

Subjective Part - II

Q. Question 6) B or

What is the 'Losses and Damages' concept floated on the platform of COP-27? Critically evaluate the opportunities of its practical materialization COP-28? Also identify how Pakistan could benefit from it-

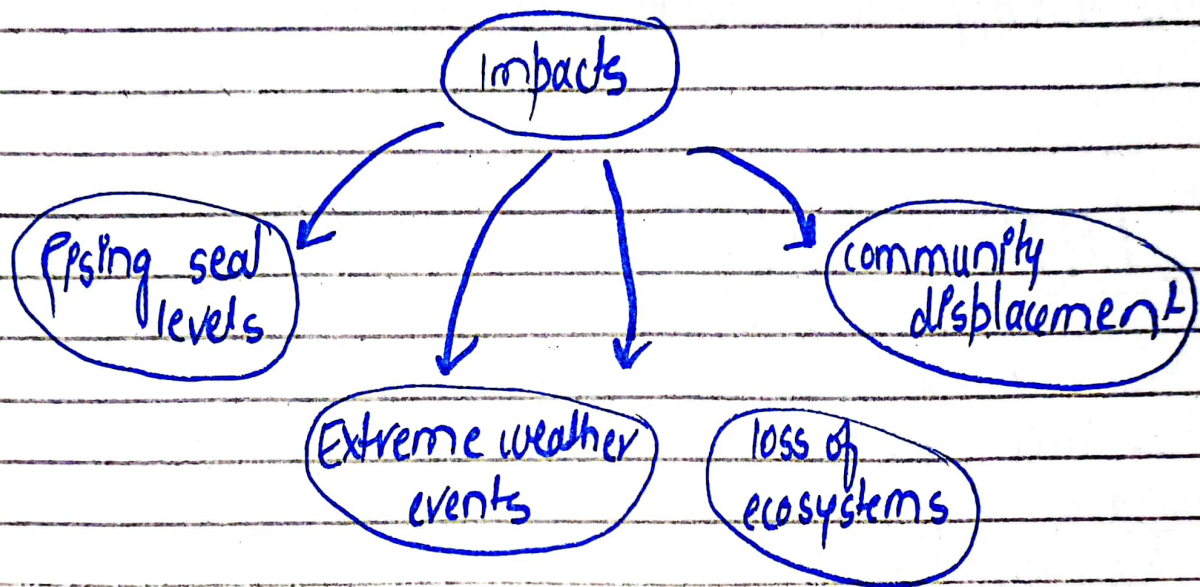
INTRODUCTION:

The 'Losses and Damages' (L&D) concept refers to the irreversible consequences of climate change already being experienced by vulnerable nations-

The concept floated at COP 27 platform by acknowledging the historical responsibility of developed nations for greenhouse gas emission. At COP 27, a landmark decision established a dedicated decision fund for L-S-D. The concept provides opportunities for practical materialization at COP 28 which includes enhanced funding, leveraging expertise, enhanced bargaining power etc. Pakistan, the most vulnerable nation can benefit from it by asking for aids, compensation for damage and addressing the inequalities-

Understanding the concept:

'Loss and Damage' refers to the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change experienced by vulnerable countries, despite mitigation and efforts. These include



Developed nations, historically responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, have been hesitant to address this issue due to concerns about liability and compensation.

COP 27 Breakthrough:

COP 27 marked a significant achievement with the establishment of a new 'Loss and Damage' for vulnerable countries. This was a major victory for developing nations especially those experiencing severe climate impacts. It took significant steps to provide them with financial assistance, recognition of responsibilities, and addressing the equity

Key Aspects of the Concepts:

a) Financial assistance:

Establishing a dedicated funds to support developing countries dealing with climate disasters and long term impacts like rising sea levels.

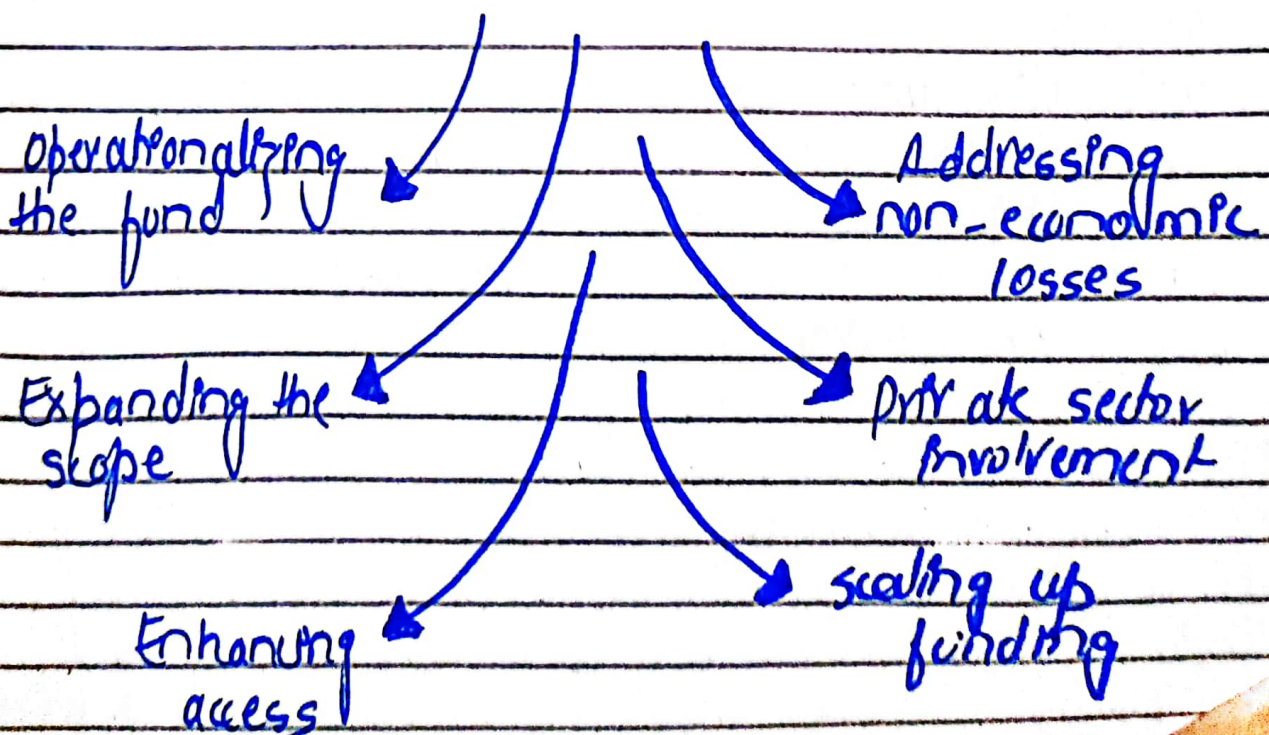
b) Recognition of responsibility:

Acknowledging the historical responsibility of rich nations for climate change and their obligations to provide financial assistance.

c) Addressing Equity:

Aiming to bridge the gap between the polluters and the impacted, promoting climate justice.

Opportunities For COP28:



a) Operationalizing the Fund:

Op20 needs to finalize the structure and function of the fund, including eligibility criteria, funding sources, disbursement mechanisms.

It needs to define its structure, governance and funding sources, ensuring transparency and accountability.

b) Scaling Up Funding:

Developed nations must commit substantial financial contributions to ensure the fund's effectiveness. Innovative financing mechanisms like carbon markets, and climate bonds could be explored.

c) Enhanced scope:

Alongside extreme weather events it needs to include slow-onset events like desertification and salinization. Encouraging private sector contributions and innovative mechanisms. Streamlining the process for vulnerable nations to access funds and ensuring efficient delivery.

Potential Benefits for Pakistan:

a) Financial Support:

Pakistan being highly vulnerable to climate change could access funds for rehabilitation after extreme weather events, for coastal protection measures and adaptation strategies by investing on its infrastructure, and early warning systems.

b) Technology transfer:

Pakistan can benefit by getting access to advanced technology and knowledge for climate resilient infrastructure and agricultural adaptations could be facilitated.

c) Enhanced Global cooperation:

A stronger commitment to addressing Loss and Damage could lead to increased international support for Pakistan's climate action plans. Pakistan can actively engage in COP28 negotiations, advocating for clear guidelines, fair access to funds and ensuring its specific needs vulnerabilities are addressed.

Conclusion:

The Loss and Damage concept represents a step forward in climate justice. COP-26 needs to address the practicalities of the fund to tangible benefits for vulnerable countries like Pakistan by giving them financial assistance, technical expertise continued international cooperation and political will are essential to turn this opportunity into reality.

Conclusion

Question 4

Indo-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is projected as a competitor to the Belt and Road Initiative to China. Critically evaluate the potential and future prospects of the two projects.

INTRODUCTION :

Indo-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) both are ambitious mega projects aiming to enhance connectivity and economic integration across vast regions. However, their success hinges on overcoming distinct challenges. IMEC offers a more targeted approach with potential for regional cooperation, while BRI boasts a wider reach but faces sustainability concerns. Ultimately, the future of these projects depend on their ability to address their respective challenges and adapt to a changing global landscape by providing potential benefits to the member countries collectively.

IMEC: A planned economic corridor that aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration between Asia, Persian Gulf and Europe -

Potential:

a) Enhanced connectivity:

IMEC aims to enhance economic integration among member countries through trade and agreements by connecting India, the Middle East, and Europe through rail, maritime, road and digital infrastructure. This could reduce trade costs and boost economic activity in participating countries.

b) Diversification and Geopolitical significance

By offering alternative routes, IMEC could diversify trade flows away from China and strengthen regional partnerships. Similarly, IMEC aligns with India's strategic interests in countering China's influence and foster deeper ties with Europe and Middle East.

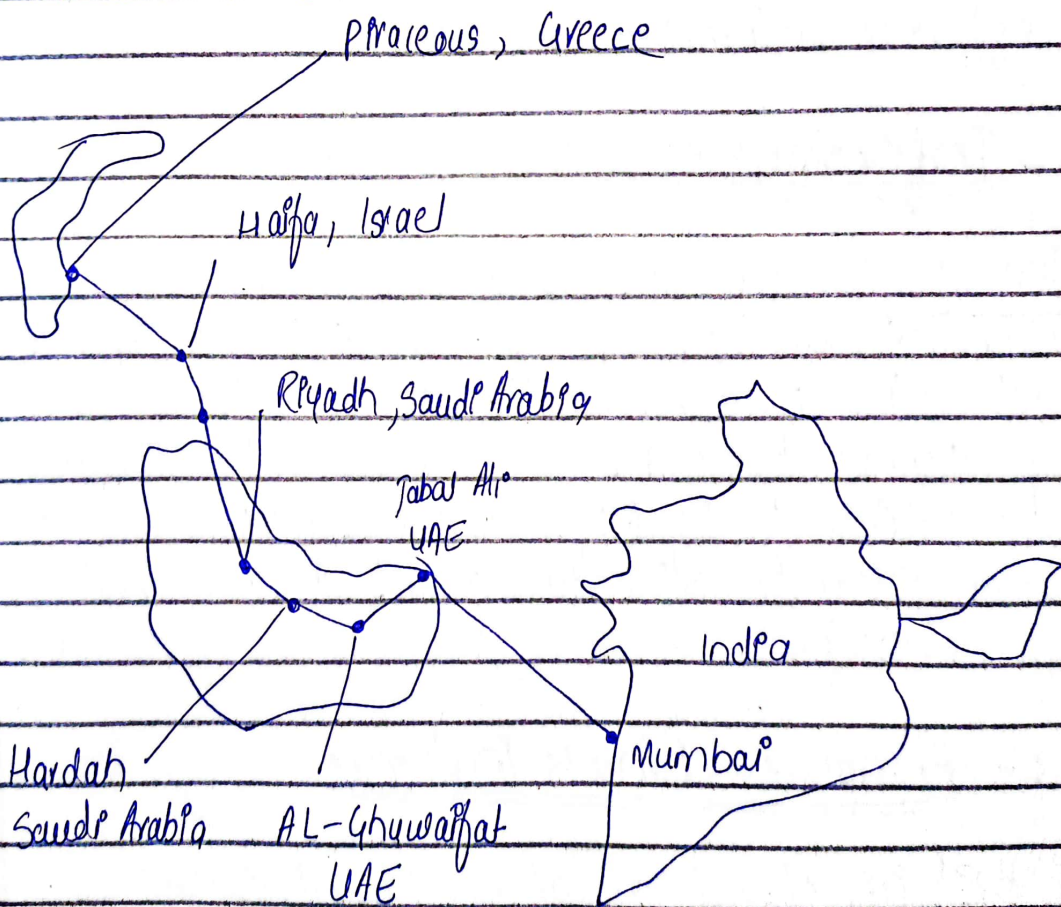
c- Enhancing global supply chain

One of the IMEC's potential is to reduce the freight load on existing routes, hence enhancing global supply chain. A coalition of technologically and financially capable nations could collectively provide alternatives that are vital for global supply chains.

Challenges:

IMEC can face significant geopolitical tensions, financial constraints, implementation hurdles etc. It requires navigating complex regional dynamics including conflicts in the Middle East. Similarly, it is difficult to secure funding for large scale infrastructure projects across multiple countries. Bureaucratic red tapes and varying regulations could hinder progress.

IMEC route:



BRI: It is China's main international cooperation and economic strategy connecting Asia, Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks.

Potential:

a) Global Reach:

BRI is much larger and more established initiative with extensive infrastructure projects across Asia, Africa and Europe. This offers significant potential for economic integration and development. It boasts a vast network spanning multiple continents, offering widespread connectivity.

b - Infrastructure development:

The project has already invested on various infrastructure projects including rails, roads, pipelines etc. China is a major investor in infrastructure providing financing and expertise to participating countries. This infrastructure projects has potential to stimulate growth in participating countries.

c - Enhance China's influence

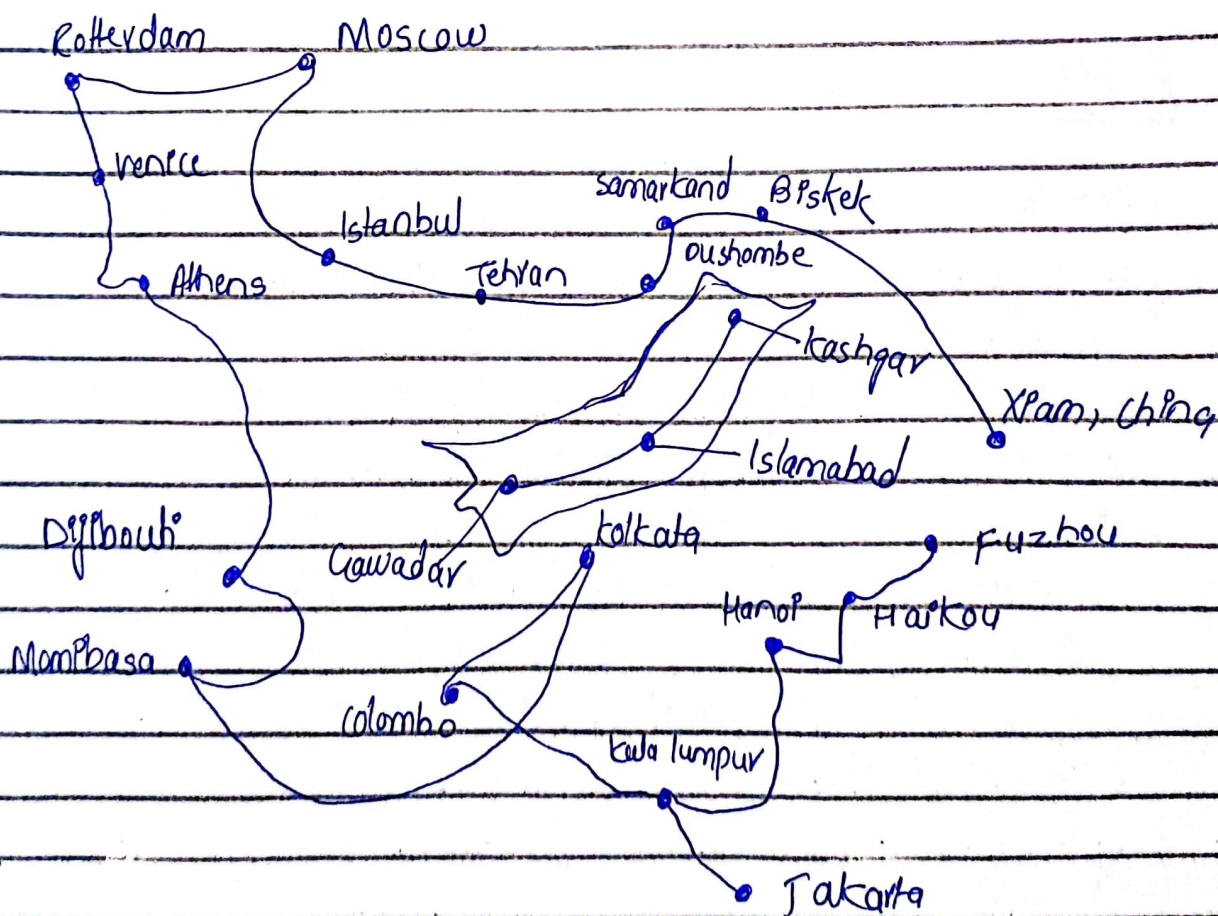
BRI has played critical role in enhancing China's influence and economic and political footprint globally. By expressing the soft power of China all across the

world, BRI has enhanced its clout globally

Challenges:

Due to large scale infrastructure projects, member countries have faced unsustainable debt burdens. Similarly, the project have raised various environmental and social concerns about transparency and accountability. The project has been criticized for its potential to create dependency on China and exacerbate geopolitical tensions.

BRI route



Future prospects:

IMEC:

The project has high potential for success. When the countries involved in the project are examined, a very important economic potential is seen - world largest economies Germany 4th, India 5th, France 7th, Italy 10th, KSA 17th and the UAE 28th all having global economic and political clout. The countries that have signed IMEC account for approximately half of world's economy and 40% of its population. They have potential to transform both the corridor and global trade and development.

BRI:

With its maritime Silk Road, BRI initiative has moved far beyond Eurasia and its original aims of creating a new Silk Road project. The geographical scale has expanded more than 140 countries including Africa, Middle East, South Asia and Latin America. By 2027, total global spending of BRI could reach \$1.3 trillion. Other economic forecast predict more than 2600 projects worldwide valued at \$3.7 trillion.

Conclusion:

While both IMEC and BRI hold potential for economic development and increased connectivity by investing on infrastructure, energy, technology how their future prospects depends upon overcoming the challenges IMEC faces challenges in early stages while BRI grapples with concerns about debt sustainability. Ultimately, the success of both depends on their ability to address these challenges and adapt to evolving geopolitical landscapes.

(Question 2)

Iran and Pakistan tensions are on rise as both countries launched air strikes on each other's territories. Critically evaluate the reasons and the beneficiaries of this tension. Also find ways for de-escalation tension and attaining normalcy.

INTRODUCTION :

The recent air strikes and rising tensions between Iran and Pakistan are concerning developments with complex roots and potential for further escalations - Iran had conducted military strikes targeting the Jaish Al-Adl militant group in Balochistan. Later, Pakistan undertook (previous) military strikes against terrorist hideouts in Iran's Sistan, Balochistan province. There are multiple reasons for the conflict including the involvement of militant groups, regional rivalries, internal pressure rising from political and economic challenges and miscommunication. The potential rivalries are regional powers and militant groups. Both nations need to attain normalcy through deescalating strategies including dialogue, confidence building measures and enhancing border security.

Reasons for the Tensions:

a) Balochistan Conflict:

Both Iran and Pakistan deal with separatist movement in their Balochistan provinces. Each accuses the other for harboring and supporting militant groups that launch attacks across the border. The recent escalation stems from such accusations with hit-for-hit airstrikes in January 2024.

b - Regional Rivalries:

Iran and Pakistan have historically competed for influence in the region, particularly in Afghanistan. This rivalry is further fueled by sectarian differences (Shia-majority Iran vs Sunni majority Pakistan) and their alignment with opposing regional powers (Iran with Russia and China) / Pakistan with Saudi Arabia and USA).

c - Internal Politics:

Both governments face domestic challenges and trying hard to get through economic and political challenges, and taking a tough stance against a foreign adversary can garner public support and deflect attention from internal issues.

Beneficiaries of the Tension.

a) Militant Groups:

The conflict provides an opportunity for Baloch separatist and other militant groups to exploit the situation and gain more support and resources. These extremists exploit the tensions to further their agendas, attracting recruits and gaining international attention.

b) Regional powers

External actors with competing interests i.e India and USA might use the tensions to manipulate the situation for their own strategic advantage. Other powers with vested interest in the region like Saudi and Russia could benefit from weakened and divided Iran-Pakistan relationship.

c) Arm dealers and lobbies

Increased tensions often lead to increased military spending, arm purchase potentially benefiting arms manufacturers and suppliers. This can be top interest of global arm industry.

De-escalation strategies:

a) Direct dialogue and diplomacy:

Both countries need to engage in open and honest dialogue to address their concerns and find common ground. Through direct dialogue and negotiations, the situation can be turned better. Hence, high level diplomatic measures and confidence building measures are crucial.

b- Addressing regional insurgency:

A joint effort to address the root-causes of Baluch insurgency, including political and economic grievances is essential. This could involve power-sharing agreements, economic development initiatives and addressing human rights concerns.

c- Regional cooperation forums

Both countries are members of various regional organizations - By engaging them i.e. Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) can facilitate dialogue and mediate disputes.

d- Border security measures:

By enhancing the border security, both nations can strike against the militant groups. Increased cooperation in patrolling, sharing intelligence, and preventing cross-border movements can help reduce the incidents by countering the insurgencies and building trust.

Conclusion:

Consequently, it can be concluded that the recent strikes between Iran and Pakistan divert focus to the regional loopholes. The insurgency between militant groups and sectarian divide between Shia and Sunni population has contributed to the cause benefiting regional rivals such as India, USA and KSA. Through diplomacy, dialogue and confidence building measures both nations can help in overcoming the situation.