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Q9

"India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. (10).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS II · 10 marks · Governance and Policy

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Core demand of the question

- "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss
- Cover defence, agriculture, water, innovation and diplomacy after 1992, including the 2017-18 visits, and the limits of **de-hyphenation**

Revision summary

Full diplomatic relations with Israel date from 1992; the last decade made them public and multi-sector.

Defence supply, State farm **Centres of Excellence**, water, space and cyber create path-dependence.

The 2017 and 2018 Prime Ministerial visits marked **de-hyphenation** in optics.

India still votes a two-State line and still needs Iran and the Gulf, so politics can cool even if contracts stay.

Joint production and State-level agri-water work are the parts least easy to roll back.

Flow diagram

1992 full diplomatic ties -> 2017-18 PM visits
1992 full diplomatic ties -> Defence and UAV sensors
1992 full diplomatic ties -> Agriculture water CoE
Defence and UAV sensors -> Path dependence
Agriculture water CoE -> Path dependence
2017-18 PM visits -> Path dependence

Conclusion

- Lock the relationship in joint production and co-development under **Make in India**, so it is a two-way industrial tie, not only an import bill.
- Keep the Palestine diplomatic line honest, so diversity in West Asia does not collapse into a single-alliance image.

- Expand water, farm and innovation cooperation through State **Centres of Excellence**, which is the part least likely to be rolled back by a change of slogan.
- **The statement is largely right:** defence logistics, farm and water projects, and the 2017-18 political opening have given India-Israel ties a depth that a quiet freeze cannot easily undo. Rollback is still possible in tone and in UN voting, but the practical relationship now has too many ministries, States and service arms inside it to return to the pre-1992 shadow.

Facts & figures

Full diplomatic relations, 1992

India and Israel opened missions after decades of recognition without a normal public embassy relationship.

Prime Minister's visit, 2017

First visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel; followed by the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to India in 2018.

Centres of Excellence

State-level agriculture and horticulture demonstration centres with Israeli technical partnership.

MASHAV

Israel's international development-cooperation agency, used for training in agriculture, irrigation and related fields.

De-hyphenation

Practice of advancing India-Israel cooperation without making every step conditional on the Israel-Palestine file, while retaining a two-State diplomatic position.