



I2U2 Summit and Food Security

For Prelims: I2U2, West Asian Quad, Food Security, Abraham Accords, Maritime Security

For Mains: Significance of I2U2 for India

Why in News?

Recently, first [I2U2 \(India, Israel, United States and the United Arab Emirates\)](#) leaders' **Summit** was held virtually.

What is I2U2?

▪ About:

- I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE, and the US, and was also referred to as the '**West Asian Quad**'.
- I2U2 was initially formed in October, 2021 **following the [Abraham Accords](#)**, to deal with issues concerning **maritime security, infrastructure and transport**.
 - The Abraham Accord is the **first Arab-Israeli peace deal** in 26 years mediated by the USA.

▪ Objectives:

- Its stated aim is to **discuss "common areas of mutual interest, to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond"**.
- Six areas of cooperation have been identified by the countries mutually, and the aim is to **encourage joint investments in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security**.

What are the Key Highlights of the Summit?

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced to invest USD 2 billion in India to develop **[Food Parks](#)** across the country.
- India will **provide appropriate land for the project** and will facilitate farmers' integration into the Food Parks.
- The Grouping declared to support a "**hybrid [renewable energy project](#) in Gujarat, consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity**".
 - The project is expected to be another step in India's quest for "500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030".
- The **US and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise** and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the projects under the Grouping.

What is Food Park?

- Food Park is a concept **that aims at establishing the direct linkages from the farm to processing to consumer markets.**
- It comprises Collection Centres (CCs) and Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) linked to a Central Processing Centre.

What is the Significance of Food Parks?

- **Tackles Food Insecurity:**
 - Investments in Food Parks will **help maximize crop yields** and, in turn, **help tackle [food insecurity](#) in South Asia and the Middle East.**
 - They are aimed at **cutting down "food waste and spoilage".**
 - India is a major, major food producer in the world.
 - The focus on food and energy security has acquired urgency **in the backdrop of the current military [situation in Ukraine](#)** that has unleashed cascading negative effects on food, energy and other sectors.
- **Increase in Income:**
 - Farmers' income will multiply and they will come on board.
- **Streamline Agricultural Supply Chains:**
 - India was chosen as the location for the food project **because of its proximity to Israel and the UAE** that will help in creating a smooth **agriculture supply chain.**

Way Forward

- Only **partnership can overcome today's conflicts and overlapping challenges**, the most important of which are **food and energy security, climate change and healthcare.**
- India also has very longstanding ties to and engagement in the Middle East, and relationships not just with the Gulf countries but relationships — **a relationship over the years with Israel.**
- And so just as the **United States can play a critical and central role in helping deepen Israel's integration into the region**, India has a role to play in that as well.
- India **"plays a critical role" in the Indo-Pacific**, adding that it is **"one of the largest, most significant, most strategically consequential countries** in the Indo-Pacific, and so it should play a central role in our strategy, including through the **[Quad](#).**

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