

## India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

**Prelims** - Current events of International Importance.

**Mains (GS I)** - International Relations | Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

### Why in News?

India and Italy have decided to expand cooperation jointly in implementing the ambitious India-Middle-East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

- It is an initiative to **enhance India's maritime security** and facilitate quicker transportation of goods between Europe and Asia.
- **Launched on** - G20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023.



- **Aim** - To integrate India, Europe, and the Middle-East through UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and the European Union.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed countries** - India, United States, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union.
- **Corridors**
  - **East corridor** - Connects India to the Gulf and
  - **Northern corridor** - Connects the Gulf to Europe.
- **Ports to be Linked**

<b>India</b>	Mundra (Gujarat), Kandla (Gujarat), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai).
<b>Middle East</b>	Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Abu Dhabi in the UAE, along with Dammam and Ras Al Khair ports in Saudi Arabia.

A railway line will connect Fujairah port (UAE) to Haifa port (Israel) through Saudi Arabia (Ghuwaifat and Haradh) and Jordan.	
<b>Israel</b>	Haifa port.
<b>Europe</b>	Piraeus port in Greece, Messina in Southern Italy, and Marseille in France.

- The main elements of the Framework include development and management of a logistics platform, including a digital ecosystem, and provision of supply chain services to handle all types of general cargo, bulk, containers and liquid bulk in order to enable IMEEC.
- **Advantages** - The corridor intends to enhance connectivity, increase efficiency, reduce costs, secure regional supply chains, increase trade accessibility, generate jobs and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

### Significance for India

- *Strengthening Maritime Security* and also acts as a strategic countermeasure to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- IMEEC will contribute to *regional stability* and peace by aligning with the European Nations' Global Gateway program.
- A *stabilized trade corridor* under the IMEEC framework will streamline logistics and ensure the continuous, dependable flow of products, renewable energy, and information.
- The corridor will also drive a significant increase in trade demand and supply across the region, *reducing transaction costs* and creating new job opportunities.
- IMEEC offers a vital platform for *cultural and political exchange*.
- It extends into the energy and technology sectors, incorporating initiatives such as integrated electricity grids, *clean hydrogen pipelines*, and secure high-speed data connectivity.

### Reference

[The Indian Express | IMEEC initiative](#)