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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(09 October 2023)

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA'S JOURNEY WITH ISRAEL
- FAKE NEWS



### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



## INDIA'S JOURNEY WITH ISRAEL

| PRE 1992  | POST 1992  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>India opposed the formation of Israel on religious lines.</li><li>India voted against the UN plan.</li><li><b>1950:</b> India recognised Israel as a state.</li><li>The relations remained <b>informal</b>.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1992:</b> Formal diplomatic relations established.</li><li><b>1998:</b> Israel did not condemn Pokhran 2.</li><li><b>2001:</b> Israel supported the Bhuj Earthquake.</li><li><b>2017:</b> PM Modi – <b>India's first PM to visit Israel.</b></li><li><b>2018:</b> India <b>dehyphenated</b> its relationship with Israel &amp; Palestine in 2018.</li></ul> |

### WHY THE RELATIONS REMAINED INFORMAL BETWEEN INDIA & ISRAEL PRE 1992?

- Domestically, **politicians feared losing Muslim vote bank.**
- India's **relation with the Arab world would be jeopardised.**
- India's tilt towards the Soviet Union** during the cold war.

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## SIGNIFICANCE

### 1. Defence & Military

- a. India's **third/fourth largest** exporter of arms after Russia, USA & France.
- b. Crucial **Intelligence sharing** agreement with Israel since 1992. Helped in the **Kargil War**.
- c. India purchased **Barak, Phalcon AWACs. & Heron UAVs**.
- d. 2017 – A military agreement worth **\$26 bn** was signed.

### 2. Economic Significance:

- a. **2008** – A **\$ 50 million shared fund** for development of **agri.** [Dairy, Farming tech. & Micro irrigation]
- b. **2011**- Agreement on Urban water systems.
- c. **Tourism** on both sides.
- d. **Trade: \$10.1 bn (excluding defense)** in FY 2022-23 with the balance of trade being in India's favor. **Indian merchandise exports to Israel** was **US \$ 7.89 billion** and **Israeli exports to India** was **US \$ 2.13 billion**. In addition, bilateral trade in services stands at USD 1.1 billion (2021).

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## FAKE NEWS

- **About:** It is referred to as those news stories that are **false, fabricated, with no verifiable facts, sources or quotes.**
  - It is **intentionally written** in order to gain financially or politically through sensationalist, exaggerated, or false headlines for capturing the attention of the people.
- **Types:** Satire or parody (no intention to cause harm), misleading content, imposter content, fabricated/false/manipulated content, etc.

## NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN

- The disinformation campaigns have the potential to **unfairly manipulate** social and political outcomes.
- It could also **incite communal disharmony** between the groups belonging to different caste, creed, religion or regions.
- It also serves as an attempt to **sway votes** during elections, when voters rely on information through social media more than any other source.

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## GLOBAL MEASURES

- The European Union (EU) has put out the **Code of Practice on Disinformation 2022**.

Few strengthened initiatives of the EU Code are as follows:

- Transparency in political advertising, empowerment of fact-checkers and researchers, tools to flag disinformation, and measures to reduce manipulative behaviour.
- The **United Kingdom** has proposed enacting an **Online Safety Bill** which will expect social media platforms (intermediaries) to actively monitor problematic content.
  - Though the U.K. Bill is under review by a committee in the House of Lords, there are already calls from companies, including WhatsApp and Signal, to scrap the legislation in the interest of **privacy**.
  - During the progress of the U.K. Bill, the provisions to monitor “**legal but harmful**” **content** have already been replaced with greater onus on social media platforms to enforce their terms and conditions in accordance with their policies.

## INDIA'S EFFORTS

- There has been **little discussion** on the menace and the extent of disinformation in India.

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- The Union of India has only employed knee-jerk measures such as **Internet shutdowns** across jurisdictions.
  - This approach **disregards the doctrine of proportionality** and seems over-simplistic, non-transparent and autocratic.
- The Union government has also granted itself greater powers to strike down any content that is found to be unpalatable.
  - For instance, under **Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000**, the Union Government can block access to any information online that it considers necessary in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state or public order.
- The **Broadcasting Content Complaint Council (BCCC)** also admits complaints against TV broadcasters for objectionable TV content and fake news.
- More recently, the Union brought out the **IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** to regulate content by online publishers, news and social media intermediaries.
  - The intermediaries are required **to publish privacy policy** and terms of use of their platform and remove any unlawful content.

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- The recent draft amendments to these IT Rules, 2021, empower the Press Information Bureau (PIB), **to flag inaccurate and fake news related to government bodies on social media platforms.**
- The amendments are being criticised as measure to curb criticism against the Union Government than about blocking fake news as such.
- A **Fact Check Unit** under the **Press Information Bureau** is also being set up to curb the dissemination of wrong information through social media platforms.
  - It also takes cognizance of fake news both suo motu and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and Whatsapp.
- The MeitY's **Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA)** program creates awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using internet and advising them not to share rumours/fake news.

## LEGISLATIONS IN THIS REGARD

- [The IT Act, 2008:](#) The offence related to electronic communication shall be punished under section **66D of IT Act.**

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- **The Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Whoever makes/circulates a false alarm/warning as to disaster/its severity/magnitude, leading to panic shall be punished under the DM Act.
- **The Indian Penal Code, 1860:** Fake news creating false alarm in public, fake news creating riots and information causing defamation shall be punished under different sections of the IPC.

## JUDGEMENTS (SC)

- **Alakh Alok Srivastava Vs Union of India (2020):** The SC in this case dealt with a **PIL** on the plight of **migrant workers walking back home during first lockdown**.
  - Such instances illustrate the real dangers to public order as a result of the dissemination of fake news.
- **Tehseen S. Poonawalla vs Union of India (2018):** The apex court in this case held that it is the duty of the Union and State governments to take steps to curb dissemination of “irresponsible and explosive messages having content which is likely to incite mob violence and lynching of any kind.

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