



Webinar on I2U2: Towards a Transformative Quadrilateral Partnership

Wednesday, 18 December, 2024

Virtual

1830- 1945 (IST) / 0800-0915 (EST) / 1700-1815 (GST)

Background and Context

The I2U2 Group, established in October 2021, represents an innovative quadrilateral collaboration between India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Emerging in the wake of the Abraham Accords, this unique forum transcends traditional geopolitical boundaries by prioritising economic pragmatism and strategic collaboration. The group has already demonstrated significant potential through targeted joint investments, including developing integrated food parks, implementing hybrid renewable energy projects, and launching collaborative space-based ventures addressing environmental and climate change challenges.

A landmark initiative is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which aims to enhance connectivity between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe through integrated maritime, road, and railway networks. Despite the challenging geopolitical landscape following the Hamas October attacks, the I2U2 partnership has continued to progress, particularly through transit and trade initiatives. The launch of the India-UAE Virtual Trade Corridor and Maitri Interface in September 2024 represents a notable step towards enhancing international economic efficiency.

Lastly, the return of Donald J. Trump as the 47th US President could potentially bolster the I2U2 Quadrilateral, given his administration's role in brokering the original Abraham Accords and mention of West Asia in his campaign speeches. Moreover, the recent diplomatic developments, such as the ceasefire announcement between Israel and Hezbollah, offer a sense of optimism for regional stability and cooperation. Therefore, a lot is at stake with the I2U2 Group embodying a forward-looking approach to international relations, prioritising economic integration, technological innovation, and strategic collaboration across diverse geopolitical landscapes.

Objectives

- **Explore I2U2's Strategic Potential:** Examine the group's role in fostering economic cooperation, technological innovation, and regional stability across the Middle East and Indo-Pacific regions.

- **Analyse Collaborative Opportunities:** Discuss potential project areas in AI, water, energy, technology, transportation, defence, space, health, and food security.
- **Understand Geopolitical Dynamics:** Explore how the I2U2 partnership represents a new model of international collaboration beyond traditional ideological and political boundaries.
- **Highlight Economic-Strategic Innovations and Roadmap:** Showcase how the partnership can create synergies in technology, investment, and sustainable development.

Expected Outcomes

- Comprehensive understanding of the I2U2 Group's strategic vision and way forward
- Identification of potential collaborative projects
- Insights into the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and Indo-Pacific
- Framework for future economic and technological cooperation

Discussion Topics

- **I2U2's Strategic Framework:** Analysing the partnership's unique approach to international cooperation
- **Economic and Technological Collaboration:** Exploring joint investment opportunities and innovative projects
- **Renewable Energy and Sustainability:** Discussing strategies for clean energy development and implementation
- **Space and Technology Cooperation:** Examining the potential of joint space-based observations and technological ventures
- **Geopolitical Implications:** Understanding the broader regional and global significance of the I2U2 partnership

Flow of Session

18:30 – 18:35	-	Opening Remarks
18:35 – 18:40	-	Moderators Note
18:40 – 19:20	-	Panel Discussion
19:20 – 19:45	-	Q&A Session -