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## Current Affairs.

(Mock Exam I).

Q no. 3

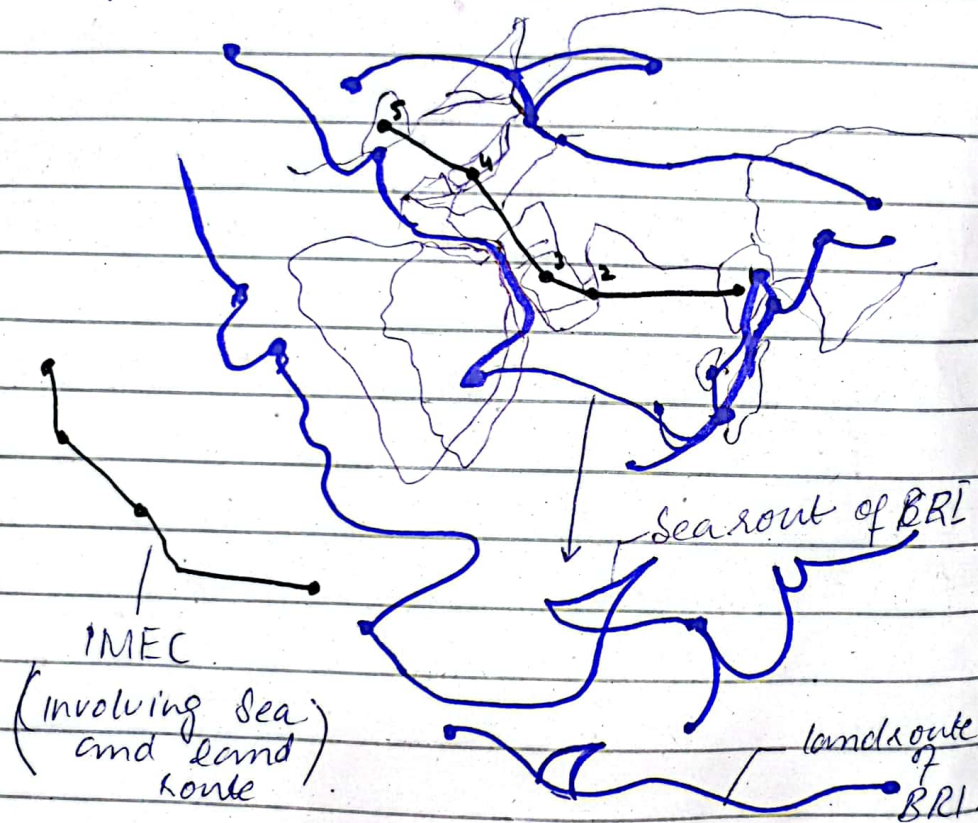
India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is projected as a competitor to Belt and Road initiative to China. Critically evaluate the potential and future prospects of the two?

Introduction to BRI and IMEC:

**BRI** - Belt and Road initiative project by China started in 2013 is \$ 1.3 trillion project with estimated cost of approximately \$ 8 trillion for its completion. Its long term developmental project involving sea routes and land connection of China directly with Middle East, Europe and Central Asia with 26 corridors.

**IMEC** - India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor is initiated by Indians in G-20 submit under the flagship of PGI - Partnership for Global Infra-

Structure previously called BBW Built Back Better initiated by G7 countries. ~~and~~ IMEC was started <sup>as a</sup> competitor initiator for BRI, with in 2023 with budget of \$6 Million and comprising land and sea routes from India to Middle East to Europe.



∴ IMEC initiated as Competitor of BRI

IMEC initiation under flagship of PGI: Western states are in competition with China-Russia allies. The initiation of IMEC under

the PFI flagship (Western-G7 countries) is clear signature of birth a's competitor of BRI.

**IMEC project similarities with BRI:**

BRI invested in <sup>alternate</sup> trade route to strengthen its economy with many other projects. IMEC target the same bullet train and sea route project for strengthening and increasing trade from Asia to Middle to Europe.

**India as emerging competitor for**

**China:** The IT sector advancement followed by ~~AT~~ IMEC initiation allied with Western power is a direct notion of stand against secretly strengthening economy of China.

**: Potential of BRI and IMEC:**

**Transportation Routes (BRI vs IMEC)**

IMEC initiated single ~~route~~ <sup>passage</sup> with land and sea route. From India to United Arab Emirates the project is dependent on the sea route. Further UAE to KSA - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Israel.

the route is land based (bullet train project) moving further to Greece it agains need traditional sea route to connect Europe. On the other Hand, BRI comprises of 6 corridors that have focused on land routes more than the sea route dependency. The shift to land routes with increase safety of BRI and decrease hegemony of US on sea route trade. It will also benefit China diplomatic relation and policy importance of China for decision of other countries that are part of BRI. and approximately Two-Third of world countries are part of it.

### In area of Economic Investment IMEC VS BRI :

IMEC projected in few countries - India, UAE, KSA, Israel, Greece have hardly an economic zones development other than bullet train due to harsh climate and weather patterns in these region the Agricultural investment is fools choice and

BRI, have special Economic Zones comprising of billions of investments in Economic sectors such as Agriculture, ~~and~~ Industrial and Educational sectors. This investment will obviously benefit economically and Strategically to Father of BRI - China and makes China's hegemonic control on Economy of BRI - selective Economic Zone countries.

### ~~Increasing~~ Enhancing Tourism $\Rightarrow$ (BRI vs IMEC):

IMEC is mainly focused on trade routes and few investment in Tourism such as in KSA seeing Middle as Non-Oil Tourist state in the future. On the other side BRI is also focusing on tourism and the extensive motorways development, bullet trains initiation and network of highway in different states is promoting Tourism. It will Economically benefit both China and India, along with member states of IMEC and BRI.

## Future Prospects of BRI and IMEC.

Rapid expansion of BRI as compared to IMEC: IMEC is hardly an year old ~~but~~ emerging project with difficult and limited routes while BRI is more than ten year old with many successful ~~economy~~ finance generating projects that adding to the progress of this initiative and expanding BRI rapidly.

Current situation of Centers of BRI and IMEC: IMEC is mostly centered in Middle East and late 2023's and 2024 emerges as hardships for Middle East, complexing the relation of Middle East states that a sign of danger for IMEC. Comparing to BRI, which is China centered and has much calm and growing environment as compared to Middle East. The rising of KSA and Iran in Middle East can impact the IMEC harshly than BRI.

## Rising trend of IT in India and AI in China impact on BRI and IMEC:

In future, India can use IT sector as ~~a~~ newer tool in the race of these two initiatives, that may compete China's <sup>BRI</sup> in real world. On the other side China's target to become Artificial Intelligence hub till 2030 adds to BRI value. For example the smart city in China as model of BRI project i.e; increasing surveillance adds to their security and transparency. Moreover, AI can recognize the biotic and abiotic targeted factors or sites that are economically more significant. The rapid and high connectivity and updating ability of AI, in practice of China can benefit ~~the~~ BRI projects.

## Effect of Israel - Hamas Conflict on IMEC and BRI:

Israel <sup>one of evolving</sup> is ↑ hub of global trade. The present unrest in Israel can negatively impact IMEC and BRI.

IMEC with a single path involving Israel and the rising no. of countries boycotting their relations with Israel, persistent unrest in this state and large no. of emerging enemies i.e; Iran can hampered the IMEC project. ~~and BRI~~  
But In case of BRI it would have some effect but can easily recover it due to its alternative routes and expansion.

## Conclusion:-

IMEC emerge as a competitor to BRI but in real world, its a fairy tale believe that IMEC would stand in front of BRI. BRI is far apart from the range of IMEC by its Age, Rapid expansion, alternative projects, Special Economic Zones, Agricultural and Energy Sector investment and many more. Even, In future its hard for IMEC to compete BRI.