



The Truth About Israel:

Israel and India Share Common Values

Although India recognized Israel in 1950, full diplomatic relations were established only in 1992. Two years later, they signed an agreement for security cooperation with each other. The agreement led to expanding bilateral ties on all levels.

Recognizing that they are both under attack by extremist enemies, India and Israel have developed a close economic and strategic relationship over the past few years. Both countries, in their respective regions, are the only democracies with secular governments dedicated to the rule of law. Both countries have large Muslim minorities and have been targets of terrorist activity originating from neighboring non-democratic countries.

In September 2000, an Israeli team of counter-insurgency experts was invited by Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani to assess India's security needs. The Israelis were asked to determine the areas in which Israel could offer assistance to India to help reduce the incidence of terrorist incursions into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan. It was agreed that Israeli assistance would include "information transfers, instruction in operational methods and the sale of equipment."

Home Minister Advani already visited Israel in June 2000 and advocated for closer Indo-Israeli cooperation on all security matters. Much of his time in Israel was spent learning about counter-

terrorism measures and border management techniques from high-level Israeli security service officials. He met with senior police officials, the heads of the Mossad and the General Security Service and he was given several briefings and demonstrations of Israel's counter-terrorism operations. During his three day visit, he was also to meet with President Ezer Weizman and with Prime

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Minister Ehud Barak. At the time of that visit, Advani was the highest level official ever to visit Israel.

By 2001, India had benefited from Israel's sophisticated surveillance technology and would soon sign an agreement for early warning aircraft and other devices to counter the threat from ballistic missiles in the region. According to Iansa, a journal on strategic studies published in India, Israel is now the number two arms supplier to India after Russia.

While Israel is able to work with India in the field of counter-terrorism, India can help Israel to improve its standing because of India's influence in the developing world.

Most of the contacts between India and Israel have been cultivated behind the scenes, and the two countries continue to maintain constant contact on various governmental levels.

Israeli National Security Advisor, Major General Uzi Dayan was meeting with his Indian counterpart Brajesh Mishra, in New Delhi on September 11, 2001 to discuss threats faced by both nations. Their meeting was interrupted so they could watch the attacks on America. By December, both countries had been victims of attacks that were perpetrated by radicalized fundamentalist Islamic groups.

The second meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism was held in New Delhi on May 27-28, 2002. According to an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson, "the dialogue was held in the context of India's cooperation with the international community to counter the scourge of terrorism and to address the problem in light of UN Security Council Resolution 1373."

Sources:

1. The Times of India, 22 September 2000, *Israeli Experts In Kashmir To Assess Security Needs*
2. The Hindu (India's National Newspaper), 12 September, 2001 *India, Israel Begin Strategic Dialogue*