



COUNTRY DOSSIER

Israel

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Country Dossier – Israel

Israel and India have formed a number of strategic, military and technology partnerships. Israel has emerged as one of India's biggest weapons suppliers alongside the United States and Russia. The economic relations, once dominated by three Ds – i.e., defense, diamonds and drip irrigation – are now driven by hi-tech, cyber security, innovation and mobility. The FDI inflows from Israel between April 2000—Sept 2022 were reported at USD 280 million. An MOU between the two countries (each side would contribute USD 20 million over a five- year period) has played a constructive role in enabling Indian and Israeli enterprises to undertake joint industrial R & D projects in sectors like agriculture, water, energy, healthcare and ICT.

India's arms purchases have provided Israel's defence-industrial base with steady and much-coveted access to a sizeable market. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, missiles, and radar systems have dominated India's purchases from Israel, totalling worth USD 4.2 billion. Israeli companies have forged partnerships with the Indian private sector. The IAI, Elbit Systems, and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems have set up joint ventures with Bharat Forge, Tech Mahindra, Adani Group, and Tata Advanced Systems to produce niche sub-systems and homeland security systems. From radars and defence systems for air, land, and sea to unmanned aerial systems and other intelligence solutions, including satellites and electronic surveillance, cyber and more, IAI has been jointly developing tailor-made, cutting-edge solutions.

Startups and industries of both countries are working together to bring out next-generation technologies and products in the areas such as drones, robotics, artificial intelligence, quantum technology, photonics, biosensing, brain-machine interface, energy storage, wearable devices, natural language processing, etc.



G2G initiatives

Israel's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar spoke about ways to strengthen bilateral ties, including ways to promote Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and projects in innovation, food and water security.

Israeli Defence Minister, Benjamin Gantz and his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, signed the 'India-Israel Vision on Defence Cooperation' to put together a comprehensive 10-year roadmap to enhance cooperation on futuristic defence technologies, arms sales, military exchanges, and counterterrorism engagement.

Israel has expressed a desire to invest in Uttar Pradesh and is planning investment in six sectors, including defence and aerospace, IT, agriculture technology, pharmaceuticals, electronics manufacturing and water management.

Sectoral Synergies

Start-ups



- Adani Enterprises signed an MoU with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) to access tech solutions provided by Israeli start-ups. The collaboration will span across climate change, cyber, AI, IoT, 5G, agriculture – all of which are core businesses for Adani.

Infrastructure



- Adani Ports has won the tender for privatisation of Israel's Haifa Port along with its business local partner chemical and logistics group Gadot. Adani will have a majority 70 per cent stake and Gadot will hold the remaining rest. The new group will operate Haifa Port until 2054.

Defence



- India's Centum Electronics Ltd. and Israel's Rafael Advanced Systems Ltd. signed an MOU to jointly develop an electronic warfare (EW) system for the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- Rafael Advanced Systems said that their vision didn't stop with making missiles in India but was considered exporting made-in-India missiles. Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS), a joint venture between Rafael and India's Kalyani group, assembles kits for the Indo-Israeli Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).
- An MoU was signed between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) Limited for the leasing, operation and maintenance of fixed-wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for the Indian Defence Forces.



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