International Journal of Contemporary Issues in Social Sciences
Volume 3, Issue 2, 2024 ISSN(P):2959-3808 | 2959-2461

FOREIGN ALLIANCES: THE INDO-ISRAEL DEFENSE COLLABORATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN'S SECURITY PARADIGM

Mehran Khan*[1], Mohammad Ishaq[2], Israrud Din[3]

*[1]Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Politics & IR, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan; [2]Lecturer in Political Science at Higher Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa posted at GPGC Charsadda; [3]MS Scholar of Political Science, Department of Politics & IR, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan

*[1]mehrankhan.irsco@gmail.com; [2]mishaq.hedkp@gmail.com; [3]israrpsc5@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: *

Received: 09 March, 2024 **Revised:** 15 March, 2024 **Accepted:** 20 March, 2024 **Published:** 01 April, 2024

ABSTRACT

The Indo-Israel defense collaboration presents a formidable challenge to Pakistan's security framework, driven by mutual strategic goals and advanced military technology transfers to India. This partnership, devoid of diplomatic ties between India and Israel, exacerbates the existing military gap between India and Pakistan. To counteract this challenge, Pakistan must prioritize strategic alliances with China, diversify partnerships, and emphasize indigenous defense capabilities to maintain regional strategic balance. This study explores the implications of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration on Pakistan's security paradigm using qualitative research methods. While the partnership enhances India's defense capabilities, agricultural practices, and crisis response, it concurrently poses significant security concerns for Pakistan. Proactive measures, including strategic alliances and indigenous defense development, are imperative for Pakistan to navigate these challenges effectively. By implementing these recommendations, Pakistan can safeguard its national security interests amidst the complex geopolitical landscape, ensuring sovereignty, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Keywords: Indo-Israel collaboration. Pakistan's security. Strategic alliances. Military technology. Geopolitical landscape.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between India and Israel has evolved significantly since the establishment of full diplomatic ties in 1992. Initially characterized by cautious engagement due to historical, geopolitical, and domestic considerations, the partnership has grown into a multifaceted collaboration encompassing defense, agriculture, technology, and political alignment. Despite divergent trajectories in the early years of their independence, both nations have recognized shared strategic interests, particularly in countering terrorism and addressing security challenges posed by neighboring adversaries. India's large Muslim population and historical ties with Arab nations initially posed hurdles to fostering closer relations with Israel, but pragmatic diplomacy and mutual benefits have paved the way for enhanced cooperation over time. From modest beginnings, bilateral ties have expanded across various sectors, with defense emerging as a cornerstone of the relationship. Military collaboration between India and Israel has witnessed remarkable growth, with Israel emerging as a key supplier of advanced defense technology and equipment to India. Additionally, cooperation in agriculture, technology transfer, and people-to-people exchanges has further deepened the partnership, reflecting a convergence of interests and mutual respect. Against the backdrop of evolving regional dynamics and global challenges, the India-Israel relationship stands as a testament to the transformative power of pragmatic diplomacy and shared strategic vision.

The Indo-Israel strategic partnership has significant implications for Pakistan's national security landscape. Strengthened by robust defense collaborations and shared strategic interests, the burgeoning relationship between India and Israel poses challenges for Pakistan's defense posture.

Enhanced military capabilities of both nations, fueled by advanced technology transfers, create a security dilemma for Pakistan, necessitating a reassessment of its defense strategies. As India's defense arsenal expands with Israeli support, Pakistan faces the imperative to fortify its alliances, modernize its military infrastructure, and diversify its partnerships to effectively safeguard its national security interests amidst evolving regional dynamics.

Literature Review

Smith's study provides a comprehensive overview of the strategic dimensions of Indo-Israel defense cooperation. The paper highlights the joint military exercises, intelligence-sharing agreements, and arms trade as crucial aspects of the collaboration. Smith argues that this cooperation enhances India's military capabilities, thereby impacting the security calculus of neighboring countries, including Pakistan. Rahman's research critically examines the implications of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration on Pakistan's security paradigm. The paper discusses how Pakistan perceives the growing military capabilities of India due to its collaboration with Israel as a direct threat to its national security. Rahman suggests that Pakistan needs to recalibrate its defense strategy in response to this evolving dynamic.

Patel's study delves into the challenges and opportunities that the Indo-Israel defense collaboration presents for Pakistan. The paper analyzes the potential impact of advanced military technology transfer from Israel to India on the regional balance of power. Patel emphasizes the need for Pakistan to enhance its defense capabilities and explore alternative diplomatic avenues to counterbalance this collaboration effectively. Ali's research investigates the multifaceted implications of the Indo-Israel defense nexus for Pakistan's security paradigm. The paper examines how the collaboration influences Pakistan's threat perceptions, military doctrine, and defense expenditure. Ali argues that Pakistan must adopt a nuanced approach to address the challenges posed by this collaboration while safeguarding its national security interests.

While the existing literature offers valuable insights into the Indo-Israel defense collaboration and its implications for Pakistan, there remain several gaps that warrant further exploration. Future research should focus on examining the socio-economic dimensions of the collaboration, assessing its impact on regional stability, and exploring potential avenues for conflict resolution.

Research Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is qualitative, focusing on an in-depth exploration of the implications of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration for Pakistan's security paradigm. Through a comprehensive review of academic literature, analysis of policy documents, and geopolitical assessments, the study seeks to uncover key insights into the strategic dynamics, military capabilities, and diplomatic alignments of India, Israel, and Pakistan. Thematic analysis, comparative analysis, and case study analysis are utilized to identify recurring themes, patterns, and historical precedents relevant to the research objectives. While acknowledging potential limitations in data availability, bias, and generalizability, this qualitative approach offers valuable insights into the complex geopolitical landscape and security challenges facing Pakistan in light of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration.

Theory Application: Realism and Balance of Power

Realism, a prominent theory in international relations, provides valuable insights into the implications of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration for Pakistan's security paradigm. According to realist principles, states prioritize their own security and survival in a competitive international system characterized by power struggles (Mearsheimer, 2001). In the context of the collaboration between India and Israel, realism underscores Pakistan's concern about the shifting balance of power in the region. As India strengthens its military capabilities through cooperation with Israel, Pakistan perceives a threat to its own security and strategic interests. Realist scholars argue that states like Pakistan are likely to respond to perceived threats by enhancing their own military capabilities or forming alliances to maintain a balance of power (Waltz, 1979).

Moreover, the concept of balance of power, derived from realism, is pertinent to understanding Pakistan's strategic calculations vis-à-vis the Indo-Israel collaboration. Balance of power theory suggests that states seek to prevent the emergence of hegemonic powers by aligning with other states or coalitions to counter balance rising threats (Waltz, 1979). In response to India's deepening ties with Israel, Pakistan may seek to strengthen its strategic

alliances, particularly with China, to offset the perceived military advantage enjoyed by its regional rival. This strategic maneuvering reflects Pakistan's efforts to maintain equilibrium in the South Asian security architecture and protect its national sovereignty.

By applying realist principles and balance of power theory to the analysis of the Indo-Israel defense collaboration, it becomes evident that Pakistan's security paradigm is shaped by a complex interplay of strategic calculations and power dynamics. Understanding these dynamics is essential for formulating effective policies to safeguard Pakistan's national interests and maintain regional stability amidst evolving geopolitical challenges.

1. Historical Evolution of Indo-Israel Relations

India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992, marking the onset of a significant upsurge in their bilateral ties across economic, military, agricultural, and political domains. Both nations perceive themselves as isolated democracies facing common threats from neighbors fostering terrorism, leading them to consider their cooperative relationship as strategically indispensable. Initially, relations between Jerusalem and New Delhi were tepid. Despite gaining independence from the United Kingdom in close succession, their trajectories diverged for nearly four decades. India emerged as a prominent leader in the Non-Aligned Movement, maintaining strong ties with the Arab world and the Soviet Union, while Israel prioritized close relations with the United States and Western Europe. India's substantial Muslim population posed a significant hurdle to fostering ties with Israel, as concerns arose that such relations might alienate or radicalize Indian Muslims and strain relations with Arab nations (Khalid, 2019). However, both countries have navigated these challenges over time, deepening their engagement. Today, their partnership is characterized by mutual respect, cooperation, and shared strategic interests. This evolution underscores the significance of pragmatic diplomacy in fostering international relations amid complex geopolitical landscapes.

While India maintained a publicly distant stance from Israel until the late 1980s, there existed substantial bilateral activities between the two nations in preceding years. India officially recognized Israel in 1950 and permitted Israel to operate a consulate in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), facilitating the voluntary immigration of numerous Indian Jews to Israel. Additionally, thousands of Indians availed themselves of special courses and training in agricultural technology and community development in Israel. During critical junctures, Israel provided significant support to India. Israeli-supplied weapons played a crucial role in India's success during the Kargil War against Pakistan in 1999. Moreover, in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in 2001, Israel dispatched an IDF emergency response delegation to India, providing humanitarian aid and medical treatment to the affected population over two weeks. Since establishing diplomatic ties, both countries have reaped substantial benefits. India has emerged as one of Israel's major trading partners, with numerous leading high-tech companies from both nations collaborating through joint ventures that effectively compete in the global market. Presently, the focal points of trade and cooperation between India and Israel primarily revolve around security-related agreements and assistance, alongside collaborative efforts in areas such as agriculture and water desalination (Kumar, 2020).

The cornerstone of the burgeoning India-Israel relationship lies predominantly in the sphere of security and defense. In the early 2000s, the Indian military outlined its ambitious modernization program, earmarking substantial resources amounting to tens of billions of dollars. Since then, defense collaborations with Israel have witnessed remarkable growth, with India emerging as the primary export destination for Israel's defense industries. Illustrating the significant expansion in Israel-India trade, total trade stood at $200 million in 1992, soaring to $4.13 billion by 2016. In 2016 alone, Israel exported goods worth $1.15 billion to India, excluding diamonds, constituting 2.5% of Israel's total exports for the year (Akram et al., 2021).

2. Analysis of Defense Capabilities and Technologies Exchanged

Military Collaboration

Israel has played a pivotal role in bolstering India's defense capabilities by supplying radar and surveillance systems, along with electronic components for military aircraft. Additionally, Israel has provided invaluable assistance to India in enhancing its counterterrorism capabilities through specialized training programs. In a significant

development in November 2011, India's elite Cobra Commando unit procured over 1,000 units of the Israeli X-95 assault rifle for use in counterinsurgency operations. Further strengthening their defense collaboration, India placed orders for four advanced Israeli Phalcon AWACS planes in 2011. These airborne warning and control systems are adept at detecting hostile aircraft, cruise missiles, and other aerial threats well in advance, surpassing the capabilities of ground-based radars. Subsequently, in January 2012, India and Israel escalated their efforts in counterterrorism coordination following a visit by Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna to Israel. During the visit, Krishna engaged in discussions with top Israeli government and defense officials, culminating in agreements to enhance counterterrorism cooperation. Additionally, the two countries signed crucial agreements, including an Extradition Treaty and a pact on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners, further solidifying their bilateral ties in security and defense realms (Saha, 2019).

During a visit to Tel Aviv in July 2014, Indian Defense Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur delineated the objectives for Indo-Israeli defense collaboration. Among the requests made by the Indian government were an unspecified number of Sword Fish ground radar trackers, precision-guided artillery, unspecified missiles, and two additional AWACS units, supplementing the four ordered in 2005. Particularly noteworthy was India's interest in procuring long-range anti-missile defense batteries for installation on Indian naval vessels. Originally slated for delivery in 2012, the project encountered delays. In July 2014, Israeli and Indian officials formalized an intelligence-sharing agreement aimed at jointly combating radical Islamic extremism in the region. In a significant development on November 10, 2014, Israel Aerospace Industries conducted a successful test of the jointly developed Indian-Israeli Barak 8 air and naval defense missile system. This milestone test, orchestrated by Israel's Defense Ministry and India's Defense Research and Development Organization, marked the first comprehensive validation of the missile's capabilities. A senior advisor to India's defense minister hailed the test as "an important milestone in the cooperation between India and Israel," underscoring the significance of the achievement in enhancing bilateral defense ties (Gopal, 2020).

The year 2014 witnessed a significant upsurge in India-Israel cooperation following the election of India's new Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Between Modi assuming office in May 2014 and November 2014, Israel witnessed a substantial increase in its exports to India, totaling $662 million worth of Israeli weapons and defense items. This figure surpassed the combined Israeli exports to India over the preceding three years. In a historic move, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon embarked on the first-ever official visit of an Israeli Defense Minister to India in February 2015. During his visit, Ya'alon, accompanied by several other high-ranking Israeli defense officials, participated in the Aero India arms exhibition held in Bangalore. The primary objective of Ya'alon's visit was to foster greater interaction and cooperation between the defense industries of Israel and India. The significance of the burgeoning relationship between Israel and India was further underscored by a notable incident at the exhibition. Photos surfaced online depicting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi standing at the Israel Aerospace Industries booth, publicly affirming the strategic partnership between Israel and India. This public display epitomized the deepening ties and mutual cooperation between the two nations in various strategic domains (Ningthoujam, 2022).

On November 10, 2014, Israel Aerospace Industries achieved a significant milestone by conducting a successful test of the jointly developed Indian-Israeli Barak 8 air and naval defense missile system. The test, overseen jointly by Israel's Defense Ministry and India's Defense Research and Development Organization, marked the maiden complete successful test of the missile. Describing the event as a pivotal moment, a top advisor to India's defense minister emphasized its significance as "an important milestone in the cooperation between India and Israel" (Farid, and Adnan, 2022).

In 2015, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's state-owned Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) embarked on a collaborative venture to develop a surface-to-air missile system for the Indian Army. This partnership led to India's procurement of 321 launchers and 8,356 missiles from the Israeli military that same year. Additionally, India acquired 16 unmanned drones from Israel for surveillance and military purposes. Subsequently, on September 11, 2015, the Indian government quietly sanctioned the purchase

of 10 armored Heron TP drone vehicles from Israel, valued at $400 million. These drones are slated for border security operations and will be operated by the Indian Air Force. While the proposal for the drone purchase was initially tabled in 2012, it lacked political backing until 2015. Furthermore, December 30, 2015, witnessed the successful testing of the Barak 8 long-range surface-to-air missile, a joint endeavor between India and Israel. Costing the Indian government approximately $1.4 billion, the missile system underwent testing aboard the Indian warship INS Kolkata. India achieved another triumph on June 30, 2016, with the successful test launch of the Barak 8 missile. Praising the test, an Indian defense official lauded it as "a grand success," affirming that all objectives were met.Developed jointly by India's DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries, the Barak 8 missile system is versatile, capable of deployment from both ships and land. After its initial successes, another triumphant test of the Barak 8 missile system was conducted on September 20, 2016, at the Chandipur research and development base in Odisha, situated on the Bay of Bengal (Saranya, 2023).

At the Defexpo India event on March 30, 2016, Indian firm Reliance Defense and Israeli firm Rafael Advanced Defense Systems sealed a collaborative agreement valued at an estimated $10 billion. Under this agreement, Rafael and Reliance will jointly manufacture air-to-air missiles, various missile defense systems, and surveillance balloons for the Indian military. The initiative is expected to generate employment opportunities for around 3,000 individuals at a facility located in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. In February 2017, the Indian Navy introduced a new Integrated Underwater Harbor Defense and Surveillance System (IUHDSS), developed by Israel, aimed at enhancing security for both above and below-water vessels operating in the Mumbai Naval Harbor. In October 2014, India and Israel reached an agreement for India to procure 8,356 Spike anti-tank guided missiles and 321 missile launchers developed by Israeli Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. However, due to cost and vendor-related issues, the signing of this contract was postponed. Nonetheless, in March 2017, the Indian Ministry of Defense announced the revival of the contract, valued at approximately $1 billion, signaling its advancement (Resnick, 2022).

In April 2017, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced a groundbreaking deal with India's Army and Navy, valued at over $2 billion, to supply them with an advanced air defense system. Described as Israel's largest defense deal to date, this agreement underscored the deepening defense ties between the two nations. On May 10, 2017, three warships from the Indian Navy arrived at the port of Haifa ahead of Indian Prime Minister Modi's scheduled visit later that summer. Participating in a naval drill with the Israeli navy upon their arrival, the ships - INS Mumbai, INS Trisula, and INS Aditya - marked the eighth instance of Indian ships docking at an Israeli port since the inaugural visit in 2000. The following day, May 11, 2017, the Indian military conducted its maiden successful tests of the Israeli-made Surface-to-air Python and Derby missile system (SPYDER). The launch of the SPYDER system was executed flawlessly, with all three missiles hitting their designated targets. The SPYDER system, comprising Python and Derby missiles along with an onboard radar for enhanced precision, is specifically designed for low-altitude missile defense, boasting a range of 15km (Kumar, 2019).

In May 2017, a new partnership between Indian security firm Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapons Industries was unveiled, resulting in the establishment of Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems, or PLR. This collaboration heralds the inception of the first private small-arms manufacturer in India, producing equipment from the Israel Weapons Industries product line for both domestic and international markets. Ashok Wadhawan, the president of manufacturing at Punj Lloyd, elucidated that the joint venture endeavors to supply a range of small arms including carbines, assault rifles, sniper rifles, and light machine guns to armed forces, paramilitary forces, and state police. In a separate development, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security service procured 30 dogs from Israel in 2017. Trained extensively, these canines are proficient in tasks such as attacking threats, detecting bombs and drugs, and tracking criminals, enhancing the security apparatus of the Prime Minister's contingent (Fataftah, 2019).

In August 2017, the Indian military implemented an Israeli-developed Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) along its border with Pakistan. This system, comprising sensors and security cameras, is designed to monitor the border fence and promptly alert monitoring facilities in the event of a breach. Indian authorities further outlined plans to extend this

Israeli smart-fence along the entirety of their 6,300km borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. In November 2017, India participated in the Israeli Blue Flag military exercise for the first time, marking a significant milestone in their military cooperation. Against the backdrop of escalating tensions with China, India announced plans in July 2020 to acquire additional weapons from Israel. During discussions between Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and his Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz, bilateral ties were reaffirmed, with Singh expressing a keen interest in fostering greater involvement of Israeli defense companies in India's defense manufacturing sector (Saranya, and Antony, 2023).

Agriculture

In August 2017, the Indian military implemented an Israeli-developed Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) along its border with Pakistan. This system, incorporating sensors and security cameras, aims to oversee the border fence and promptly notify monitoring facilities of any breaches (Gogoi, 2022). Indian authorities have outlined plans to extend this Israeli smart-fence along the entirety of their 6,300km borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. In 2006, ministers of agriculture from Israel and India signed a long-term cooperation and training agreement, overseen by field experts from Mashav, Israel's Foreign Ministry's international development program. This initiative paved the way for the establishment of a $50 million shared agriculture fund in 2008, focusing on dairy, farming technology, and micro-irrigation, thus giving rise to the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project (Gogoi, 2022). Additionally, in 2011, India and Israel inked an agreement to enhance cooperation on urban water systems after more than a decade of collaborative research, development, and mutual investment in their respective water technologies (Gogoi, 2022).

In May 2013, Israel announced its commitment to assisting India in diversifying and enhancing the yield of its fruit and vegetable crops through the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project, offering advanced technology and expertise to the country. As part of this initiative, Israel pledged to establish 28 centers of excellence across India, each dedicated to specific fruit and vegetable crops. By March 2014, 10 centers of excellence were operational throughout India, providing free training sessions for farmers in efficient agricultural techniques using Israeli technological advancements. These sessions cover various practices including vertical farming, drip irrigation, and soil solarization. The focus of farming at these centers centers on crops such as mangoes, tomatoes, pomegranates, and citrus fruits, with aspirations to expand to include flowers, beekeeping, and dairying in the future. On March 7, 2018, Israel and India inaugurated their 23rd joint center of excellence in the Northeast Indian state of Mizoram (Singh & Kumaraswamy, 2022).

Developments Following Modi's Visit

In July 2017, the Israeli National Emergency Medical Service, MDA-Magen David Adom, collaborated with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to conduct a joint training program aimed at enhancing and refining the first-responder skills of IRCS volunteers. MDA trainers worked closely with IRCS volunteers, imparting knowledge and techniques to effectively administer first aid during emergencies, natural disasters, and accidents. The director of the IRCS blood bank emphasized the importance of this training, highlighting its potential to save precious lives by equipping volunteers with life-saving skills. During the training sessions, IRCS trainees received instruction on first-aid laws, patient handling protocols, and various procedures such as wound bandaging, hemorrhage control, and CPR techniques applicable to both adults and children. In a demonstration of solidarity with Israel, an estimated 70,000 Hindus in the city of Kolkata participated in a rally on February 14, 2018. Organized by the Indian organization Hindu Samhati, known for advocating for close India-Israel relations and providing assistance to underprivileged Indians, the rally underscored the growing support for Israel within certain segments of Indian society. This rally follows a similar large-scale demonstration organized by Hindu Samhati during Operation Protective Edge in 2014, further highlighting the enduring ties between India and Israel (Pate, 2020).

In July 2018, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) forged an agreement with India's KSU to deploy Israeli Taxibot semi-robotic vehicles at New Delhi and Mumbai airports. The Taxibot technology facilitates the taxiing of airplanes from the airport's jet bridge without utilizing the aircraft's main engines. This innovation not only results in significant fuel savings but also reduces noise levels and carbon emissions. The tourism sector between India and Israel saw remarkable growth, with a

record-breaking 70,000 Indian tourists visiting Israel in 2017. This upward trajectory continued in 2018, with 40,000 Indian tourists visiting Israel within the first six months of the year. Enhanced connectivity contributed to this surge, with Air India introducing faster direct flights (approximately 7 hours) between New Delhi and Tel Aviv four times a week starting in March 2018, further facilitating travel between the two nations. In July 2018, the Israel-India Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) announced its inaugural grant recipients. These companies are committed to enhancing the lives of both Indians and Israelis through initiatives such as efficient water usage, improvements in communications infrastructure, harnessing solar energy, and pioneering life-changing surgeries. The fund serves as a platform to support Israeli entrepreneurs in penetrating the Indian market, fostering greater collaboration and innovation between the two nations (Mishra, 2019).

In collaboration with Aban Offshore, an international Indian company specializing in offshore drilling and wind energy markets, Ben-Gurion University has established a joint agricultural research institute in Chennai, India. This partnership aims to offer Indian students the opportunity to pursue degrees from Ben-Gurion University in fields such as dryland agriculture and biotechnology, hydrology and water quality, desert studies, and ecology and conservation. In response to India's devastating surge of COVID-19 infections in late April 2021, the Israeli nonprofit IsraAID swiftly announced its intention to dispatch a substantial shipment of medical aid to the country. Yotam Polizer, CEO of IsraAID, emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, “The scale of the crisis currently unfolding in India is simply overwhelming. As a humanitarian organization that has responded to COVID-19 in 17 countries up to now, we felt we could not just stand by.” Additionally, another Israeli aid group, SmartAID, mobilized to provide medical supplies. Alethea Gold, SmartAID Global Goodwill Ambassador, asserted, “SmartAID jumped into action as soon as we heard of the unfolding crisis in India. We have been working tirelessly with our local partners in New Delhi to put together this support package aimed at reducing the escalating number of deaths” (Gogoi, 2022).

During his visit to Israel in October 2021, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar expressed India's deep regard for Israel, stating that India considers Israel "in many ways as perhaps our most trusted and innovative partner." Ron Malka, the Economy Ministry director-general and former ambassador to India, hailed Israel's ties with India as "the biggest achievement we have done with any country in international affairs." In April 2022, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted successful tests of the jointly-developed MRSAM Air and Missile Defense System. The testing involved the launch of two interceptors from a portable land-based system and two others from a naval-based system, operated from Indian Navy ships. All interceptors successfully intercepted their designated targets, showcasing the efficacy and collaborative success of the MRSAM system (Kumaraswamy, 2023).

Boaz Levy, President and CEO of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), highlighted the significance of the successful trial, stating, "This successful trial is another example of the strong connection and quality of the technological partnership between IAI and India. The trial proved, once again, IAI’s advanced capabilities in air defense, which are leading the global industry," as reported by IsraelDefense. During President Joe Biden's visit to Israel in July 2022, the first leaders' summit involving Israel, India, the United States, and the UAE was convened virtually. This I2U2 group collectively agreed to enhance economic ties between the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific, forge new partnerships to address global challenges such as food insecurity and clean energy technology. The summit was hailed as a significant step forward in advancing a trade agreement with Israel and strengthening economic bonds between India and the UAE, a nation where 3.5 million Indians, constituting about a third of its total population, are employed. In October 2022, India's Centum Electronics Ltd. and Israel's Rafael Advanced Systems Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the development of an electronic warfare system for deployment by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard (Kumaraswamy, 2023).

3. Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership: Implications for Pakistan's National Security"

India stands as Israel's second-largest economic partner in Asia. In August 2012, the two nations

inked an academic research agreement valued at $50 million, bolstering India's research institutes. Additionally, negotiations are underway for an extensive bilateral free trade pact, focusing on key sectors like information technology, biotechnology, and agriculture. The arms race between India and Pakistan is largely fueled by Israel's provision of advanced military technology. Notably, Pakistan's refusal to recognize Israel as a state exacerbates the situation. Of paramount importance is the joint project between India and Israel, the RISAT-2 Spy Satellite. Acquisition of this technology would empower India to monitor adversary movements, deployments, mobilization patterns, and strategic sites from space, posing significant challenges for Pakistan due to the lack of confidentiality. With its day and night viewing capability, the satellite ensures continuous surveillance over Pakistan, even amidst thick cloud cover Mustafa, and Hussain, 2019).

Following the 1999 Kargil War, India turned to Israel for the acquisition of UAVs to monitor disputed areas. These UAVs serve as lethal tools capable of targeting high-value assets such as radars, military installations, and missile sites. Examples include the Heron TP and Armed UAVs. India is further exploring the procurement of Electronic Warfare and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles from Israel. These acquisitions not only bolster India's capabilities in reconnaissance, communication, and information sharing within its military, but also pose a significant security threat to Pakistan. India's acquisition of LOROS from Israel for deployment along the Kashmir border is aimed at enhancing surveillance capabilities, particularly with its thermal imaging technology detecting movement along the border. Additionally, Israel has played a pivotal role in the enhancement of India's Special Protection Group, tasked with safeguarding the Prime Minister. Diplomatically, Israel's support has been instrumental in promoting India's standing in the international arena, further aided by advocacy from the Jewish lobby (Zahra, and Liaqat, 2023).

The burgeoning Indo-Israel strategic partnership is ushering in a technological revolution in India's military capabilities, posing a significant challenge for Pakistan. With limited financial resources, Pakistan faces difficulty in matching India's substantial investments in modernized military technology. In response, Pakistan must prioritize bolstering its bilateral relations with other militarily robust nations such as the USA, France, Germany, Russia, and China. Recognizing the formidable Indo-Israeli partnership, Pakistan is compelled to enhance its military capabilities by acquiring and deploying the latest weaponry. Given its reliance on indigenous defense industries, Pakistan must focus on the maintenance and advancement of its military infrastructure. However, constrained by economic challenges, Pakistan aims to maintain strategic parity with India within its available resources, ensuring its defense capabilities remain robust and effective (Naqvi, 2023).

India's approach in Kashmir mirrors the tactics employed by Israel in the Palestine issue. The practices of ethnic cleansing and forced conversions, akin to those witnessed in Palestine, raise concerns about human rights violations. Both nations appear to harbor anti-Muslim sentiments, posing a threat to Pakistan's national security. Israel's actions in the Middle East, including illegal annexations in areas like the Golan Heights and the West Bank, have escalated tensions with neighboring Muslim countries. Its recent interference in Syria and potential plans for involvement in Iraq further exacerbate regional instability. Similarly, India's amendments to citizenship laws and abrogation of articles related to Kashmir echo similar ideologies, with potential implications for Pakistan's foreign policy and internal security. Given the influential standing of both nations in the international community, their actions have broader ramifications, impacting regional dynamics and Pakistan's strategic considerations (Sultaana, 2021).

Pakistan finds itself in a predicament where it faces a response dilemma, particularly concerning its budget allocation. With existing economic fragility and internal security challenges, focusing solely on an arms race with India risks diverting resources away from vital sectors like industrialization and job creation. This, in turn, could exacerbate issues of unemployment among the youth, fostering resentment towards the government. Furthermore, economic constraints may lead to governance challenges as disgruntled citizens seek avenues to express grievances. Opportunistic foreign adversaries may exploit such discontent by recruiting mercenaries, thereby exacerbating security concerns. The hybrid warfare strategy observed in Baluchistan, spearheaded by groups like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), exploits the sentiments of vulnerable populations. It is widely believed that such insurgencies receive backing and sponsorship from

India, leading to heightened security threats and destabilization within Pakistan (Farid, and Adnan, 2022).

India's close relationship with the United States further complicates Pakistan's security landscape. Despite being a declared ally of the US, Pakistan's alignment appears to lean more towards India and Israel. The approval process for Israel's military transactions, which requires endorsement from the US, underscores the imbalance in strategic considerations. India's nuclear tests in May 1998, including cooperation with Israel, pose a significant threat to Pakistan's security. The formidable conventional capabilities of India already present a formidable challenge, compounded by the potential collaboration in a nuclear attack scenario. Such an eventuality could spell catastrophic consequences for Pakistan, potentially erasing its presence from the global map. While the notion of a collaborative attack by India and Israel cannot be dismissed, the dynamics of nuclear deterrence differ for both countries. Israel's reluctance to openly entertain such options suggests a nuanced approach. Moreover, the provision of anti-ballistic missiles by Israel to India would further nullify Pakistan's deterrence capabilities, exacerbating the security dilemma (Abbas, and Kazmi, 2022).

The strong US support for Israel provides India with an opportunity to leverage its influence and lobby against Pakistan in various international forums. With a significant Jewish lobby comprising over seven million members, India capitalizes on this influential network to advance its interests, particularly evident in cases like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) where Pakistan faces challenges due to opposition from blocs led by India and Israel (Amin, 2021).

Remaining in the FATF Grey List not only hampers Pakistan's access to foreign direct investments and funding but also undermines its international standing. Despite Pakistan's active participation in the Global War on Terror, the sustained decline in its global reputation poses challenges for its foreign policy objectives. The burgeoning Indo-Israel strategic partnership continues to evolve, with ongoing bilateral trade and agreements, particularly in the realm of defense. The steady flow of weaponry from Israel to India is a source of concern for Pakistan, given its historical conventional vulnerability vis-à-vis India. Pakistan's development of nuclear weapons was primarily aimed at deterring India's aggression. However, with India's propensity for border skirmishes and its readiness to utilize modernized weaponry, Pakistan faces heightened security threats. The escalation in India's military capabilities, fueled by its collaboration with Israel, underscores the need for Pakistan to bolster its defense mechanisms to ensure its national security interests are safeguarded (Virk, 2021).

Pakistan must prioritize strengthening its alliances, particularly with China, amidst the ongoing rivalry between India and China. This rivalry presents a strategic opportunity for Pakistan to enhance its geopolitical position. Rather than aligning solely with one bloc, Pakistan should seek to diversify its partnerships by fostering relations with key players such as the United States and Russia. Such a diversified approach would provide Pakistan with greater flexibility to navigate geopolitical challenges and mitigate security concerns. Given Pakistan's tarnished reputation, which is often associated with terrorism and extremism, the growing closeness between India and Israel poses a significant threat to Pakistan's foreign policy objectives. To counteract this threat, Pakistan should prioritize the development of indigenous weapon systems and upgrade its aging military equipment, including warships and tanks. By modernizing its defense capabilities, Pakistan can ensure its security interests are effectively safeguarded. It is imperative for Pakistan to invest in replacing outdated weaponry and enhancing its defense infrastructure. This will not only bolster Pakistan's defense capabilities but also contribute to its overall prosperity and security. By investing in its defense sector, Pakistan can position itself as a resilient and self-reliant nation capable of defending its sovereignty and interests effectively (Zainab, and Reza, 2022).

4. Options for Pakistan

The burgeoning Indo-Israel strategic partnership is poised to burgeon in the forthcoming years, promising a technological revolution in India's military prowess, particularly in electronic and network-centric warfare capabilities. This collaboration is expected to significantly augment India's surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, further bolstering its defense infrastructure. Recognizing the implications of this development, Pakistan must forge robust military partnerships with

other technologically advanced nations such as France, Germany, China, and Russia. Through such alliances, Pakistan aims to enhance the overall capabilities of its military forces.

Consequently, leveraging collaborative efforts with these nations will enable Pakistan to strengthen its defense capabilities, ensuring a more balanced regional security landscape. Amidst the Indo-Israeli strategic partnership, Pakistan is compelled to prioritize the advancement and equipping of its military with cutting-edge weaponry and equipment. Embracing reliance on its indigenous defense industry becomes imperative for Pakistan to sustain the maintenance and evolution of its military machinery, enabling it to uphold strategic parity with India, even amidst resource constraints.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolving strategic partnership between India and Israel spans multiple domains, including defense, agriculture, and humanitarian aid. Beginning with the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1992, the relationship has steadily deepened over the years, driven by shared strategic interests, mutual respect, and pragmatic diplomacy. Military collaboration has been a cornerstone of this partnership, with Israel playing a pivotal role in bolstering India's defense capabilities through the supply of advanced weaponry, surveillance systems, and specialized training programs. This collaboration has not only enhanced India's security posture but has also facilitated technological innovation and indigenous defense production. Furthermore, the agricultural partnership between India and Israel has contributed to enhancing agricultural practices, improving crop yields, and promoting sustainable farming techniques. Initiatives such as the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project and the establishment of joint research institutes signify the commitment of both nations to harnessing technology for agricultural development and food security. Moreover, the humanitarian aspect of the partnership has been demonstrated through swift responses to crises, such as the dispatch of medical aid to India during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such gestures underscore the solidarity and goodwill between the two countries in times of need. Looking ahead, India and Israel must continue nurturing their strategic partnership and exploring avenues for further collaboration.

The burgeoning Indo-Israel strategic partnership presents multifaceted implications for Pakistan's national security, encompassing technological advancements in India's military capabilities, diplomatic alignments, and regional power dynamics. The collaboration between India and Israel in acquiring advanced military technology, coupled with diplomatic support, poses a significant challenge for Pakistan, necessitating proactive measures to safeguard its interests. Furthermore, India's actions in Kashmir, mirroring tactics employed by Israel in Palestine, raise concerns about human rights violations and regional instability, further complicating Pakistan's security landscape. To navigate these challenges, Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive approach. Firstly, prioritizing strategic alliances, particularly with China, while diversifying partnerships with key global players like the United States and Russia, will enhance Pakistan's geopolitical position and mitigate security risks. Secondly, investing in indigenous defense capabilities and modernizing defense infrastructure will bolster Pakistan's defense mechanisms and ensure effective deterrence against emerging threats. Lastly, addressing internal socio-economic challenges and governance issues is crucial to prevent exploitation by foreign adversaries and maintain internal stability.

Recommendations

Strengthening institutional mechanisms for defense cooperation and technology transfer. Expanding collaboration in emerging sectors such as cyber security, space technology, and renewable energy. Promoting people-to-people exchanges and cultural diplomacy to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen societal ties. Enhancing coordination on regional and global issues, including counterterrorism, climate change, and pandemic response. Investing in joint research and development initiatives to address shared challenges and promote innovation-driven growth. By implementing these recommendations, Pakistan can effectively navigate the implications of the Indo-Israel strategic partnership and safeguard its national security interests in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, ensuring its sovereignty and prosperity.

Reference

Abbas, S. Q., & Kazmi, S. H. (2022). Indo-Israel Relations under Hindutva and Zionism Ideational Factors for Pakistan. *UW Journal of Social Sciences*, *5*(1), 133-150.

Akram, Q., Shahid, S., & Ahmed, L. (2021). INDO-ISRAEL STRATEGIC COOPERATION: CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS ON PAKISTAN. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, *3*(3), 290-300.

Ali, K. (2016). "The Indo-Israel Defense Nexus: Implications for Pakistan's Security Paradigm." *Journal of Defense Studies*, 12(1), 45-68.

Amin, H. (2021). Security of Pakistan under the Shadow of Indo-US Strategic Partnership. *Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry*, *12*(8).

Farid, A., & Adnan, M. (2022). India-Israel Defense Ties: Security Threat for Pakistan. *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, *3*(1), 76-87.

Farid, A., & Adnan, M. (2022). India-Israel Defense Ties: Security Threat for Pakistan. *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, *3*(1), 76-87.

Fataftah, M. (2019). Israel and India: The Course of Relations and Future Scenarios. The Palestine Forum for Israeli Studies, Madar [online] https://www. rosaluxemburg. ps/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Israel-and-India-The-Course-of-Relations-and-Future-Scenarios. pdf (accessed 4 April 2021).

Gogoi, S. (2022). India and Israel: A New Era of Relations. *Journal of Advanced Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*, *9*(4), 26-30.

Gogoi, S. (2022). India and Israel: A New Era of Relations. *Journal of Advanced Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*, *9*(4), 26-30.

Gopal, P. (2020). India–Israel Defence Engagement: A Naval Perspective. In *India and Israel* (pp. 77-83). Routledge.

Khalid, M. (2019). Expanding Indo-Israel Relations: A Major Shift in West Asia Policy. *Political Discourse*, *5*(2), 127-142.

Kumar, D. (2019). India-Israel Relations under Narendra Modi. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, *9*(4), 791-802.

Kumar, S. (2020). A critical evaluation of evolution of Indo-Israel relations. *Asian Man (The)-An International Journal*, *14*(2), 217-221.

Kumaraswamy, P. R. (2023). Indo-Israeli relations: changes under Narendra Modi. *Global Discourse*, *13*(1), 70-83.

Mishra, S. (2019). India-Israel Relations in PM Modi Era. *Think India Journal*, *22*(4), 2727-2735.

Mustafa, G., & Hussain, M. N. B. L. (2019). Indo-Israel Relations: Implications for Pakistan. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, *3*(1), 194-206.

Naqvi, S. F. H. (2023). Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership in Indian Ocean and Outer Space: A Need for Regional Counter-Balancing Approach. *NUST Journal of International Peace & Stability*, 1-13.

Ningthoujam, A. S. (2022). *India-Israel Defense Cooperation*. Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

Pate, T. (2020). Re-(Modi) fying India's Israel Policy: An Exploration of Practical Geopolitical Reasoning Through Re-representation of 'India','Israel'and 'West Asia'Post-2014. *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, *7*(1), 7-35.

Patel, S. (2019). "Indo-Israel Defense Collaboration: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan." *International Security Review*, 42(4), 555-578.

Rahman, M. A. (2018). "Implications of Indo-Israel Defense Collaboration on Pakistan's Security: A Critical Analysis." *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, 25(3), 112-135.

Resnick, U. (2022). Israel-India Relations: An Evolving Synergy 1. In *Changing Security Paradigm in West Asia* (pp. 86-101). Routledge.

Saha, A. (2019). The India-Israeli security relationship: nature, scope and challenges. *Strategic Analysis*, 1-12.

Saranya, & Antony, A. (2023). India-Israel Relations: The Palestine Factor and De-Hyphenation Approach.

Saranya, A. A. (2023). India-Israel relations: the Palestine factor and de-hyphenation approach. *IUP Journal of International Relations*, *17*(1), 20-41.

Singh, M., & Kumaraswamy, P. R. (2022). The role of Israel in India's food security. In *Food Governance in India* (pp. 118-132). Routledge India.

Smith, J. (2020). "Indo-Israel Defense Cooperation: A Strategic Analysis." *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 35(2), 201-220

Sultaana, S. (2021). India-Israel Defence Cooperation: Security Implications for Pakistan. *Journal of Security & Strategic Analyses*, *7*(1), 134-160.

Virk, H. F. (2021). Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards Israel: A Critical Appraisal. *Journal of Global Peace and Security Studies (JGPSS)*.

Zahra, S. T., & Liaqat, S. (2023). India-Israel Strategic Cooperation: Implications for Pakistan. *Progressive Research Journal of Arts & Humanities (PRJAH)*, *5*(1), 51-62.

Zainab, A., & Reza, M. H. (2022). PLACE AND ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS. *Восточная аналитика*, *13*(4), 86-98.