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Q72

'Belt and Road Initiative' is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of (a) African Union (b) Brazil (c) European Union (d) China Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

The African Union is a continental organisation; it is not the author of the Belt and Road Initiative. Some African States participate in BRI projects, but the initiative is China's. This option is not the key.

(b)

Brazil is a BRICS partner of China, not the source of Belt and Road. This option is wrong.

(c)

The European Union is a destination for some BRI connectivity debates, not the originator. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

The Belt and Road Initiative (One Belt, One Road) is the People's Republic of China's connectivity and infrastructure programme, **announced** by Xi Jinping in 2013 (Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road). That is why (d) is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) China. BRI packages land corridors across Eurasia and a maritime route through the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, financed largely by Chinese policy banks and firms. It is not an AU, Brazilian or EU programme. India has objected to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's route through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The question only asks whose affairs the phrase belongs to.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Announced

2013; Kazakhstan (belt) and Indonesia (maritime road)

CPEC

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship BRI corridor

AIIB

Related China-initiated bank; not identical with BRI

BRI Forum

Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Beijing

String of Pearls debate

Indian strategic literature on Chinese Indian Ocean facilities

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