

Q#2

IMEC is projected as competitor to the BRI.  
Critically evaluate the potential and future prospects of 2 projects.

## I. Introduction:

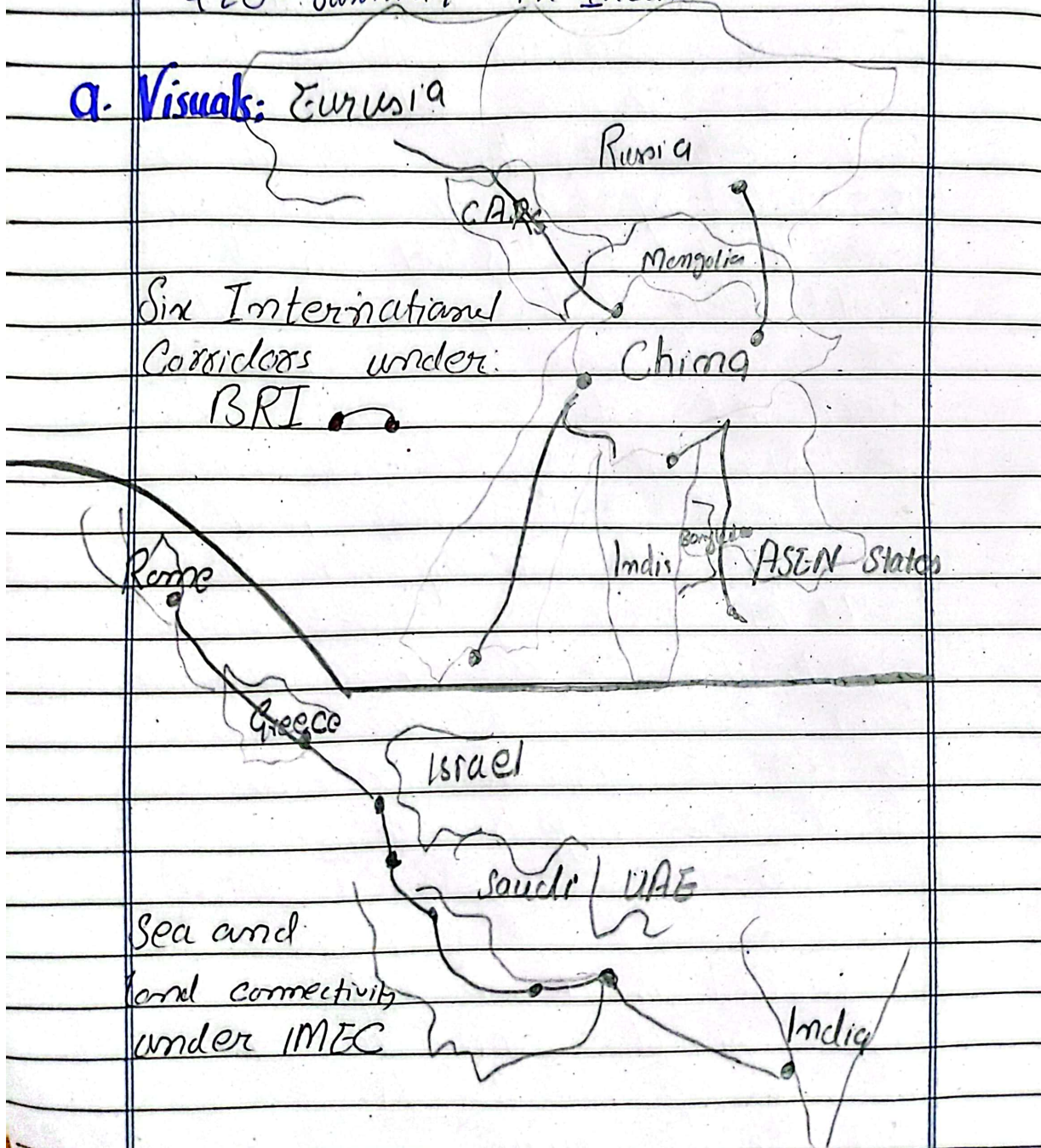
India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor aims to compete Chinese Belt and Road initiative. This competition is fueled by rise of China which pose threat to US led liberal world order. Both projects aimed at enhanced connectivity, increased trade and investment opportunities in connected states. They have potential to transform the world by providing socio-economic opportunities to member countries. From revolutionized transportation to future prospects of economic growth these projects are crucial.

## 2. An Overview of BRI and IMEC:

BRI is a multi-billion mega project announced by Chinese president Xi. Under BRI China aims to enhance

connectivity by investing in other countries' infrastructure and other sectors. Similarly India Middle East Europe corridor also aims at strengthening connectivity to boost trade and smooth movement of goods concluded in recent G20 Summit in India.

**a. Visuals: Eurasia**



### 3. Decoding Competition between BRI and IMEC

Both projects are lead by two major geopolitical rivals: the China and America.

#### a. American Containment Policy:

China is growing at fastest pace economically and technologically. It is a biggest threat to the American hegemony and its status of superpower. Hence, to counter Belt and Road initiative US has taken numerous measures such as BUIZ, AUKUS etc. Among all other counter steps IMEC is the latest one announced by president Biden in recent G20 Summit.

#### b. Cold war mentality between US and China

The Thucydides trap has been set and the world is plunging into the sea of competition between two super powers of 21st century. This shows that cold

China is shaping the world.

## 4. Potentials of BRI and IMEC:

### I. Enhanced Connectivity

One of the key similar potentials of both projects is enhanced connectivity. Under these ambitious projects the world is projected to have more connectivity through land and sea connectivity.

### II Investment Opportunities:

BRI and IMEC create tremendous opportunities for countries who are linked and will be linked in future. For example, under BRI central Asian states will have chance to explore untapped resources through Chinese assistance.

### III Regional Integration and Economic Prosperity

China has been successfully integrated itself with almost all important

regions of the world. Similarly, under IMEC new geopolitical players such as Saudi Arabia, UAE will get direct access to Europe via IMEC. The technologically rich region of Europe will be accessible to oil-rich Middle Eastern region. This would pave the way for free trade agreements which would result in economic growth.

## 5. Future Prospects of BRI

### a. Transportation

a. Easier and faster transportation in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. One of the key aspects of BRI is Chinese investment in transportation sector.

### b. Clean and Green Energy

One of the future prospects of BRI is green energy future. The world is struggling to transition from non-renewable energy sources to renewables. In this regard, China is one of the largest investors in Clean Energy.

sector.

## a. Human Development

Under BRI, poor countries that are facing socio-economic issues of poverty, unemployment and poor health care system. BRI has the ability to transform the conditions of connected countries by providing employment opportunities.

## b. Future Prospects of IMEC:

### a. Cheaper Trade routes

IMEC will consist of ship-to-rail network to facilitate cost effective transportation routes for UAE, Saudi, Jordan and India.

### b. Ability to bring peace in Middle-East

Another future prospect of IMEC is political calm in Middle Eastern countries. This region has been facing wars and humanitarian crisis. Socio-economic assistance and political good-will shoulder from Europe and India can be helpful in this way.

## 7. Conclusion:

To encapsulate it would be fair to state that IMEC and BRI though are competitors, but they offer new avenues of cooperation and connectivity. Both projects are playing significant role in connecting countries for the transportation of goods and services. The Neoliberal institutionalism model argues that increased connectivity is a road to economic success of developing countries.

Q.# 3

China and Pakistan are celebrating the Decade of CPEC. Critically evaluate success and failure of the project.

## 1. Introduction:

Decade of CPEC has witnessed many successful projects including more than ten energy projects, six transport and infrastructure projects etc. The CPEC aims to connect China with other regions in the world via Pakistan and Gwadar port. It has successfully created the biggest FDI in Pakistan and provided shorter route to China via CPEC land connectivity. However, some challenges pose a great threat to CPEC. Such as narrative of its failure. So far CPEC has been unable to stay on its words, it has not connected Afghanistan yet, nor it has increased Pakistan's imports.

## 2. Decoding CPEC Projects

China Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project of Chinese BRI ambition. It was signed in 2013 during PPP government with



president Xi of China. Under the ambit of CPEC China is projected to invest \$62 billion worth investments in Pakistani key sectors including infrastructure, energy etc.

### 3. Celebrating the Decade - Completion of Phase I:

In last year, CPEC went through its 10th anniversary and both countries were celebrating. Over the ten years CPEC has become a very important project for infrastructure. According to the President of China, CPEC is a shining example of regional cooperation and connectivity.

#### a. 5th July 2023 - Islamabad Ceremony

From a dream to reality Islamabad hosted the ceremony of CPEC 10th year celebration. The Chinese premier affirmed the commitment to boost CPEC scope by elevating it to an ideal level.

## 4. Success of CPEC projects for Pakistan:

### a. Improved Infrastructure in Pakistan:

Under CPEC projects, Pakistani roads and railway infrastructure has underwent massive renovation. Many of the motorways have been built by Chinese engineers, which has successfully facilitated shorter roads for inter-state transportation. For instance M6 between Sukkur and Islamabad

### b. Electricity Generation by Renewables:

Under CPEC projects many of green projects have been successfully completed. They have added **6000 MW of power** to the national grid of Pakistan. For instance Karot hydro power plant etc.

### c. Technological Success:

Another aspect of CPEC success is technological advancement in Pakistan. Approximately 800 kilometers of

fibre optic cable has been settled. Moreover, China has started building technologically powered agricultural lab in Pakistan.

#### d. Massive Employment:

CPEC projects have been able to create jobs in areas like that. Nearly 192,000 jobs (source NOA Magazine) have been created under CPEC. These jobs ranging from labour to engineering opportunities required during construction work.

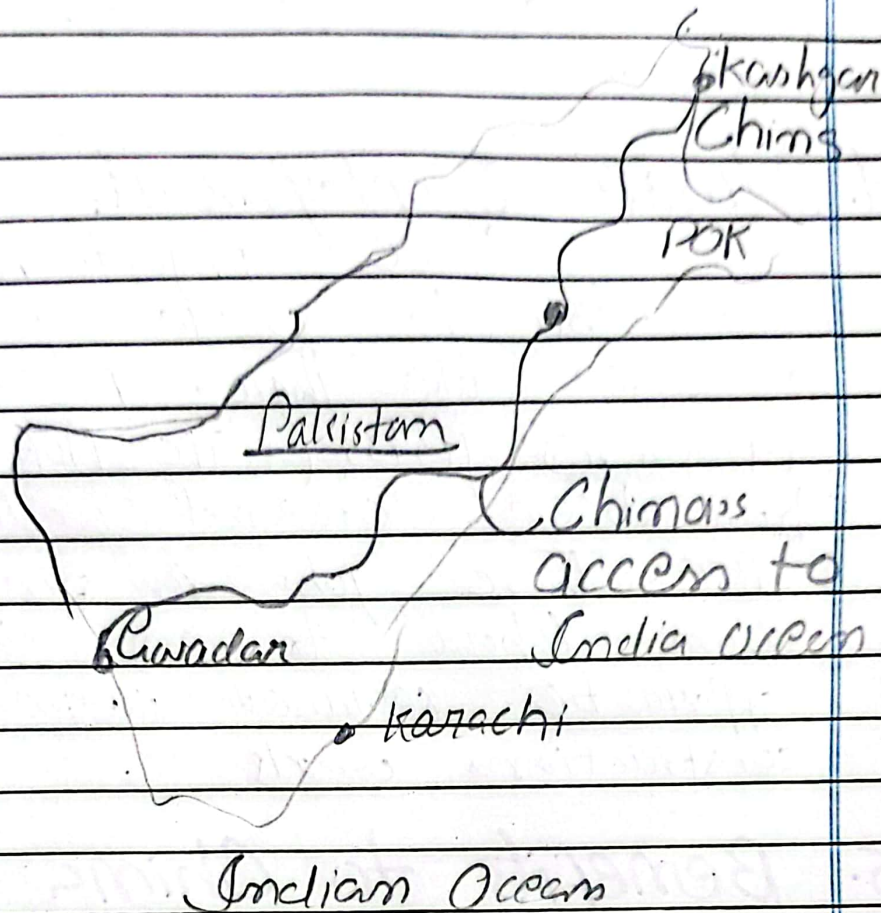
#### 5. Benefits to China from CPEC:

The CPEC projects have allowed China to use Pakistan's ports as crucial link to reach international markets.

Before CPEC connectivity, China had to pass through Malacca Strait which was unsafe.

However, after CPEC, Chinese dependency has reduced. Now China can reach

Middle East and Indian Ocean through Pakistan which acts as transit route.



## 6 Failures of CPEC projects.

Although CPEC has brought numerous advantages to Pakistan it ~~has~~ is facing various challenges in stabilizing the region.

### a. Unable to Connect Afghanistan.

One of the criticisms of CPEC is that it has been unable to connect Afghanistan. Chinese economic development

is depends on fossil fuels which it lacks itself. To cater energy demands integrating resource rich Afghanistan is necessary.

### b. Pakistan's failure to increase imports

Another failure of CPEC projects is that it has not helped Pakistan to increase its imports. Trade deficit is one of the key challenges in Pakistani economy, despite enhanced connectivity the country has not achieved the target of increasing exports.

### c. Gap between stated (projects) and practices:

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Under CPEC, over 3000 projects were signed by China and \$62 billion worth investment was projected out of which only \$25 billion has been invested in over 20 projects

(Pakistan fails to realize CPEC Potential - Express Tribune)

## 7. Conclusion.

To sum it all up, it would be right to state that CPEC has successfully completed its 10th year.

In a grand ceremony, both China and Pakistan affirmed their friendship and future commitment to enhance CPEC scope. The success of CPEC projects are varying from provision of energy to energy-deficient country Pakistan.

However, CPEC has been unable to diversify Pakistani imports. On the other hand, for China CPEC has acted as catalyst for connectivity, but it has failed to interpret other planned countries to CPEC.

Q# 4. KSA - Iran rapprochement would have far reaching positive implications on the conflicts in Middle East but would also have far reaching impacts on Pakistan. Discuss.

## 1. Introduction:

KSA and Iran rapprochement is one of the crucial geo-political developments. It has many positive impact on Middle Eastern region. ranging from prolonged civil war in Yemen and Syria to growth and economic development. As far as Pakistan is concerned it is a key beneficiary from the deal. The deal opened new avenues for Pakistan in term of ending sectarianism, restoring trade agreements with Iran etc. Under this deal both regional rival Iran and KSA have committed to resume diplomatic ties after seven years, reopen embassies, and restore trade relations which will have far reaching impacts on Pakistan.

## 2 KSA - Iran Rapprochement: An Overview:

The joint trilateral statement or the Chinese-brokered deal between two regional rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia, sets a plan for ~~restoring~~ restoring full diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi.

It emphasized importance of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty. Under the deal two former rivals will ~~reopen~~ reopen their embassies which were closed since 2016. It also reaffirms renewing old trade and investment deals.

### 3. Regional Implications of the Deal:

#### A. Bring Political Calm in Yemen

In Yemeni civil war both Saudi and Iran were key players. With Saudi supporting Yemeni government and Iran supporting Houthis rebels.



## B. Yemen Peace will facilitate Saudi trade:

As both sides have affirmed their commitment to not support war stake holders in Yemen civil war.

There are chances that Strait of Aden will witness small transition of goods for contributing in Saudi's growth.

## C. Peace in Syria:

Saudi-Iran rapprochement will bring peace in Syria too.

In Syria's interests of both Saudi Arabia and Iran clash with former supporting FSA and Al-Nusra and the latter endorse Bashar al-Assad government. However in the aftermath of the deal,

GCC countries and Saudi Arabia for the first time invited President Bashar to GCC summit. It indicates chances of peace in the Middle Eastern region.

## 4. Implications of the Deal on Pakistan.

## a. Chances of Decline Sectarianism

In Pakistan Shia-Sunni divide was massive since Iranian revolution. For the reason both Iran and Saudi Arabia used to fund Shia and Wahabi school of thoughts. However, due to this deal there are chances of reducing this division.

## b. Restoration of IP Pipeline

One of the positive impacts of the deal is chances of restoring Iran-Pakistan gas-pipeline which was frozen due to international sanctions on Iran. With friendly relation of Iran with Saudi Arabia's sanctions will lose its essence. Hence, it will open its door for Pakistan which is running short of energy.

## c. Emerging Investors after China:

Saudi Arabia is an emerging investor in Pakistan. However, due to its rivalry with Iran, and rise of

Shia-prone government in Pakistan. Saudi was skeptic. This deal would lead to unimpeded investment in Pakistan which has signed \$20 billion MOU (work) with KSA.

#### d. Religious and Economic Linkages:

For Pakistan, both Iran and Saudi are strategically important. Annually, thousands of pilgrims visit Iran as well as Saudi Arabia. Hence, peace between both countries has overcome foreign policy confusion in Pakistan. In Pakistan 27% Shia population lives which has religious affiliation with Iran.

#### 5. Conclusion:

In short, KSA and Iran rapprochement not only benefit Middle East but also would have positive impacts on Pakistan by reducing sectarian tension and restoring trade relations with Iran.