

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4651**  
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026

**OPERATIONALISATION OF IMEC AND INDIA-EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

4651. SHRI SASIKANTH SENTHIL:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

**पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has formalised the “IMEC Ports Club” following the recent MoU between Indian ports and the Port of Marseille Fos to strengthen the India-Middle East-Europe corridor;
- (b) the current status of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and its projected impact on the corridor’s trade volume as of February 2026;
- (c) whether there is a proposal for an “IMEC Plus” to include African nations as part of a global value-added production chain; and
- (d) the details of the strategic role of the India-UAE axis in underwriting national mega-projects through sovereign wealth funds in 2026?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) On the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit, the leaders of India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US announced an MoU committing to work together to develop a new India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The IMEC will comprise of two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.

An Intergovernmental Framework Agreement (IGFA) was signed on 13 February 2024 between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) concerning cooperation for operation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The main elements include development and management of a logistics platform, including a digital ecosystem, and provision of supply chain services. Its implementation involves multiple stakeholders and is at an initial stage.

JNPA which is a Major Port Authority has signed a MoU with the Port of Marseille Fos on 17.02.2026 with provision of mutual cooperation and knowledge.

India and European Union announced the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement at the 16<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit on 27.01.2026.

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