

NOA MOCK

LMS ID: 31858

Part IIQuestion NO. 2Introduction:

Iran is a neighbouring country of Pakistan having brotherly relations in between the two nuclear states. Since the independence of Pakistan, there have not been any rift between the two state. The recent air-strikes done by Iran has diverted the world's attention towards their mutual relationships, which have been normalized due to the good diplomatic relations. The second half of January 2024 ~~was~~ escalation from both sides. This cleared that their target was Iran has terrorist group (Jaish-al-Adl (the Justice) that is present in the province Balochistan; where as Pakistan's Army says that the purpose of its strike was to target Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation

Front (BIA). On January 16, 2024, Iran strike missiles on the Pakistani territory and Pakistan responded with air strike on January 18, 2024.

Pakistan - Iran map:



Reasons Behind Escalation:

Iran has claimed that it did the airstrike to target the militant group Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan's province Balochistan. It also resulted in the civilian casualties. Likewise, Pakistan's statement about this escalation towards Iran claims that their target

was also the groups like BIA and BLF, present in Iran's territorial region Sistan.

Beneficiaries of the tension:

In the context of global politics, it is evident that the disputes of Middle East have direct involvement of Iran like Iran supports Hamas and Houthis. Despite any further severity in this context, Iran and Pakistan both have claimed that these missile-strikes were done intentionally by both countries there is not other reason or the beneficiaries but the presence of terrorist groups on the both sides. Iran has made it clear that it was not to temper the sovereignty of Pakistan.

Way Forward to normalizing Relations:

Both countries have already settled the situation within a week and due to the clarification between Tehran and Islamabad, the ambassadors of both countries have returned back to their offices. Also returned and Iran have good ties with Pakistan each other. Moreover, dialogue between

the best way to show one's narrative that has already been successful.

Furthermore, as Pakistan has worse relations with Afghanistan and India, the two of its neighbouring countries. The relationships with Iran ~~would~~ ^{should} remain normal to sustain the closeness; otherwise the security threats from bordering countries will increase and will result into a suffering political and social atmosphere in South Asia.

Religiously, both states are the Muslim countries and favour each other at the global forum like both are the members of OIC and both are the part of IIP gas pipeline project. Other than this, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have also signed a project of gas pipeline. Therefore, there should always be the dialogue in any escalation.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Iran and Pakistan have brotherly relationships since for many decades. Owing to such escalations, first priority should be given to dialogue to normalize the relations, which the both country's have done. It shows a good foreign policy of both country's.

toward each other.

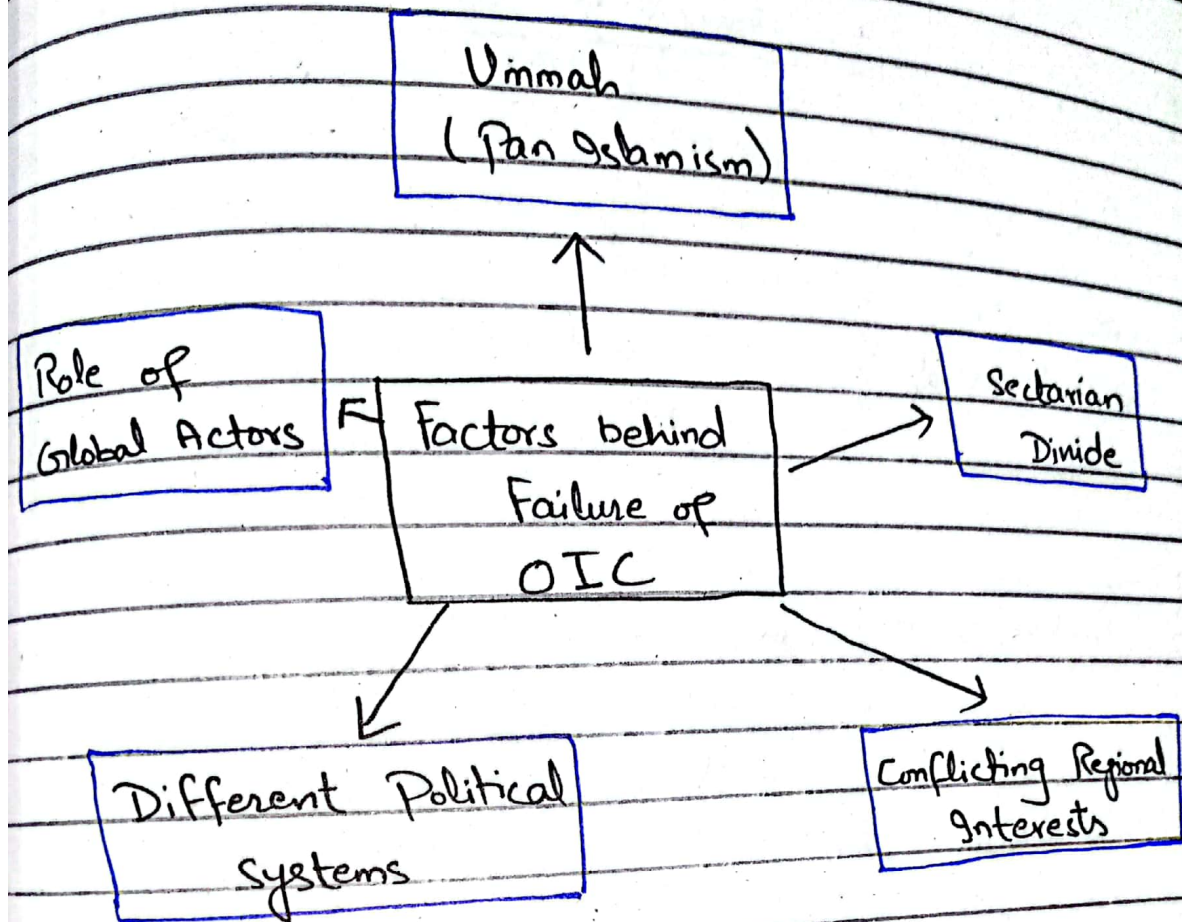
Question No. 3

Introduction:

OIC, fully written as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, is an alliance to 57 countries; out of which 53 are the Muslims states. The purpose behind the formation of this alliance was to raise the voice of Muslims at the global platforms. Those Muslim countries that are weaker to raise the voice of their rights will be supported by this organization but, unfortunately, OIC has failed to workout its objectives due to various factors. The issues like Kashmir Issue, Hamas-Israel Issue, and Iran-KSA Relations are some examples where OIC have been failed. If OIC brings any sort of betterment in these issue then, it can gain its significance back.

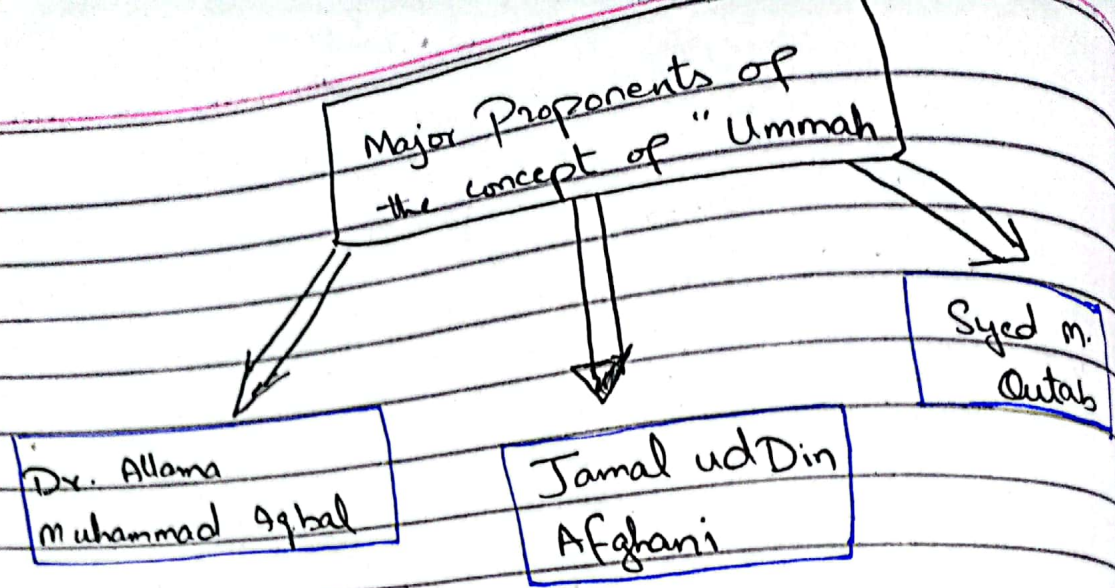
Factors Behind the Failure of OIC:

OIC has many factors that are causing the continuous failure of appropriate functioning.



1) Ummah (Pan Islamism)

The concept of Ummah suggests the oneness of Muslims. The major proponents of this ideology are Dr. Allama Muhammad Sybal, Jamal ud Din Afghani, and Syed Muhammad Qutab. OIC was also established on this broader concept of Ummah. This idea cannot address the whole muslim community around the globe due to varying interests of different states.



2) Sectarian Divide:

Sectarian divide is a major issue of the Muslim world. It is also contributing majorly in the conflicts of Middle East. Our neighbouring country, Iran, is a Shia-Muslim state; whereas the centre of the Muslim world and the country that created the alliance of OIC, Saudi Arabia, is the Sunni-Muslim state. This sectarian divide is one of the primary reason behind the poor relationships of KSA and Iran. This divide does not allow the Muslim countries to unite on one platform, which is one of the major hurdles ~~in~~ in the success of OIC.

3) Conflicting Regional Interest:

Regional interest by every country. The one prioritized countries included

in OIC are majorly the developing economies and they owe their regional interests before taking any decision. For Example, ~~in~~ in KSA-Iran Relations, KSA is supported by the world greater powers due to its central position due to oil reserves; whereas, Iran is under the sanctions implemented by the international actors. That's the reason countries think to support Iran. OIC also fails due to the specific regional interests of the countries.

4) Different Political Systems

Islamic states in the world have different political systems like monarchy in UAE, Qatar, democracy in Pakistan Dictatorship, theocracy in Iran. This difference in their political system is also a hurdle in the appropriate functioning of OIC. It is necessary for unification to have some sort of similarities. 53 Islamic state structures are also a leading factor behind the failure of OIC.

5) Role of Global Actors:

Global actors play the significant in the failure of OIC. US, Russia,

China are the greater and powerful economies of the world and their role during the time of any decision plays a significant role. The veto power of the US has been experienced many times in the past. One of its best example is the US alliance towards India in the Kashmir issue. This is the role of global actors that resist in the proper function of OIC.

Role of US in Hamas - Israel Issue:

The US as the super-power of the world exercises its powers. Due to its alliance towards Israel is a major hurdle in solving the conflict. As discussed earlier, the members of OIC are developing economies and they have interest to gain from the US like aids, loans, investments etc; therefore, in this time of economies warfare, every country wants to remain on a good note with the US. This is the reason that OIC is facing to play its role in the Hamas-Israel issue.

Role of the US in KSA - Iran Relations:

Being a global actor, the US also plays a significant role here. KSA, Iran

to its oil reserves, is dear to the US; whereas, Iran, due to its support for Hamas and opposing Israel, is facing the sanctions from the US. Due to these sanctions, every other country thinks before shaking hand with Iran. The US is the economic giant, and due to this KSA and Iran relations are bitter. In Hamas-Israel case, Iran is on Hamas' side but other Islamic country ~~do~~ not raise the voice for Palestinian Muslims because of the US's aggression.

Way Forward:

The 53 countries of Muslim majority that are the part of OIC should align their interests and revise their policies to form a block to compete the global actors. There should be an alliance in the real sense like NATO. Otherwise, the agenda of OIC of representing Muslim identity would be tarnished and OIC will become an inactive or a dead alliance.

Conclusion:

Owing to these evidences, the current situation of OIC is very weak but

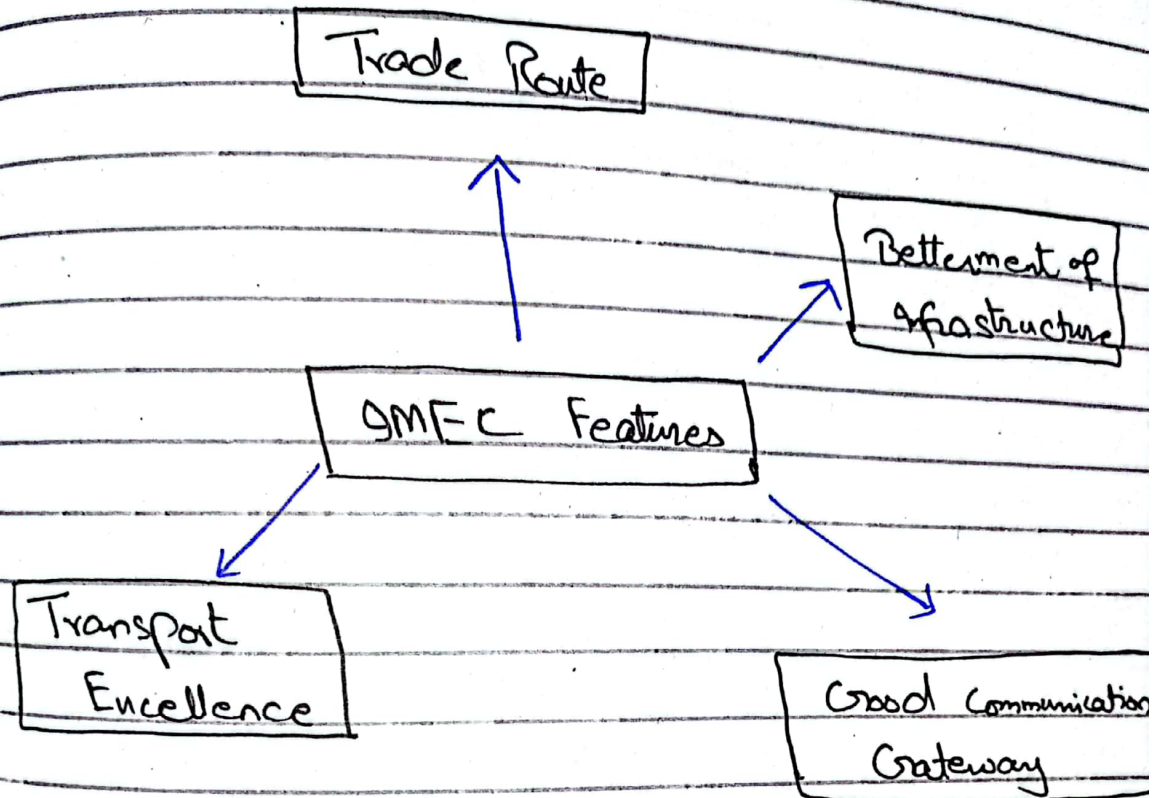
this alliance could be strengthened by some effective policies that should be designed.

Question No. 4

Introduction:

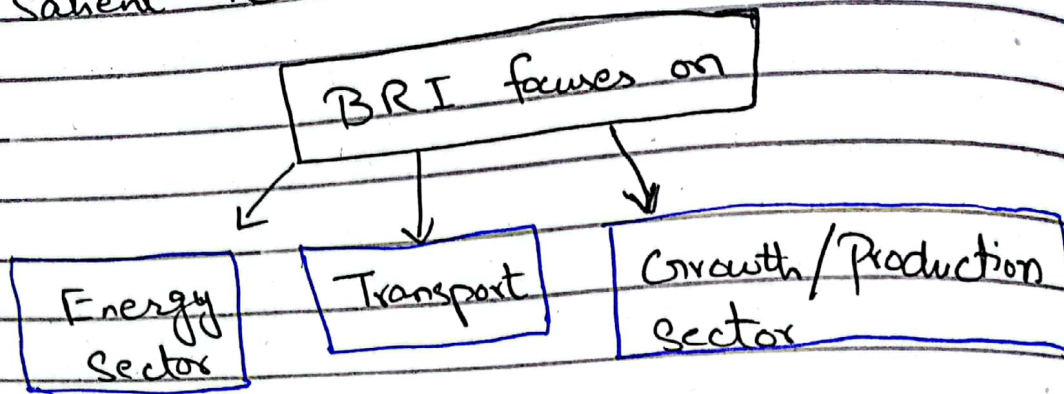
IMEC is a KSA based US supported project to provide the linkage between Asia, East Asia, South East Asia to the Europe passing through the Middle East. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was announced in the G-20 Summit in 2023. It is a ~~state~~ straight ~~the~~ link of India to middle East through sea-ways and from Middle East to the Europe mostly through land routes. On the other hand, BRI (Belt-Road Initiative) is a project of China that links China, Middle East and further leads towards the Africa. China has already invested more than \$200 bn in this project. The future of both projects is brilliant but it is mere a possibility that IMEC would reach up to the heights of BRI because of some certain reasons.

Salient Features of SMEC:



SMEC provides a straight trade route between Asia, Middle East, and Europe for the ease in the transport of oil and gas. It is only a transport oriented project as announced yet that will include fine roads, bullet trains etc. It will enhance the infrastructure of the enclosed regions and provide a good communication gateway. Transport, to make the trade easier, would be used to enhance the effectiveness. KSA is a pioneer of this project to be backed with the US to compete the opponent of USA, China.

Salient Features of BRI Project:



Belt Road Initiative is a China-based project that was initiated 10 years ago. It expands from South Asia towards most of the parts of Europe and finally to some regions of Africa too. Unlike SMEC, BRI is oriented towards energy, transport and production sectors. It includes sea ports, motorways, bullet train, energy zones etc.

Comparative Analysis of both projects:
BRI was initiated 10 year ago and China, the grant partner has invested more than \$200 bn in this project. On the other hand, SMEC was announced in the G20 summit of 2023 and has not come on to the paper yet. It is far behind to compete BRI, more or less in future as well. BRI focuses on energy sector, transport, and production sector; whereas, SMEC is just transport oriented to provide

a straight trade route as announced till yet. AMEC would be a larger trade route than China-Europe Corridor. In AMEC case, US is running through the crisis which is less likely to invest in the project, same case is with India, and KSA is not strengthened enough to make AMEC the competitor of BRI by its investment. We have an example of B3W project that was announced by the G-7 countries but due to financial crisis there is no major development. AMEC may have a bright future but it would take too much time to grow.

Conclusion:

AMEC and BRI have bright future but BRI is China backed project which can invest but on the other side AMEC is backed with the states that are not in the position to invest. Therefore, despite the bright future, it would be difficult for AMEC to compete with BRI.