

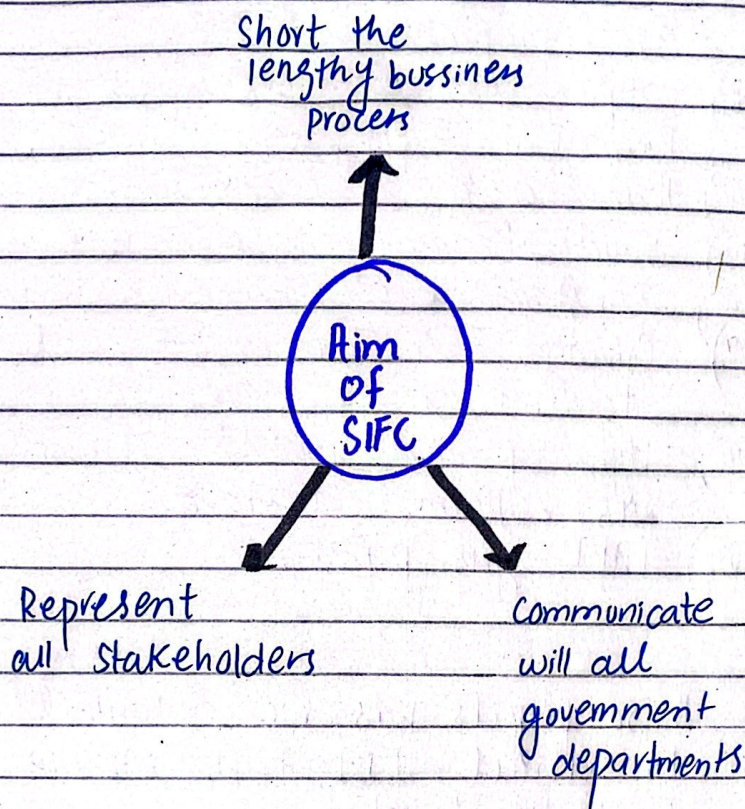
QUESTION-8

SIFC

Introduction:-

Amidst economic down fall, on 20th June 2023, government of Pakistan has announced the creation of special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). This initiative was taken to stabilize the dwindling economy of Pakistan and by attracting foreign direct investment. SIFC is created to act as single window to facilitate investors and foster the process of investment in Pakistan.

Regarding the creation of SIFC, amendment has been made in Board of investment ordinance 2001. Chap II-A has been added to it.



Investment Areas :

- SIFC will invest in the areas of
- i) Defense
 - ii) Agriculture
 - iii) Mining
 - iv) Information technology

Potential of SIFC towards attracting Investments :

SIFC has established total

of 28 projects, that will be offered to the investors.

These projects include

- i) copper and gold operation at Reago Diq, Baluchistan
- ii) Thar coal rail connectivity
- iii) Saudi Americano refinery
- iv) construction of Damer Basha dam
- v) Giving 85000 acre of land to a single investor
- vi) Hydro power projects of worth 245 million in Gilgit
- vii) TAPI gas pipeline.

These projects has the potential to attract FDI from Middle East and china

New Visa Policy under SIFC

New visa policy has been introduced under which Ministry of interior is mandated to issue visas within 24 hours.

Guidelines regarding visa policy include

- i) Issuance of Business visa of 5 years within 24 hours.

ii) Issue short term business visa of one and three years within 24 hours

iii) Issue short term business visa of five years within 10 days.

Indeed it's a laudable step to facilitate the ease of doing business and attracting more investment.

Programme to facilitate freelancers

A freelancer earns 5 to 10 dollar in one day. Under SIFC programme, it will facilitate them and the end result will be the creation of more than 3 billion dollar annually.

SIFC and the foreign direct investment from Middle East

SIFC has a great potential to

attract Foreign direct investment from Middle East

SIFC offers many projects to Middle East that will be beneficial for both countries

"Investment from UAE and Saudi Arabia is now included in Pakistan economic revival strategy under the institute of SIFC."

- Caretaker Prime Minister
Anwar ul Haq, Kakar

Caretaker PM of Pakistan further bring light to the potential of SIFC to attract foreign investment by addressing that SIFC has the potential to attract more than 100 billion dollar investment.

• SIFC and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

After the creation of SIFC, a Saudi delegation visited Pakistan to explore the potential areas of investment. They have shown

huge interest to invest in
Rehabilitation of Balochistan.

Under SIFC programme, Riyadh is planning to spend 10 billion dollar refinery in collaboration with four Pakistan's state owned gas and oil companies.

↳ SIFC and UAE

UAE have clinched many projects under SIFC to have greater control over Karachi sea port.

Officials from Islamabad have said that UAE and KSA have invested 22 billion and 26 billion USD to invest in agriculture, mining and technology sector of Pakistan.

↳ SIFC and (Kuwait) Qatar

Under SIFC, Qatar is expected to invest 3 billion USD to manage the airports of the country.

SIFC offers many potential projects that can result in win-win situation

SIFC and China

China is one of the biggest potential investor of Pakistan.

SIFC offers many projects under which china can invest

China has the plan to invest 100 billion dollars in agriculture which would be a huge opportunity for Pakistan.

SIFC has offered easy visa policies for chines investors because of good friendship between two neighbours

Federal Minister of commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz has visited China in August and met with many chines investors regarding investing in Pakistan under SIFC programme.

Dr Gohar said, they showed huge intrest in investing in defense products, solar pannels, semiconductors etc.



- MAP of potential Investors of Pakistan

Conclusion:

Keeping in view the (Stagnating) stagnating economic conditions of Pakistan, creation of SIFC was a step toward right trajectory. SIFC offers many projects for the emerging economies of the world that will be a win-win situation for nations. Middle East and China are the potential investors of the projects under SIFC that will serve as major beneficiaries of Pakistan.

QUESTION-4

BRI vs IMEEC

Introduction:

with the changing global dynamics, two global powers are in front of each other. Belt and Road Initiative was a project that was initiated by China. BRI is marking its influence all across the globe. To counter-balance the growing influence of China led BRI, Biden's administrative strategy was revealed by the announcement of the establishment of India - Middle East ^{Europe} Economic corridor at G20's meeting in India.

BRI AND ITS INFLUENCE

Belt and road initiative was taken by China in 2003

and it marked its 10th anniversary last year.

BRI has the aim of regional connectivity and economic benefits.

BRI of China has signed 200 agreements with 153 countries. This underscores its growing influence across the globe.

Criticism on BRI

Many nations have criticized BRI as a project that is increasing their debt burden.

China's economic policy and its expensive bailouts to the partner countries has always been scrutinized.

China's response to criticism

Despite growing criticism, China unveils BRI 2.0 in 2019 ensuring greater transparency, quality and environment friendly approach.

China claims to increase economic growth as well as

promotion of global cooperation and refrain from geo-political conflicts.

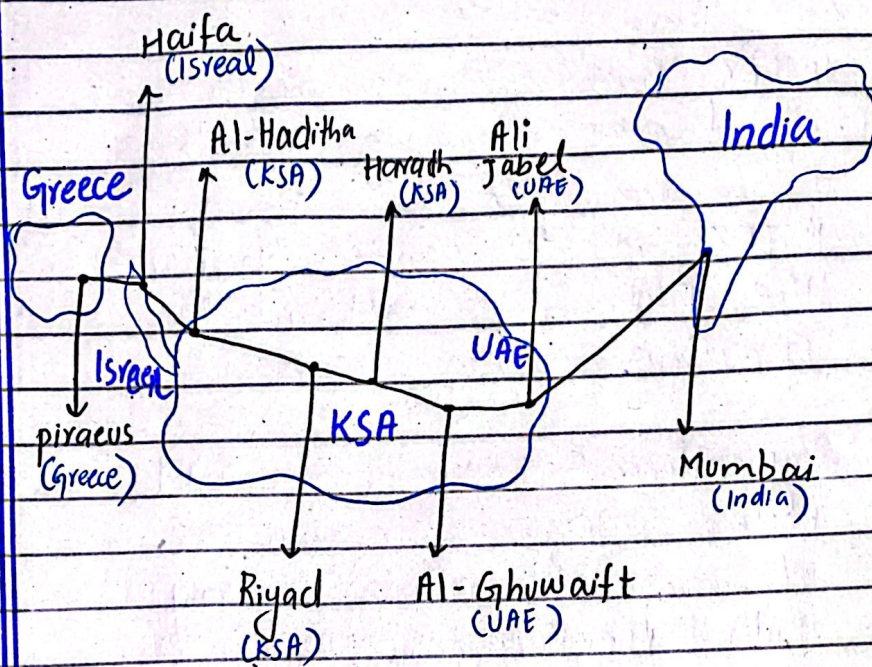
BRI vs Western Projects

BRI has always been the competition of western countries. Western countries came with many projects like EU's global gateway, G7's PGII, CPTPP but due to lack of connectivity and financial resources, these projects fell short in front of BRI's might.

IMEEC

The G20 meeting in India in 2023 marked with the announcement of the creation of India Middle East Europe Economic corridor.

This project was initiated by USA with its key allies, emerging as a significant player in the ever evolving dynamics of the region.



Map showing proposed route of IMEEC

IMEEC represents colossal infrastructure endeavour consisting of two corridors.

Eastern corridor will connect India to the Gulf countries
Northern corridor will connect Middle East to Europe

Potential of IMEEC

i) Geopolitical significance

IMEEC has a diverse geopolitical significance making India's dominance over the region.

IMEEC is to counter balance the BRI who's influence is spreading widely.

By enlisting India in it's fold, Biden challenge the regional dominance of china along with asserting its presence in the indo pacific region.

ii) Enhanced economic growth

IMEEC will foster the economic growth of partner nation due to enhanced connectivity and easy flow of trade between nation state.

iii) Impacting regional dynamics

By intentionally by-passing the countries like Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Syria and Libya from the IMEEC, it underscores the prioritization of US

interest over defined regional dynamics. IMEEC will have significant effects on the surrounding nations changing the regional dynamics.

Potential of BRI

i) Increase connectivity

BRI has already marked its significance over the globe by making 200 agreements with 153 nations.

This BRI has promoted global cooperation.

ii) Augmenting Economic growth

Due to increase connectivity with 153 nations, trade flow become so easy fostering increase in export and import between partner states.

Increase in trade ultimately foster the economic growth of nations.

Challenges to IMEEC

IMEEC faces the challenge of regional conflicts. The challenges in Europe and Middle East is a threat to the development of project.

Israel - Palestine war have slowed the process already.

Another challenge faced by IMEEC is finance collection. The extensive project will make it difficult for countries to connect and collect financial resources for the development of project.

Challenges to BRI

Financial debt is a long standing concern regarding the BRI projects.

Nations hesitate due to the expensive bailout offered by china which serves as major impediment in its way of development.

Future Prospect :

IMEEC success over BRI is uncertain. As global competition intensifies, the road ahead involve diplomatic efforts and aligned interest. IMEEC can learn from BRI lessons to achieve success.