

Netanyahu's visit will be report card on ties: Israeli envoy

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"The upcoming visit of Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be considered the report card of the past 25 years of the Indo-Israel international relations and will also be a gateway to more initiatives to strengthen the relations," said Ambassador of Israel to India Daniel Carmon.

In a chat with Deccan Chronicle the Ambassador also threw light on how agricultural centres placed in India would help improve lives and the "very special and unique relationship".

Carmon sees a huge potential in the combined efforts of the nations in the next 25 years. He continued that innovative developments in various disciplines including science and technology, agriculture and water technologies would be given importance among others.

Regarding the recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel and the upcoming Netanyahu's visit, the envoy asserted, "These visits are of immense importance as they concentrate our way for all of us (governments, industry, academia, finance, innovators) who look forward to the wonderful journey of India-Israel relations."



Daniel Carmon, Ambassador of Israel to India, Dana Kursh, Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru, and Prof G. Raghuram, IIMB Director, during the inauguration of the Israel Centre at IIMB in Bengaluru on Sunday —DC

Elaborating on the importance of implementing developmental plans proposed by the nations, the envoy said, "The centres of excellence set up across different states in India, including Karnataka, benefit thousands of farmers with technological advancements, extension services, demonstration and training sessions playing key roles to build self-sustainability."

According to the Ambassador, as many as 16 fully-operational horticultural centres are now present in

India. "As the nations are celebrating 25 years of bilateral diplomatic relations, we are now planning to raise this number to 25. An exclusive centre for beekeeping is ready at Haryana and will be inaugurated next Friday. Another centre exclusively for dairy farming is also in the pipeline," Carmon said.

Academic ties to improve

The newly launched Centre at IIMB, he says, would serve as a beacon to others providing them a model to fol-

low to set up more meeting places (both physical and virtual) for various stakeholders for the nation to interact and thereby grow.

"Such engagements will contribute to the communities, peoples, and thereby our countries to improve and develop even more. Similar opportunities act as magnets to bring in stakeholders across strata to improve the important fabric of the bilateral relations Israel holds with India," he said.

Throwing light to the role played by the aspect of academia in the bilateral relationship of the nations, Carmon said that more varsities from both the nations have come forward in recent times to offer studentship, professorship and research opportunities.

"More research papers being written, more scholars building relations and allocating more research grants along with getting in more students in the fields of cyber technology, mathematics, engineering and agriculture needs to be strengthened in the next 25 years," he concluded.

With both India and Israel bringing their comparative strengths to the table, the envoy asserted, "A people-to-people, community-to-community, ecosystem-to-ecosystem partnership is what we have been following and will be followed more strongly in future as well."

IIMB'S ISRAEL CENTRE OPENED

Marking 25 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel, a new Israel Centre was launched at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on Sunday.

Inaugurating the Centre, Israeli Ambassador to India Daniel Carmon said that it would lead to the upgrading of academic collaboration between the nations to make the countries and economies stronger and better.

"One must find academic partners who are like-minded in the pursuit of knowledge, but on the other hand, with a different worldview to contribute to fruitful academic dialogue," he said drawing references to the Israel Centre at IIMB.

Elaborating specifically on the industrial environment of Bengaluru and comparing it to that of Israel, he added that the new Centre would implicate a "merger of the ecosystems" even at the international level. Urging more academic collaboration between institutes of the two nations, the Ambassador said, "We need to continue to encourage more student exchanges between India and Israel which will lead to us witnessing the fruits of labour in the years to come," he added.

According to senior IIMB faculty and chairperson of the Centre Prof. Abhoy K. Ojha, the Centre marks the beginning of a new academic relationship between the nations, which in turn would lead to deeper engagement.

Addressing the audience, IIMB Director

Prof G. Raghuram said the Centre is the consolidation of the Israel-centric work at the Institute over the years. "The Centre will be used as a launch pad to do more along the lines in depth and in breadth collaborations between academia of the two countries," he said.

IIMB has been continuing research collaborations and student exchange programmes with Tel Aviv University, one among the major varsities situated at Israel, for the past four years.

Scholars from Israel visiting the institute were also highlighted by Prof Raghuram as another aspect of the bilateral academia relations at the campus. "India's strong aspirational entrepreneurial spirit stands to gain from Israel's vibrant technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. Israel's aim for market scale up would be aided by India's large market with innovative opportunities," he explained. Ajay Vipin Nanavati, Chairman of Syndicate Bank and former CEO of 3M Israel and 3M India, threw light on what Indians could learn from the Israeli system. "Israel has learnt to operate outside silos - academia, government and industry work together with aiming always to reach the goal. The pace of decision-making, the candour they possess, focus on technology and the healthy disrespect for hierarchy they follow are from what we can study a lot from," he said. Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru Dana Krush was also present.

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