

Israel's PM visit to India

Why in news?

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India is hosting Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a four-day visit.

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What are the existing India-Israel economic ties?

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- Over the last 25 years, bilateral trade between India-Israel has increased from \$200 million to more than \$4 billion (excluding defence) in 2016-17.

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- Given India's large market and huge consumer base, the numbers are low compared to India's economic relations with other countries.

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- Currently, India is the largest arms buyer from Israel, trade is to the tune of approximately \$600 million.

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- India signed a biggest weapon with Israel in 2017 for procuring advanced defence system of medium-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and communications technology.

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- MoU between India and Israel on the "India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund" was also approved by cabinet in 2017.

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What are the significance of this meeting?

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- Recently India voted in the UN General Assembly against recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Click [here](#) to know about the issue.

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- Israel Prime minister visit comes despite New Delhi opposing Israel's move to make Jerusalem its capital.

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- A 130-member delegation is accompanying the Israeli prime minister, constituting businessmen from 102 Israeli companies.

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- The impending visit clears apprehensions of a road block in India-Israel relations.

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What are the areas to be discussed?

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- Areas expected to discuss would be issues ranging from agriculture and water, to cyber security, healthcare and security.

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- The primary focus of the accompanying delegation would be to boost economic ties between the two countries.

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- Several MoUs are expected to be signed in the fields of oil, gas, renewable energy and cyber security, among others.

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- Special emphasis would be given to boost the tourism sector so as to make both India and Israel a lucrative destination for tourists from both sides.

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Source: Business Line

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