

IMEC is projected as a competitor to the BRI. Critically evaluate the potential and?

Q1 Introduction: The Era of Economic Corridors

The 21st century is said to be the era of economic corridors. Keeping in view the shift from unipolar to multipolar world, economic corridors have become pivotal part of assertion of global influence. Along with numerous smaller corridors between the countries, there are two said to be major economic corridors: BRI and IMEC.

BRI is China's ambitious project of its history. BRI is a new shape of 'Silk Road' project, connecting more than hundred countries. It has changed geo-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic landscape.

of countries involved in it.

On the other hand, India Middle - East Europ Economic Corridor known as IMEC is a brainstrom of G-20 countries. Being backed by the USA, the project is seen as rival to the BRI. IMEC is in its initial stages. It would connect India with Europe through middle East.

Both projects have potential to change the economic landscape of the world, if successfully and peacefully completed.

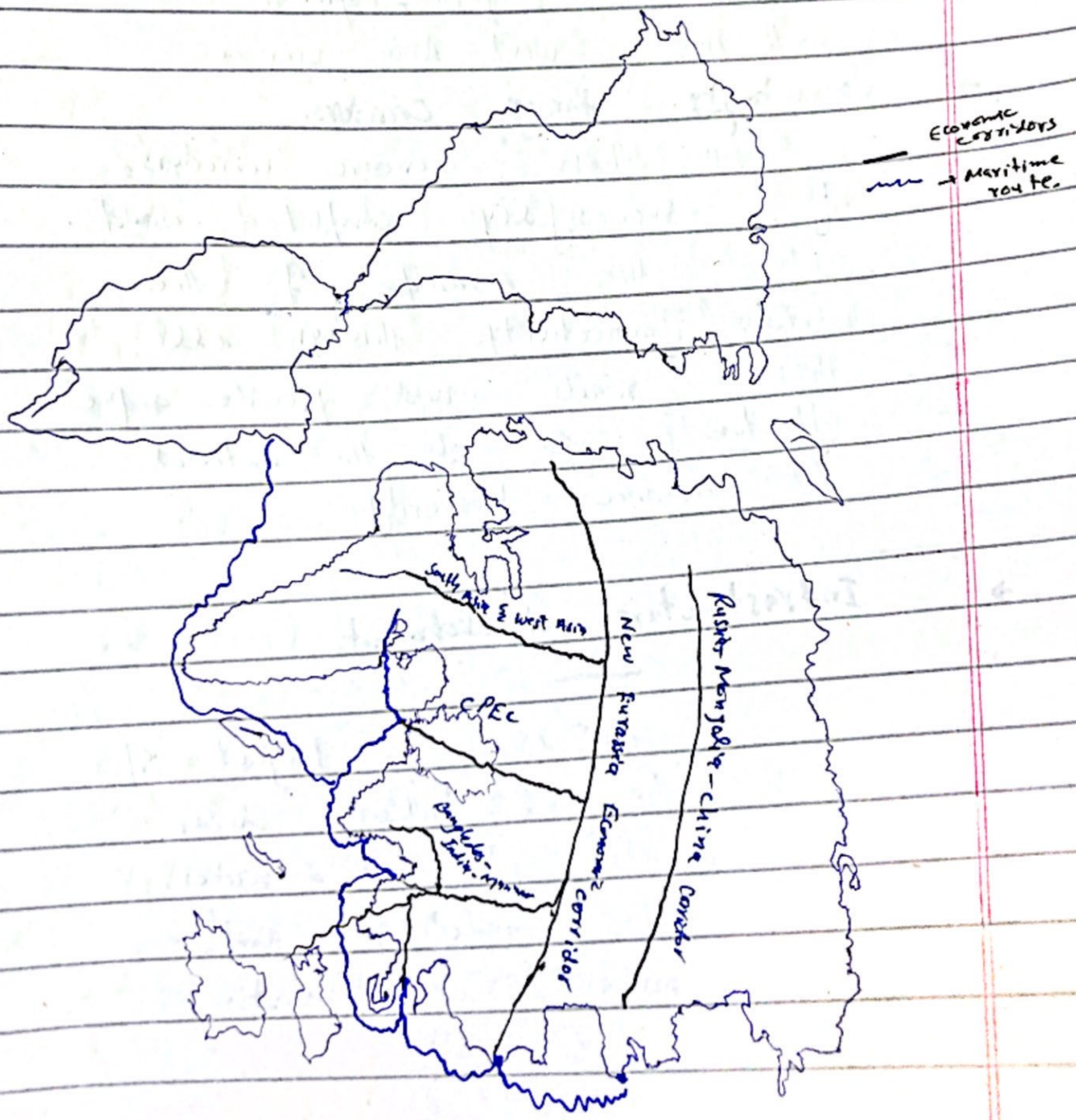
② Belt and Road Initiative: (BRI)

BRI is a bet on the chess board of the world. It is china's ambitious project to link itself with all the continents. china being an emerging economy needs a smooth link with other countries to find vast market for its

products and to fulfill it
hunger of energy from the
energy rich countries.

⑤ Critical Evaluation of Potential of BRI

Potential of BRI:
World Map



(ii) BRI's Economic Corridors

BRI is consists of Five major Economic corridors. as seen from the above figure.

- (i) China - Russia - Mongolia Economic Corridor
- (ii) China - Pakistan Economic Corridors
- (iii) New Eurasia Economic Corridor
- (iv) China - India - Bangladesh - Myanmar "
- (v) South - Asia & West Asia Econ. Cor.

→ Connectivity through Corridors.

All these economic corridors, if successfully completed would alter the landscape of the world. Connectivity through all these roads would provide ample opportunity to all the nations for economic prosperity.

→ Infrastructure development

BRI is a project of more the \$8 trillion dollar. It consists of land routes, maritime connectivity and infrastructure development.

→ Economic upliftment of the countries

China is contributing in the upliftment of the economies of the countries. It has provided loans to many countries linked to BRI. Especially African countries are facing economic upliftment.

(iv) Increased Global Influence of China.

BRI has helped China to increase its global influence through connecting with the countries from the south. In changing dynamics of the world, China is potentially asserting its influence for multipolar world.

→ Future of BRI

China is inviting countries from middle East to be the part of this project for shared

future. Countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, IRAN have showed their interest to be the part of CPEC.

- CPEC being the flagship project of BRI has been playing a key role in economic upliftment of Pakistan.

- With the completion of Industrial zones along BRI, the world would see a new era of industrial revolution.

- Connectivity through Fiber optics would connect the whole world in digital economy.

Challenges : BRI



Perception

- BRI is facing perception challenge. West has been successful in terming it a 'Debt Trap'

Financial Constraints:

(E)

The companies of Chinese origin and Investment

of financial completion of China is facing constraints to early of the projects.

→ Geo-strategic conflicts

are also Geo-strategic conflicts constraining the progress of BRI. India and Pakistan conflict is hurdle in Inclusivity of CPEC.

→ Pressure of the west

The west especially the USA is influencing the countries to abandon BRI projects. Many countries under this influence have back-tracked.

→ Transparency Issues

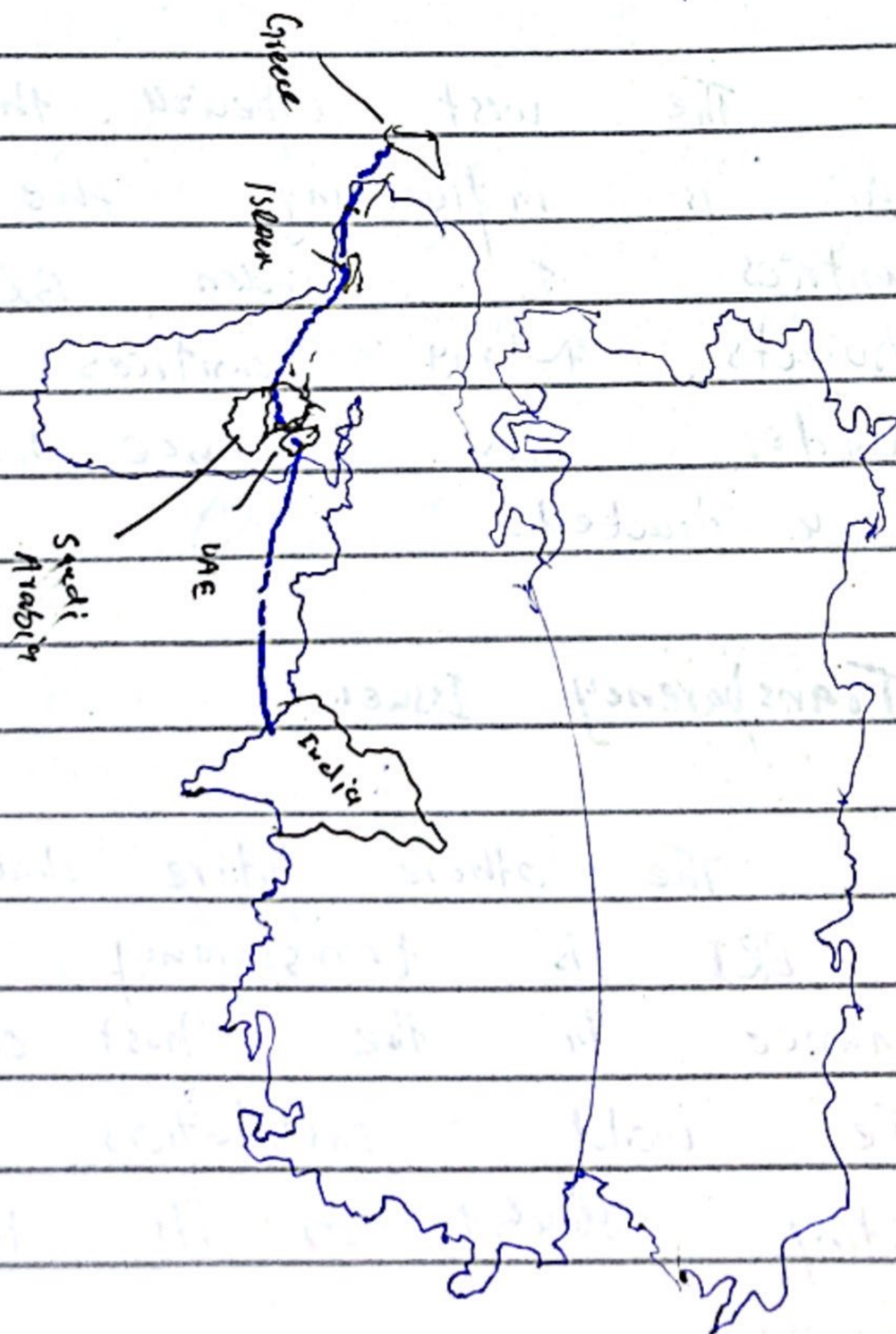
The other future challenge for BRI is transparency of finance in the host countries. The world institutions are casting doubt on its transparent manner.

Potential and Future of IMEC

IMEC is a brain child of G-20 countries and the backing of the USA.

India has been very keen to make this corridor as an alternative to the BRI project of China.

It would be a potential rival to BRI or validate BRI in economic upliftment.



① Connectivity of more than 20 - countries

IT-IEC is a corridor that would connect more than 20 countries. This connectivity would help the countries to integrate economic development with shared responsibility and prosperity.

② A project of "Rich Men's Club"

IT-IEC is termed as a project of 'Rich Men's Club'. The countries involved in it have the potential to invest in it. Like Saudi Arabia, UAE and European countries.

③ 70% work already completed.

The project has the edge of 70% completed work. Especially in European countries. Connecting with one European country would take the goods to whole of Europe.

(N) Geo-economic vitality:
A connection between
Energy rich and larger
economic market.

India, being the largest
market need more energy
from energy rich countries
like UAE, KSA. On the
other hand, KSA, EU &
UAE require a big
market for their products.

→ Challenges to IMEC

(i) Just on initial stages:
Brain child

IMEC is still on MOU
stage. The countries have
not present the practical
course of action.

(ii) Finance Basket: countries
facing debt burden already

The countries including biggest

economies like USA, India already facing debt burden

(iii) Policy Constraints: Countries with different bureaucratic structure

More countries. Unlike china, these countries are involved, have to pass all the policies. Complex governance structure is another hurdle.

(iv) Technological diversification: some countries with advance technology and others with basic structure.

All the involved countries do not enjoy the facility of advance technology like EU. So in future, they could face technological problems.

→ BRI v/s IMEC

1 brings rivalry, competition although healthy for those who get benefitted from it.

Rivalry between China and the USA aside, both projects would transform the whole landscape of the world. I

→ Conclusion:

In the war of taking control of the world, new economic corridors are emerging. For the world hegemony and global influence, countries do not fight in battle grounds but on economic fronts. BRI and IMEC are the product of the economic competition. Collectively, if both projects substantiate each-other, the world would see future of prosperity.

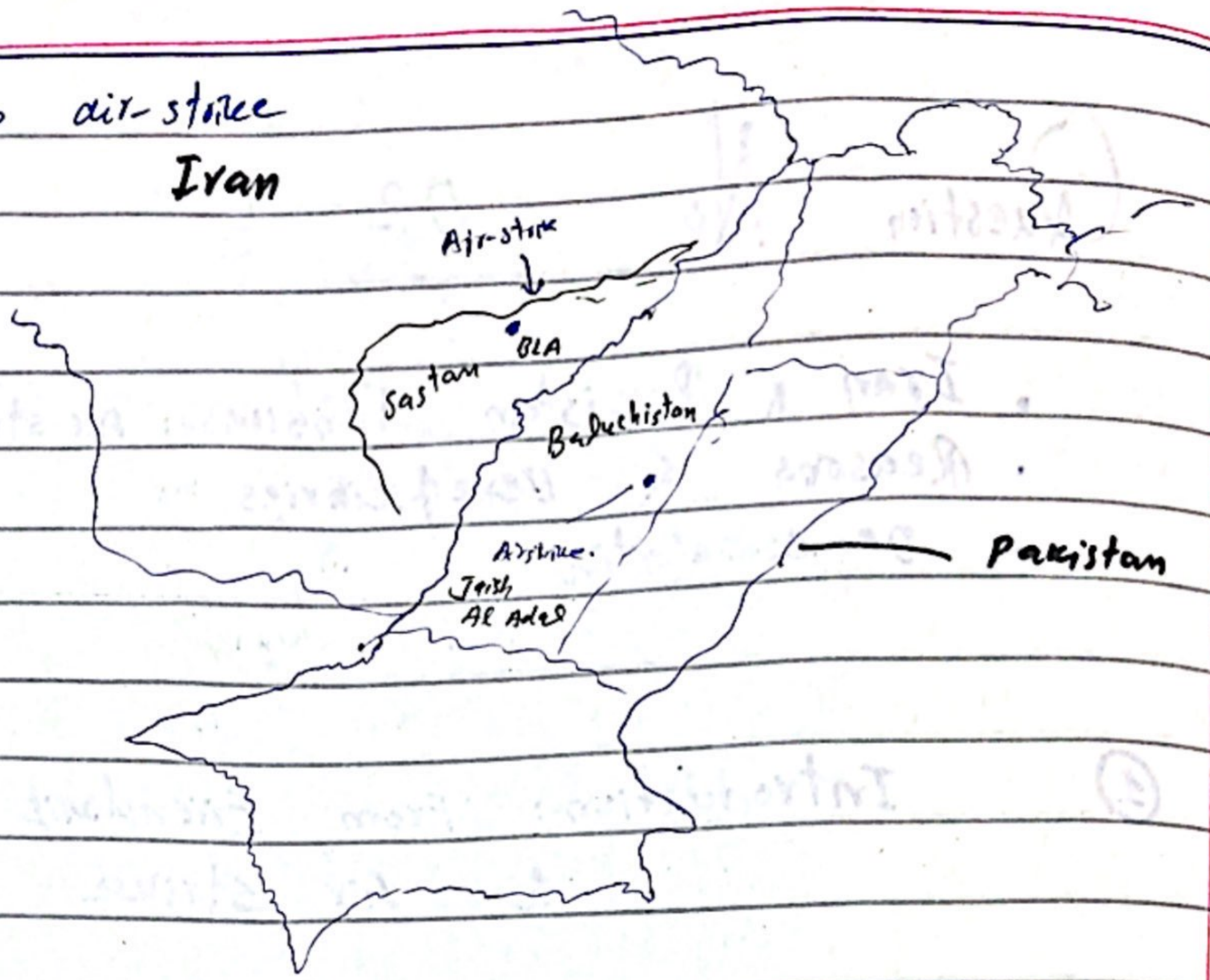
Question No 02

- Iran & Pakistan Tensions : Air strikes
- Reasons & Beneficiaries
- De-escalation

① Introduction: From Friendship to Air strike

Pakistan and Iran are both brotherly Islamic countries. Both countries have a porous border which provide easy access to people to move here and there. The terrorist organizations take benefit of this movement and create hostilities between the both nations. This is not the first time, Iran was attacked by Jaish - Al adal, and Pakistani forces are attacked by BLA operating from Iran. Iran is also at receiving end due to US's strikes. In frustration and show of strength, the relation changed from friendship

to air-strike
Iran



Reasons of Air-strike

① Attack in Iran: Killing
of 11 - personnel

Three days before the Iranian air strike on the province of Pakistan, a suicide attack claimed the lives of 11 police officers in Iranian city. There was huge pressure on Iran to protect its citizens.

(i) Jaish - Al Adal : Responsible for the attack on Iranian police force

A terrorist organization which is said to be operated from Baluchistan took the responsibility of the attack on the Iranian security forces.

(ii) Porus Border : Easy Access to terrorist organizations

After the attack by both BLA & Jaish - Al Adal they take refuge in both countries BLA in Iran and Jaish - Al Adal in Pakistan.

(iii) Iran's Frustration : Pakistan's inability to eliminate Jaish Al-Adal.

Iran has protested to Pakistan. However, in 2020 Pakistan conducted an operation and killed chief of Jaish - Al Adal.

(v) Killing of Iranian Army officers by Israel: a dent to the proxies of Iran

Iran has proxies in the name of resistance in the region. Israeli Air strike killed an Iranian commander in Syria. Iran was at receiving end so it has act in some way.

(vi) Iran's show of strength: Attacks of Iraq, Syria and Pakistan

In show of strength to its proxies and rival Israel and the West Iran conducted air strikes in Syria, Iraq and Pakistan to show his capabilities.

(vii) Show of New weaponry system: Drones sophisticated Missile Technology

Iran in these strikes has also displayed its sophisticated weaponry system to send a message to his enemies.

unit?

Pakistan's Retaliatory Attack: To maintain deterrence

After press conference
of Iran Foreign Minister

"we ^{would} take any step to
protect our citizens in future too"

Pakistan was forced to
retaliate to maintain a
kind of deterrence.

Beneficiaries:

- ① Indian Factor can not
be ignored.

Almost One week before
Iranian Air Strike Indian
Foreign Minister visited Tehran.

An Indian affiliated twitter
account tweeted on X.

"In next two week our
neighbour would get a
surprise. Mark my words"

May be Indian wanted to open
a path of strikes through Iran.

(ii) Israel: a space to eliminate Iran's proxies.

Israeli politician Ben Gevir tweeted

"Iran's protection is just a bubble"

Conflict between Pakistan and Iran could provide Israel space to conduct operations

(iii) Terrorist Organizations: BLA, ISK and Jaish - Al Adab

In the wake of such kind of conflicts the terrorist organizations take benefit to attack.

(iv) West: headlines throughout the day

The western media was over the moon with headline.

"Since 1980, the first Air strike in the Iranian territory."

→ How to de-escalate?

(i) Concrete Measures against
BLA & Jaish AQ adal

Both countries, instead
of blaming each other
should take concrete steps
for Air strike ↓

Both countries know their (BLA, J-Adal)
Hide out, why don't they help
each other?

(ii) State visit of Irania FM

The state
visit of Iranian FM was
a good gesture where he
asserted

"we are brothers, let's
start a new chapter
of brotherhood"

(iii) Role of Diplomats: dwindling
Tensions.

The diplomats
should play a key role
in de-escalation.

ii

High level coordinations:
Both Armies.

There should be a high level coordination between the armies of both countries to avoid future conflict.

iii

Intelligence sharing: Secret Agencies.

Secret agencies of both countries should help each other in intelligence sharing and operation management.

→ Conclusion:

To conclude, Iran and Pakistan are two brotherly Islamic countries they are both victims of terrorism. Instead of fighting each other, should help.

Question No 03

- OIC remained a failed organization. . . .
- Hamas- Israel war
- Iran KSA approachment
- Become a successful organization that truly represent Muslims.

④ Introduction: From differences to Unity

OIC is one of the biggest blocks of the world, representing not only the whole muslim world, but also some strong and richest economies. OIC has always been a titular block due to differences between the member countries due to influence. However, the recent occasions have changed the whole scenario. Countries have mended their differences, making the oic strong?

→ Changing Factors : After Conflict
between

Israel & Hamas & Reapproachment
which could make successful and
truly representatives.

(i) After Hamas-Israel war:
Collective Voice of
the Muslim world

After the Israeli
attack on Palestine, the
whole muslim world stand
united and condemned with
collective voice. They were
like a unit against the
atrocities.

(ii) Support to the QURAN resolution:
All the muslim countries

In the
United Nation General Assembly,
despite the US pressure,
all the muslim countries
voted in favour of the
resolution for
'cease fire'

iii) OIC in Riyadh: The first visit of Iranian President after decade

For the first time since Muhammad Bin Salman became PM, after so many years Iranian president was cordially received by MBS at the door in Riyadh. In

iv) Diplomats withdrawn from Israel

After the conflict all the Muslim countries from the OIC bloc withdrew their diplomats from Israel. Turkey expelled the Israeli diplomat in solidarity.

v) Collective voice for two state solution:

All the members of the OIC collectively raised voice for two state solution from the OIC platform.

(vi) End to Qatar Blockade:
After three and half
years by KSA, UAE, Bahrain

One more
important development was seen
as the blockade, which was
imposed by Arab countries,
was removed. Qatari Emir
embraced by MBS in KSA.

(vii) Invitation to Syria: Come
back to Arab League

In continuation
of mending relations between
the members of OIC countries.
Syrian president was invited
after 11 years to come
back to Arab League.

(viii) Re-establishment of relations
between Turkey & KSA:
After Jamal Khashoggi Murder

Relations were strained
after Turkey opening of investigation
against MBS, they mended
their relation in return OIC strengthened

(ix)

Turkey and Egypt: Reconciliation.

Previously, due to Turkey's support to 'Muslim Brotherhood', Egypt and Turkey were at odds. Recent developments have made them closer to each other.

(x)

Shut up call to the US:
for supporting Israel.

The US faced humiliation when no other country was with the US side, in a resolution against the USA. All countries were united.

(xi)

support to African petition in ICJ:
Collective voice of OIC countries

All the members of the OIC club supported the petition of South Africa in the ICJ. This shows their strength to the world as members of one block.

Pakistan's strong relations
with both KSA & IRAN

with KSA and
Iran reapproachment, Pakistan
is now at good position to
maintain relation with both
countries and use OIC for Kashmiri

**"Solution of problems of OIC
countries lies with OIC"**

Conclusion:

With all these changing
developments after the Hamas-
Israel conflict and Iran-
KSA reapproachment, there is
an opportunity for all the
muslim countries to stay united.
By using the OIC platform
they can resolve problems
due to their good relations
with one another.

OIC should act like EU and NATO
and instead of relying on
west, they should solve
their problems by themselves.

Q # 05

- PAK - Afghan Relations
- After attacks by TTP
& Return of Refugees.

(I) Introduction: A journey from
neighbours to rivals

PAK - Afghan Relations after...

① Afghan's Foreign Minister:
Pakistan is responsible for
all the attacks.

② Blockage at the
Chaman Border: Economic challenges

(iii) More attacks: due to lack
of coordination — Blame game

(iv) Pakistan's chief of Arm. staff
about Afghans: One life of
Pakistani precious than the whole
Afghanistan.

(v) Less coordination between both
countries at international front.

(vi)

Tilt towards India: visit of
Indian diplomats in Kabul

(vii)

Threat to Pakistan: Pakistan
would pay for humiliation
meted out to refugees

(viii)

A possible Air-strike
on Afghan soil:

10

Mass technicalization of the
Program Living in Transition