



The  
GeoEconomic  
Hub



Council for  
International Economic  
Understanding

# INDIA-WEST ASIA DIALOGUE 2025



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Taj Business Bay, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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## Context

The 21st century is being reshaped not merely by military alliances or traditional diplomacy, but by the flows of capital, code, and carbon. At the heart of this transformation lies a quieter, more fundamental shift: the reordering of global geo-economics. As the old transatlantic axis of power gives way to a more multipolar and polycentric order, a new geography of influence is emerging—anchored not in the historic centers of the West, but in the increasingly interconnected corridor of West Asia.

West Asia—spanning the Gulf, the Eastern Mediterranean, and adjoining parts of North Africa and South Asia—is undergoing a profound reinvention. Long seen primarily through the lens of oil, religion, or geopolitics, the region is today positioning itself as a platform for innovation, trade diversification, sustainable finance, and cross-cultural strategic collaboration. This evolution is catalyzed by four powerful forces: the reconfiguration of global supply chains, the rise of frontier technologies, the urgency of climate transition, and the emergence of “middle powers” like the UAE, Israel, and India that are willing and able to shape the rules of engagement for a new world order.

In this shifting landscape, Dubai stands out as a city that combines strategic location, institutional stability, financial depth, and forward-thinking governance. It is not merely a venue—it is a vision. Over the past decade, Dubai has transformed from a trade and logistics hub into a platform for artificial intelligence, digital finance, green innovation, and multilateral convening. Its ambitious investments in space tech, Web3, mobility, and clean energy—as well as its ability to attract entrepreneurs and sovereign actors alike—make it a natural launchpad for a new geo-economic dialogue.

At the same time, India is undergoing a parallel transformation. Having emerged as a digital-first, climate-conscious, and strategically autonomous power, India is increasingly being recognized as a builder of new institutions and a shaper of the emerging multipolar order. Its leadership of the G20 in 2023, its advocacy for the Global South, and its pivotal role in initiatives like IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) and I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-U.S.) reflect a deeper ambition: to design frameworks of interdependence that are inclusive, innovation-driven, and future-ready. What makes this moment particularly consequential is the convergence of India’s rise and West Asia’s reinvention. The India-Gulf-Europe corridor is no longer just a trade route—it is an integrated economic architecture linking data centers, energy grids, logistics hubs, and startup ecosystems. From Mumbai to Muscat, from Dubai to Athens, there is a shared understanding that the old silos between energy and technology, or between security and development, must give way to a holistic paradigm of cooperation.

At the heart of this paradigm is geo-economics—the use of economic tools to advance geopolitical goals and the leveraging of strategic geography to generate economic value. West Asia is becoming a test bed for this approach. Consider the transformation of UAE-Israel ties post-Abraham Accords, or Saudi Arabia’s push toward Vision 2030 and technological diversification. Add to this India’s digital public infrastructure, its leadership in renewable energy, and its ability to balance relations with both the West and the Global South, and a new axis of action begins to emerge—one that defies Cold War binaries and focuses instead on co-development, co-innovation, and co-leadership.

The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed in 2022,

has become the most visible anchor of this geo-economic shift. By liberalising tariffs, opening services, and pioneering digital and financial integration, CEPA has already lifted bilateral trade to over \$85 billion and is steering the partnership towards the \$100 billion mark. More importantly, it is serving as a model for India's trade diplomacy with other Gulf states such as Oman, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia, where negotiations are drawing from the CEPA template. This positions the UAE not just as India's partner of choice in the Gulf, but also as the testing ground for a broader India-GCC economic integration.

CEPA also ties directly into the strategic corridors shaping the future of global trade. Through its alignment with the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), and with complementary initiatives in cross-border finance, fintech, and digital platforms, CEPA creates new interdependencies that go beyond commodities and logistics. These flows of capital and code match India's scale and innovation with Dubai's role as a global hub of connectivity and investment. This convergence dovetails with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which seeks to double the emirate's economy by 2033 and cement its place among the world's top three business centres. For Dubai, CEPA ensures that Indian goods, services, and digital products are embedded in its reimagined role as the gateway to West Asia, Africa, and Europe; for India, it anchors a stable and trusted partner in its westward economic strategy.

Beyond trade and technology, the financial linkages between India and West Asia are deepening at an unprecedented pace. Gulf sovereign wealth funds and family offices are increasingly looking at India not just as a

destination for infrastructure or energy investments, but as a partner in shaping capital markets, green finance, and fintech innovation. India's surge in retail participation and app-driven trading complements the Gulf's capital surplus, opening possibilities for joint investment platforms, cross-border listings, and co-financing of large-scale projects. This emerging financial architecture is fast becoming as strategic as trade corridors, embedding capital markets into the core of India-West Asia cooperation.

This is where The GeoEconomic Hub @ CIEU finds its purpose. As the flagship platform of the New Delhi-based Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU), the GeoEconomic Hub is designed to foster structured dialogue at the intersection of trade, technology, and transformation. It seeks to move beyond traditional diplomacy and bring together a new coalition of actors—startup founders and sovereign funds, green energy innovators and central bankers, AI ethicists and trade negotiators—around a shared agenda of shaping a rules-based, innovation-friendly, and climate-aligned global economic order.

The West Asia Dialogue, proposed under this platform, is not a one-off event. It is envisioned as a track of structured engagement that connects policymakers with technologists, aligns capital with ideas, and bridges geographies through shared priorities. Its choice of venue—Dubai—is deliberate. The UAE, and particularly Dubai, has positioned itself as a neutral convening power, with strategic access to Africa, Asia, and Europe, and the credibility to engage constructively across political divides.

In convening the West Asia Dialogue, CIEU also seeks to address some of the world's most pressing challenges from a fresh vantage point:

- ''' How can AI and blockchain be harnessed to build inclusive and transparent financial systems across diverse jurisdictions?
- ''' How can sovereign wealth and venture capital work together to accelerate green energy transitions in frontier markets?
- ''' How can West Asian sovereign wealth, family offices, and India's growing retail-driven capital markets be aligned to create joint investment vehicles, cross-border listings, and green finance platforms that deepen economic resilience?
- ''' What new standards of governance and ethics must guide our use of dual-use technologies like robotics, quantum computing, or space innovation?
- ''' Can cross-border innovation diplomacy be institutionalized to help startups from India, UAE, and Europe co-develop products for the Global South?
- ''' How can the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) unlock new investment avenues, strengthen trade linkages, and deepen the UAE's role as a gateway for Indian goods, services, and digital products?
- ''' How can CEPA serve as a model for replicable trade frameworks across the Gulf, integrating tariff liberalisation, rules of origin, and digital economy provisions to catalyse regional economic interdependence?
- ''' What mechanisms can ensure that agreements and corridors jointly foster sustainable supply chains, cross-border

fintech, and technology co-development, while building long-term economic resilience in West Asia?

- ''' How can India and UAE leverage the new arrangements to position the region as a hub for innovation-led finance, digital commerce, and frontier technologies, aligned with Dubai 2033 ambitions?

Answering these questions requires a new kind of conversation—one that is both ambitious and anchored, future-focused yet grounded in political realism. And it requires trust: trust among nations, between public and private actors, and across cultures of innovation. The West Asia Dialogue is meant to serve as a trust platform—a space where ideas meet investment, where regulation keeps pace with innovation, and where economic cooperation is not just transactional but transformational.

The timing, too, is apt. As the world prepares for new leadership transitions in the U.S., grapples with the post-conflict regional rebalancing after the Gaza crisis, and reassesses global institutions in the wake of COVID-19 and climate shocks, there is a strategic imperative to institutionalise platforms that reflect today's realities—not yesterday's Cold War hangovers. West Asia, long the recipient of external power plays, is now asserting its own voice—and India, long cast as a balancing power, is now ready to lead with purpose and pragmatism.

Together, India and Dubai can offer the world a model of cooperative modernity—rooted in sovereignty, yet open to networks; grounded in tradition, yet attuned to disruption; respectful of differences, yet focused on shared futures. It is against this sweeping canvas that the West Asia Dialogue is being convened—not as a conference, but as a commitment to long-term, cross-sector, multi-country dialogue at the highest level.

## About the Organisers

The Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU) is a New Delhi-based independent think tank dedicated to fostering geo-economic foresight, economic diplomacy, and strategic cooperation across borders. CIEU convenes thought leaders from government, industry, and the research community to shape narratives and policies for a multipolar, tech-driven, and sustainable global order.

CIEU operates as both a convenor and catalyst—bringing together strategic actors across capital, technology, policy, and innovation. Its engagements span critical areas such as supply chain resilience, digital infrastructure, clean energy transition, and regional trade corridors. The institution's focus is to enable India to play a credible, constructive role in shaping global economic governance from a Global South perspective.

The GeoEconomic Hub @ CIEU is its flagship platform for convening stakeholders from emerging and established economies to navigate the intersections of technology, trade, and transformation. It serves as a dialogue engine that connects frontier innovation with strategic foresight, enabling durable cross-border partnerships that go beyond summits and statements to deliver actionable outcomes.

## Structure & Format

The West Asia Dialogue is envisioned as a high-impact, day-long conclave that brings together leading voices from government, industry, investment, and research. It will be structured around thematic plenaries, focused technology sessions, strategic dialogues, and an innovation showcase. Each session is designed to foster actionable insights, forge cross-sector

partnerships, and build the intellectual and institutional infrastructure for long-term collaboration.

## Opening Plenary

*Building a Future-Ready World: Tech, Trust & Transition*

This high-level inaugural session will set the tone for the day by addressing the core pillars shaping the 21st-century global order—technological disruption, trust-based systems, and sustainability transitions. Senior leaders will outline strategic priorities, articulate shared challenges, and frame the ambition of the West Asia Dialogue as a lasting platform for geo-economic cooperation anchored on CEPA and IMEC-enabled corridors.

## Technology Sessions

These focused dialogues will explore the contours of frontier technologies and their geopolitical, economic, and societal implications:

» **AI, Algorithmic Power & Democratic Risk:** Examining how artificial intelligence is reshaping governance, security, labour, and public services—along with the risks of algorithmic bias and digital inequality.

» **Blockchain & the Next Global Financial Architecture:** Unpacking blockchain's potential to redefine financial inclusion, cross-border payments, and decentralised governance, while addressing regulatory challenges and trust deficits, especially in corridor-linked finance models such as IMEC.

» **SpaceTech & Sovereignty in the Final Frontier:** Analysing how small satellite systems, public-private launch initiatives, and cross-border space partnerships are redrawing national capabilities and global competition.

- » **Robotics & the Rewriting of Economic Structures:** Exploring the convergence of automation, AI, and IoT in manufacturing, defence, agriculture, and services—and its impact on employment, ethics, and economic models.

## Strategic Dialogues

These sessions will focus on regional economic architecture, strategic corridors, and India's role as a connective node:

- » **I2U2, IMEC & CEPA: New Geoeconomic Alignments for a Multipolar World:** Deliberating on how emerging minilateral frameworks can institutionalise new trade, tech, and energy routes—and how these can be future-proofed against fragmentation and politicisation.
- » **Bridging the Global South and High-Tech North:** Positioning India and the UAE as interconnectors between innovation-rich ecosystems and demand-driven developing economies. The dialogue will highlight how CEPA and IMEC together enable cross-border co-development of digital public goods, corridor-linked investments, and inclusive innovation strategies.
- » **Capital Markets as Connectors: Aligning Gulf Wealth with India's Growth Story** Exploring how sovereign wealth funds, family offices, and institutional investors in West Asia can integrate with India's rapidly expanding capital markets. It will examine opportunities in infrastructure finance, green transition funding, fintech-driven retail participation, and regulatory innovations. The dialogue will also focus on building trusted frameworks for cross-border listings, joint investment vehicles, and deepening of India–GCC financial cooperation to create a more resilient regional economic architecture.

## Green Leadership Forum

*Hydrogen, Green Finance & the Decarbonisation Imperative*

This session will convene energy ministers, green tech entrepreneurs, climate financiers, and regulators to explore scalable models for green hydrogen deployment, nature-aligned infrastructure, and carbon markets. The forum will spotlight green industrial policy, blended finance instruments, and public-private climate partnerships, emphasising corridor-driven investment flows through IMEC and CEPA-enabled trade incentives.

## Showcase Segment

*Innovation Diplomacy in Action*

A curated segment featuring live demos and presentations by select startups, research labs, and government-backed pilots from India, the UAE, GCC and beyond. This will highlight models of co-development, regulatory sandboxes, tech-for-good platforms, and frontier solutions in AI, mobility, energy, and fintech, all leveraged through CEPA and corridor connectivity under IMEC.

## Target Audience

The West Asia Dialogue will bring together an influential cross-section of decision-makers and innovators, including:

- » Senior government officials and diplomats from I2U2 and IMEC countries
- » Founders, unicorn executives, and CTOs from AI, SpaceTech, Blockchain, and Robotics domains
- » Green energy entrepreneurs and hydrogen technology developers
- » Strategic investors, sovereign wealth funds, and family offices



- »» Senior representatives from multilateral institutions and international think tanks
- »» Leaders from Indian, Emirati, and international chambers of commerce and export councils

## Expected Outcomes

The Dialogue is designed not only to convene, but to catalyse. It aims to move beyond declarations and toward the creation of enduring mechanisms for cooperation, investment, and innovation. Expected deliverables from the **Dubai edition** include:

- »» **Dubai GeoEconomic Charter:** A joint statement of intent among participating governments, institutions, and industry leaders to co-develop a tech-secure, climate-compatible, and rules-based global economic future. The Charter will serve as both a vision document and a framework for ongoing multilateral collaboration.
- »» **Formation of India-Gulf-Tech Working Groups:** Structured bilateral and trilateral coordination units focused on deepening cooperation in priority areas such as artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, blockchain, space technology, and regulatory standards for emerging industries.

- »» **Cross-Border Deal Flow and Innovation Pipeline:** The Dialogue will provide a platform for generating and advancing specific projects, investment proposals, and joint ventures across frontier technology sectors, particularly those aligned with sustainable development goals and regional transformation agendas.

- »» **Strategic White Paper:** A curated and data-driven outcomes document that synthesizes insights from the Dialogue and offers actionable policy and investment roadmaps. This paper will feed into India's and the region's positions at major global forums including the G20, COP, BRICS, and the World Economic Forum.

- »» **Enhanced Role for CIEU as a Regional Convenor:** The Dialogue will consolidate the role of the **Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU)** as a credible, non-partisan institution capable of facilitating sustained, Global South-oriented geo-economic dialogue. It will also help institutionalise the **GeoEconomic Hub** as a multilateral platform for long-term, cross-sector engagement.

- »» **Cross-Border Deal Flow and Innovation Pipeline** – including capital market-linked instruments, co-investment vehicles, and innovation financing platforms.

## Sponsorship Tiers & Benefits

Tier	Amount	Benefits
DIAMOND SPONSOR	AED 250,000	Prime logo presence, recognition at inaugural & valedictory sessions, media coverage, 5 delegate passes
PLATINUM SPONSOR	AED 200,000	Logo visibility on main stage & recognition only in thematic sessions, 3 delegate passes
GOLD SPONSOR	AED 150,000	Select branding on standi banners on the outside room, opening mentions, 2 passes
SILVER SPONSOR	AED 100,000	Standi branding onlysocial media group thank acknowledgement
BRONZE SPONSOR	AED 50,000	Mention and acknowledgement during the inaugural session





Council for  
**International Economic  
Understanding**

*Council for International Economic Understanding  
(CIEU) is an independent research oriented  
think-tank based out of New Delhi. We look forward to  
encouraging in-depth research, exchange dialogues,  
curate ideas leading to resolving the issues  
of the last man standing*

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