

India–Israel Relations

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Abstract

India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in the year 1992. Bilateral trade has grown from \$200 million in 1992 to more than \$7 billion in 2017. High level collaboration in Defense, Science, and IT reflects inter-governmental trust and a stable form of partnership. Israelis and Indians interact along many occasions as they traverse each other's terrains. However, these exchanges find only peripheral reference in official disclosures and have received little scholarly interpretation. Over 40,000 Israelis visit India annually and 70,000 Indian Jews live in Israel, aside from other Indian community clusters. But what is the nature of India–Israel encounters socially, culturally, economically, and politically? Do they impact the meta-narrative of India–Israel relations? How various agreements, MOUs, inter-cultural programs including various exchange programs under the umbrella of the so-called Foreign Policy be better harnessed to boost bilateral relationships, etc., are some of the important issues which have been dealt in this research paper and the authors have tried to maximize their focus on the recent and current developments taking place in their partnerships, and especially the focus on Super Power has been kept in mind.

Keywords: Bilateral Trade, Collaboration, Inter-Governmental Trust, Partnerships, Agreements, Relations

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INTRODUCTION

The West-Asian region, particularly the Gulf region has always been important to the world and is a coveted region due to its oil wealth and strategic location. And it was India's good relations with Arabs that governed its relations with Israel since independence.

The comforts and collaborations that mark India–Israel relations today take us to the relatively short history of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. The levels of bilateral exchanges and increasing trade encompass a wide area of interests among them. The variety of government projects range from agriculture and water resource management to hi-tech aerospace defense systems, satellite technology, and joint defense-related projects. Hundreds of small entrepreneurs on both sides are getting benefitted through various government schemes to promote joint ventures. However, the history of these ventures is short and much of this has happened only in the last few years. Although recent emergence of India–Israel relations has attracted the attention of

international relations scholars and security analysts in both countries, as also among India-watchers in Washington-based think-tanks, the range of scholarship on India–Israel relations is limited in scope. “Mutual strategic interests”, counter-terrorism, and “heightened cooperation” remain the primary focus. More recently, there has been media focus on India's pro-Palestine vote at the UN and its potential implications. In general, discussions and conferences follow a security-related perspective, and only rarely do news media articles stray beyond the “strategic partnership” focus. While security issues and defense collaboration admittedly remain a key for policy-formation, there are in fact important dimensions of the India–Israel relationship outside the ambit of hard-core foreign policy framework that remain unacknowledged in policy-related literature. These dimensions span a wide range of spheres: education, research, art, culture, sports, tourism, and migrant work.

Both the countries established full diplomatic relations in 1992 and since then, the bilateral

relations have increased at economic, military, agricultural, and political level. Although both countries gained independence from UK within months of each other, they found themselves in different directions for nearly four decades, India as a leader in Non-Aligned Movement that maintained close relations to the Arab world and Soviet Union, and Israel which linked its future to close ties with US and Western Europe. India's liberalization policies and globalization strategies make Israel well positioned to fulfil the economic and technical demands of India's rapidly developing economy. Israel's achievement in agricultural technologies as well as better industrial know-how, combined with India's large pool of scientific and technical personnel, create a bigger scope for cooperation in the sphere of culture and tourism also. Both countries are showing an encouraging response to each other and are seen to be making efforts to come closer.

HISTORY OF INDO-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Ancient Relations

According to Chaim Menachem Rabin, the connection between ancient Israel and Indian subcontinent was recorded during the reign of King Solomon in I Kings 10.22 [1]. The trade relations of both the communities can be traced back to 1000 BCE and earlier to the time of Saraswati Valley Civilization of India as well as Babylonian culture of the Middle-East.

Non-recognition (1948–50)

India voted against the Partition Plan of Palestine in 1947 and voted against Israel's admission to UN in 1949 [2].

Informal recognition (1950–91)

Israel was officially recognized by India on 17th September 1950, but the relationship remained informal in nature. Domestically, the politicians in India feared losing the votes of Muslims, if relations were normalized with Israel [3]. India's foreign policy goals and alliances also proved problematic to formal relations with Israel, including India's support to Pro-Palestine Liberation Organization Non-Aligned Movement, India's tilt towards Soviet Union during Cold War, and its desire to counter Pakistan's influence with Arab States.

1992 to the Present

Opening up of an embassy in Tel Aviv in 1992 started the reign of official rapprochement towards Israel formally. The formation of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which neglected the sentiments of Indian Muslims and blocking of India by Pakistan from joining OIC, are considered to be causes of such diplomatic shift. When UNHRC report alleging that Israel had committed War crimes was tabled for vote, India abstained from voting and Israeli envoy to India Daniel Carmon thanked India for not supporting for what he described as "another anti-Israel bashing resolution" [4].

It is seen that there has been a gradual shift in the foreign policy of India towards Israel and the trend is mostly positive. In these 25 years, the two nations have come a long way.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

India and Israel established diplomatic relations in 1992 and recently marked the completion of 25 years of formal nation-to-nation ties. The opening of embassies in each other's countries happened within months of each other – Israel opened its embassy in New Delhi in February and India opened its embassy in Tel Aviv in May.

During 1950s, India hesitated to have any relation with Israel as it was after all a country created on basis of religion but slowly and steadily both countries started establishing diplomatic relations. But Israel joined the UK and France in attacking Egypt over the nationalization of the Suez Canal, and once that happened, then again, the sentiment in India moved away from Israel and it became difficult to establish full diplomatic relations with it.

After that, several decades followed and eventually full diplomatic relations could be established only in the wake of the Oslo peace process, which started in the late 1980s. Despite completing just 25 years in field of official ties, India's links and instincts with the Jewish nation are old for supporting Palestine. An example of this is the help extended to India by Israel in 1962 during the India-China war when Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion

responded positively to Nehru's request for arms. This laid the foundation for the now-strong defense relationship between India and Israel. During the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan, Israel supplied India with arms, though this was done under the radar. In 1971, Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir sent arms at the request of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

What followed further was a consolidation of bilateral relations. Both countries sent high profile officials to each other's capitals and New Delhi gradually armed up its military procurement from Israel. India is currently Israel's top purchaser of weapons, accounting for 41% of its arms exports.

Modi's 2017 Visit to Israel

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel can be termed as a historic step. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to step on the soil of Israel. The ministers of Modi's government had already marked their visits to Israel but his visit is a new direction in the relationship of the two nations [1]. This is a huge diversion from the past as the earlier governments were reluctant to visit Israel due to their ideologies aligned with secularists. They were reluctant to associate themselves with a majoritarian religious state like Israel. Even for Modi, it took 3 years to come out of the straitjacket of his legacy. The visit was termed historic by the media houses of both the countries. The visit can be termed as mostly successful as 7 MOUs were signed between them. Modi met the Indian diaspora in Israel in a highly televised event in Tel Aviv. He also announced Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards for those Indian Jews as well as for those who have completed their compulsory military service in Israel Defense Force. The visit opened doors for further momentum of relationship between the two nations.

Netanyahu's 2018 Visit to India

The visit of the Israeli PM to India was his first visit 15 years after the visit by former PM Ariel Sharon in 2003 [1]. The visit was highly successful and productive. Mr. Modi himself termed the visit as "historic and special". The visit was 6-day-long which made it more

special. Also, the visit was just 6 months after Mr. Modi's visit to Israel. The visit was significant for India in terms of cooperation with Israel in various fields like defense, trade, science and technology, etc. Mr. Netanyahu was accompanied by a delegation of 130 from 102 strong companies. Also, an official commemoration ceremony took place that honored the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Battle of Haifa during World War I. Nine MOUs were signed between the two countries. Raisina Dialogue was also an annual strategic and military conference where Israeli President gave inaugural address, where success and challenges plaguing their relations and country were discussed. The visit was a bit different from other visits of the counterparts of Modi as Mr. Modi gave a personalized touch to the visit. He received the Israeli PM on the airport by setting aside the protocol. Mr. Netanyahu termed the relationship as "marriage made in heaven" between two nations. This showed that personal chemistry between the nations plays a vital role in advancing the relationship between two nations [2].

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Both countries signed an agreement on science and technology in the year 1993, where direct scientific cooperation was allowed for first time between the two governments, where areas like lasers and electro-optics were discussed and a \$3 million fund was established. To facilitate R&D collaboration between both countries [5], Various seminars and joint meetings were conducted after that period and in 1999, both agreed on four proposals for joint research projects in human genome research, when 20 Israeli scientists participated in a Physics Symposium in Delhi [6] and 18 Indian scientists attended a similar function held in Jerusalem [7].

In 2003, both countries discussed doubling their investment in their ongoing science and technology collaboration to \$1 million each, starting in October 2004 [8]. Both countries signed an MoU for setting up a fund for encouraging bilateral investment in some of the specified industrial research development projects in 2005, where one Indian and one Israeli company need to collaborate under the

project to qualify for claiming this fund. From 2006 to 2014, the fund, named i4RD, has been used in seven projects [9].

In 2012, Israel stated its intent to increase technological and economic cooperation with Bihar, in the fields of water and solar energy and medical insurance and two agricultural centers of excellence in Bihar, focusing on increasing productivity of vegetable and mango crops in 2014 [10].

Following PM Modi's visit to Israel in 2017, talks on collaboration in *innovation development* is going on. NASSCOM along with Accenture released the report *Collaborative Innovation: The Vehicle Driving Indo-Israel Prosperity* to highlight areas of scientific and technological collaboration between the two countries [11]. The agreements included the decision to create a bilateral technology innovation fund worth \$40 million for research in industrial development. This is quite encouraging for the Indian tech minds. And it also fulfills Modi's aspirations of *Make in India*. The fund is significant in a way that it focuses on industry-led research [3]. The contribution will be contributing \$4 million. The fund is set up to promote R&D investments. Israel is known as the leader in technology. Also, the non-profit Organization TAVtech Ventures is launching a program that connects people from Israel and USA with local Indian students to come up with tech-based startups [12]. The program aims to teach coding to students to create a social impact [4]. This is a great initiative by both nations to connect youth in the process of nation building.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

"Some plants need more water, some less. We can see it today with big data, with drones, with other instruments of technology to make farmers produce much more crops. More crops with less." – Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel and India signed an agriculture cooperation agreement, which formally established Indo-Israel Agriculture Cooperation Agreement. The central aim of this project is to increase crop productivity and diversity in various regions in India by harnessing and fruitfully utilizing the technology provided by

Israel [13]. India and Israel have agreed to develop joint programs of assistance in the blocs of training, capacity building, and the development of small projects in the agriculture, water, healthcare and education sectors [5].

As of recent data published in 2015, 15 centers of excellence are fully operational, spanning 10 Indian states which are being undertaken by Mashav, including Indo-Israeli Center of Excellence for Animal Husbandry and Dairying [14]. The objective is to set up 28 such centers of excellence in India [6].

Israel has been a pioneer in technology. It has brought a revolution in the field of agriculture, specifically the water resources and irrigation. India and Israel have a reciprocal assertion for participation in horticulture (agriculture). The two-sided activity plan for 2015-18 is at present operational. Ten out of the proposed 26 centers of excellence in horticulture being created in India with Israeli help have just been spread crosswise over various states, for example, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and so on. Indian authorities have been accepting preparing in Israel every once in a while. Indian authority and business assignments consistently go to Israel's triennial worldwide farming display occasion, AgriTech, which exhibits Israel's accomplishments in agribusiness. In AgriTech 2018, India was spoken to by the MoS for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; Chief Minister of Haryana and authority appointments from Uttarakhand and Punjab.

The aim is to bring advanced practices and technology of Israel to India.

SPACE COOPERATION

The trend in space cooperation was a low-cooperation about 10 years ago. Presently, there has been a shift in the relationship after Modi's visit to Israel. This is a startling development. The relationship is sought to advance and deepen developments. After Netanyahu's visit to India, an MoU was signed between the two nations. The MoU is specifically between Indian Institute of Space Science and Space Technology and Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to establish cooperation in matters of space studies.

An agreement has been signed between the two nations. The collaboration focuses on developing technologies in the space sector. It includes propulsion for small satellites, atomic clocks, and GEO-LEO Optical Link. The tie is a welcome step by both sides towards the advancement of relationships. The agreement will put forward ISA collaboration with other Indian companies. ISRO can look forward to carrying more satellites from Israel as well as receiving important technology support in developing small, high-resolution radar imaging satellites [7].

This MoU is a joint agreement for academic research for faculties as well as students. The goal is to organize student exchange programs, offer dual degrees, fellowships, and motivate visits and conference calls by the scientists [8]. This cooperation between the two nations is a step towards stronger Indo-Israel ties.

TRADE RELATIONS [9]

“Israeli industries, including the defense industries could ‘make in India’ and thereby reduce costs of manufacturing products and systems developed by Israel”

– Narendra Modi

There has been a drastic leap in the bilateral trade and economic relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between both the countries in 1992, from \$200 million in 1992 (mainly of diamonds) to \$5.02 billion (excluding defense) in 2016-17 with balance of trade being in India’s favor by more than \$1 billion.

Israel was India’s 38th largest trading partner with trade of \$5.02 billion in 2016-17, down 18% over 2012-13.

Mineral fuels and oils are India’s leading export to Israel worth \$1.01 billion in 2016-17, whereas India’s major imports from Israel included natural pearls worth \$ 1.11 billion.

Trade in diamonds accounts for nearly 54% of the bilateral trade. Nearly 40 diamond dealers from India have opened offices at the Israeli diamond exchange in Ramat-Gan, and many out of them are active in Israel.

In addition to direct investments, FDI from Israel to India also flows through USA, Europe, and Singapore.

TRADE PROJECTS IN CONTINUANCE

Companies present in Israel have invested in India in various operating fields like real estate, renewable energy, water management, etc., and are keen to set up R&D centers and production units in India and the number of Israeli companies working in India has increased to around 300.

While official data about India’s investments in Israel is not available, significant investments from India in Israel include 100% acquisition of Israeli drip-irrigation company Naandan by Jain Irrigation, controlling stake in Taro Pharmaceuticals by Sun Pharma and Triveni Engineering Industries’ investment in Israeli waste-water treatment company Aqwise. Indian major companies are also making a mark in the Israeli innovation ecosystem. Tata Group invested an amount equivalent to \$5 million at Technology Transfer Center at Tel Aviv University in 2013, and they later collaborated with some leading global players to set up a new technology incubator, called i3 Equity Partners (i3) in 2016, whose main job is to focus on developing high-end IoT technologies. TLV Partners (an Israel-based venture capital firm) is an investee being invested by Wipro. India-based pharmaceutical company Sun Pharma joined hands with Weizmann Institute of Science and Technion Institute of Technology. An R&D Center in Jerusalem and a Sales Office in Tel Aviv have been opened by Larsen & Toubro in November 2017.

They have also ventured into less explored areas like films, oil and gas, cyber security and startups. And when it comes to investment in a field like agriculture, the PM Benjamin himself clarified that the big data and photographs of the fields collected by drone can help farmers to direct the amount of water to the level of individual plant and this will automatically help India to produce more crops by consuming less water, and energy and this is the use of technology to not only help the future generations but to change the lives of today’s people healthier, safer, better nursed and to live longer.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Coming to automobile industry, Israel has around 500 startups that solely deal with automobile technology or autonomous vehicles and since 85% of the car is software and merely 15% hardware, this is therefore the potential area where Israel can join hands with Indian car manufacturers.

As stated earlier, the PM of India had already welcomed the completion of all formalities for the official launch of India–Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Investment Fund and enterprises (interested) under this proposal can utilize this significant platform for undertaking joint R&D projects in innovative and futuristic technologies, and have also decided to commence an annual exchange of one hundred youth from science background.

There are more than 300 ventures from Israel in India, predominantly in the cutting-edge area and in farming. These speculations change in nature – producing plants, R&D focuses, auxiliaries, and so forth. There is a developing inclination for Israeli organizations in divisions, for example, water advances, country security, and land, notwithstanding conventional regions, for example, farming, synthetic compounds and so forth. Teva Pharmaceuticals, IDE, Netafim (put more than USD 25 million in India, 2017), ADAMA (put over USD 50 million in India, 2017), and so on are among the main Israeli organizations, which have eminent interests in India.

FOREIGN TRADE AGREEMENTS

When discussing about trade relations, the most debated and the most important issue called Foreign Trade Agreement (FTA) does come into the picture, where both the countries have a strong desire and a political will to conclude upon this issue. And it is indeed going to prove very beneficial for both the countries as Israel's demand covers the maximum scope of Customs Book, around 80% and are negotiating products from various sectors such as IT, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, etc., and this FTA is competent to open gates to even those products which were not being able to be exported mainly because of low competitiveness.

Besides getting Israeli tech firms to invest in our country, the fund called Israel=India

Innovation Initiative Fund, I4 Fund, aims to spur Indian firms to open various development centers in the Jewish State and invest in their technology ecosystem.

In order to construct a strong network between the next generation of best women scientists and technologists of both the countries, an India–Israel women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Symposium will be organized in October 2018 in India.

OIL AND GAS

When coming to oil and gas sector, they noted the intention of public sector companies and Israeli companies to begin collaboration in the areas of metal air batteries for stationary energy storage systems and in solar thermal technologies and urge industries from both sides to explore business collaboration in new energy technologies. By welcoming the initiative of India to establish the International Solar Alliance to promote renewable energy for sustainable development in the context of climate change, Israel has already declared its willingness to be a partner in this initiative.

Last but not the least, noting down that trade and business requires better connectivity, the two PMs have also decided to expedite the conclusion of agreement on maritime transport that will increase shipping business and will also create maritime opportunities along with trainings.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS BETWEEN BOTH THE COUNTRIES

The connection between both the countries is much older than its official diplomatic relations. It is true that structural configuration plays an important role in determining and shaping the bilateral relations, but the existence of deep history and culture indeed constitutes a very important part in the scale of development. The empathy between both the countries not only shared experiences of being invaded by foreign powers but also the victims of terrorism at present.

Hinduism and Judaism shared a lot in common, like:

- a) Both religions did not inherit any missionary zeal for religious conversions.
- b) Believe that there is one supreme being.

- c) Both are ancient civilizations, centers of culture and faith, and vibrant democracies in their regions.

Soft power issues relating to history, culture, cinema, tourism, etc., provide a good connect between both of them and these soft power linkages generate a trust surplus and give an imperceptible thrust to this emerging partnership.

There are many instances in history which connect people of both these countries in a positive manner. Dr. Shalom Solomon Wald, an India expert in Israel, stated that there is a long history of contacts between Indian and Jewish civilizations from Biblical and Talmudic to modern times, which inspired Israel's founding father David Ben Gurion.

1) Arrival of Jewish people in India:

After destruction of their first and second temples, Jewish people were forced to disperse around the world. And during their this exile, they lived in different parts of India, e.g., Beni Israel were settled in Maharashtra while Kochini Jews lived in Kerala and Baghdadis stayed in West Bengal. Recently discovered Bnei Menashe and Bene Ephraim Jews were living in India's North-East region and Andhra Pradesh region. Also, Indian Jews in Israel take pride in the fact that there was no anti-Semitism in India. *India Today* quoted Ezra Moses, honorary secretary of India Jewish Federation as saying that, "Jews lived in India for thousands of years and we never faced persecution by locals and that is why we always call ourselves Indian first...and we think of India as our motherland, promised to us by our lord Almighty."

Looking at the historiography of Jewish diaspora, India has been an exceptional country as far as discrimination against Jews is concerned. Nobel laureate and former Israeli President Shimon Pres, said that, "For us India is first of all a first culture. Then it is for us the greatest democracy on earth."

2) Battle of Haifa.

Role of Indian soldiers in liberating Haifa in 1918 is still alive in the memory of people of both countries. Indian army commemorates

the Haifa day on 23rd September every year. Haifa City Council decided in 2012 that the contribution of Indian soldiers in liberation of city to be taught in history books in schools. In May 2017, New Delhi Municipal Corporation renamed Teen Murti Marg and Teen Murti Chowk as Teen Murti Hanifa Marg and Teen Murti Hanifa Chowk.

There is an 800-year-old Indian hospice in the old city of Jerusalem, which is related to Baba Farid of Chisti Order of Sufi tradition. Baba Farid went to Jerusalem in 1200 AD. This hospice is a symbol of India's heritage and presence in ancient city of Jerusalem.

TOURISM

Many Israelis visit India as tourists. Every year, more than 40,000 Israelis visit India. As for young Israelis, India is not only the favorite destination but also a safer place to enjoy. Israel tourism industry is looking towards East for attracting Asian tourists.

Cultural connect between the two countries is not only confined to their respective countries but is also visible in remote Atlantic zone, signifying political and strategic implications also. According to a report of *The New York Times*, "Indian Americans are turning to American Jews as role models and partners in areas like establishing community centers, advocating on civil right issues, etc., e.g., American Jewish Committee (AJC) has played a big role in bringing Indian American and American Jews in closer contact.

Israel is expecting 90,000 Indian tourists in 2018-19, up from 60,000 who visited during 2017-18. The Israel ministry is hopeful that the number could reach up to 2-3 lakh in next two years, as said by Director of Tourism Israel. With the direct Air India (AI) flight introduced since March this year, the greater number of Christians living in Southern States are always willing to visit the Holy Land. Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Dead Sea are the top most emerging tourist destinations for Indians in terms of convenience, safety, and culture.

Reference can be made to the recent opening of an Israel visa application center in West Bengal and North-Eastern States which is

going to further foster interest among travelers from eastern India. These soft power linkages and cultural connection reflect the high level of trust existing between both countries. And these historical and cultural links provide a positive symbolism which represents the binding force and centripetal power between these two civilizations. The enhancement of people-to-people contacts will forge strong bonds of friendship between both the nations and, therefore, they have signed a protocol for Air Transport Agreement to expand scope of cooperation in civil aviation sector.

In an indirect way, the agreement to hold festivals of India and Israel in their respective countries by their PMs is a step to increase the friendship between both the countries, which will directly impact the tourism sector as appreciation of festivals celebrated in one nation, if started celebrating in other nation, then the attraction of tourists also increases simultaneously.

CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONSHIP AND THE WAY AHEAD

"The relationship between India and Israel is a burgeoning partnership. There has been an expansion the relationship between two nations since the establishment of diplomatic ties 25 years ago. A shift in the relationship is pivotal after the assumption of power by Mr. Modi. A spate of visits has been seen from both the sides. India's PM deserves credit for investing personally in this relationship and de-hyphenating India's relationship with Israel from Palestine. This was an important move, as for years, even as Israel stood with India in terms of crises, Indian political leadership was shy of reciprocating."

The personal relationship between two countries has played a vital role which was possible due to the mutual interest of both the nations. India needs technology, innovation, defense equipment, cooperation in counter-terrorism, training in intelligence gathering, etc., from Israel, all of which are required to make India a secure, stable, and prosperous nation with a better standard of living for its people. For Israel, in addition to the huge market for its manufactured goods and

technology as well as defense products (it supplies about 40% of its annual production to India) that India represents, the huge intangible benefit is also the recognition and acceptance it receives from the largest democracy and rapidly growing economic power. More than 30 countries of the UN do not recognize Israel. Being accepted as a friend by India hence holds special value and significance for Israel [10].

NEED TO FOCUS ON OTHER AREAS

The partnership to realize its full potential is imperative. The two sides have done well to focus on the defense part. The relationship needs to broaden its horizons on other areas as well.

Technology

Israel can be termed as the global leader in terms of innovations. It has the second largest number of startups every year. There is a requirement of innovation in technology, water management, agriculture, etc., – areas where both countries can cooperate to mutual benefit and advantage. Such kind of cooperation is needed in future as well.

Cultural Connection

The very vital element between the relationships of two countries is the cultural connection between its people. India being one of the countries where Jews had not faced anti-Semitism, Jews have been a part of the Indian society from a considerable period of time [11]. This connection can be used to increase tourism between two nations through organization of various exchange programs between the citizens of the two nations. Netanyahu has invited the Bollywood actors to shoot a film there [12]. These soft power relations give a boost to the relationship between the two countries for long run.

Economic Cooperation

Though economic cooperation between both the countries is below potential, the two sides are re-evaluating and trying to take the relationship one step ahead and not only confining to export-import dimension. This implies the opposite sides should investigate high innovation participation specifically and

upgrade collaboration in regions where the two can help each other in building limit. That is by all accounts the guide consented amid Modi's visit to Israel a year ago. The free trade agreement (FTA) is being stuck on the grounds that similarly as with different FTAs, there are worries from the Indian local industry that make it troublesome for the administration to advance. This isn't an Israel-particular issue; India's reputation on FTAs isn't incredible. Except if there is a more extensive household concurrence on India's exchange strategies, it is improbable that this specific FTA will advance.

Ties with Other Countries

There have been advancements in the relationship of India and Israel, but the reluctance has always been present. India has tried to keep the growing relationship off radar. The reason is the ties with Arab and Islamic countries are influenced. India faces dilemma for its stand on Palestine.

The regional situation in West-Asia has been marked by conflict, turmoil, and strategic rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Syria and Yemen have been destroyed by civil wars in which proxies of Iraq, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey were involved. There is destabilization in the West-Asia due to strategic rivalry and great competition for power. India-Israel ties, position on Palestine, ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, therefore, do not contradict each other but bolster India's independent relations with different countries of West-Asia [13].

Safety and security of Indian diaspora has been a matter of concern for India. It is essential for both the countries to be mindful of the background to avoid misunderstandings. India has taken positive steps in this direction by proposing less anti-Israel resolutions in the UN. It has criticized the suicide bombings by Palestinians. This re-evaluation is due to the negative reward by the Arab world to India in matters relating to Kashmir. The domestic political milieu continues to exert its substantial influence on the trajectory of Indo-Israeli relations. It is necessary to make India's stance clear on Israel as Israel is also ready to cooperate with India on these conflicting

issues. This was shown when Netanyahu clarified his stance on India's vote on Palestine in the UN.

Thus, the relationship between the two countries can be made smoother by clarifying their misunderstandings and diversifying their horizons.

CONCLUSION

It was earlier said that India treats Israel as a mistress: that it is happy to have an affair behind the curtains with it but is not prepared to acknowledge this relationship in the open. Today, this cannot be held as true. Destiny and the cycle of history have brought India and Israel closer today than ever before. Israel has come a long way, leaving behind the complicated history of its creation and the turbulent years that followed which saw three Arab-Israel wars. India too has discarded the baggage of history and the apprehension of vote-bank-sensitive Indian politicians seem to have receded, as national interests of India and Israel have steadily converged over the decades [14]. India-Israel relationship is now in the open and out of the closet.

It is necessary that for the partnership to realize its full potential, the countries as mature democracies and try to understand and act accordingly to appreciate the compulsions of each other on a variety of regional and international issues.

The hindrance is present. As of late, India and Israel's relations have largely morphed into those of a vendor-client of defense procurement. The sooner the two countries can move to a more even footing and diversify their bilateral ties, the better. Counter-terrorism, security, defense, cyber-security, agriculture, innovation, water management, films, people-to-people contact, etc., are some of the significant areas in which relations can grow rapidly and significantly. It will do well for the two countries to pay their undivided attention to strengthening and expanding this partnership.

These developments are encouraging. The pace of exchange has been accelerated in some traditional sectors of cooperation. Some new areas of cooperation are on the rise too, particularly between the young innovators and startups of both sides.

There is a huge potential in the India–Israel partnership. The trajectory which Modi and Netanyahu have set for this partnership is looking bright. There is a silver lining in the future of both countries [15].

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