

- Israel has emerged as a world leader in every aspect of technology like IoT, virtual offices, advancements in agriculture and health etc. India has also recently emerged as a leader in terms of innovation, especially bio technology, IT and space sectors. A collaboration between the two countries will be useful as we move forward.
- The two countries already cooperate in matters related to space technology. Israel has further funded Research and Development projects worth US\$ 50 Mn.
- Israel's flexible export policy meets Indian demands for technological transfer. Israeli technology is already being used in various national projects, especially the National Mission on Clean Ganga.
- Both countries trying to establish an **India-Israel Cooperation Fund** aimed at promoting innovations through joint scientific and technological collaborations.
- As India builds a world that factor in various realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, its cooperating with Israel will be critical in achieving its objectives.
- The Start-up sector too are cooperating and have a lot to learn from each other. Israel today boasts of nearly 4,500 start-ups and 140 incubators/accelerators. In a recent study, NASSCOM and Accenture estimated that **cooperation with Indian start-ups has the potential to generate \$5 billion within five years.**

## Cultural Relations:

- India was one of the few nations which provided refuge to the persecuted Jewish population.
- Also India has its own Jewish community. They have been given the minority status in the states of Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- There are over 85,000 Indian Jews of Indian origin staying in Israel.
- To promote cultural and artistic ties between the two nations, both countries recently held Jerusalem-Mumbai festival in Mumbai. This festival aimed to establish a link between the cities of Jerusalem and Mumbai and boost cooperation in the field of music, dance and culinary art.

## Economic Cooperation:

- **India is Israel's 10th largest trading partner.** The bilateral trade between the two countries has increased from \$200 million to more than \$4 billion (excluding defence) in last 25 years. India is Israel's third largest trading partner in Asia and seventh largest globally.
- Recent years, trade diversified into Telecom and IT, Pharma, Agriculture and Homeland Security.
- Over 300 Israeli companies have invested in India mostly in the renewable energy, telecom, real estate, water technology, RandD sectors.

## Education:

- Several private and public Indian universities have entered into academic agreements with Israel's educational institutions in recent years.
- Israel has been offering post-doctoral scholarships in all fields for three years to students from India and China.
- Every year India too offers scholarships to Israelis and an equal number of scholarships are offered by Israel for 10-month programmes in specialised fields of study.