

# Current - Affairs

## Part - II

### — (Question = 4) —

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

#### Introduction:-

Belt and road initiative project of china launched in 2013, the biggest infrastructural project of the 21<sup>st</sup> century comprising upon six

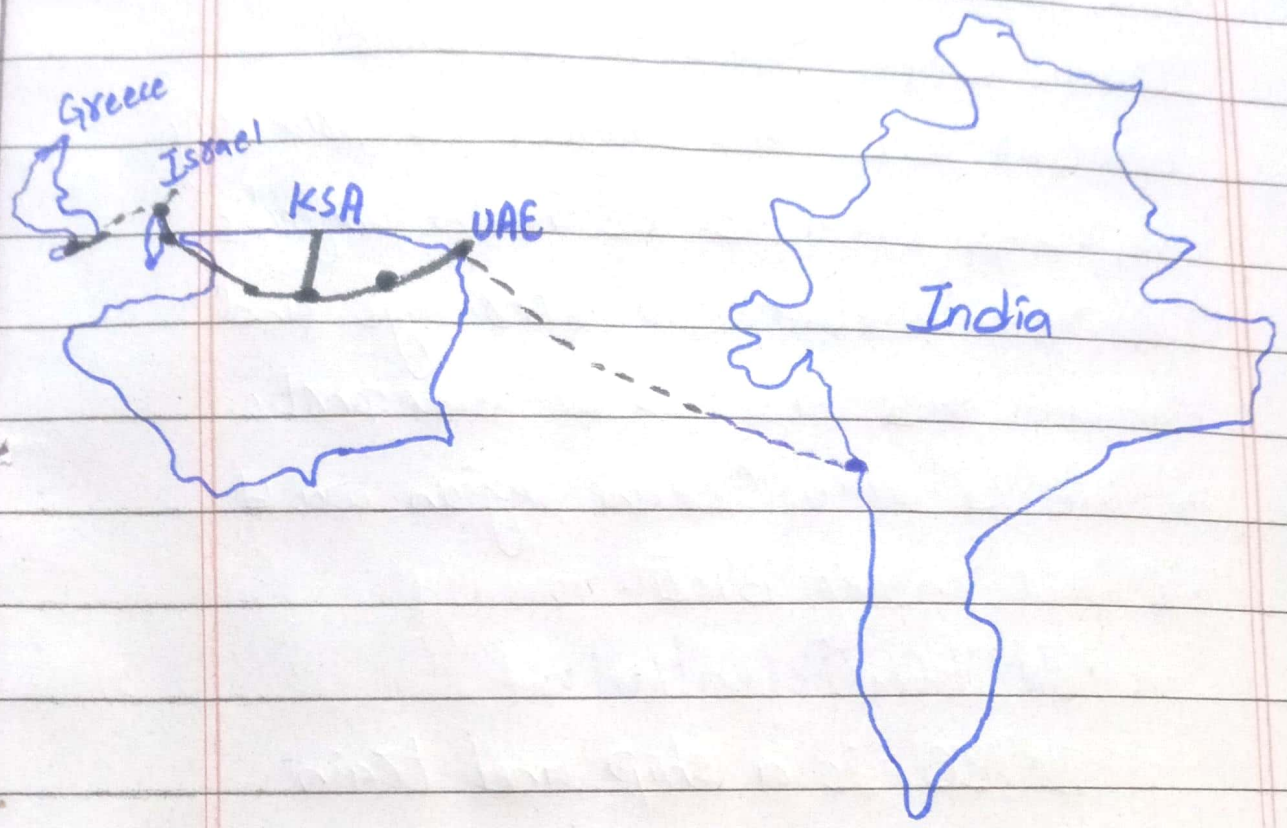


corridors that would connect different parts of Asia on one hand and Asia and Europe on the other. These corridors would comprise upon investments in transport, energy, industrial and agricultural sectors on the other hand.

### India - Middle East Europe Corridor:-

IMEC is Saudi Arabia led project supported by United States, India, and Europe. It is primarily a transportation project that would Asia with Europe. Both the projects are being compared by the majority of International Geo-Economics and Geo-political scientists. Some even project IMEC is a competitive project to BRI.





----- Sea Route      \_\_\_\_\_ Rail Road

## Potential of BRI Vs IMEC :-

(i) BRI Vs IMEC investment in the transportation Sector :-

Both the projects are primarily transport based projects. BRI is the project of China that comprises upon 6 corridors like China Central

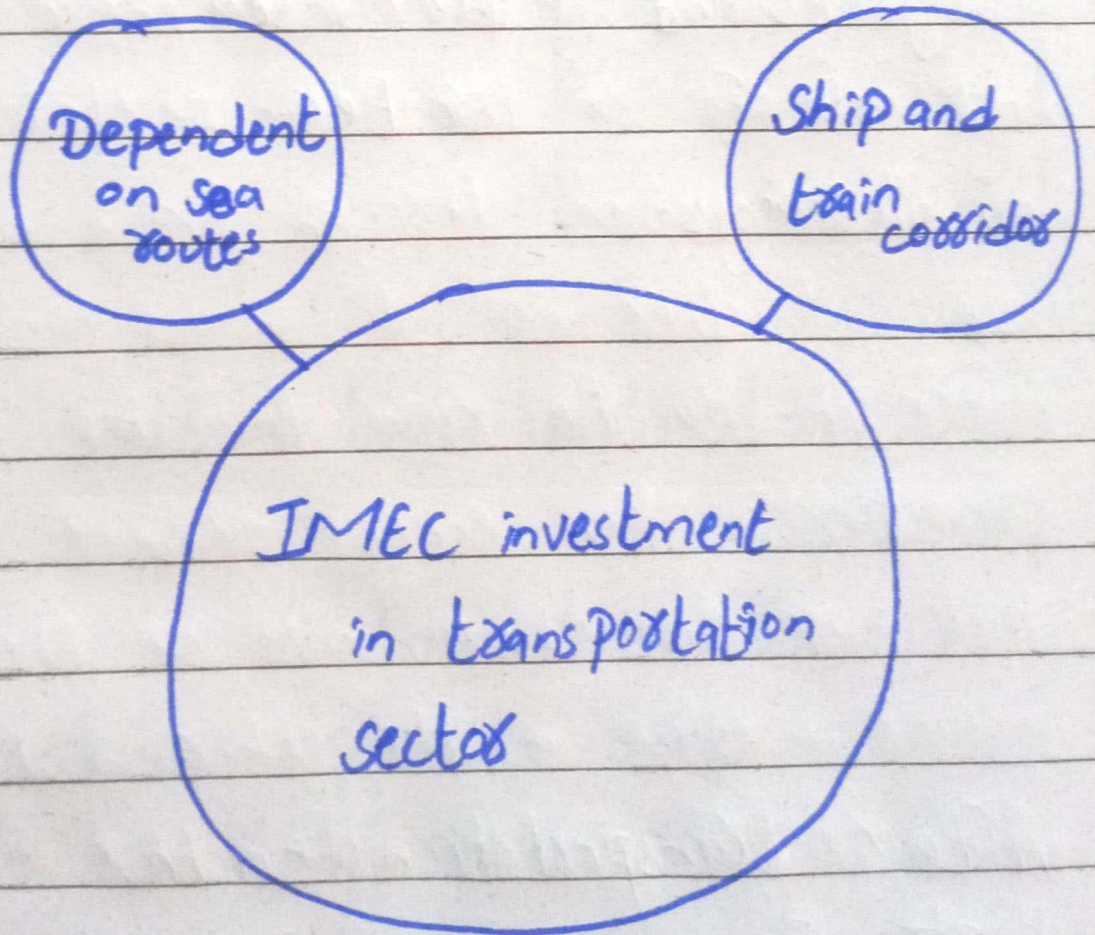
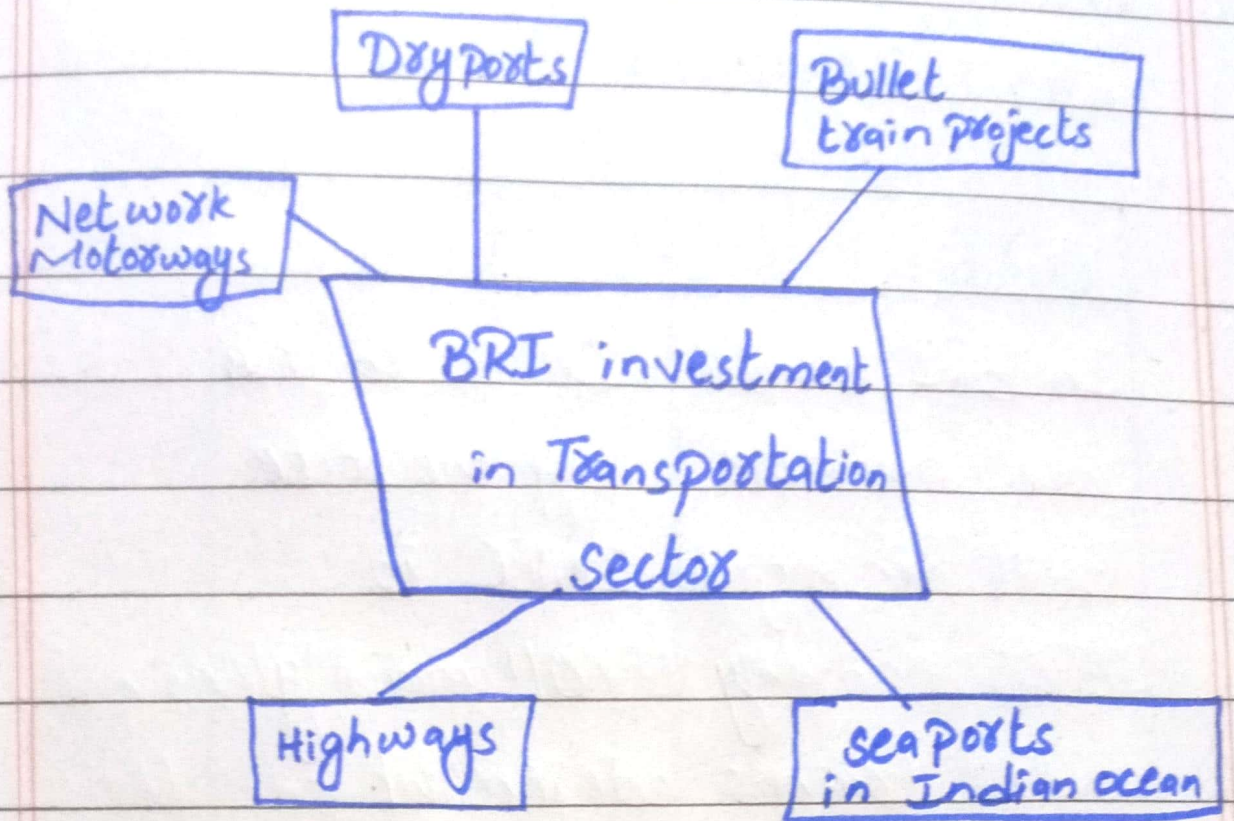


Asia Russia Europe, China Asia  
Iran, China Pakistan Economic  
corridor etc. This project is primarily  
comprising upon Bullet Train projects  
Dryports, Network Motorways and  
Highways and a series of sea ports  
in the Indian Ocean region would  
be built under BRI.

### • IMEC Potential :-

IMEC is a ship and train  
corridor where the dependency on  
the traditional sea route is maximum.  
From India to UAE, it would be  
the same sea route and from  
Israel to Eastern Europe specially  
Greece in the Mediterranean sea  
would be the same sea route.  
The major focus is on bullet train  
project from UAE - Saudi Arabia -  
Jordan - Israel.







## Differences between BRI and IMEC :-

BRI	IMEC
In BRI, 6 routes are available	IMEC comprises only one route.
Bullet Train projects	IMEC is
BRI is mainly bullet train projects and networks of motorways.	still mainly dependent on the old sea routes.

## BRI, Potential and Future prospect :-

(i) Investment in

the energy sector :-

After transportation sector

BRI focuses on investing in the energy sector. There is an increasing investment in the



hydrocarbons of 'Russia, Central Asian Republics, Iran, and Middle-East. Both in exploration and pipeline sector. This project also focuses on clean energy sector like solar, wind, hydal and even civil nuclear projects. Investment in the hydrocarbon sector is to meet the demand of china while investment in clean energy is to promote de-carbonization effort and find new markets for the solar and wind industry of china.

### **(ii)-BRI investment in Agriculture:-**

One of the main objectives of BRI is promoting the agriculture productivity of the neighbours of china primarily Central Asia, Russia, South Asia, and ASEAN countries in order to meet the increasing demand of china on one hand and the world on other.



# IMEC Potential

## and Future Perspectives

### (i) Investment in the energy sector (IMEC):-

IMEC on the other hand does not mainly focuses on investing in the hydrocarbon sector, but there is more focus on the transportation of hydrocarbons through train and ships. Furthermore, it would focus more on climate separation by investing in clean energy projects but here to china would be the major investor in the solar and wind projects across the Middle-East.



### (ii) IMEC investment in the Agriculture sector :-

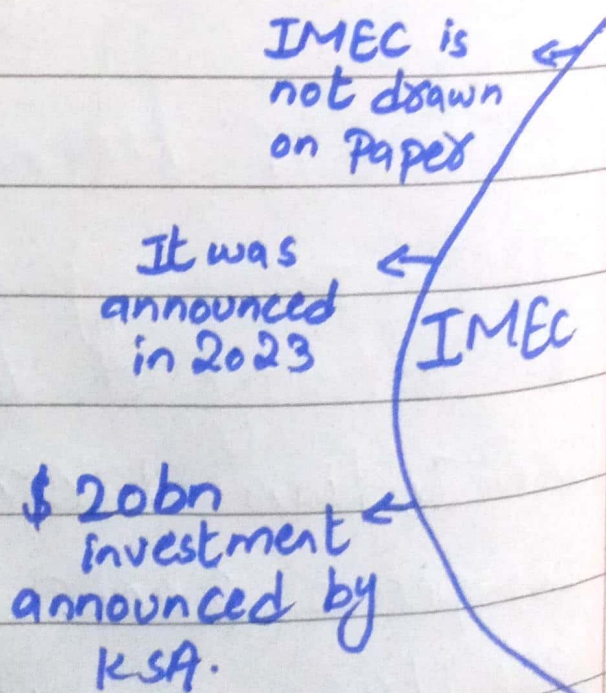
One of the main objectives of IMEC is ship and train corridor. Therefore, it does not have any major focus on investing in the agriculture whereas India itself is focusing on enhancing its agriculture capacity, Europe has already enhanced its productivity, Middle East is mostly desert area not friendly for agriculturalisation.

## Critical Analysis of BRI and IMEC :-

The Indian American and Central Europeans Geo-political scientists are trying to project IMEC as a competitor of BRI. They think that IMEC would potentially



challenged BRI in the days to come to understand that scientists need to look at certain facts.





## Conclusion:-

BRI's potential and future prospects are broader than IMEC. Moreover, BRI has completed some of its part, but IMEC is newly born project. Although they both focus on infrastructure, but BRI has various dimensions. However, the world and especially the developing countries can take benefits from these kind of projects.

---