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# Current Affairs

## Test #05

### Question #02

#### IMEC vs BRI

On global arena, the political discourses of corridor <sup>is</sup> emerging. In this scenario China <sup>is</sup> constructing Belt and ~~B~~ Road Initiative (BRI) on one hand and India <sup>is</sup> constructing Indian-Middle East European Economic Corridor (IMEC) on another hand.

The politics of corridor gains significance in order to counter rivals and progress economically. Both BRI and IMEC are differ in scale of investment, territory occupied, modes of transport, member countries and scope of the project. Both have future prospects but none of them can

decrease  
~~decrease~~ the importance of BRI project.  
Significance of corridor political discourses

China initiated BRI in 2013, in response to it B<sub>3</sub>W (Build Back Better World) was initiated at the platform of G-7 countries summit. The economic corridors are using by the powers in order to spread its economic, political and social influence beyond their boundaries. B<sub>3</sub>W was launched in 47<sup>th</sup> G-7 summit. In 48<sup>th</sup> G-7 summit, G-7 countries launched Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) in 2022 in Germany.

The politics of the corridor continues and in 2023 G-20 summit in India announced Indian Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

The purpose of IMEC is to diversify the exports of India and decrease dependency on China.



## Advantages of IMEC for India

This project aims to connect India through motorways, rail roads and marine routes to Europe. It is basically launched in order to counter china's BRI. It is an important route to strengthened relation with Europe and middle East by India. The increase of export would be possible through the short route of IMEC toward Europ. It would helpful in cultural exchange and social influence on each others culture.

## Comparison And Contrast of BRI and IMEC

### 1- Initiation of the projects and progress BRI

BRI was initiated in 2013.

It is in the progressing stage.

IMEC

It was announced in 2023 under the aegis of Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment. It is still in the MOU stage.

IMEC is in its preliminary stage.

2- Scale of investment in both projects

BRI

The scale of investment is 800 trillion dollars.

IMEC

In IMEC the scale of investment is few billion dollars.

3- Regions involved in both projects

BRI

It involved 150 countries of Asia, Europe, Middle East, Africa and South America.

IMEC

It has merely 20 countries involved. Countries belong to South Asia (India), Middle East



and Europe.

#### 4. Modes of transportation in both projects

BRI

BRI has 70% land transportation projects in the form of motorways and highways.

IMEC

IMEC involved both land and water transportation. It includes motorways, railroads and maritime routes for transportation.

#### 5. Direction of both corridors

BRI

It is multi-directional which connects continents of Asia, Europe and Africa. It also connects South American states to each other.

IMEC

It is a unidirectional corridor connecting India to Europe.

#### 6. Scope of the projects

BRI

It includes motorways (infrastructural

projects, energy projects and construction of Industrial zones.

IMEC

It includes only motorways, highways, railroads and maritime routes without any other project.

Future Prospects of IMEC and BRI

1- BRI

BRI is a functional project with 3000 projects functional in different continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. It carry a broad vision of interconnectivity.

Only in China - Pakistan Economic Corridor China completed the \$25 bn investment out of total \$64 bn investment.

⇒ BRI has bright future with functional projects

~~Has~~ a BRI has a bright future with the vision of



interconnectivity. The progress of BRI is evident in the developing countries.

2- Emerging challenges of security threatens its progress

In Pakistan, the deteriorated law and order situation poses a threat for security. Dasu Bus incident increase the concerns about the CPEC future. The containment of China through economic corridors, is also a persistent threat for BRI future.

### Future prospects of IMEC

1- Involvement of wealthy nations

India, & Middle Eastern countries, Turkiye are wealthy countries. So, the financial difficulties could be easily overcome.

2- Developed infrastructure in wealthy nations.

Developed infrastructure of wealthy nations make the



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prospects of IMEC more pronounced.

3- The drive to contain China will speed up its progress.

All the nations involved are occupied by the desire of the China's containment. This will speed up its progress.

4. Challenges to IMEC

a- Coordination among twenty nations is difficult.

The coordination about this project among 20 different nations is difficult to achieve.

b- The technological gap between countries.

India and Middle eastern countries are not equipped with technology like Europe. It will hinder the advancement of IMEC.

c- The security condition in Middle East

The deteriorated situation in Middle East, pose a serious threat



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for the development of IMEC.  
The ongoing war between Israel and Palestine is a serious threat for progress of IMEC.

### Conclusion

BRI and IMEC both are developmental projects of corridor. Both of them have their own importance. These projects differ significantly on the scale of investment, modes of transportation, countries participation and scope of the projects. Some hurdles will impede its progress which should be addressed timely.

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## Question No. 07

Failures, hurdles and recommendations for Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy of a country is a discourse of



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actions of a country in an international arena. Foreign policy of Pakistan is facing challenges since inception. In current scenario, foreign policy is flawed which is manifested in the undecided Kashmir issue, annoyance

4.

of US and tilt toward India, escalated tensions with Iran and deteriorated situation <sup>in relation</sup> due to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) with Afghan Taliban. Some of hurdles such as economic and political instability, increasing conspiracies of India, <sup>and</sup> no full power with foreign ~~minis~~ ministry are encountering to Pakistan foreign policy. With persistent measures the situation will be better.

### Manifestation of the failure of foreign policy of Pakistan

The failure of the foreign policy of Pakistan is manifested in the following scenarios of



of international arena.

### 1- Undecided cause of Kashmiris

Pakistan's foreign policy cannot efficiently portrayed the demand of Kashmiris. In other case they portrayed but insufficient skills of foreign policy and isolation of Pakistan in foreign Policy domain hinder Kashmir cause. Since 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the Article 370 is revoked, Pakistan is unable to effectively fight the case of Kashmir on international level.

### 2- Annoyance of USA from Pakistan and its tilt toward India

Pakistan's foreign policy is failed in case of achieving/gaining the confidence of USA. USA is now supporting India economically and strategically. Thus is becoming the hegemon in the region and becoming a threat for Pakistan.



3- Escalated tension with Iran due to Iran attack in Pakistan's territory

The drawback of weak diplomacy in foreign affairs context is manifested through the Iran attack in Balochistan on Jaesh-Idle militants places. It shows the failure of Pakistan's foreign policy to remain in contact with neighbors on the presence of militants in their respective countries. As Iran claimed that it informed Pakistan's official several times but they did not take any action.

4- Deteriorated relations with Afghanistan on the issue of Afghan refugees deputation and question of TIP

Pakistan has deported illegal Afghan Taliban which escalate the situation between both. Another weak foreign policy <sup>point is</sup> cannot ~~can~~ persuade Afghan Taliban to take actions against TIP in Afghanistan



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5 CPEC <sup>is facing</sup> ~~is~~ the challenges of security

Security challenges hinder the progress of CPEC. Along with security challenges, the agreements of China and Pakistan was disclose in front of ~~China~~ IMF without the consent of China. It annoyed China.

## Hurdles in an Effective Foreign Policy in Internal Arena

1- Economic instability which leads to political interdependence on aids and loans

Pakistan's prevailing economic instability and economic crisis compelled consecutive governments to become overdependent on the foreign aid and loans. The total ~~public~~ <sup>External</sup> sector debt of Pakistan is 262 billion dollars (State Bank of Pakistan). The loan is mainly from IMF and world



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Bank. This over-dependency hinders Pakistan independent foreign policy formulation.

2- Prevailing political instability impede the strong stance on foreign affairs

The strong and firm stance of Pakistan is not possible in the dwindling situation in political landscape. The stance of the consecutive governments have differences from each other.

The ongoing political crisis after April 2022 lead a country toward a chaos.

3- lack of powers in hands of foreign ministry

Major decision in Pakistan's foreign policy is taking by the Prime Minister. So, the sufficient powers has not given to the ministry related to foreign affairs.



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## 4- Conspiracies of India against Pakistan to defame it and isolate it

India tries best to isolate Pakistan in the world and in the region. It has a propaganda to defame Pakistan. As the Disinfo Lab in Europe operating by India in order to portray the negative image of the country. The negative propaganda is in order to spread misleading information that Pakistan is a terrorist country, supporting terrorist and threat for the world.

## Recommendation For Effective Foreign Policy in Pakistan

### 1- Political stability in a country

Political stability through free and fair election with effective majority party government can pull Pakistan out of the ongoing crisis. Political stability will assist in economic stability. Consequently,



Pakistan's dependence on foreign aid will decrease sufficiently.

- 2- Active foreign ministry with full powers and efficient members

The active foreign ministry will help to analyze the situation and act accordingly. It will facilitate in formation of proactive strategies regarding the emerging threats to foreign policy and sovereignty of Pakistan.

- 3- Increasing trade and economic cooperation will decrease the rivalry in neighbors

It will facilitate economic development and prevail the goodwill among neighbors. So, the threat from neighboring borders will decrease.

- 4- Effective response to the Indian propaganda

The Indian propaganda should counter through proactive



steps. Should aware of the Indian strategies and respond effectively. It will protect Pakistan from defamation and deterioration of image in international arena.

## Conclusion

Foreign policy of Pakistan is facing severe crises which is manifested in the failure of foreign policy. Although there are several hurdles in front of Pakistan's foreign policy but the effective measures will bring hope for the reforms in foreign policy related matters.

## Question No. 08

Political instability leads to socio-economic crisis

Political instability in a country leads to socio-economic crisis. The chaos on the

political horizon discourage foreign investors in a country. Because the security and law and order situation is badly affected. It leads to unemployment, poverty, inflation, social unrest, affect education, <sup>affect</sup> health and negative implications on middle. Persistent measures such as free and fair elections, charter of economy formulation, ~~at~~ loyalty to constitution and economic development (agricultural and industrial) will lead a country toward prosperity.

**How political instability leads to Socio-economic crisis?**

- 1- Decline in foreign investments in a country.

Prevailing economic crisis is the gift of ongoing political instability. Foreign investors become discouraged and do not take interest in investments.



The vote of no confidence was followed by the closure of the foreign brands in Pakistan. Many of the firms were closed and operated in limited areas. The investments boost the economic progress which is not possible in the presence of ~~economic~~ political instability.

## 2. Surge in unemployment in a country

After the dethroning of the former prime Minister and the subsequent political chaos led to the closure of industries. According to the Press Conference of all traders Association, almost 7 lac employed workers lose their jobs. The industries are either closing or downsizing their employees.

## 3. Hike in inflation all over the country Political instability lead to <sup>the</sup> highest



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inflation of the history. According to State Bank of Pakistan, in December 2022, Pakistan saw the highest inflation of 36.4%. In 2023, inflation was recorded 29.4%. The public became the victim of increased inflation. The buying capacity of the consumers became decrease.

#### 4- Rise in poverty due to political instability

Poverty is on surge due to the increased inflation and unemployment. Offered by political instability. According to government official former finance advisor and Minister, Hafeez Pasha poverty in Pakistan is 37%. In Pakistan 24% of the public lives life <sup>below</sup> ~~under~~ the poverty line.

#### 5- Increased crimes in society

The cases of the theft and robbery increased with political instability. As the law and order situation in a country deteriorated. It encourage the criminals to do their



Their activities. Even in the rural areas of Islamabad the theft and robbery saw the surge.

#### 6. Social unrest in a country

The prevailing political instability caused intolerance and violence among masses. The social unrest is manifested in the form of protests against the increased prices of the electricity. People in the protests torn and burn the electricity bills.

#### 7. Affect Education <sup>and health</sup> in the country especially lower and middle class

The health and education is already in a deteriorated situation which is further worsen in the presence of political instability. The government has no funds and attention toward public developmental projects. The condition of the government hospitals and



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Schools are in the deteriorated situation. All these added further in the miseries of the <sup>lower</sup> middle and lower class.

## Recommendation for the restoration of Political stability in a country

### 1- Free and fair elections in a country

In order to pull Pakistan out of political crisis, free and fair election is the need of the hour. Each and every citizen should give the right to vote and contribute in the election of their representatives.

### 2- Consensus among political parties in order to sign charter of democracy

The 2006 charter of democracy signed between PMLN and PPP should re-defined. All major political parties should include in



the charter. It will stable democracy and subsequently political stability in a country.

### 3- Loyalty to the constitution of Pakistan

Loyalty to the Pakistan constitution will bring the situation into the way of betterment. Loyalty and abide by the rules and regulation will help to mitigate the ongoing political crisis in a country.

### 4- Focus on the industrial development in order to prevent poor workers from job loss

Government should focus on the industrial development in order to work for the development of poor segment of society.

Each sector of a country should be consider important and made resilient in order to withstand the shocks of political crisis.



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5- Say no to inherited politics or the dynastic culture of the politics should prohibited

The true representation of the public aspiration is hindered due to political dynastic culture. The senior and experienced politicians are not allowed to lead a country. On the other hand less experienced offspring of political party owners are encouraged to lead a nation.

6- The retirement age of the politician should be fixed

There should be amendment in constitution, in order to fix the age of the politicians. It would accelerate the young and energized leadership in all domains of life. The true representation of the public would be possible.

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## 7- Normalisation and stabilisation of the civil military relations.

The civil military relations normalisation can bring hope toward political stability. The constitution should defined the role of all stake holders and the government should enforced them effectively. The deteriorated relations bring social unrest and chaos in society.

### Conclusion

Political instability caused socio-economic challenges in a country. It brings the nation to the abyss of the problems. It increased poverty, inflation, crimes, deteriorated education and discourage foreign investments. Some persistent measures would be helpful in bringing political stability and the political landscape of the country would be better.