



Iran-Israel Conflict: Implications And Challenges For India's Economic & Foreign Policy

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Introduction

Iran and Israel's relationship has evolved from a tacit cooperation to overt animosity, which has had a significant influence on the geopolitical scene of the Middle East and beyond (Furlan, 2022). This partnership is stormy and multifarious. This change, which is firmly ingrained in historical narratives, ideological differences, and strategic calculations, especially affects India, which manages a careful balance in its foreign policy among these volatile dynamics. Particularly India, this metamorphosis has far-reaching effects for regional and worldwide players. India's relationship with Iran and Israel is formed by a convergence of factors including the demands of energy security, economic interests, and the need of preserving peace in a territory vital to India's strategic goals. Rising tensions between Iran and Israel provide India a serious challenge that calls for thorough analysis of its diplomatic choices and strategic alignments (Khan, 2016). Iran and Israel did some degree of cooperation at first. Following its founding in 1948, Iran was among the first Muslims to acknowledge Israel (Maher, 2020). One must be well aware of the historical background of Iranian-Israeli relations. Still, the Iranian Revolution of 1979 marked a turning point since the newly Islamic Republic took a fiercely anti-Zionist stance toward Israel as an illegitimate nation and a tool of Western powers (Rashid, 2024). In Iranian politics, this signaled a dramatic change. Among the traits that have helped to prolong the conflict spurred by this ideological shift are proxy warfare, backing for rival non-governmental organizations, and mutual accusations of destabilizing activities.

Their different geopolitical aspirations and security views exacerbate Iran's ongoing hostility toward Israel. Israel sees Iran's quest of regional influence—especially in support of entities like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine—as directly endangering its security. Iran then considers Israel's military might—including its allegedly nuclear arsenal—as a major security threat. This mutual hostility has shown itself as a sequence of direct and indirect encounters generating questions about a possible escalation engulfing the whole area.

India's particular strategic concerns and dedication to preserving a balanced foreign policy help to define its stance to the Iran-Israel conflict (Khan, 2016). India's close contacts to Arab countries and support of the Palestinian cause historically limited its interactions with Israel (Khan, 2016). India's leaders asked Israel for assistance even though they lacked official connections (Kumaraswamy, 2010). But India progressively reduced its interaction with Israel as the Cold War came to an end and new geopolitical realities emerged, appreciating its strategic relevance and scientific capability. The defense industry has especially shown this developing cooperation since Israel is now a main military equipment exporter to India (Agarwal & Singh,

2022). India also keeps close cultural and financial links to Iran, especially in relation to connectivity and oil.

Access to Iranian oil and gas resources determines India's energy security in major part. Iran has consistently provided India with electricity, hence any disturbance in this source would have major financial implications. India also helps Iran build the Chabahar port, which offers a crucial substitute path for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, therefore avoiding Pakistan. Over the years, India has been striving to precisely preserve a delicate equilibrium by addressing areas of limitation in a very eloquent manner (Ghosal, 2016).

Literature Review

The body of current scholarly work on the conflict between Iran and Israel and its consequences for regional and world security reveals several points of view. Tracking the evolution of antagonism between the two governments, some scholars focus on the ideological and historical causes of the war (Ishaque et al., 2017). Other studies look at the geopolitical features of the conflict, with an eye toward the dynamics of power struggle in the area and the roles performed by outside parties. Furthermore, a lot of research has been done on the effects of the conflict on several countries, like India, and assesses the chances and challenges presented by the complex geopolitics.

These research help to clarify the careful balancing act India has to do to properly control its relations with Israel and Iran. While some research focus on India's growing strategic alliance with Israel, others underline the importance of her energy links with Iran. These are both significant studies. Generally speaking, the corpus of current research emphasizes the different nature of the battle between Iran and Israel as well as the broad effects this war has for India's issues regarding its foreign policy and security.

Methodology

Using a qualitative research design and a variety of sources—including academic publications, policy reports, and media analyses—this research paper offers a thorough knowledge of the Iran-Israel conflict and its effects for India. The study looks at the historical background, geopolitical dynamics, and strategic concerns that drive the conflict and its effects on India's foreign policy, energy security, and regional stability by combining descriptive and analytical methods (Bonine, 2003). Data from several sources was gathered, analyzed, and finally a descriptive approach was used to arrive to a conclusion.

Discussion

According to Pant and Bommakanti (2019), India's strategic posture is highly challenging as a result of the rapid modernization of their military strength by its neighbors. In order to successfully navigate these challenges, India must expertly handle them while simultaneously balancing its diplomatic duties, energy necessities, and security concerns. Due to the fact that India's energy imports are mostly dependent on sea routes, the country's maritime security is also significantly tied to its energy security (Khurana, 2007). India has been working to improve its naval capabilities and engage in maritime diplomacy in order to protect its interests in the Indian Ocean (Ullah, 2021). Because of India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region, the maritime zone and the country's own security are inextricably linked (BHATTACHARYA, 2022). Although the Indian Ocean has the greatest potential for resource extraction, it is also particularly vulnerable due to the fact that it is subject to asymmetric risks (Khurana, 2004). According to Iyer et al. (2021), India views foreign powers in the Indian Ocean as being entirely unwanted. By virtue of its role as a provider of internet security, India (BHATTACHARYA, 2022) According to Brewster and Rai (2011), is regarded as a significant security provider to governments that are located in the Indian Ocean for the reason that it has been cultivating close security connections with nations that are located in that ocean. Pakistan's strategic future is intricately intertwined with the evolving dynamics of the international order, according to Waslekar and Bhatt (2004). As power centers shift and new problems emerge, India needs to adjust its policies in order to safeguard its own interests and contribute to the security of the area and the entire world (Bratersky & Lunyov, 1990; Kapur, 1992).

Conclusion

Regarding India's foreign policy, the conflict between Iran and Israel presents a complex mix of challenges together with potential for opportunity. Hayat et al.'s 2020 research indicates that while India negotiates this challenging environmental context, it must give strategic aims top priority alongside respecting its commitment to preserving peace and stability in the region. India's foreign policy, energy security, and regional stability all depend much on the continuous conflict between Iran and Israel. India thus has to act delicately in order to safeguard its varied interests (Brewster, 2015).

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