

BRICS Plus Naval IMEC's Relevance to India and its Chokepoints

Context: The current reciprocal tariff policies and protectionism by the US is a bad sign for the development of a multi-state, multimodal transport and trade corridor like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

INDIA-MIDDLE EAST EU ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (IMEC)

Background: The IMEC is a proposed 4,800 km long route that was announced in 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.

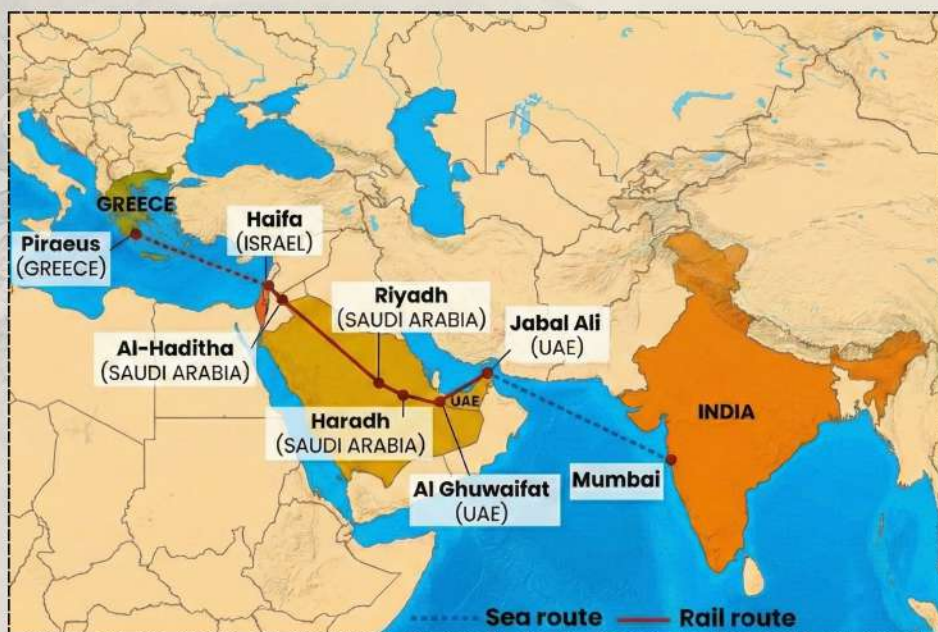
Members: India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US.

Aim: Integration of Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

THE IMEC WILL COMPRISE OF TWO SEPARATE CORRIDORS

EAST CORRIDOR
The east corridor connecting India to the West Asia/Middle East

NORTHERN CORRIDOR
The northern corridor connecting West Asia/Middle East to Europe.



IMEC'S RELEVANCE TO INDIA AND ITS CHOKEPOINTS



SUEZ CANAL BLOCKAGE (2021)

It was blocked by the massive container ship, leaving several vessels stranded.

This disruption impacted nearly 12 percent of global trade until a major salvage operation successfully freed it.



RED SEA CRISIS (2023-24):

It was caused by the Houthis' attacks on commercial shipping, exposing the fragility of over-concentrated trade routes.

Nearly a quarter of India's cargo transiting the Red Sea faced delays.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IMEC FOR INDIA



Economic Development: By linking Asia, West Asia, the Middle East and Europe through enhanced connectivity and economic integration, the corridor aims to give a boost to economic development in the regions.



Enhances India's Connectivity and Trade Access: IMEC provides India with a direct, faster, and safer trade route connecting Indian ports to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula and the Mediterranean.



Reduces dependence on the Suez Canal route, cutting shipping time by up to 40% and costs by 20-30%.