

QUESTION NO:2

INTRODUCTION:

China started its economic coordination and integration back in 2013. The major objective of BRI was regional connectivity and financial integration. The one road one belt initiative aimed to invest in more than 150 states and international organizations. The Western World in collaboration with KSA announced another initiative India-Middle-East Economic corridor in a move to counter China's growing integration and success of BRI. Though the level of investment in IMEC is far less than BRI, IMEC is in its phase of MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) while BRI celebrated its decade long journey last year. The future of BRI is bright and IMEC would serve to enhance economic cooperation but the impression of overcoming BRI's influence is not near.

A- BRI AND IMEC : A Brief

Overview:

BRI launched by China as a move to integrate financially in different countries of the world.

The project mainly focused on improving infrastructure and regional connectivity to increase trade and economic

cooperation. China emerged as

competitor of US as an emerging economic giant. Since then efforts

are being made to counter China's growing influence in order to preserve

US hegemony. In the G-20 Summit

held in 2023, launch of another

economic corridor was announced by

the members. IMEC focuses on

connecting India to middle

east and Europe. The corridor

will help increase economic

cooperation within the participating

economies.

B. BRI VS IMEC : A Comparison:

1. INITIATION AND PROGRESS OF THE TWO CORRIDORS:

BRI was launched in 2013 with CPEC as its flagship program. In 2023 China celebrated decade long success of BRI.

The world witnessed that the projects launched under BRI are actively progressing. While IMEC has been launched recently in 2023. The Agreement of IMEC is in the MoU stage, primarily indicating that the initiative is in its preliminary planning stage. The progress and speed will be analysed once the work on the project officially starts.

2. SCALE OF INVESTMENT:

Another stark difference between the two projects lies

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in their scale of investments. BRI has an estimated value of around US \$8 trillion to be used in different projects in different parts of the globe. While the scale of investment of IMEC is much smaller in comparison to BRI. The investments of IMEC are projected to be smaller, possibly a few billion dollars only.

3- THE DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the two initiatives differ in their scope of project investments. BRI largely focuses on connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people to people interaction. While the objective of IMEC is mainly economic development. IMEC aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration.

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4. THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION TARGETS OF THE TWO INITIATIVES:

BRI largely focused on the involvement of developing economies. The investment in these states will help both sides as the developing economies are in dire need of investments. While the initiative of IMEC largely involved developed and rich economies. The involvement of US, middle east especially KSA points towards inclusion of established economies only. BRI spans to include around 120 states around the globe primarily the struggling economies while IMEC is planned to cover around 20 countries mainly in middle east and Europe, the developed and established economies.

5- THE FOCUS ON TRANSPORTATION

MODES:

BRI has diverse network of its projects including land and sea routes. The development of ports and land routes. It is estimated that 70% of BRI network focuses on land based routes. On the other hand IMEC mainly emphasizes sea transportation, including shipping lanes, rail and road networks.

6- THE SCOPE OF PROJECTS :

BRI includes wide range of products ranging from the infrastructure to energy, agriculture and formation of special economic zones. While the scope of the projects envisioned in BRI is limited as they mainly focus shipping lanes and rail and networks.

7- THE DIFFERENCE OF DIRECTIONALITY:

BRI has multidimensional and multi-directional scope of its projects - BRI focuses connecting China, with Asia, Europe, Africa and America - same way connecting all these to China. But IMEC is primarily uni-directional connecting India to Europe and middle East.

C. FUTURE OF BRI :

The future of BRI is quite bright based on the progress of its decade long work initiatives. The progress in the first ^{phase} is much satisfactory and points towards the bright future. Moreover the launch of second phase and the initiatives and goals set are optimistic and the fulfilment of these projects envisioned in the second phase will change the dynamics of the world with China as

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the major competitor of US.
The perception being built that
China's BRI is similar to East
India Company needs to be addressed
in order to secure the future of
BRI.

D. FUTURE OF IMEC:

The financial viability is
enhanced by the wealth of
participating countries. The robust
involvement of private sector can
expedite the completion of project.
However IMEC faces some challenges.
Complex nature of coordination
among the competing countries
is a hurdle. The ongoing
disturbance in middle east region
may challenge the implementation
of IMEC. The completion of
IMEC presents economic
opportunities for investment and
cooperation for developing

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Countries like Pakistan.

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded from the comparison and contrast of IMEC and BRI that the scope of the projects, is limited in IMEC. Moreover the launch of BRI encompasses more than 120 countries and International actors while IMEC has very limited investment and scope. Though the future of BRI is evident and secure the completion of IMEC is yet to happen but it will provide immense investment opportunities for the developing world.

QUESTION NO: 4:-

INTRODUCTION:

Middle-eastern region of the globe has been unstable since decades marked by the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and other civil wars and proxy war in the region. The onset of Israel's war on Gaza after October 7 attacks continues even after hundred days. The end is still not in sight. Moreover due to the involvement of other actors including US, the conflict is feared to escalate further into the region. If US involves in the war, Russia will definitely seize the opportunity and support its partners. The proxies of Iran often encounter skirmishes in Yemen and Syria further adding upto the grievance of the issue.

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A. ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR: A BRIEF OVERVIEW.

Hamas attacked Israel surprising their intelligence agency as a result of their continued intervention and occupation of Gaza. Israel retaliated by launching full-scale war on Gaza the very next day. US and the West, categorically support Israel as they claim it to be her right of self-defence. But in the pursuit of self-defence the unprecedented targeting of civilian population and even hospitals raises concern over the role of International organizations like UN and the authenticity of International Humanitarian Law.

B. THE CHANCES OF EXPANSION OF WAR INTO THE WHOLE REGION:

The chances that the war will expand to the whole region

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are high due to the following reasons.

1. THE DEADLY SILENCE AND INACTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

The deadly silence of International humanitarian organizations and biased media coverage of the ongoing war may lead to escalation of war. As the biased and unfair reporting facilitates and encourages Israel to continue its unjustified war.

2. THE BIASED INTERPRETATION OF I-LAW: ISRAEL VS RUSSIA:

The biased interpretation and application of International Law on the same situations in Ukraine and Gaza aggravates the gravity of situation. The situation of Gaza is even worse as it has been besieged for more than a decade and they face illegal occupation from last 76 years.

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3. NO SIGNS OF DE-ESCALATION:

The support of US and Western states to Israel and the continuation of unprecedented killings of unarmed civilians points that the fear of escalation is real. There is no sign of deescalation yet and 25000 people have been killed.

4. THE UNVEILING OF WESTERN HYPOCRISY:

The unveiling of Western hypocrisy in perceiving the war on Ukraine and Gaza as completely different indicates that the people left alone and Israel will continue to escalate the issue.

5- THE KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER IN BEIRUT:

The exercise of carrying drone attacks in neighbors like Lebanon and Syria points towards fear of the escalation into the region. The killing of Hamas Leader Saleh Arouri adds to the fear of escalation of the war in the region.

6- THE RISING TENSIONS IN RED SEA:

The attack on ships passing through red sea abetting the killings of civilians in Gaza, by the Houthis may lead to further escalation. US and UK retaliated by sending warships and carrying drone strikes.

7- THE INVOLVEMENT OF PROXIES OF IRAN: INSTIGATED BY ISRAEL:

The proxies of Iran in the region namely Hizbullah and Houthis may retaliate to the instigation by drone strikes carried by Israel may escalate the war into the whole region.

IMPACT ON GLOBAL POWER POLITICS:

1- US POSITION IN MIDDLE EAST:

The US position in middle east will be badly hurt owing to being accomplice in the war crimes. This time US supported Israel on the forefront and this will hurt US position in the region.

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2- THE INFLUENCE AND OPPURTUNITY FOR RUSSIA :

Russia on the other hand will also intervene in the region if the war escalates. Moreover as the focus of US is on Israel's war, Russia has strengthened its attacks on Ukraine and the efforts to annex its parts are on the rise to gain maximum benefit.

3- THE IMPACT ON CHINA :

China has not yet condemned the attack of Hamas on October 7. China has adopted the policy of wait and watch for response. Moreover China has shifted its focus on annexing Taiwan. As US is busy in Israel, China may take this golden opportunity to meet its vested interests and apply One China two system approach on Taiwan too.

4- IMPACT ON EGYPT:

Egypt will have a larger influx of refugees as the war escalates. Though Abdel Fattah El-Sisi stressed on the Palestinians to remain their land no matter what the situation. But due to upcoming elections in a political move Egypt may allow refugees.

5- IMPACT ON ISRAEL-KSA NORMALIZATION:

The wave of normalization continued and Israel-KSA normalization was on the table when the war began. The US and Israel's objective to increase influence of Israel in the region will remain a dream now.

6- IMPACT ON ISRAEL'S EFFORT TO ISOLATE IRAN:

Israel's major focus is to isolate Iran in the International arena and use the tension among KSA-Iran for its own vested interests. But the ongoing war strengthened the KSA-Iran bond and ^{with} hurt Israel in the long run.

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that Israel's war on Gaza shows no signs of de-escalation. Further, the drone strikes of Israel on three of its neighbors and if they retaliate the war will escalate into the whole region. The role of US will also play significant role in ceasefire or further escalation. The war has impacted the global power politics as the position of Israel in the region will be weakened. The normalization of KSA-Iran will further integrate Iran into the region and the dream of isolating Iran will not become a reality. The world needs to take immediate steps and play their role in halting further escalation and ceasefire between the two states.

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QUESTION NO: 5:-

INTRODUCTION:

For the success of any organization major pre-requisites included political cooperation, economic integration, enhancement of trade and investment. Moreover cultural exchange and pursuance of developmental initiatives further strengthen an organization. BRICS has a bright future as the scope and level of integration is not just limited to economy. In spite of some hurdles, as BRICS involves cooperation in diverse fields and the level of interaction also has different platforms, this ensures the success of organizations in general and BRICS in particular.

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A- FACTORS ENABLING SUCCESS OF AN ORGANIZATION:

Multiple engagements and interactions within the members of an organization determine the success of an organization - Some of the significant factors are listed below.

1- POLITICAL COOPERATION:

The political cooperation and consensus between member states promotes the success of an organization. The different level of cooperation ensure the success.

2- ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:

The economic integration among the member states ensures the success as the member states economy is at stake.

3- ENHANCING TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

Provision of multiple trade and investment opportunities provides

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multiple opportunities for engagement and assures dependency and cooperation.

4- IMPROVING STRUCTURE WITH TIME:

Improving and enhancing the structure of organization with time significantly improves cooperation.

5- DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES:

The provision and adoption of developmental initiatives also strengthens the bond between member states ensures the success.

6- LEVELS AND MODE OF COMMUNICATION:

The more the levels of communication and modes, the better the interaction and success.

7- EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND TREATMENT OF MEMBERS:

The equal treatment and contribution of member states instead of domination by a single party ensures the success of an organization.

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B- THE ASSESSMENT BRICS MODEL OF ORGANIZATION : THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF BRICS :-

1- THE ENHANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF STRUCTURE :

BRICS started with BRIC and South Africa was added later in the organization - After sometime the formation of New Development Bank (NDB) points towards structural improvement and strengthened the organization providing formal structure to the organization -

2- OPPURTUNITIES OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT:

The provision of trade and investment opportunities particularly within South highlights the focus of organization on the improvement of Global South - The opportunities of trade and investment build strong relationship between the member states.

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3- ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION:

The consensus on political and economic cooperation further strengthens the bond between member states. Informal dialogue in BRICS supplement formal meetings, fostering trust and collaboration of its member states.

4- PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:

The provision of development initiatives including the South-South cooperation primarily focusing Africa strengthens the foundation of BRICS.

5- CULTURAL EXCHANGE AMONG THE MEMBER STATES:

The enhancement of cultural exchange and people to people interaction engages the member states in yet another front. This fosters cooperation and trust among states.

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6- REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER STATES : PROCESS OF CONSENSUS BUILDING :-

The equal representation of member states and their say in developing consensus over an issue eases cooperation - BRICS lacks domination and hegemony of any single state thereby promotes the strong foundation of BRICS.

7- MULTILATERAL APPROACH:-

The multilateral approach of BRICS and involvement of South economies further enhances cooperation among the member states. The multilateral approach of engagement and participation enhances success chance of BRICS.

8- GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE :

The involved countries in BRICS seek to balance the influence of traditional global powers and reshape international relations to reflect their interests and priorities.

CONCLUSION:

9- INCLUSION OF GLOBAL SOUTH ONLY : FOCUSING ON IMPROVEMENT:

The inclusion of Global South economies renders the platform for the voice of these economies and South-South cooperation improves their standing.

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that the success of an organization is based upon the common interests and ideology. The struggle for some common goals helps collaboration among states. Moreover the cooperation and engagement within different fronts ensures the strengthening of organizations like BRICS. The involvement of South in order to provide alternative platform than the traditional power set, further strengthen BRICS as an organization.

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QUESTION NO : 8 :-

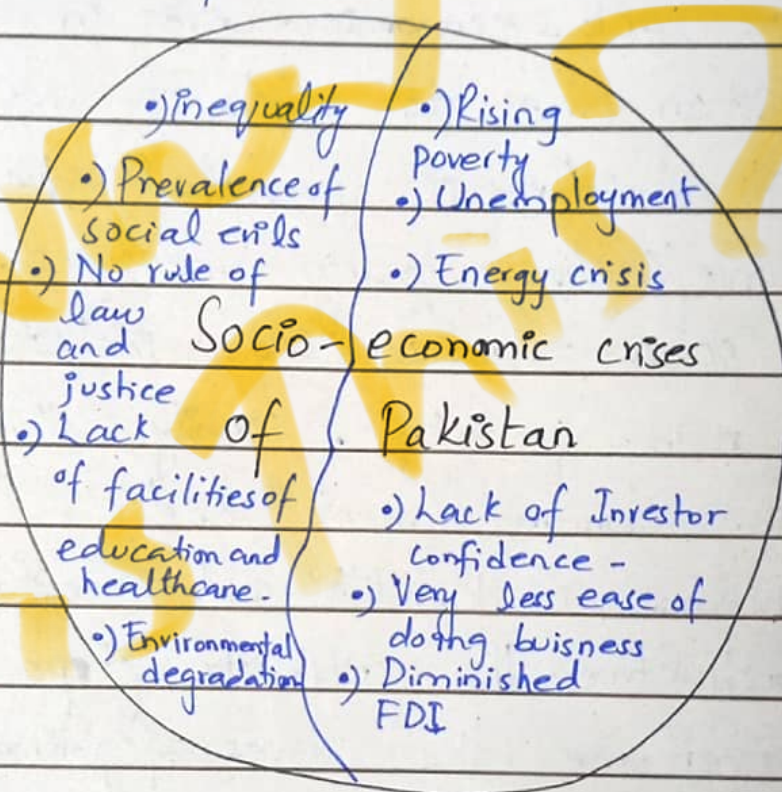
INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan face multiple challenges primarily due to the persistent political instability - The socio-economic crises in Pakistan has its roots in the political turmoil prevalent due to ineffective policy measures. The socio-economic crisis includes the rising poverty, security challenges, rising unemployment and problems in health and education infrastructure - The effective steps to overcome the issues of governance, establishment of stable government and ruling out the intervention of undemocratic forces in political culture of Pakistan will bring socio-economic prosperity and lead Pakistan towards progress.

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A- THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISIS OF PAKISTAN :

The socioeconomic crises in Pakistan primarily includes the economic disparity leading to social problems-



B- POLITICAL INSTABILITY : ROAD TOWARDS ~~THE~~ SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISES :

1- LACK OF CONTINUATION OF POLICIES:

The abrupt and robust change of governments leads to discontinued

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policies - This leads to lack of investor confidence - Political instability leads to economic instability.

2- LACK OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY:

The persistent instability leads to the lack of public service delivery - The governments are not allowed to rule for designated time and the change of government introduces new policies and as a result public service delivery is highly affected and leads to the rise of social evils.

3- MISTRUST AMONG INVESTORS:

The persistent political instability and foreign interventions develops mistrust among investors. They start pulling out their investments and investments where their security is guaranteed. The political instability discourages investments.

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4- OPPURTUNITY FOR RIVALS TO FUEL UNREST :

The political instability leads to mistrust among public. The opportunity maybe used by rivals to exploit the vulnerable population and fuel unrest further agravating the situation.

5- LACK OF TRUST BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTES :

The international financial institutes show their lack of trust and pressurize the stakeholder to hold elections. The institutions need gurantte that the state has ability to return their loan.

6- REDUCTION IN FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT :

The FDI is reduced as the investors find the environment insecure for investment. They eye profit which is highly mistked in politically unstable countries where protests are common.

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7- AFFECT ON DIPLOMATIC DEALINGS :

The diplomatic standing of a politically unstable state are highly affected. The confidence while dealing with partners is lost and the friendly nations also want to interact with stable states only -

8- RISE OF INSURGENCIES :

The fear of escalation and rising insurgencies doubles during political instability - As the stakeholders are busy manouvering politics, insurgent seize opportunity and exert their influence -

9- REDUCTION IN REMITTANCES :

The remittances are also reduced as the mistrust and fear of losing the money rises among the overseas Pakistanis. This leads to fluctuation in remittances and affects Pakistan's economy -

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10- BRAIN DRAIN : SKILLED YOUTH LEAVES PAKISTAN :-

The fear of persistent political instability with no cure in sight forces the skilled and educated youth look for safe options abroad - huge rise in brain drain during the year 2022-23 was observed due to political instability.

11- INCULCATION OF FEELING OF DISTRUST IN PUBLIC :

Due to the lack of public service delivery and repetition of same political discourse, distrust among the public rises adding upto the socio-economic crises of Pakistan.

12- DE-MORALIZATION OF PUBLIC :

The public feels demoralized as their say has no impact on the political culture. The issue is of consistency. Consistent political culture demoralizes the statesmen.

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CONCLUSION:

C- POLICY MEASURES TO EVADE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRISES:

1. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY:

The installation of democratic government with the vote of public will ensure the move towards political stability - This will bring confidence and economic prosperity -

2. ENHANCED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

The enhanced participation of citizens in the inculcation of the democratic government will ensure prosperity and growth -

3. BUILDING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE:

The political stability will assure the confidence of investors and lead to increased FDI and revenue -

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4- CONTINUATION OF POLICIES:

The stable government will ensure the continuation of policies ensuring economic prosperity and stability-

5- Establishing rule of law and justice.

6- Empowering judiciary and ensuring institutional harmony-

CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded from the discussion that political instability is the root cause of all socio-economic issues of Pakistan. Effective policy measures ensuring citizen participation and restoration of democratic governance limiting the role of undemocratic forces will bring economic prosperity and progress of Pakistan.