



## **TRANSFORMATION OF BILATERAL TIES: INDIA-ISRAEL RELATIONS IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA**

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### **Abstract:**

*This paper is focused on the relationships between India and Israel and transformation since the end of cold war. There are ideological commitment, domestic politics and geopolitical consideration between India and Israel. Before 1991 there was limited relations between India and Israel because of limited ideological commitment, non-alignment, solidarity with the Arab world. Now we can see the strong relationships between two of them after the cold war era. It also explored the bilateral partnership has strengthened such as defence, intelligence sharing, in the field of cybersecurity, advanced agriculture technologies, water management, different types of technology, more focused on space and innovations. There is more focus on strategic for economic development. It also focused on the historical evolution, cooperation between India and Israel, challenges and future of the both countries.*

**Keywords:** relationships, cooperation, evolution, transformation, cold-war.

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### **Introduction:**

After the Cold War there was turning point in the world such as changes in politics, dissolving biopower structures and transformation of the whole world, development strategies, co-operation, economic development and encouraging diplomatic flexibility among states. Each country is recalibrated their foreign policies based on strategic interests rather than rigid ideological alignment. India is associated with Non-Aligned Movement and connecting relationships for new reforms and emerging security challenges.

India and Israel normalized diplomatic relations in 1992. It was not a normal and formal relationship meeting. It was more than diplomatic milestone. India wanted to adopt a pragmatic approach towards new foreign policy. Israel is well known for its military advancement, innovation in agriculture and expertise with technologies. Now a relationship between India and Israel have been changed through the defence, collaboration, intelligence sharing, high technology trade, agriculture with new technology, cybersecurity and new innovations.

Both India and Israel have their ancient ethnic and cultural identities in the world history. Historically, both nations have undergone similar problems, sufferings and obstacles under the imperial power. The huge trauma of religious partitions, that both the nations have suffered, orchestrated by the colonial powers leading to some of the world's most tragic and inhumane mass migrations. On one hand, millions of Jews migrated to Israel,



particularly from Europe. In India, millions of Hindus were displaced from Pakistan, leaving behind their ancestral lands and properties to settle in India (Gautam, 2020). Both these countries have a disturbed relation with their neighbours oscillating between cordial and contentious periods. Even with such a similar trajectory of historical events, India's foreign policy towards Israel remained adverse until the beginning of 20th Century. In 1947, India was a member of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine where it supported the plan advocating for a federal Palestine with internal Jewish autonomy (Hafeez, 2009). When the issue of the division of Palestine was put to vote in the United Nations General Assembly, India cast its vote along with the Arab countries and against the territorial division. Not only did India oppose Israel's establishment by its voting, but also rejected its entry into the UN when it declared independence in May 1948. (Sethi, 2022).

January 1992: Now that fully fledged diplomatic ties exist between India and Israel, another phase in the India-Israel relationship was ushered in under the regime of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao. This made for treaty possibilities in various sectors: political, commercial, and security, including agreements such as those drawn up in the time of Ariel Sharon's visit to India in 2003, a major event in bilateral relations. (Bagchi, 2003). Thus, India's relations with Israel never will be.

Rabbi Yona Metzger, Israel's chief Rabbi commented during the first Jewish-Hindu Interfaith Leadership Summit in February 2007, that, "Jews have lived in India for over 2,000 years without facing ethnic discrimination. This is a unique chapter in human history" (Gautam, 2020)

- **Post–Cold War Developments in India–Israel Relations:**
- **Defence and Strategic Cooperation**

Ever since the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1992, the post-Cold War era has witnessed significant changes in the India-Israel relationship. Among other fields of collaboration, defence and strategic cooperation came to be considered as most of the vital and enduring aspects of their partnership. The evolving security needs of India matched with defence technology of Israel created a win-win situation that united the interests of both states.

Defense relations found themselves on a fast track towards the end of the 1990s, fuelled by changing military requirements and regional security considerations on the part of India. Israeli cooperation became an important source of defence supply for India, offering it a wide range of equipment and systems including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), especially Heron and Searcher, Spike anti-tank missiles, Barak missile defence systems, advanced radar systems, surveillance equipment, and various technological solutions for border security. This procurement served to very significantly modernize India's armed forces, especially along sensitive borders.

This was strengthened by counterterrorism cooperation, particularly in the wake of the Kargil conflict of 1999 and the Mumbai attacks of 2008. Shared security challenges created the impetus for increased intelligence cooperation with joint initiatives for cyber cooperation, urban warfare training, and counter-insurgency.

According to the "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" signs on bilateralism, joint partnerships in developing and producing defense equipment have recently become important features of bilateral relations.



Continuity and building relations of trust can be achieved through ongoing diplomacy and defence exercises coupled with substantive dialogue on strategic matters. Defense cooperation is the foundation upon which rests the constant dynamic fabric of the relationship between India and Israel.

- **Economic and Technological Partnership**

Economic and technological cooperation have attracted much attention between India and Israel in the post-Cold War period. Since bilateral trade was recorded at below US\$ 200 million at the time when both countries established diplomatic relations in 1992, today bilateral trade has risen to more than US\$ 10 billion. This figure stands for the considerable expansion of their economic interaction. Initially the diamond trade dominated bilateral commerce, but thereafter the partnership ventured into new and advanced sectors.

Right now, the main sectors that are covered under this collaboration include information technology, pharmaceuticals, telecommunication and electricity as well as agriculture. Besides these areas, the partnership is also currently generating momentum in robotics, nanotechnology, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. Jointly, the innovation platforms and research collaboration transfer technology, collaborate startups, and build industry.

India and Israel have also developed several initiatives to open up investment opportunities to the countries involved through institutional arrangements and business forums. The two countries' pursuit of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) reflects more than an intent to deepen economic ties over the long haul by reducing trade restrictions and widening market access.

This economic partnership has support in much government-to-government cooperation, private sector participation, and joint innovation programs as well. These are examples of how this effort shows the emerging economic and technological synergy between India and Israel, making it part of the larger strategic relationship between the two nations.

- **Agriculture and Water Management**

India and Israel have now become great areas for cooperation in agriculture and water management. Israel's agriculture, which is based more on resilience under adverse climatic conditions, has made it a valuable partner to India in specific drought-prone regions. The India-Israel Agricultural Project sees multiple centers of excellence established across states with advanced facilities that provide training and services in areas such as drip irrigation, fertigation, protected cultivation, hydroponics, and management of greenhouses to improve productivity and crop quality.

Israel's water management technology has also provided a significant push to India's drive towards governing resources sustainably. Desalination, wastewater recycling, and micro-irrigation processes are a few of the smart-water initiatives under which India has introduced these techniques. These methods uphold water efficiency and extend to addressing rural and urban scarcities.

- **Science, Education, and Cultural Engagement**

Cooperation between India and Israel has gradually been extended into areas like science, education, and cultural cooperation. Accordingly, the academic and research sectors of a number of areas such as space



technology, biotechnology, medical innovation, and climate science have thrived. With limited interactions between citizens, however, the gradual increase in tourism, academic exchanges, and cultural programs are likely to bring steady growth. Exchanges in these fields will increase gradually, with a growing understanding of each other strengthening the enduring ties between academia and technology in both countries.

#### **Current Status and Future Prospects:**

India and Israel relations today are viewed as powerful strategic partnerships, already given strength by high-level state visits that function as historic in big ways such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's in 2017, further adding visibility to political legitimacy as well. It's a bilateral relationship that embraces defence, technology, trade, agriculture, and innovation, in other terms, what is developing cooperation and trust. Future expectations between both countries would be for emergent areas such as renewable energy, cybersecurity, semiconductor and defence manufacturing, Make in India guidelines, climate adaptation, smart agriculture and AI-based strategic technologies.

The very interplay of India's emerging market and Israel's technological possibilities are solid anchors for innovation and industrial collaboration. Regional security issues and technological advancement share the strategic interests that underpin the partnership. Strong institutional arrangements, joint research programs, and growing ties in the economy and defence would place India and Israel in a robust position to actualize future steps in deeper cooperation within the years to come. The relationship might become a long-term, multi-faceted alliance that would put technological innovation, sustainable development, and strategic alignment together to face the challenges and opportunities before the twentieth century.

#### **Conclusion:**

It is the modern relationship between India and Israel post-Cold War which mirrors the transformation within India in the sphere of diplomatic engagements-from ideological to pragmatic internationalism. The relations between the two countries have grown so robust as to amount to a multi-dimensional strategic alliance in defence, technology, agriculture, intelligence and innovation. The trend, geopolitical sensitivities notwithstanding, indicates an increasing deepening and institutionalization in future. At the moment, India and Israel form a cooperative partnership between the two nations which centres on mutual benefit and common security concerns: hence, the partnership ranks among the most dynamic bilateral relations in contemporary international politics.

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