



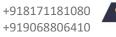
# TODAY'S ANALYSIS (09 October 2023)

# **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- INDIA'S JOURNEY WITH ISRAEL
- FAKE NEWS

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# **INDIA'S JOURNEY WITH ISRAEL**

PRE 1992	POST 1992
<ul> <li>India opposed the formation of Israel on religious lines.</li> <li>India voted against the un plan.</li> <li>1950: India recognised Israel as a state.</li> <li>The relations remained informal.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>1992: Formal diplomatic relations established.</li> <li>1998: Israel did not condemn pokhran 2.</li> <li>2001: Israel supported the Bhuj Earthquake.</li> <li>2017: PM Modi – India's first PM to visit Israel.</li> <li>2018: India dehyphented its relationship with Israel &amp; Palestine in</li> </ul>
	2018.

### 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

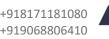
being in India's favor. Indian merchandise exports to Israel was US \$ 7.89

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**

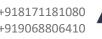
- <u>About:</u> It is referred to as those news stories that are false, fabricated, with no verifiable facts, sources or quotes.
  - It is intentionally written in order to gain financially or politically through sensationalist, exaggerated, or false headlines for capturing the attention of the people.
- <u>Types:</u> 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.

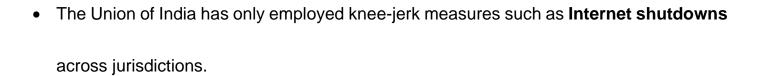
## **INDIA'S EFFORTS**

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

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- This approach **disregards the doctrine of proportionality** and seems oversimplistic, 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.
- o 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.

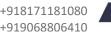
# **LEGISLATIONS IN THIS REGARD**

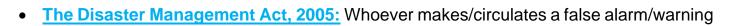
• The IT Act, 2008: The offence related to electronic communication shall be punished

under section 66D of IT Act.

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as to disaster/its severity/magnitude, leading to panic shall be punished under the DM Act.

• <u>The Indian Penal Code, 1860:</u> 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.

 $\circ\,$  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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