

Current Affairs

Question 1:

Evaluate potential and future prospects.

Introduction

The India Middle East Europe Economic corridor emerged as a history feat from the latest G20 Summit held in India. With the growing influence of China's BRI, the world sees this IMEE corridor as a competitor or a containment strategy for China. Both projects, though similar in structure, have different aims. The scale of IMEE is much smaller as compared to China's BRI. However ~~only~~ ~~time can~~ if it can achieve its success and target early on, then it can expand itself.

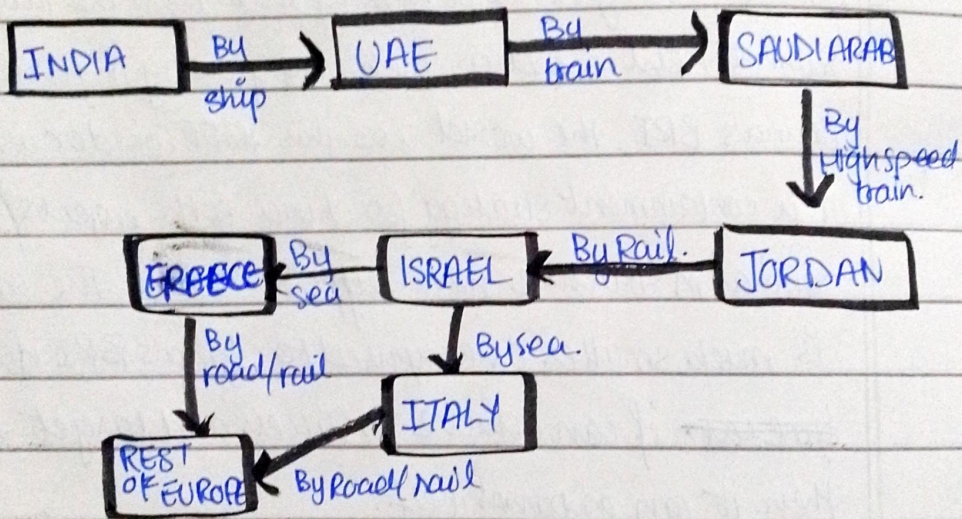
IMEE

IMEE is the latest of many effects that states took to ~~high~~ increase global trade and individual economies. India, in the past decade has managed to gain a lot of influence and has established itself as a regional power. This project is a way for India to further increase its presence in the global affairs ~~only~~ means of

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Trade Route for IMEE

The corridor, as the name suggests being begins in India and ends in Europe, Italy and Greece to be specific. The chart below illustrates how it would connect the regions.



The Potential of IMEE

IMEE has enormous potential both for the world and for India.

➤ Increasing Global Trade:

The establishment of new corridors and trade routes has always increased global trade as they provide for increase reach and drop in

transportation costs. IMF EC will do the same. It will increase both regional and global trade.

Alternative to Suez Canal

This corridor can be treated as an alternative to Suez canal for trade between Asia and Europe. As of now all the trade between Europe and Asia happens through Suez canal which puts a lot of pressure on it. Also the Ever given incident proved to the world about the need of an alternative to Suez canal.

Economic Opportunity for India:

India's economy can greatly benefit from this corridor as it will now have a bigger market to sell its products. This will bring in more investment for India, uplifting its industries and creating more jobs for the masses.

Increase India's Geopolitical Importance

It will further enhance India's prominence as a key global trade player and would greatly reshape power dynamics. India will now play a more

significant part in the global economy.

Increased Global Connectivity:

This corridor will bridge physical and logistical gaps between Asia, middle east and Europe. hence will enable better intermingling of people and better development projects such as construction of key infra structural projects.

POTENTIAL OF BRI

BRI, because of its massive reach has great potential in many sectors of global affairs

1. Geopolitical Shift and possibility of a multipolar world.

China, since the start of BRI has largely upgraded itself in away that it now is a major trade partner of most states. China has increased its importance in the eyes of the world and now has eyes on the spot of a global power. BRI has benefited and will continue to benefit china in terms of economy

2. Increased Trade & Investment

Since the beginning of BRI it had a total of \$4bn in investment in other countries around the globe and as the time passes this figure is likely to increase along with trade as more countries enter the fold of BRI.

3. Opportunity for Global South

This will greatly impact the developing countries because BRI gives them with a way to trade with other BRI members and it will also create more job opportunities for everyone. It will also lessen trade costs and transit barriers.

4. A Good Future for Everyone Involved.

Over 140 countries have signed BRI agreements with China and China will be looking to increase the overall global economy and provide opportunities to everyone... states have less risk of Chinese takeover.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF BRI AND IMEE EC

The future is bright for both BRI and IMEE because of their globalized trade. The prospects are discussed under

Potential for Sustainability

As both compete for trade and the focus shifts towards green energy this will create healthy competition with both China and India shifting and adopting green policies for trade as both countries are inclined to sustainability. Traditional trade corridors are inefficient and resource consuming so they can fill this gap.

Shifting away from Oil based economy.

As the middle east and Saudi Arab shifts away from oil based economy for **vision 2030**, they will look to trade and invest elsewhere and hence IIMEC's link to Saudi is key to its success.

Inclusion of More countries

While IIMEC only has a limited number of countries involved right now it has potential for more inclusion and so more countries can benefit from it.

Strategic Significance

Both IMEC and BRI have great strategic significance. While BRI is considered to be of an anti USA Bloc, IMEC is more pro west. This was visible when Italy left BRI this year and joined IMEC. So the strategic factors play a key role.

INDIA CHINA RIVALRY &

THE FUTURE OF BOTH CORRIDORS

China and India being ~~not~~ neighbours and rivals have a history and because of it people view IMEC as competitor to BRI however IMEC will not largely affect China's BRI as China's trade volume with Europe is more than \$800m while India's trade is \$90bn and so they won't disrupt each other much however their cooperation and joint working will prove to benefit everyone.

CONCLUSION

China's BRI and India's IMEC are great for the world and whether IMEC will eventually compete with BRI is yet to be seen. They both have great prospects in this globalized world. They can revamp the global economy and bring back the glory days.

Question 8.

US Crisis

Introduction

The US is under going so many crisis that it is much easier to call it the US crisis. US has been a global hegemon for more than two decades but cracks are starting to appear in its armour. The United States still remains undefeated however it is slowly poisoning its own self.

The Crisis

US like most other has taken many unwise decision which have now come to bite back. The social media age has brought the fault lines of US into the lime light. The current stance of US in ongoing war also made people much aware of america being a menace and an unwanted global leader.

CAUSES OF US CRISIS

The crisis being multifaceted has many causes. The causes have increased with time and so has the crisis. The important causes are

1. Political Polarization

USA is undergoing a time of extreme political polarization and lack of consensus. This makes it difficult for effective policymaking and eventually leads to a gridlock.

2. Declining Trust in Institutions

Public trust in state institutions has been taken away as America continues to work against the wishes and objective of the masses. This has led to disengagement and cynicism.

3. Failure to uphold International Law

As of late, US has been seen to be involved in many conflicts. The current Israel conflict for context, US is siding with Israel despite Israel violating both international and humanitarian law, this makes people believe that USA does not value the international law.

4. Hypocritical attitude towards peace

America being the initiator of Iraq war for the sake of peace has failed to realize that peace must be upheld at all times and not just when it serves America's purpose. America didn't care about peace when it invaded Iraq and ruined the life of many people.

Foreign policy Misadventures

America's foreign policy being that of a superpower forces it to get involved with every single thing since its interests are deeply involved everywhere. The Vietnam war for example and the bombing of Cambodia taking the lives of millions of people. And then the 20 year war in Afghanistan only to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

US curbing Globalization

US is feeling threatened by China's growing influence and is now sanctioning China and Chinese companies. These activities of US are threatening globalization and people realize that US never cared about the welfare of the people and just about maintaining its power.

Rivalry with China.

As China gains a foothold in the global economy and increases its geopolitical influence, America feels threatened by it. It continues to take measures such as drills in South China Sea that may not sit with a lot of people. Its foreign policy has become China centric and people in their choice to pick a side tend to prefer China as China is proving to be the global peace keeper.

THE EFFECTS ON USA GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The negative standing of US will have a great effect on its global leadership.

1. Loss of Credibility

US has been unable to mediate peace as of lately and its internal turmoil will make it lose credibility in front of other countries. It will prove to be less reliable as US acts for its selfish interests. This can also affect diplomatic relationship.

2. Diminished Influence

As it loses credibility its influence will continue to diminish its influence and china will take over the void left behind by the US and prove itself to be a better global leader.

3. China becoming More dominant

If US is not careful china will take over US's status and china is considered to be more favourable towards the world economy and the countries.

Further Disruption in International Order

If people and states no longer trust US to guide the international system, it will create divisions and bloc politics in the international system. This will create a coldwar like situation creating further instability in the international order.

Changing the Status quo -

The US sits at the top position because of its policies but if it further engages itself around the globe it will lose its position and disrupt the status quo. A world where US like ~~also~~ Russia is considered to be a violator of international law and order can exist in the future.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, it is known that this US crisis has a tendency to spiral out of control with the number of causes it has and it will undermine USA's ability to be a successful global leader and so US must act with caution to maintain its standing.

Question 6

PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS:

Ever since the independence of Pakistan, Pak-Afghan relations were never good. Sure they were stable enough at times however because of Pakistan's involvement with the US in the Afghan war, things have been rocky. However the relations were never as bad as they are now. The current relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are said to be the worst ever at present. They were never this bad even in the past Taliban regime.

PAKISTAN'S REACTION TO ATTACKS FROM AFGHAN LAND

When Pakistan became certain that terrorist attacks were taking place using Afghan soil they contacted the Afghan government and told them to stop supporting and backing these terrorist groups because they were proving to be a security threat to Pakistan.

AFGHAN Government's Stance ON TERRORISM.

The Taliban led Afghan government, despite proofs, says that it has nothing to do with TTP and it holds no responsibility in this case. Thus Afghanistan failed to cooperate with Pakistan in this regard. It should be noted that these outfits like TTP are proxies working on someone else's behalf.

THE AFGHAN REFUGEES

When the Soviet Union attacked Afghanistan and in the days of its dismemberment many Afghans came to Pakistan and settled as refugees here in the late 1980s. These people have been living in Pakistan ever since. Some of them were documented while others were not. Pakistan government believes that these undocumented people play a major part in the widespread terrorism.

PAKISTAN EXPELLING REFUGEES

So to curb its security issues Pakistan has decided to expel all unregistered foreign national however most of them, some 3 million are Afghans. They are being forced back into Afghanistan while they haven't been there in the past decades. These people are being expelled because of the fact that they were a threat to the national security of Pakistan.

AFGHAN Government on Refugee Crisis

Afghan Government has condemned this expulsion move saying that it violates human rights and should be done more systematically while granting more time for the settlement and rehabilitation of refugees. Pakistan however did not cooperate as Taliban hadn't cooperated when Pakistan asked. and for a state its security is top priority.

CONCLUSION

Thus this whole situation created great bitterness and animosity between the two states with Afghanistan threatening trade cuts. The relation will continue to deteriorate if both sides do not cooperate with each other as neighbouring states should. However with mediation and explaining reservation by both sides, the air can be cleared for future cooperation and better political and economic relations.