
From the Indo-Pacific to the Indo-Mediterranean: India–U.S. Strategic Convergence in Building the Twenty-First Century Corridor

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Abstract

The rising integration of the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean through marine connections, economic corridors, and strategic collaborations is reflected in the formation of the Indo-Mediterranean as a strategic geopolitical construct. This dynamic structure, which is anchored by the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), aims to strengthen robust supply chains, safeguard vital sea routes, and encourage sustainable economic growth in the face of escalating great-power competition. In light of this, the strategic goals of the United States and India to promote a rules-based maritime order, improve regional connectivity, and promote cooperation throughout the Gulf and Eastern Mediterranean have become more closely linked. This study looks at how the strategic convergence between the United States and India has shaped the Indo-Mediterranean as a key corridor for the twenty-first century. It makes the case that the Indo-Mediterranean is a logical extension of the Indo-Pacific strategic vision, in which technology collaboration, infrastructure development, digital connectivity, energy security, and marine security are emerging as key pillars of bilateral engagement. In order to create a secure, resilient, and linked geopolitical space, the study examines how both nations use complimentary capabilities through programs like IMEC, maritime domain awareness, critical and emerging technologies, and collaborations with regional stakeholders. Employing a qualitative technique based on policy documents, strategic frameworks, official declarations, and secondary literature, the article examines the opportunities and problems confronting this evolving strategic architecture. It further evaluates the effects of regional instability, marine chokepoints, geopolitical competition, and competing connectivity initiatives on the viability of the Indo-Mediterranean corridor. The article concludes that sustained India–U.S. strategic collaboration has the potential to convert the Indo-Mediterranean into a cornerstone of the emerging multipolar order by ensuring secure connectivity, economic resilience, and cooperative maritime governance. In doing so, the study contributes to the burgeoning scholarly discourse on the evolving geo

strategic links between the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean and their consequences for regional and global security.

Keywords: Indo-Mediterranean, Indo-Pacific, India–United States Relations, IMEC, Strategic Connectivity, Maritime Security, Maritime Governance, Supply Chain Resilience, Great Power Competition, Multipolar Order.

Introduction

The twenty-first century has witnessed a profound transformation in the global geopolitical landscape, driven by the emergence of new centres of economic growth, intensifying strategic competition, and the growing importance of maritime connectivity. As global trade increasingly depends upon secure and resilient sea lanes, the strategic significance of maritime regions has expanded beyond traditional geographical boundaries. In this evolving environment, the Indo-Pacific has emerged as the principal theatre of global politics, encompassing the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as an integrated strategic space. Simultaneously, developments in West Asia, the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean have demonstrated that economic prosperity and geopolitical stability can no longer be understood through isolated regional frameworks. Instead, an interconnected maritime continuum stretching from the Indo-Pacific to the Mediterranean has begun to take shape, giving rise to what many scholars and policymakers increasingly describe as the Indo-Mediterranean.

The Indo-Mediterranean represents more than a geographical extension of the Indo-Pacific concept. It reflects the integration of maritime security, global supply chains, digital infrastructure, energy connectivity, and strategic partnerships into a single geopolitical framework. This emerging space links South Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, the Red Sea, and Europe through interconnected transportation and economic corridors that are expected to redefine international trade and strategic competition during the coming decades. Unlike previous regional arrangements centred primarily on military alliances or commercial agreements, the Indo-Mediterranean seeks to integrate security, technology, infrastructure, and sustainable development into a comprehensive strategic architecture.

A major catalyst behind this transformation has been the announcement of the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) during the G20 Summit held in New Delhi in 2023. IMEC represents one of the most ambitious connectivity initiatives of the twenty-first century, aiming to establish a multimodal transportation network connecting India with Europe through the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and the Mediterranean. Beyond facilitating trade, the corridor seeks to strengthen digital connectivity, clean energy cooperation, resilient supply chains, and infrastructure development while reducing transit time between Asia and Europe. In doing so, IMEC offers an alternative model of regional connectivity based upon transparency, sustainability, and rules-based cooperation.

The emergence of IMEC has substantially strengthened the strategic convergence between India and the United States. Although bilateral cooperation between the two countries has expanded significantly over the past two decades through initiatives such as the Civil Nuclear Agreement, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), and numerous defence agreements, recent geopolitical developments have accelerated the scope of collaboration beyond the traditional Indo-Pacific. The convergence now extends towards the Gulf region, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Europe, reflecting a shared vision of creating resilient connectivity corridors capable of supporting economic growth while maintaining regional stability.

India's growing role within this strategic framework reflects its transformation from a regional maritime

actor into a leading global power. India's geographic location at the centre of the Indian Ocean provides it with unique strategic advantages for connecting East and West. Successive governments have recognised maritime connectivity as a critical component of national development and foreign policy, evident through initiatives such as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), Project Mausam, Sagarmala, and active participation in multilateral institutions across the Indo-Pacific. These initiatives demonstrate India's broader objective of ensuring a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based maritime order while simultaneously expanding economic partnerships across multiple regions.

Similarly, the United States has increasingly recognised that maintaining global leadership requires secure maritime corridors extending beyond the Pacific theatre. American strategic documents—including the Indo-Pacific Strategy, National Security Strategy, and National Defense Strategy—emphasise resilient supply chains, infrastructure investment, technological leadership, and partnerships with democratic nations. Washington views India's growing economic capabilities, strategic autonomy, and central geographic position as indispensable for maintaining stability across the broader maritime domain linking the Indo-Pacific with Europe.

The strategic convergence between India and the United States has been reinforced by several contemporary geopolitical developments. The disruption of global supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities associated with excessive dependence upon single-country manufacturing hubs. Subsequently, conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war, instability in the Red Sea, tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, and increasing maritime competition in the South China Sea have further demonstrated the importance of diversified connectivity networks. These developments have encouraged both countries to pursue resilient transportation corridors capable of reducing geopolitical risks while strengthening economic integration.

Beyond traditional security considerations, emerging technologies have become central pillars of Indo-U.S. cooperation. Artificial intelligence, semiconductor manufacturing, cyber security, undersea communication cables, digital public infrastructure, space cooperation, and clean energy transitions increasingly shape the strategic architecture of the Indo-Mediterranean. Through frameworks such as the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), both countries seek to promote technological innovation while reducing vulnerabilities associated with critical supply chains. Consequently, the Indo-Mediterranean is not merely a maritime corridor but also a digital and technological corridor supporting the future global economy.

The evolving Indo-Mediterranean also possesses significant normative dimensions. India and the United States consistently advocate for a rules-based international order grounded in international law, freedom of navigation, respect for sovereignty, peaceful dispute resolution, and sustainable development. These principles distinguish IMEC and related initiatives from purely geopolitical infrastructure projects by emphasising transparency, inclusiveness, environmental sustainability, and long-term regional cooperation. Such an approach aligns with broader international efforts to promote resilient global governance amid intensifying great-power competition.

Nevertheless, the Indo-Mediterranean project faces considerable challenges. Regional conflicts, political instability in the Middle East, maritime security threats, piracy, terrorism, and disruptions at strategic chokepoints—including the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, the Suez Canal, and the Eastern Mediterranean—continue to threaten uninterrupted connectivity. Furthermore, competing infrastructure initiatives, particularly China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), create an increasingly competitive geopolitical environment in which connectivity itself has become an instrument of strategic influence.

Domestic political transitions, financing constraints, and varying priorities among participating states also pose obstacles to the effective implementation of IMEC and related projects.

Against this backdrop, understanding the strategic convergence between India and the United States becomes essential for analysing the future of regional and global order. Rather than viewing the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean as separate geopolitical theatres, this paper argues that they increasingly constitute an integrated strategic continuum shaped by connectivity, maritime governance, technological cooperation, and economic resilience. The Indo-Mediterranean therefore represents a natural evolution of the Indo-Pacific concept, reflecting broader transformations in global geopolitics.

This paper seeks to examine how India and the United States are jointly contributing to the construction of the Indo-Mediterranean as a twenty-first-century strategic corridor. It analyses the role of IMEC, maritime security cooperation, digital and technological partnerships, regional diplomacy, and infrastructure development in strengthening bilateral strategic convergence. Furthermore, the study evaluates the opportunities and challenges associated with this emerging geopolitical architecture and assesses its implications for global governance, economic resilience, and the evolving multipolar international order.

Literature Review

The existing literature demonstrates that the Indo-Pacific has evolved from a geographical concept into a comprehensive strategic framework encompassing maritime security, economic connectivity, and rules-based regional cooperation. Scholars such as Gurpreet Khurana, Rory Medcalf, and David Brewster argue that the Indo-Pacific reflects the growing strategic integration of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, with India emerging as a central maritime power due to its geographic location and expanding naval capabilities. Parallel to this, extensive research on India–U.S. relations highlights the remarkable transformation of bilateral ties from limited engagement during the Cold War to a comprehensive strategic partnership driven by shared concerns over maritime security, technological innovation, supply chain resilience, and regional stability. Studies by Ashley Tellis, C. Raja Mohan, and Tanvi Madan emphasize that initiatives such as the Quad, iCET, and foundational defence agreements have significantly deepened strategic convergence between the two democracies. Contemporary scholarship also recognizes that connectivity initiatives have become instruments of geopolitical influence, with projects such as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), and the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) reflecting competing visions of regional integration. Likewise, maritime security literature underscores the growing importance of protecting sea lines of communication, securing strategic chokepoints, promoting the Blue Economy, and strengthening maritime governance in response to piracy, regional conflicts, and disruptions to global trade. However, despite this expanding body of research, the concept of the Indo-Mediterranean remains relatively underexplored in academic literature. Existing studies largely examine the Indo-Pacific, the Mediterranean, IMEC, and India–U.S. strategic cooperation as separate subjects, with limited attempts to integrate them into a unified analytical framework. Furthermore, most discussions on IMEC remain policy-oriented and focus primarily on trade and infrastructure, paying comparatively less attention to its broader geopolitical, technological, and maritime implications. Consequently, there is a significant research gap regarding how India–U.S. strategic convergence is contributing to the emergence of the Indo-Mediterranean as a new geopolitical construct linking South Asia, the Gulf, and Europe through resilient connectivity, maritime governance, digital infrastructure, and energy cooperation. Addressing this gap, the present study conceptualizes the Indo-Mediterranean as an extension of the Indo-Pacific strategic vision and argues that sustained India–U.S. cooperation is playing a pivotal role in shaping this evolving geostrategic space, thereby contributing to the emerging multipolar international order.

Conceptual and Theoretical Framework: Understanding the Indo-Mediterranean as a New Geostrategic Space

The emergence of the Indo-Mediterranean reflects a significant transformation in contemporary geopolitical thinking, where maritime regions are increasingly understood as interconnected strategic spaces rather than isolated geographical entities. This study conceptualizes the Indo-Mediterranean as an integrated geopolitical corridor extending from the Indian Ocean through the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea to the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe, facilitated by initiatives such as the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The framework draws upon Classical Geopolitics, Complex Interdependence Theory, and Strategic Connectivity to explain the growing convergence between India and the United States. From a geopolitical perspective, the Indo-Mediterranean represents a critical maritime space where control over sea lines of communication, strategic chokepoints, and infrastructure corridors directly influences regional and global power dynamics. Complex Interdependence Theory, advanced by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, provides an analytical lens for understanding how economic interdependence, technological cooperation, energy security, digital infrastructure, and institutional partnerships increasingly complement traditional military power in shaping interstate relations. Simultaneously, the concept of strategic connectivity emphasizes that infrastructure projects, transportation corridors, ports, digital networks, and supply chains have become instruments of geopolitical influence and economic resilience. Within this framework, India and the United States seek to promote a rules-based maritime order through collaborative initiatives that enhance regional connectivity while ensuring transparency, sustainability, and resilience against geopolitical disruptions. Consequently, the Indo-Mediterranean is understood not merely as a geographical extension of the Indo-Pacific but as an evolving strategic construct where maritime governance, technological innovation, economic integration, and multilateral cooperation collectively redefine the architecture of twenty-first-century regional and global order.

Evolution of India–U.S. Strategic Convergence

The strategic convergence between India and the United States has evolved significantly over the past two decades, transforming a historically cautious relationship into one of the most consequential partnerships of the twenty-first century. While bilateral relations during the Cold War were characterized by mutual suspicion and divergent strategic priorities, the post-Cold War era witnessed gradual rapprochement driven by changing geopolitical realities, economic liberalization, and shared interests in maintaining regional stability. A major turning point occurred with the signing of the India–U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008, which symbolized Washington's recognition of India as a rising global power and laid the foundation for deeper strategic cooperation. Subsequently, bilateral engagement expanded across defence, maritime security, counterterrorism, intelligence sharing, trade, and technological collaboration. The rise of China as an increasingly assertive power, concerns regarding freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific, and the need for resilient global supply chains further accelerated strategic convergence. Defence agreements such as the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) enhanced military interoperability and strengthened security cooperation. Simultaneously, multilateral frameworks such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) reinforced a shared commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. In recent years, bilateral cooperation has expanded beyond traditional security concerns to encompass critical and emerging technologies, semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, space exploration, clean energy transitions, and digital infrastructure through initiatives such as the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). The announcement of the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) further reflects the growing alignment of strategic objectives, extending cooperation beyond the

Indo-Pacific towards the Gulf, West Asia, and the Mediterranean. This evolving partnership demonstrates how both countries increasingly view connectivity, maritime governance, technological innovation, and economic resilience as interconnected pillars of regional and global stability. Consequently, India–U.S. strategic convergence has become a central driver in shaping the emerging Indo-Mediterranean architecture, linking security, commerce, and infrastructure across a broader geopolitical continuum stretching from the Indian Ocean to Europe.

IMEC and the Twenty-First Century Connectivity Corridor

The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) represents one of the most ambitious connectivity initiatives of the twenty-first century, designed to strengthen economic integration, enhance maritime and logistical connectivity, and build resilient supply chains linking India, the Gulf region, and Europe. Announced during the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, IMEC seeks to establish a multimodal network comprising ports, railways, shipping routes, digital infrastructure, and clean energy corridors connecting India with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe through the Mediterranean. Unlike conventional infrastructure projects, IMEC integrates physical connectivity with digital networks, green hydrogen transmission, electricity interconnections, high-speed data cables, and modern logistics systems, thereby creating a comprehensive framework for sustainable economic development. For India, the corridor complements its broader maritime vision by expanding access to European markets, strengthening partnerships with Gulf countries, and reinforcing its position as a central hub in global trade and connectivity. For the United States, IMEC aligns with its broader strategy of promoting resilient, transparent, and rules-based infrastructure while providing a credible alternative to competing connectivity initiatives. The corridor also reflects the growing strategic convergence between India and the United States in promoting secure maritime routes, diversified supply chains, technological cooperation, and regional stability across the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean. However, the successful implementation of IMEC depends upon sustained political commitment, regional stability, infrastructure financing, and effective coordination among participating countries. Despite these challenges, IMEC has the potential to redefine global commerce by transforming the Indo-Mediterranean into a strategic economic corridor that strengthens connectivity, enhances economic resilience, and contributes to the evolving multipolar international order.

Maritime Security and the Protection of Sea Lines of Communication

Maritime security constitutes one of the principal pillars of the emerging Indo-Mediterranean strategic architecture, as uninterrupted access to the sea remains essential for global trade, energy transportation, and economic stability. The maritime corridor linking the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Mediterranean carries a substantial proportion of global commerce and energy supplies, making the security of these sea lines of communication (SLOCs) a shared strategic priority for both India and the United States. Growing challenges such as piracy, maritime terrorism, illegal trafficking, regional conflicts, cyber threats to port infrastructure, and disruptions at critical chokepoints—including the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and the Suez Canal—have underscored the vulnerability of global supply chains and reinforced the need for cooperative maritime governance. In response, India and the United States have significantly expanded bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation through joint naval exercises, maritime domain awareness initiatives, intelligence sharing, logistics agreements, and capacity-building programmes with regional partners. India's initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), and the Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) complement U.S. efforts to uphold freedom of navigation, ensure adherence to international maritime law, and maintain a rules-based maritime order. The protection of undersea communication cables, offshore energy infrastructure, and commercial

shipping routes has also emerged as a critical dimension of maritime security in an increasingly digital and interconnected global economy. Consequently, maritime cooperation between India and the United States extends beyond traditional naval deterrence to encompass humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, environmental protection, and the development of resilient maritime infrastructure. Such collaboration strengthens the strategic foundation of the Indo-Mediterranean by ensuring secure connectivity, safeguarding critical sea routes, and promoting regional stability across one of the world's most vital maritime corridors.

Critical and Emerging Technologies, Digital Infrastructure, and Energy Connectivity

Critical and emerging technologies have become central to India–U.S. strategic convergence, expanding bilateral cooperation beyond traditional defence and maritime security into areas that are shaping the future global economy. Recognizing that technological leadership is increasingly linked to national security and economic resilience, both countries have strengthened collaboration through the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), focusing on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, advanced telecommunications, cybersecurity, biotechnology, and space technologies. Simultaneously, the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) incorporates digital infrastructure as a key pillar by promoting high-speed data cables, secure digital networks, smart logistics, and integrated supply chain management. Energy connectivity also occupies a prominent position within the corridor through investments in renewable energy, green hydrogen production, electricity interconnections, and clean energy transportation, supporting global efforts toward sustainable development and energy transition. These initiatives aim to reduce dependence on vulnerable supply chains, strengthen technological innovation, and create resilient economic networks capable of withstanding geopolitical disruptions. Furthermore, cooperation in critical minerals, semiconductor manufacturing, and digital public infrastructure reflects the shared objective of building trusted technology ecosystems based on transparency, innovation, and secure governance. As global competition increasingly extends into the technological domain, India and the United States view digital connectivity, clean energy cooperation, and technological partnerships as essential components of strategic resilience. Consequently, the integration of advanced technologies, digital infrastructure, and sustainable energy networks significantly broadens the scope of the Indo-Mediterranean, transforming it from a maritime trade corridor into a comprehensive platform for economic modernization, technological collaboration, and long-term geopolitical stability.

Regional Stakeholders: Europe, the Gulf States, Israel, and the Eastern Mediterranean

The success of the Indo-Mediterranean as an emerging strategic corridor depends not only on India–U.S. cooperation but also on the active participation of regional stakeholders whose geopolitical and economic interests intersect across the Gulf and the Mediterranean. The Gulf states, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, have emerged as pivotal partners by investing heavily in port infrastructure, logistics, renewable energy, and digital connectivity while pursuing economic diversification under national development strategies such as Vision 2030. Their strategic location enables them to function as vital transit hubs linking South Asia with Europe. Israel contributes advanced technological capabilities, innovation ecosystems, cybersecurity expertise, and modern port infrastructure, strengthening the technological dimension of the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Meanwhile, European countries view the corridor as an opportunity to diversify supply chains, enhance energy security, reduce logistical dependence on vulnerable trade routes, and deepen economic engagement with the Indo-Pacific. The Eastern Mediterranean, situated at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, further enhances the strategic significance of the corridor by connecting maritime transportation networks with European markets. Collectively, these stakeholders contribute to building an integrated framework based on resilient infrastructure, sustainable development, digital transformation, and secure maritime

connectivity. Nevertheless, political instability, unresolved regional conflicts, diplomatic tensions, and differing strategic priorities continue to present significant challenges to effective coordination. Despite these constraints, growing cooperation among India, the United States, Europe, the Gulf states, and Israel reflects a shared recognition that collaborative connectivity and multilateral partnerships are essential for strengthening economic resilience, promoting regional stability, and shaping an inclusive and rules-based Indo-Mediterranean order.

Challenges to the Indo-Mediterranean Vision

Despite its considerable strategic and economic potential, the realization of the Indo-Mediterranean vision faces several geopolitical, economic, and security challenges that could affect its long-term viability. One of the most significant obstacles is the persistent political instability across West Asia, including ongoing conflicts, diplomatic rivalries, and security crises that threaten the smooth functioning of regional connectivity initiatives. Maritime insecurity in critical chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and the Suez Canal poses additional risks to global trade, as disruptions caused by armed conflicts, piracy, terrorism, or attacks on commercial shipping can significantly delay the movement of goods and energy supplies. The growing strategic competition among major powers further complicates the regional landscape, with competing infrastructure initiatives and geopolitical rivalries influencing the strategic choices of participating states. Financing large-scale infrastructure projects, ensuring regulatory harmonization, and coordinating policies among multiple countries with diverse political and economic priorities also remain significant implementation challenges. Moreover, cyber threats targeting digital infrastructure, ports, logistics systems, and undersea communication cables have emerged as critical concerns in an increasingly interconnected global economy. Environmental and climate-related risks, including rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and the need for sustainable infrastructure development, add another layer of complexity to long-term planning. Domestic political transitions and changing foreign policy priorities within participating countries may further influence the pace and continuity of the corridor's implementation. Nevertheless, these challenges also present opportunities for deeper international cooperation, stronger institutional coordination, and enhanced multilateral governance. Sustained collaboration among India, the United States, Europe, the Gulf states, and other regional partners will therefore be essential to ensuring that the Indo-Mediterranean evolves into a secure, resilient, and sustainable strategic corridor capable of supporting regional stability and the emerging multipolar international order.

Future Prospects for India–U.S. Cooperation

The future of the Indo-Mediterranean will largely depend on the ability of India and the United States to sustain their strategic convergence and translate shared objectives into long-term institutional and infrastructural outcomes. As the global strategic landscape becomes increasingly multipolar, both countries are likely to deepen cooperation across maritime security, digital connectivity, critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains, clean energy, and infrastructure development. The successful implementation of the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) has the potential to transform regional trade by reducing transit time, strengthening economic integration between Asia and Europe, and creating reliable alternatives to existing connectivity networks. At the same time, expanding collaboration through frameworks such as the Quad, I2U2, and the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) will further enhance technological innovation, cybersecurity, semiconductor production, artificial intelligence, and maritime domain awareness. Greater engagement with the European Union, Gulf states, and Eastern Mediterranean partners will also strengthen multilateral governance and promote a rules-based maritime order founded on transparency, sustainability, and respect for international law. However, realizing these opportunities will require sustained political commitment, coordinated

investment, effective institutional mechanisms, and the ability to manage geopolitical competition and regional instability. If these challenges are successfully addressed, the Indo-Mediterranean could emerge as one of the defining strategic and economic corridors of the twenty-first century, reinforcing India–U.S. cooperation while contributing to secure connectivity, regional stability, and the evolution of a resilient and inclusive multipolar international order.

Conclusion

The emergence of the Indo-Mediterranean marks a significant evolution in contemporary geopolitics, reflecting the growing integration of the Indo-Pacific, the Gulf, and the Mediterranean into a single strategic and economic continuum. As global trade, energy flows, digital networks, and maritime security become increasingly interconnected, regional stability can no longer be understood through isolated geographical frameworks. Instead, connectivity initiatives such as the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) illustrate a broader shift toward resilient infrastructure, diversified supply chains, and cooperative maritime governance. Within this evolving landscape, the strategic convergence between India and the United States has emerged as a key driver in shaping a rules-based and inclusive regional order. Their expanding partnership—encompassing maritime security, defence cooperation, critical and emerging technologies, clean energy, digital infrastructure, and economic connectivity—demonstrates a shared commitment to ensuring secure sea lines of communication, strengthening technological innovation, and promoting sustainable development across the broader Indo-Mediterranean region. At the same time, the active participation of Europe, the Gulf states, and Eastern Mediterranean partners underscores the increasingly multilateral character of this emerging strategic architecture.

Despite its considerable promise, the Indo-Mediterranean vision faces challenges arising from geopolitical rivalries, regional conflicts, maritime insecurity, financing constraints, and technological vulnerabilities. Addressing these issues will require sustained political commitment, institutional coordination, adherence to international law, and effective multilateral cooperation among all participating stakeholders. Nevertheless, the opportunities presented by IMEC and related connectivity initiatives outweigh these challenges, offering the potential to reshape global trade routes, strengthen economic resilience, and promote regional stability. The study concludes that the Indo-Mediterranean should be understood not merely as an extension of the Indo-Pacific but as a distinct geostrategic construct that integrates maritime governance, infrastructure development, technological cooperation, and economic connectivity into a comprehensive framework for the twenty-first century. By positioning India and the United States at the centre of this transformation, the emerging corridor has the potential to become a cornerstone of the evolving multipolar international order, fostering secure connectivity, shared prosperity, and cooperative governance across one of the world's most strategically significant regions.

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