

First-ever I2U2 Virtual Summit

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In news– The Prime Minister of India has recently participated in the first-ever I2U2 Virtual Summit along with the heads of state of Israel, the UAE, and the US.

About I2U2-

- **I2U2 stands for India, Israel, the UAE, and the US**, and was also referred to as the 'West Asian Quad' by Ambassador of the UAE to India.
- 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".
- **The I2U2 grouping was conceptualised during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries held on October 18 2021.**
- Each country also has **Sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss** the possible areas of cooperation.
- Back in October 2021, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries had taken place when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was visiting Israel. **At that time, the grouping was called the 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'.**
- **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.
- It further added that with the help of "**private sector capital and expertise**", the countries will look to modernise infrastructure, explore low carbon development avenues for industries, improve public health, and

promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

- **Note:** The **Abraham Accords of 2020 had led to Israel formally normalising diplomatic ties** with the UAE and two other countries in the region, marking an important shift in the stance of West Asian countries on Israel.