

## Part II

Q4

KSA - Iran Reapproachment & its far-reaching implications.

Ans

### Introduction:

Saudi Arabia and Iran are the major actors in the Middle East. Their long-standing rivalry has fanned the flames of conflict and chaos in the region. Although both sides have been arch-foes for a long-time, the execution of Shia clergy, namely Nimr al-Nimr, turned the situation from bad to worse. In these chaotic times, the rapprochement between two giants of the Middle East is a welcome development. The rapprochement is going to have a positive impacts on conflicts such as Syria crisis, Yemen crisis and Iraq. Moreover, the recent development in Saudi-Iran relationship would bring multiple positive implications in Pakistan as well. Before discussing the positive developments or changes of the rapprochement, let us take a brief view of the rapprochement.

## 2. Overview of Saudi-Iran Reapproachment

The rapprochement was brokered by China on 10 March, 2023. High officials of Riyadh and Tehran met in Beijing couple of times and then agreed to restore their diplomatic ties. Both sides agreed to open embassies in their countries within two months. Moreover, both sides gave a green light to restore their two major agreements: The general agreement in science, education and sport of 1998 and the general security agreement of 2001. There is no doubt this agreement is going to have a positive impact on regional conflict and also on Pakistan.

### (2) Positive Implications of the Reapproachment on Conflicts in the Middle East.

The rapprochement is going to defuse regional conflicts. Some of them are as follows -

#### (a) Yemen conflict

Saudi-Arabia and Iran has locked their horns in Yemen since 2015. Yemen has become the theatre

of conflict among these rival. After the rapprochement, both sides can set together and resolve their differences and grievances in Yemen and brought it to logical conclusion.

(b) Syria conflict.

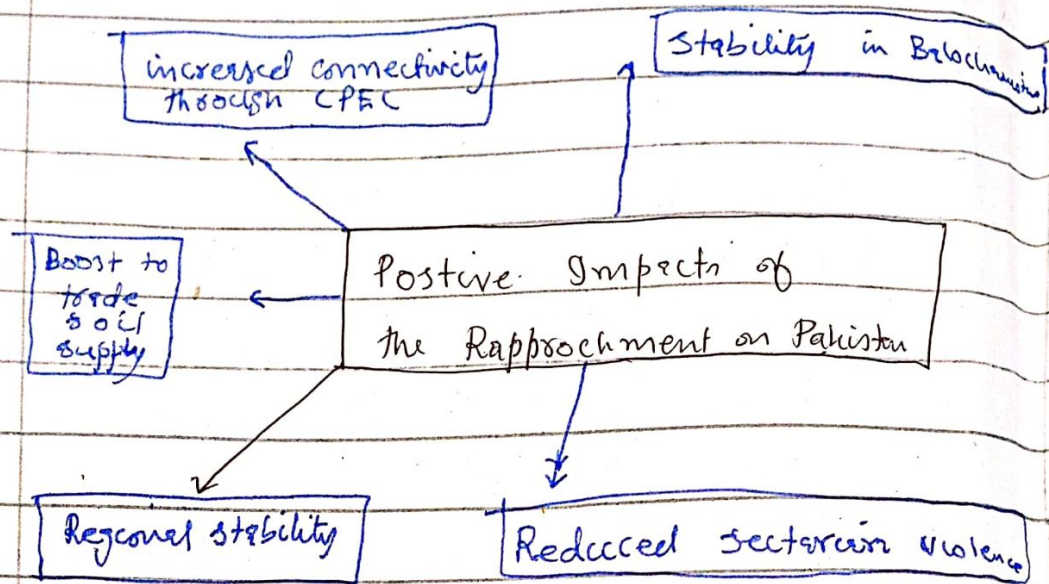
Syria has borne the brunt of Saudi-Arabia-Iran rivalry. Both sides are supporting different groups, fueling the flames of conflict. The rapprochement could defuse their intensity in Syrian war through diplomatic dialogues and meetings.

(c) Iraq: A Battle ground of Proxies:

Iraq is also the main victim of the wrath of Saudi and Iran forces. This has been a battle ground of proxy wars in the Middle East. After this agreement, proxy wars in Iraq could be reduced to a great extent.

**(3) Positive Impacts of the Rapprochement on Pakistan:**

Several positive impacts on Pakistan can be seen. Some of them are given below.



(a) Promotion of Regional stability:

One positive impact of the rapprochement is the promotion of regional stability. Pakistan's Foreign Office said, "This rapprochement is a positive development and it would bring peace and stability in the region".

(b) Reduced sectarian violence.

Another benefit for Pakistan is the reduced sectarian violence. Shia and Sunni conflict has their backs to Saudi Arabia and Iran. Owing to rapprochement, this sectarian violence could reduce manifold.

(c) Stability in Balochistan:

Balochistan has seen the rise of separatist with the help of nefarious elements in Iran and its porous border. This deal is going to reduce conflict in Balochistan and bring much-needed peace in it.

(d) Increased connectivity through CPEC.

Both sides are willing to invest in CPEC. Gwadar and Karachi could develop as sister ports through CPEC. Moreover, Saudi could invest in Special Economic zones in our country. In this way, CPEC would get its much-needed boost.

(e) Increased in Trade and oil supply.

With defusing of tensions between main players in the Middle East, Pakistan can benefit through trade and could secure procurement of oil from both oil-rich countries.

### Conclusion:

There is no denying the

(6)

fact the rapprochement is a positive development. This has potential to bring about profound positive changes in regional conflicts and it would have positive impacts on Pakistan as well in the days to come. Hope is that both sides will stick to their commitment and fulfill their promises made in this rapprochement -

Q 3

## CPEC : Successes and Failures

## Introduction:

China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of China's mega-project, BRI. CPEC has been termed as a game-changer for Pakistan because it would increase connectivity, attract more foreign direct investment, and would make Pakistan more energy sufficient and independent. Moreover, CPEC is undergoing its decade period and have achieved some milestones such as infrastructure development, energy projects and so on. However, it has also failed to deliver on many of its promises - let's take a brief view of CPEC, before discussing its successes and failures.

## Overview of CPEC and its phases:

CPEC was launched in 2015 with initial investment of \$ 48 bn. Now, the investment is reached to \$ 64 billion. The first phase of CPEC is completed which

was about energy project and infra-structure development. The second phase of CPEC has started in the recent years. Asim Saleem said, "The second phase of CPEC is about dividends to masses, industrial development and job-creation". This has to be seen in the days to come.

Map.



### Success of CPEC in Pakistan.

CPEC has achieved several milestones - some of them are



↳ follows

### Success of CPEC

① Infrastructure development

② Energy projects

③ Exclusive Economic Zone

④ Development of Gwadar port

⑤ Technological Sharing

#### (1) Infrastructure development.

The first and foremost success of CPEC is the infrastructure development. ML6 and ML2 are the glaring examples of it. Moreover, the railway lines are upgraded through it. Thus, it has increased connectivity across Pakistan and reduced travelling time.

#### ② Energy Projects.

Another main achievement of CPEC is the completion of several energy projects. Quaid Azam - solar plant, Bahawalpur energy

projects, solar energy projects and so on. This has increased energy sufficiency of Pakistan to a great extent.

### (3) Special Economic Zones:

In the second phase of CPEC, several special Economic Zones are being built. Nine special economic zones are launched in Karachi, and different regions. This projects would increase FDI and economic activities in our country.

### (4) Development of Gwadar Ports.

Development of Gwadar is crucial when it comes to success of CPEC. China has poured billions of dollars to its development.

## Failure of CPEC

In some areas, CPEC has failed to deliver on its promises. Some of these areas are given below.

### (i) Delays in projects.

China has delayed many CPEC projects because of its

network security concern and also partly because of its debt crisis at home.

Owing to that, several projects are still in pending in Pakistan.

(2) Creation of jobs: A False promise:

When CPEC was launched, it promised millions of jobs. PTI Government said that CPEC will generate 50 million jobs. But it has not happened because China is employing its own people.

(3) Failure to address the grievances of Baloch people.

CPEC authority has not taken in to consideration the aspirations of Baloch people. Thus, Baloch are against CPEC project.

### Recommendations for CPEC:

- (a) Addressing separatist movements
- (b) Security of Chinese personnel and networks.
- (c) Continuity of policies on the part of Pakistan.
- (d) Addressing corruption and other issues.

## Conclusion:

No doubt, CPEC is a game change for Pakistan as it has increased connectivity and corridors across Pakistan. CPEC has achieved some major accomplishment via energy projects and infrastructure projects. Although some failure on the part of CPEC is seen, it needs to resolve through pragmatic steps.

Q2

Ans

### Introduction:

In the recent meeting of G20 in India, all parties agreed to launch India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEEEC). Mr. Biden, President of the USA, has termed it a significant development. <sup>Moscow</sup> Some experts are of view that this project is launch to counter China's Belt and Road initiative. Both these projects have huge potential to transform the current global affairs - let us take a brief view of each project and its future prospects -

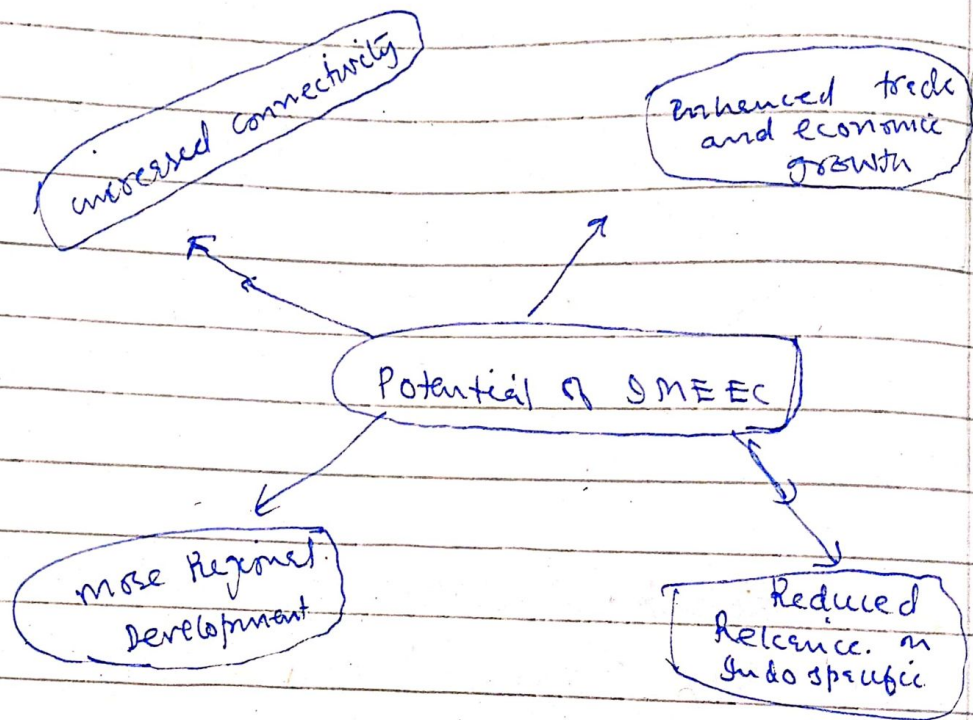
### Potential Overview of India-Middle - East Europe Economic Corridor:

IMEEEEC is launched with a motive to connecting two continents = Europe and Asia. It is consisted of two parts eastern part and the western part. The eastern part comprises of India sea route to railway route of middle East. And the western part

is going to connect to western countries -

### Potential of India - Middle East Europe Economic Corridor:

Following are some of its potential -



① Increased connectivity between two continents:

The two parts of SMEEC are going to connect two continents through sea and road routes. Emmanuel Moyo, said, "This initiative is going to increase regional connectivity"

iii two continents

(b) Enhanced trade and economic development.

IMEEC is going to increase trade opportunities across two continents and boost economic growth across the countries -

(c) Reduced reliance of west on Pacific Ocean:

IMEEC is going to be an alternative route to Pacific Ocean for West. Chinese rise threatens the trade routes of West -

### Challenges to IMEEEC and future prospects:

Several challenges confronts this initiative.

① Allocation of resources:

The main worry for IMEEEC is the allocation of resources. The West has already launched other project B3W and Green initiative, but

banks are not allocated them.

(b) Rivalry among partners:

G20 group is the blend of several countries which is not going to be easy to agree on any issue. Several countries are rival of each other.

## (2) Overview of BRI Project:

Belt and Road initiative is a mega-project of China launched in 2013. It connects three continents and was launched with investment of \$3.6 bn. It consisted two parts = Maritime silk road and Belt of 21st century. According to Foreign office of China, "BRI has connected China with more 130 countries."

## Potential of BRI projects:

Following the potential of BRI projects -

(1) Increased Economic growth:

BRI can boost regional economies to a great extent. It has



potential to open new avenues of economic growth. According to World Bank report, "BRI has potential to increase Gpc of GDP of the region".

(b) Increased connectivity:

BRI will increase connect among three continents through sea routes as well as road routes.

(c) Reduced poverty in the region.

BRI project will generate employment and reduced poverty. According to World Bank, "BRI has potential to uplift 7.6 million out of absolute poverty".

(d) Shift to renewable:

After Xi-Jinping announced in UNCTAD 76th meeting, BRI has promoted green energy projects across the world.

**Challenges and Future prospects of BRI.**

There are several challenges

to BRI, some of them are as follows.

- ① Global initiatives like B3W, IMEEC and EU-Global Gateway.
- ② Chinese debt crisis is a challenge.
- ③ West sponsored conspiracy theories -

### Conclusion:

There is no doubt that both IMEEC and BRI has the potential to transform the world. They can increase connectivity, enhance economic growth and reduced poverty. But, if the competition grows, they would not <sup>develop</sup> grow properly and achieve their true potential.

Q 8

Ans

### Introduction:

Ibn Khaldun's cyclic theory of nations (asbakh) brings true in the case of the USA. Ibn Khaldun said that three cycle = Rise (40 years), (Glory) (70 years) and decline (40 years). The USA has reached in the stage of decline. The USA's internal crisis are clear proof of that fact. Jan Bremmer, in his book "Power of crises", writes, "USA's domestic problems are major threats to its stability and its standing at international level. These are myriads of causes of USA crisis ranging from rise populism to attack on its institutions. Let us take a brief view of these crises -

### ① Causes of USA crisis:

USA crisis is a complex and multifaceted and its causes are also numerous in number. Some of these causes are given below.

(a) Rise of populist:

The main cause of USA crisis is the rise of populist. Populist like Donald Trump has exacerbated USA crisis and damaged its reputation at international level.

(b) Attack on its democratic institution:

Another cause of USA crisis is the attack on its democratic institution - January 6, 2020, is regarded Black Day for democracy because Trump follows attacks Capitol Hill on the USA.

(c) Negligence of Human rights at home:

Persecution of black and robbing pregnancy cases are some of violation of human rights under Trump era.

(d) Strategic ambiguity policies

USA has taken

strategic ambiguity policies in several

Countries like Vietnam, Palestine and  
Iraq -

(d) Failure in Afghanistan and in  
Middle East.

USA's hasty, unplanned  
withdrawal in Afghanistan has further  
fanned the flames of USA crisis  
at home -

**How USA crisis is going to  
hurt USA leadership in future,**

There is no doubt  
that USA crisis is going to  
weaken USA's position at global  
level. Some of them are  
given below -

(a) Exacerbate the transition towards  
multipolar:

USA's crisis is going  
to speed up the transition of  
world to multipolarity in the days  
to come. Because this crisis  
will present USA as a weak  
player at global level.

① Drifting away of alliance  
Trust deficit among  
alliance is the another outcome  
of USA crisis in the middle East

② Weak global institution and less  
say of USA.

USA crisis is  
going to reduce its positioning  
at global level - and institutions  
like IMF, UN and other institution  
will not be influenced by USA

③ Rise of China strengthened.

Rise of China  
is strengthened with weak  
USA role at international  
level.

## Conclusion:

There is no two  
opinion that USA is in state  
of crisis & from the world - it  
is facing several challenges  
at home ranging from

rise of populist to weak  
democratic institution. This is  
going to negatively demerise  
its global position in the  
eyes of its allies.