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suspects were deported from Saudi Arabia and the UAE; technological and defence partnerships were negotiated with Israel; and the Indian government came to the defence of India–Iran oil trade and the Chabahar investments amidst American pressure against Tehran.

Prof. C Raja Mohan while complementing the successful venture of present government foreign policy, argues that “one of the important gains of India’s recent foreign policy was in the simultaneous expansion of Delhi’s cooperation with Israel and the Arab world.

In the past, the Indian foreign policy establishment was convinced this was impossible. India’s new foreign policy pragmatism broke from that assessment and demonstrated the feasibility of a non-ideological engagement with the Middle East.” Former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat praises India’s security cooperation with the region, saying it has “become center-stage” in bilateral collaboration in “all its ramifications including in the intelligence, counter-terrorism, defense, cyber, and maritime security.”

Meanwhile, India’s defence and security partnership with Israel has already proven useful to its security and military modernisation drive. India and Israel have collaborated on a \$777 million project to develop a maritime version of the Barak-8, a surface-to-air missile that India successfully tested in January. India has also reportedly agreed to purchase 54 HAROP attack drones for the Indian Air Force and two airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) worth over \$800 million from Israel.

Due to its technological sophistication and warm relations, Israel has become one of India’s top suppliers of military technology. Economically, the ability of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to mobilise investments despite low oil prices is a huge asset in their relations with India. Investments have included a \$44 billion oil refinery in India by Saudi Aramco and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company in partnership with an Indian consortium.

During his visit to New Delhi, the Saudi Prince said he foresaw up to \$100 billion worth of Saudi investments in India over the next few years, including a plan by the Saudi Basic Industries Corp. to acquire two LNG plants. India-Iran relations remains to be fragile as US sanctions have turned Iran into an unreliable economic partner. Despite obtaining a six-month waiver from the US in November on energy imports from Iran, India is shoring up plans to find alternative sources as the waiver reaches its term.