



First-ever I2U2 Leaders' Virtual Summit

I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States (US). The Countries' foreign ministers formed the bloc in October 2021 and were called the 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation' at that time. Referred to as the 'West Asian Quad' by Ahmed Albanna, Ambassador of the UAE to India is a formal bloc formed to deepen technological and private transnational challenges in six focus areas: Water, Energy, Transportation, Space, Health and Food Security. This edition of CUTS ONW highlights the important takeaways from the first I2U2 virtual head of the States meeting in the month of July 2022.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Decoding I2U2 and its geopolitical implications <i>Akash Podishetty</i> Business Standard July 25, 2022</p>	<p>The acronym 'I2' stands for India and Israel and 'U2' stands for US and United Arab Emirates (UAE). Geopolitical implications of I2U2 could help US reframe ties with the Middle East. The group will also aim to leverage private sector capital and expertise for many areas of economic cooperation. I2U2 could help US reframe ties with the Middle East. Indo-US partnership could be expanded beyond Asian interests.</p>
<p>The Abraham Accords and the Genesis of I2U2 <i>Harsh Kumar Upadhayay</i> Financial Express July 22, 2022</p>	<p>The signing of the Abraham Accords and the subsequent normalisation of formal diplomatic relations between Israel and the UAE, followed by Israel and Bahrain, has reconfigured the political alignments of West Asia. The Abraham Accords have not only created opportunities for bilateral engagements between the countries of West Asia but also have led to the creation of a Quadrilateral cooperative framework.</p>
<p>I2U2 summit has given India space to pursue a nimble diplomacy, become economic beneficiary <i>Kanwal Sibal</i> News 18 July 21, 2022</p>	<p>India is playing geopolitics confidently and astutely as testified by the I2U2 virtual summit on July 14, 2022. India seems to have judged well the trends in West Asia involving Israel, the Gulf states and Iran and positioned itself well in the area. India and Israel have been drawing closer, to the point that Israel has become a major defence partner of India. India obtained a carve out for the Chabahar project from the US. All this has given India space to pursue a more nimble diplomacy in the region.</p>
<p>Economic and strategic dimensions of I2U2 <i>SD Pradhan</i> The Times of India July 16, 2022</p>	<p>The group of four nation comprising India, Israel US and UAE, which was called 'the West Asia Quad' for want of any other name, has now received a formal nomenclature of I2U2. This top-level meeting itself reflects the economic and strategic importance of the region realised by the four countries as also the need for cooperation among them. India has already been coordinating with UAE and Israel. The economic and technological cooperation between Israel and UAE have also grown up considerably.</p>

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I2U2 partnership to benefit Indian farmers and renewable energy sector KNN India July 15, 2022	The initial investments of US\$1.33 billion proposed under the I2U2 partnership will give Indian farmers guaranteed access to West Asian markets and set up a clean energy project in Gujarat to make India the supply chain hub of renewable energy.
Joint statement of the leaders of India, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and the United States (I2U2) Ministry of External Affairs July 14, 2022	The heads of Government of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States, convened for the first leaders' meeting of the "I2U2" Group. This unique grouping of countries aims to harness the vibrancy of our societies. They intend to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to modernize infrastructure, advance low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health and access to vaccines.
I2U2 group will advance hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat consisting of 300 MW of wind and solar capacity ANI July 14, 2022	Leaders from Israel, India, the United States and United Arab Emirates on July 14, 2022 stated that they will advance a hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system.
I2U2 Leaders' Summit: Stage set for a US\$2 billion agri-parks project in India to tackle food crisis India Narrative July 14, 2022	Calling it "a unique grouping of countries", the White House revealed that a US\$2 billion project which the UAE is helping to fund for agricultural parks in India and is focused on the food security challenge - will be one of the major things that will be announced by the leaders of Israel, India, and the UAE.
Like Quad, I2U2 can become a central feature of Middle East: NSA Sullivan <i>Prashant Jha</i> Hindustan Times July 14, 2022	US national security advisor Jake Sullivan has said that just like Quad has become a "central pillar" in the Indo-Pacific. I2U2 the grouping that brings together India, Israel, the UAE and the US can become a feature of the broader Middle East region .
I2U2 Summit: India, Israel, US, UAE aim to jointly invest in 6 important areas including food, transport <i>Shashwat Bhandari</i> IndiaTv July 14, 2022	Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 14, 2022 joined US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the first virtual summit of the four-nation grouping 'I2U2'. He said under the I2U2 framework, we have agreed on increasing the joint investment in 6 important areas of water, energy, transport, space, health and food security.

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