

TEST # 04

QUESTION NO : 1 :-

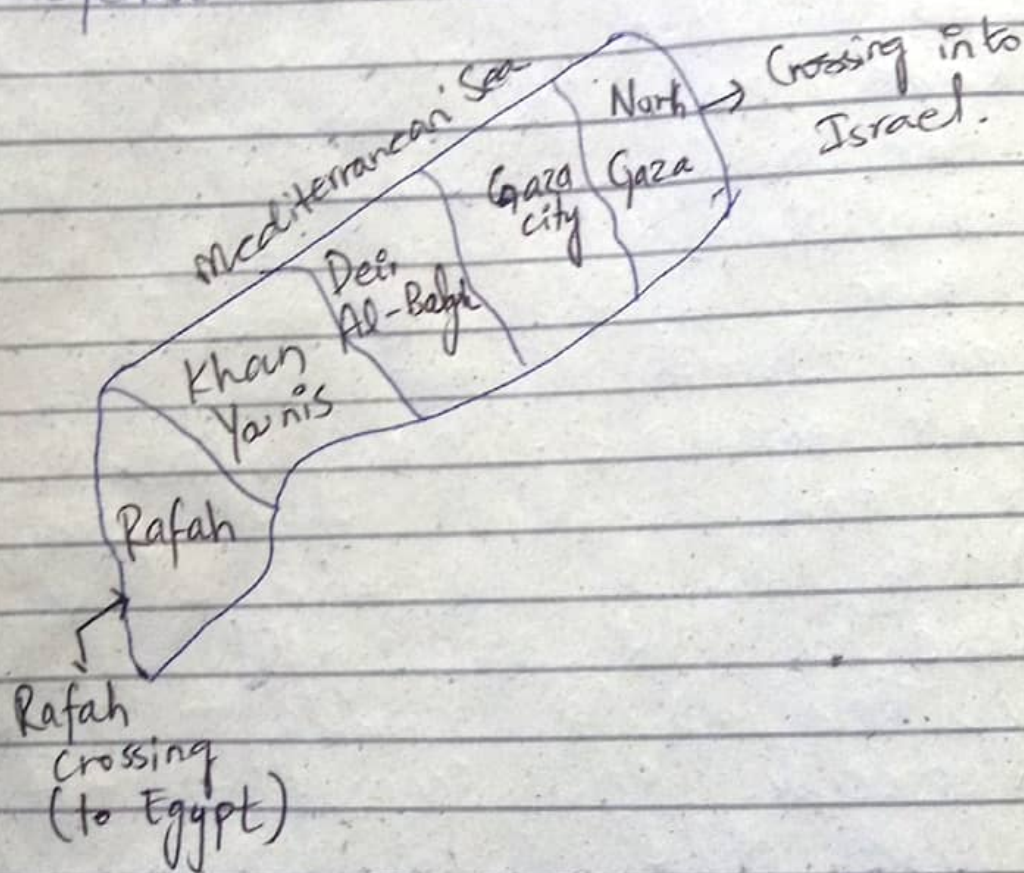
INTRODUCTION:

Peace and stability in the middle east region has been largely disturbed due to the ongoing occupation of Palestinians and regional proxies. Israel has besieged Gaza for more than a decade now. The influential players in the region have always disrupted the stability of the region mainly for their vested interests. The ongoing Israel - Hamas war is one such example. The unjustified war and killing of innocent civilians in the name of self-defense cannot be justified in any way. The world needs to reach a consensus and immediate efforts are the need of time for building lasting peace in middle east.

ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR : AN OVERVIEW:

Hamas surprised the world's best know intelligence agency of Israel on October 7. The attack on Israel is based on

Illegal occupation and devastation of their daily life on the hands of the occupiers. Israel retaliated to the attacks by launching air strikes and waging a full scale war on people having nothing for their self-defence.

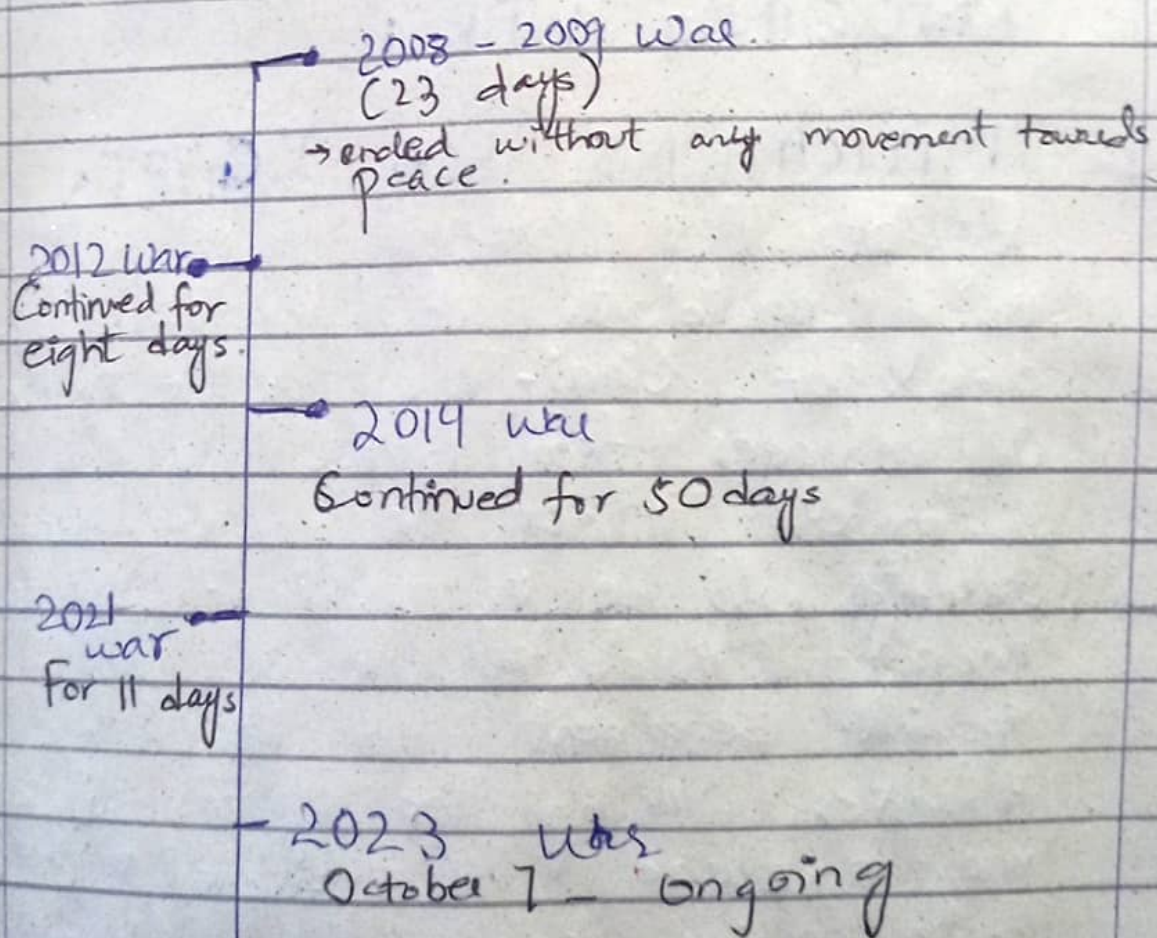


The operation named by Hamas as "AL-AQSA STORM" was primarily planned due to:

1. The continuous attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque infuriating Hamas.
2. The new wave normalization mainly of Israel-KSA, which

would undermine the significance of Palestinian struggle. Jordan without considering the establishment of peace with Palestinians is interested in maintaining influence in the region. Thereby negotiating with KSA for normalization would hurt the Palestinian cause.

3. The continued oppression, occupation, brutality and denial of essential necessities provoked Hamas.



Timeline of recent wars between Israel and Hamas.

Despite the number of war engagements between the two parties, no effort to address the root cause of issue was made. The failure of OIC to take concrete steps and lack of unity among Muslim World for taking action adds up to the gravity of issue.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ONGOING WAR :

1. IMPLICATIONS FOR EGYPT:

Egypt has internal issues of rising incidents of terrorism in its area of Sinai. The possible influx of refugees from Gaza and the ultimate impact on its economy and stability will be in question. Due to nearing Presidential Elections and growing sentiment for the influx of refugees among the Egyptian public may pressurize the government to allow border opening. Though the President Abdul Fatch Al-Sisi pressed upon the Palestinians to remain in their own land and as it is their motive.

2. IMPLICATIONS ON LEBANON:

Lebanon, Yemen and Syria have suffered war and economic instability for a very long time. Their economic conditions does not allow them to participate in the ongoing war in support of Palestine but the fear of escalation remains there given the involvement of Hizbullah and Houthis, which will further destabilize the region.

3. FEAR OF ESCALATION OF WAR:

The attacks of Israel on its neighbors including Lebanon, Syria primarily saying to target Hamas may escalate the ongoing war. The involvement of Iran's proxies Hizbullah and Houthis in the conflict, as they are repeatedly instigated by Israel to do so. The visit of Iran's foreign minister to Lebanon, Yemen and Jordan rings the bells. The fear of escalation of the war threatens the stability of region.

4. RISE IN REGIONAL INSTABILITY:

The ongoing war of Israel on Palestine has led to an immense increase in regional instability. The inclusion of regional proxies and instigation

of already unstable states will further destabilise the region.

5. **SETBACK TO NORMALIZATION OF ISRAEL-KSA RELATIONS:**
Efforts were underway to normalize Israel-KSA relations. The visit of officials to KSA and the ongoing negotiations between the two states faced setback due to the ongoing unjustified killings of more than 24000 civilians in the Gaza Strip.

6. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Due to the potential of middle east being the major oil exporter, the ongoing war will lead to the increase in price of oil. The increased price of oil will impact the socio-economic life of people in developing countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria etc.

7. IMPACT ON OIL TRANSPORT AND OIL PRICES:

Due to the ongoing war the

transport of oil is largely affected. Mainly due to the set back to infrastructure and possible hurdle of passing oil through the region will lead to hike in fuel prices.

IMPLICATIONS ON GLOBAL POWER POLITICS:

1. UNVEILING WESTERN HYPOCRISY:

The war of Israel on Gaza unveiled the hypocrisy of Western World as US and other Western allies categorically support the right of self-defense of Israel. The loss of civilian lives repeatedly highlighted by UN, Redcross and threat of famine ignored by West depicts their double standards.

2. IMPACT ON US' INFLUENCE IN THE REGION:

US displayed herself as the custodian of human rights but maintained double standards while dealing with Palestine and Ukraine. The continuation of financial aid to Israel,

sending warships for Israel, the biased media coverage points towards the role of US in accomplishing with Israel. Post war the role of US will be affected to much extent.

3- POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR RUSSIA :

Russia may support Palestine if the calls for escalation and ceasefire fail. Iran being the ^(ally) supporter of Russia for war in Ukraine, will draw Russian support on its side and the inclusion of other powers in the conflict may also lead to increased participation as Russia has its supported government in Syria too. As the attention of Western World is on Israel, Russia may take the opportunity to seize territory of Ukraine.

4- THE SILENCE OF CHINA AND POSSIBLE REASONS :

China has not yet condemned Hamas attacks. The silence points towards the fact that the stance of China aligns with those of Russia. Moreover China has opted wait and watch approach in the war.

Meanwhile China has taken this opportunity to gain her own interest in Taiwan and may engage US in another war front.

5. RISING PROTESTS AND THE ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICA:

Since the start of war unprecedented support for the Palestinians in the Muslim World and other Western countries has been observed. The protestors pressurize the West to stop being accomplice in the ongoing war. South Africa has taken Israel to ICJ for trial.

CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell the ongoing war is a question mark on the humanitarian claims of the Western world. The killing of more than 25,000 civilians including 12,000 children calls for immediate ceasefire. The escalation of war will further destabilize the region and affect the supply of oil. The Western hypocrisy was unveiled during the war and the need for immediate action is deemed vital.

QUESTION NO: 3:-

INTRODUCTION:

IMEC launched on the platform of G-20 summit points towards the ongoing quest for global dominance. Primarily in response to China's BRI, IMEC is focused to redefine trade routes between India, the Gulf states and Europe. Underlying motives however hint towards the quest of US and India to counter the growing integration and influence of China Worldwide. Though IMEC has the potential for investment and improvement of trade routes but it is on much smaller scale than that of BRI.

IMEC : LAUNCH AND BRIEF

OVERVIEW:-

The G-20 summit held in Delhi concluded the negotiation for crafting better routes and link between India, Middle East and Europe. It is formed by the collective efforts of US, India and their allies. The IMEC focuses on:

- i- Movement of goods, data, money between the regions.
- ii- Fastening people to people connection.

GEOPOLITICAL TUSSEL: CLASH OF ECONOMIC VISIONS:

The geoeconomic Tussel between the developed world is evident from the launch of IMEC in response to BRI. The increasing influence of China in the region and her emergence as an economic giant threatened the hegemony of West in general and US in particular.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF IMEC.

The strategic significance of IMEC for India is evident from the fact that it will connect India with the European world paving way for far more investments and development. By strengthening trade and investment ties with Middle east will add up to the economic benefit for India.

REGIONAL DYNAMICS FOR IMEC:

Pakistan finds itself at crossroads for the development of IMEC. The geostrategic position of Pakistan renders it significant role in benefit from IMEC. Integration with IMEC can create economic growth and stability.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IMEC AND BRI:

1- INITIATION AND PROGRESS OF THE TWO INITIATIVES:

BRI started in 2013 is in its full swing progress. The project celebrated decade of its initiation - While on the other hand IMEC is just launched and is in the form of Memorandum (MOU) stage.

2- THE PROJECTED SCALE OF INVESTMENT:

BRI with its inception has projected the investments in different fields - With CPEC

as its flagship project, BRI has estimated value of around US \$8 trillion. While IMEC's investment are projected to be smaller may be a few billion dollars.

3- THE EXPECTED COVERAGE OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:

BRI with its launch made evident that it will span around 150 countries primarily 'developing and emerging economies'. While IME is planned to cover 20 countries mainly in Middle East and Europe with already stable economies.

4- THE FOCUS OF PROJECTS ON THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION:

The focus of BRI is on the infrastructure development and largely based on land routes. 70% of it are focussed on land routes. While on the other hand, IMEC emphasizes on sea transportation including shipping lanes, rail and road connections. The establishment of ports is also there in the agenda of BRI.

5- THE DIRECTIONALITY AND

VISION :

The projects of BRI are multidirectional in nature aiming to increase investment and cooperation among China, Asia, Europe, Africa and America. While the projects of IMEC are unidirectional mainly focusing on the connection of India with middle east and Europe. The vision of BRI is infrastructure improvement and investment in emerging economies.

THE PROSPECTS OF IMEC:

FINANCIAL VIABILITY:

The financial investment in IMEC is not in question as the founders and the involved have stable economies. Once the project starts there would be no financial constraint.

IMPLEMENTATION :

The robust private sector involved in IMEC will exacerbate the implementation of the projects and vision of IMEC.

CHALLENGES FACING IMEC :

The complex nature of coordination between the countries involved in IMEC will challenge its implementation. The stability and security of middle east will be challenging for the the completion of IMEC. The Infrastructure and technological gap between those involved in project will also challenge the working of IMEC.

FUTURE OF BRI :

The Future of BRI is bright as it is evident from the projects launched in 2013 and their completion. The willingness and robust engagement of China in BRI brightens the future of BRI. Though the labelling of BRI as east India company challenges the integrity of BRI - But the vision of China and its implementation so far points towards the potential of BRI to lead as an economic giant fostering the growth of other emerging economies -

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that the comparison of BRI Vs IMEC indicates that the potential and scale of BRI is much more than that of IMEC. BRI has started completion of its project while IMEC is in its very initial stages. IMEC has potential for economic growth and investment but is not as much challenging for BRI owing to its agenda and vision -