCC. The success of this project will earn them many interest in geo-political and economic domain.

### 4- Potential & future prospects of BRI:

BRI is started in 2 years ago and the results are materializing increasingly.

#### (a) Promote trade by Infrastructure development:

BRI is aiming to

promote trade by between the continents by various land and sea routes. The neutral approach of China portrays BRI as more beneficial to the countries and easy to join. In this way it has potential prospect for mutual gains for the region.

### (b) Geo-political prospects of BRI:

The Chinese neutrality policy in internal affairs of countries in comparison of the US, who is ready to impose its model, is giving edge to the Chinese. In this way BRI can be beneficial for China in geo-political domain.

### (c) Geo-Strategic Implications of BRI:

The development of BRI will also increase the presence of ~~China~~ and influence of China in various regions. From this China can gain geo-strategic advantage against rival.

### (d) Socio-Economic prospects of BRI:

The people-to-people contact for trade will not only harness the social but also economic



benefits for China and the people of other countries. With this project poverty can be minimized and improve the economic condition of people by trade.

## 5 Critical Analysis:

India-Middle-East economic corridor and Belt and Road Initiative Initiative both are aimed at for the regional interests but there is possibility to use these projects for selfish interests as well. Both the countries are seen as competitors for their own hegemonic gains.

## 6- Conclusion:

The projection of IMEC as competitor to the BRI is true in many ways. In the cover of some bright themes there are political agendas of both countries. However there is a need to get benefited from both projects by careful analysis of the situation. Because both of them have potential economically and politically.

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