

**EMBASSY OF INDIA
TEL-AVIV**

**ANNUAL ECONOMIC
AND
COMMERCIAL REPORT**

2010

**EMBASSY OF INDIA
TEL-AVIV**

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Annual Economic and Commercial Report 2010

I India – Israel Bilateral trade and economic relations

Bilateral trade and economic relations have exhibited further recovery from the global economic crisis, with annual bilateral trade increase of **59.92%** from **2968.3** million USD in **2009** to **4747.1** million USD in **2010**. For detailed 2010 statistics and analysis see **Annexure – A**.

2. In **2010** India ranked **6th** in terms of Israel's **trade partner** countries (**10th** in **2009**) and the third largest trade partner in Asia (just as in 2009). India is ranked **9th** in Israel's **import sources** (**15th** excluding diamonds) and **4th** **export destination** (**5th** excluding diamonds). India is Israel's **3rd** largest **trade surplus country** (**2nd** excluding diamonds) and it also remains a **'focus' country** for increased trade effort by Israel.

While India's exports to Israel in areas other than diamonds have increased, diamonds still constitute **49.35%** of total bilateral trade (**41.93%** in **2009**). Major exports from India to Israel in **2010** were: Precious stones and Metals (US\$1,135.51m); Chemical Products (US\$225.96m); Textiles and Textile Articles (US\$129.67m); Transport Equipment (US\$112.29m); Rubber and Plastic products (US\$93.15m); Machinery (US\$48.19m); Plants and Vegetable Products (US\$37.3m); Base Metals (US\$32.59m); and Optical Medical, other equipment (US\$16.28m). Major items exported by Israel to India in **2010** were: Precious stones and Metals (US\$1,213.13m); Machinery (US\$623.73m); Chemical Products (US\$563.58m); Base Metals (US\$155.52m); Optical Medical, other equipment (US\$121.56m); Transport Equipment (US\$99.75m); and Mineral Products (US\$28.26m). For detailed chart see **Annexure – A**.

3. According to figures released by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Government of India), FDI inflows from Israel to India from April 2000 to December 2010 totaled US\$ 52.54 million placing it at 37th rank (0.04% of total FDI inflows in India). These figures, when compared to 2009, show that FDI amount from Israel in 2010 has more than doubled the accumulated amounts of former years (from 23.94 million USD, April 2000 to November 2009; to 52.54 million USD April 2000 to December 2010). These figures, however, may not accurately reflect the FDI from Israel, as a number of Israeli companies also invest in India through the US and Europe route. While the traditional business thrust in diamonds, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textile and textile articles, agriculture, and information & communication technology remained strong, there is a growing interest from Israeli companies in water related projects, renewable energy, HLS, dairy farming, and electronic components.

4. First round of Free Trade Agreement negotiations was held in New Delhi on May 2010, a significant step in a long process beginning with the draft text for a Preferential Trade Agreement proposed by India in February 2006 (following the recommendation of the Joint Study Group Report released in November 2005).

5. Increase in India-Israel collaborations at corporate level spanning various sectors was visible throughout the period. Mutual cooperation was noticed in the following

sectors: IT & Telecom, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Chemicals, Finance, and hi-technology
(A consolidated list is attached as Annexure-B)

6. The period saw many economic and commercial activities. High-level exchanges took place in the various fields:

- (i) Mr. T. Nanda Kumar, Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India led a 5 member delegation (Jan 10-14, 2010)
- (ii) Mr. Krishan Singh Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Haryana (Jan 23-29)
- (iii) Mr. S.S. Rajshekhar, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) led a 13 member delegation (Feb 22 to Mar 1, 2010)
- (iv) Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (Feb 16-18, 2010);
- (v) Mr. Shiv Singh Metha, President of the Organization of Plastic Processors of India (OPPI) led a 10 member plastic delegation (Mar 14-19, 2010);
- (vi) Mr. Prithviraj Chavan Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (Mar 20-23, 2010)
- (vii) Mr. M.K. Parimoo, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India led a 3 member delegation (May 2-7, 2010);
- (viii) Dr. G. V. Ramaraju Senior Director & HOD, Department of Information Technology, Government of India visited Israel to attend the Israeli High Tech Industry Association (HTIA) annual event in Jerusalem (Jun 6-10, 2010);
- (ix) Senior representatives of top Indian IT and Telecom companies comprised a 35 member delegation to HTIA (Jun 6-10, 2010);
- (x) Mr. Anil Mukim, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce led a delegation from Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (Jun 21-24, 2010)
- (xi) Mr. Jayant Davar President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India led the 16 member ACMA delegation (Jul 10-14, 2010)
- (xii) Mr. Sukhbir Kataria Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of Haryana (Aug 1-6, 2010)
- (xiii) Mr. Rajeev Shahare, Joint Secretary (WANA) visited Israel to attend the 1st Israeli International Conference on Homeland Security (Oct 31-Nov 3, 2010)

7. In order to encourage bilateral trade and investments, the Embassy prepared and disseminated market surveys/studies on: (i) **Israeli Automotive Industry**; (ii) **Israeli Nanotechnology Industry**.

8. There was considerable interest exhibited by the Chambers of Commerce from both India and Israel, which exchanged delegations and setup seminars and exhibitions **(Full details at Annexure C)**.

9. The Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute, a semi-government organization, concluded the **“Shavit Program”** that began March 2009 (which focused on the three fastest growing economies in the world: India, China and Brazil). Continued activity has been placed in the purview of commercial wings and trade representatives in the selected countries, with the exception of the agriculture field which is undertaken by Israeli

Export and International Cooperation Institute's "GroWin" project. Due to the success of the Shavit program, plans for similar programs/schemes are underway.

10. India received substantial media coverage throughout the period. Special features on India were carried by economic dailies including TheMarker, Calcalist and Globes.

II. Overview of Israeli Economy in 2010

Economic and financial data for Israel

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Population (December 2010) | 7,69 million |
| Average monthly wage | NIS 8340 (US\$ 2320) |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (estimated) | US\$201.2 billion |
| Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (2009) | \$3.8 Billion (estimate) |
| Exports of goods – (2010) | US\$ 58.43 billion |
| Imports of goods – (2010) | US\$ 59.12 billion |
| Exports of goods to India – (2010) | US\$ 2,901.6 million |
| Imports of goods from India – (2010) | US\$ 1,845.5 million |
| US Dollar exchange rate (2010 mean) | US \$ 1 = NIS 3.73 |
| Rate of unemployment | 6.8% (Estimate) |

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Bank of Israel & Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labour of Israel)

1. Estimates conducted by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) say that Israel's economy grew by an impressive 4.5% (considering the world economic crisis), and that business product grew 5.3%, and private consumption by 4.7%. The year's first half rapid growth (driven by manufacturing and export & commerce revenue), slowed in the second due to product level approach towards full capacity; nonetheless, the Israeli economy recovered sooner and faster than most global developed economies. Recovery also induced a reduction in unemployment to 6.8 percent in 2010 (from 8 percent in the beginning of 2009). The strength of long-term prospects has also been underscored by the 2010 entry into the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the discovery of significant offshore natural gas reserves.

2. 2010 also saw the recovery of Israeli foreign trade following previous years sharp decreases due to the world economic crisis. However, both imports and exports have yet to return to record 2008 levels. First half of 2010 has shown a significant increase in export driven by hi-technology and medium hi-technology, the second half was

characterized by continued rise in the export of services. On the whole, 2010 exhibited an increase in import throughout the year in all major import components.

3. Israel's exports increased by 21.0% in 2010 (-18% in 2009); imports increased by 24.9% in 2010 (-27.3% in 2009); trade deficit increased by 59.0% in 2010 (-63% in 2009). Breakdown of exports by commodity groups shows that manufacturing exports rose to a slightly higher level than in 2008, with hi-tech exports continuing a steady rise punctuated by a 2010 leap of little more than 2 billion USD, while other commodity groups are still lagging behind 2008 levels. When excluding diamonds, hi-technology exports make up half of the 40.66 billion USD manufacturing exports.

Breakdown of commodity groups shows that in the raw material group 34% is taken up by machines and electronic industry, 19% by chemicals, and 9% by rubber and plastic (of a 22,784 million USD total); and in consumer goods furniture and electrical equipment has the largest share with 24%, followed by food & beverages with 22%, and clothing & footwear with 17% (of a 8,625 million USD total).

4. Israel's foreign trade in 2010 was affected by the considerable appreciation pressures on the Shekel (NIS), rising in real terms to some 15 percent above pre-crisis levels. This was reflected in export market share falling in the first half of 2010 and, in conjunction with global developments, outright export declined in the third quarter of 2010. Nevertheless, the strong shekel has helped to contain inflation, which has recently fallen back into its 1-3 percent target range after an extended period above it.

5. Following three years of efforts Israel became a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on June 29, 2010. The membership in the OECD is regarded as an acknowledgement of Israel's achievements, the strength of its economy, and its ability to contribute to the global economy. The membership is also expected to improve Israel's economy, education, environmental policies etc.

6. In 2010 Israel was upgraded to an "advanced economy" by IMF classification; Israel also ranked 15th (up 12 places) on the human development Index (HDI) published Nov 4, 2010 covering the period up to 2008; with a score of 0.872 (0.788 or above is considered a "developed country") placing it in the "very high human development bracket. Israel was also classified as a high-income economy (12,196 USD or more) by the World Bank.

7. Israel was ranked 22nd in Newsweek's quality-of-life survey of 2010, a research regarding standards of living and quality-of-life by Newsweek that resulted in the "world's best countries" index measuring health, education, economy, and politics. Israel also ranked 15th in economic dynamism with 61.91 score in general, and first in all categories (save quality-of-life in which it is 3rd) in the Middle East and North Africa region.

8. The housing market was a major issue in 2010, with price records constantly set and broken, both with purchasing and renting of homes and especially in central locations (Tel Aviv, Dan region, Jerusalem etc.). The fear of a real estate bubble was largely relieved by a slight dip in prices and volume of transactions in the last quarter of 2010, whereas the problem of supply remained unchecked.

9. The budget deficit is estimated to have declined to 3.9 percent of GDP in 2010 and a further reduction to 3 percent is intended in 2011. Moreover, new fiscal rules were adopted in 2010 comprising deficit and spending ceilings.

10. Bank of Israel raised policy rates from their floor of half a percent to 2 percent by October 2010. In August 2009, the central bank also discontinued its daily purchase of US Dollars in the Foreign Exchange market, although it continues to intervene to stem the appreciation of the shekel, with reserves reaching US\$70 billion in 2010. Alongside, a new Bank of Israel Law was adopted in 2010 formalizing established inflation targeting practices. Building on earlier de facto practice, the Bank of Israel law explicitly establishes price stability as the primary policy objective.

11. Along with real estate, Gas discoveries off the shore of Israel garnered much public interest and media attention. Studies and primary drilling conducted in 2010 have resulted in estimates of large scale quantities of natural gas found at Leviathan field which estimated to be 453 billion m³, and more than half of that in Tamar field. Gas discoveries spurred the establishment of a clear nautical border between Israel and Cyprus, a finance committee to adjust natural gas taxation, and a plan to setup a national disaster insurance fund with the revenues to avoid the "dutch disease".

12. 2010 displayed a significant improvement in the job market evident by the decrease in the rate of unemployment and a rapid incline in employment rates. Workforce was also increased changing a negative trend that originated at the end of 2007. Furthermore, the rise in average wage from 7,863 in 2009 to 8340 in 2010 is another favorable indication.

(i) Bilateral trade figures for the period January-December 2010

Salient points of the bilateral trade figures **during January–December 2010** (Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel) are:

- **India-Israel two-way trade during Jan-Dec 2010 increased by 59.92%** from US\$ 2968.3 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 4747.1 million in Jan-Dec 2010.
- **Indian exports** to Israel during January-December of 2010 **increased by 59.45%** (from US\$ 1157.4 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 1845.5 million in Jan-Dec 2010). Indian exports to Israel **excluding diamonds** **increased by 37.68%** (from US\$ 518.2 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 713.5 million in Jan-Dec 2010).
- **Israeli exports** to India during January-December of 2010 **increased by 60.22%** (from US\$ 1810.9 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 2901.6 million in Jan-Dec 2010). Israeli exports to India **excluding diamonds** for this period **increased by 41.05%** (from US\$ 1198.5 millions in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 1690.6 millions in Jan-Dec 2010).
- There was an **increase of 87.2%** in **diamonds** traded between the two countries during January-December of 2010 (from US\$ 1251 millions in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 2343 millions in Jan-Dec 2010). Exports of diamonds from India to Israel during this period **increased by 77.09%** (from US\$ 639.2 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 1132 million in Jan-Dec 2010) while imports into India **increased by 97.74%** (from US\$ 612.4 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 1211 million in Jan-Dec 2010).
- **Balance of trade** during January-December of 2010 is in **Israel's favor by US\$ 1056.1 millions.**
- **Israel's two-way global trade** during January-December of 2010 **increased by 23.34%** (from US\$ 95,303.7 million in Jan-Dec 2009 to US\$ 117,553.0 million in Jan-Dec 2010). India's share in Israel's two way global trade in this period **increased from 3.11% (in Jan-Dec 2009) to 4.03% (in Jan-Dec 2010).**
- **Share of India's exports** in Israel's global imports (including diamonds) for this period, **increased from 2.44% (in Jan-Dec 2009) to 3.12% (in Jan-Dec 2010).**
- **Share of India's exports** in Israel's global imports (excluding diamonds) for this period **increased from 1.23% (in Jan-Dec 2009) to 1.4% (in Jan-Dec 2010).**
- **India is ranked 9th largest import source of Israel** including diamonds, and **14th largest import source** excluding diamonds (in Jan-Dec 2010).
- **Share of Israel's exports to India** in Israel's global exports (including diamonds) for this period, **increased from 3.77% (in Jan-Dec 2009) to 4.96% (in Jan-Dec 2010).**

- **Share of Israel's exports to India** in Israel's global exports (excluding diamonds) for this period **increased from 3.29% (in Jan-Dec 2009) to 4.02% (in Jan-Dec 2010)**.
- **India is ranked 4th largest export destination of Israel** (including diamonds) and **5th** when excluding diamonds (**in Jan-Dec 2010**).

(Source: The Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel, www.cbs.gov.il)

(ii) **India's exports to and imports from Israel during 2009 & 2010 by broad sectors**

Table showing commodity wise trade statistics for 2009 & 2010:

| | | 2009 | | 2010 | | | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| DESCRIPTION | CHANGE% | % DISTRIB | \$Thousands | % DISTRIB | \$Thousands | CHANGE% | % DISTRIB | \$Thousands | % DISTRIB | \$Thousands |
| LIVE ANIMALS, ANIMAL PRODUCT | -9.64% | 0.10 | 1,153.80 | 0.05 | 1,042.54 | 4,966.13% | 0.00 | 1.25 | 0.00 | 63.28 |
| PLANTS & VEGETABLE PRODUCTS | 47.39% | 2.12 | 25,307.77 | 1.97 | 37,302.26 | 159.01% | 0.08 | 1,529.45 | 0.14 | 3,961.38 |
| ANIMALS, VEGETABLE FATS | 119.17% | 0.12 | 1,488.24 | 0.17 | 3,261.80 | -76.61% | 0.00 | 13.26 | 0.00 | 3.10 |
| PREPARED FOODSTUFFS | 18.69% | 0.72 | 8,662.49 | 0.54 | 10,281.13 | 74.18% | 0.13 | 2,316.83 | 0.14 | 4,035.47 |
| MINERAL PRODUCTS | 122.76% | 0.29 | 3,519.58 | 0.41 | 7,840.39 | -31.97% | 2.27 | 41,556.97 | 0.98 | 28,269.93 |
| CHEMICAL PRODUCTS | 7.07% | 17.64 | 211,041.44 | 11.92 | 225,965.65 | 2.74% | 29.96 | 548,526.98 | 19.61 | 563,581.85 |
| RUBBER, PLASTICS | 96.16% | 3.97 | 47,490.07 | 4.91 | 93,158.71 | 31.26% | 0.84 | 15,360.52 | 0.70 | 20,162.60 |
| HIDES, LEATHER | 13.70% | 0.40 | 4,732.51 | 0.28 | 5,380.68 | 215.60% | 0.00 | 79.32 | 0.01 | 250.34 |
| WOOD & WOOD PRODUCTS | 28.28% | 0.10 | 1,188.02 | 0.08 | 1,524.04 | 427.57% | 0.00 | 10.51 | 0.00 | 55.43 |
| PAPER & PAPER PRODUCTS | 509.66% | 0.09 | 1,022.13 | 0.33 | 6,231.51 | 76.19% | 0.20 | 3,712.96 | 0.23 | 6,542.03 |
| TEXTILE & TEXTILE ARTICLES | 21.98% | 8.89 | 106,305.65 | 6.84 | 129,672.86 | 98.20% | 0.33 | 6,087.37 | 0.42 | 12,065.41 |
| FOOTWEAR, HEADGEAR | 29.27% | 0.57 | 6,794.01 | 0.46 | 8,782.48 | 213.23% | 0.00 | 28.43 | 0.00 | 89.05 |
| NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCT | 18.00% | 0.37 | 4,459.56 | 0.28 | 5,262.14 | 3.30% | 0.05 | 837.73 | 0.03 | 865.38 |
| PRECIOUS STONES & METALS | 76.84% | 53.67 | 642,122.44 | 59.90 | 1,135,514.16 | 97.72% | 33.51 | 613,574.13 | 42.20 | 1,213,135.00 |
| BASE METALS | -12.87% | 3.13 | 37,405.69 | 1.72 | 32,591.33 | 207.47% | 2.76 | 50,580.80 | 5.41 | 155,521.34 |
| MACHINERY | 42.96% | 2.82 | 33,711.87 | 2.54 | 48,195.14 | 37.46% | 24.78 | 453,740.13 | 21.70 | 623,730.38 |
| TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT | 188.63% | 3.25 | 38,906.28 | 5.92 | 112,295.06 | 9,383.23% | 0.06 | 1,051.95 | 3.47 | 99,758.98 |
| OPTICAL MEDICAL, OTHER EQUIP | 41.21% | 0.96 | 11,534.16 | 0.86 | 16,286.81 | 40.83% | 4.71 | 86,320.82 | 4.23 | 121,569.58 |
| MICELLANEOUS | 56.46% | 0.80 | 9,611.41 | 0.79 | 15,037.96 | 276.01% | 0.31 | 5,588.38 | 0.73 | 21,012.74 |
| Total | 58.44% | 100.00 | 1,196,457.11 | 100.00 | 1,895,626.68 | 57.01% | 100.00 | 1,830,917.77 | 100.00 | 2,874,673.28 |

(As of January 2011)

Source: Israel's Ministry of Industry, Trade & labor

Annexure-B

Embassy of India Tel-Aviv

Major Investments / Cooperation Agreements / Mergers and Acquisitions between Indian and Israeli Companies in Israel January-December 2010

January

1. Arad Metering Technologies, the fully owned subsidiary of Arad, has received two orders from clients in India to supply remote meter-reading technology to Mumbai. One order is for \$2.5 million and the other is for \$4.8 million. Both companies handle large water projects.

March

2. Israel Chemicals Limited has signed a \$370m contract with India for the delivery of one million tons of potash at \$370 per ton. Deliveries will begin in April and continue through March 2011. The price per ton in the contract is the same as in other recent spot contracts, such as the contract between Canada's potash export consortium Canpotex and India signed in February, it is \$20 per ton higher than in contracts signed earlier this year with China. The contract is CIF, Israel Chemicals will bear the marine transportation and insurance costs, although Israel's proximity to India means that the company will save about \$25 per ton for transportation.

April

3. India's Connectiva Systems Inc. has acquired Israeli start-up Olista Ltd for an estimated US\$ 20 million. Olista will become Connectiva's Israel R&D center and will double its workforce. Olista developed customer analysis software for mobile operators. Olista raised around US\$ 15 million since it was founded seven years ago, from various Venture Capital firms including Evergreen Venture Partners, Gemini Israel Funds, Kreos Capital and Costella Kirsch Venture Lending. In the summer of 2009, Olista won a US\$ 1 million contract with Spain's Telefonica Company.
4. India's Tejas Networks Ltd. acquired Israeli carrier Ethernet solutions start-up Ethos Networks Ltd (now Tejas Networks Israel) for an estimated US\$ 25 million. In addition, local media recently reported that the Indian company MicroQual is also negotiating with two Israeli technology companies in order to acquire one of them.
5. According to Matimop's Managing Director, Mr. Michel Hivert (Matimop is the Israeli Center for R&D) during 2010, the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labour intends to foster collaboration in research and development between Israeli

companies and their peers in India and China and possibly Brazil as well. The idea is to encourage collaboration between Israeli startups and foreign companies. In 2009, the number of Israeli startups seeking Matimop's support for R&D collaboration with foreign companies rose to 108, from 88 the year before. Altogether the companies received NIS 72 million (US\$ 19 million) in 2009, double the figures from the previous year.

6. Israeli Minister of Transportation, Mr. Israel Katz, has approved the participation of the Israeli Ports Development and Assets Company to bid in a US\$ 600 million international tender for the establishment of a new port in Gujarat. The Israeli company is planning to forge a consortium with an Indian firm. The Israel Ports Development Company was founded in 2005, a product of a port reform program that transferred ownership of the Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat ports to the new government-owned company. The company finished 2008 with revenues of NIS 830 million and net profits of NIS 280 million.

May

7. The Israeli company, Nice Systems, will integrate security systems in the Indian Parliament House in New Delhi for about US\$ 5 million. Nice which specializes in developing software based solutions is also providing solutions for recording and analyzing video and voice for closed circle TV systems and emergency centers. Nice will supply the Indian Parliament House a number of security systems which are capable of analyzing videos in situations when urgent action needs to be taken.
8. The Israeli company, Top Image, which is a producer of document-recognition solutions, was retained by India's Office of the Registrar General to collect and process the data from the 2011 census. The five-year project has two parts: housing and home listing as well as identifying and counting individuals. Top Image said that its eFlow solution would be employed to process the census forms. Top Image expects to complete the first phase by September 2010 and to begin the second phase in February 2011.

June

9. Yes Bank, India's new age private sector bank and Israeli Poalim Capital Markets Ltd, one of the leading Israeli investment banks and part of Bank Hapoalim announced that the two companies have entered into a co-operation agreement to advise Indian and Israeli companies on cross-border deals between the two countries. The alliance will play an active role towards further increasing investments flows in the Indo-Israeli corridor. Yes Bank and Poalim Capital Markets will be able to leverage their combined expertise, strong local knowledge and excellent corporate relationships to open up Mergers and Acquisitions, Joint Ventures, Equity Raising, and Merchant Banking opportunities for their respective clients.

July

10. India's ICSS (International College for Security Studies) and Israel's ICSI (Israeli College for Security and Investigations) have signed a MOU for setting up of a security training and intelligence academy. Spread over an area of 150 Acres in Gurgaon, the ICSS academy will provide extensive training methodology and modules in all disciplines of Security Intelligence and management for young graduates, serving security professionals in the Government and private sectors, NCC C and NCC B certificate holders and youth at large. The various programs to be conducted at ICSS have been designed keeping in view the present and future demands of the security industry.
11. Israel's 4G wireless backhaul solutions developer, Ceragon Networks, has received new orders for its advanced FibeAir platforms from a leading Indian operator. Ceragon's equipment will be deployed in a number of circles to facilitate the operator's network expansion. The company did not disclose the name of the customer or the size of the order but market sources estimate it at a few million dollars. Ceragon Networks Ltd. is a leading provider of high capacity LTE/4G ready wireless backhaul solutions that enable cellular operators and other wireless service providers to deliver voice and data services, such as Internet browsing, music and video applications. Ceragon is an important player in India's expanding wireless backhaul market. The company's advanced hybrid (IP/TDM) and all-IP solutions are used by most of India's leading mobile operators to provide vital, high quality and high-capacity connectivity.

August

12. After a drawn-out battle, Indian pharmaceutical company Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. has completed the purchase of the stake in Israel's Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd that had been held by the Levitt and Moros families. The deal gives Sun the controlling interest in the generic pharmaceuticals company Taro. Sun and Taro's board of directors, including members of the Levitt and Moros families, also reached an agreement under which the current members of the board are resigning, and appointees of Sun will become directors of Taro, effective immediately.
13. An agreement to sell the Taro stake to Sun was first reached in 2007, but Taro's founders held up the deal. The dispute reached Israel's Supreme Court as well as courts in the US. The dispute included disagreement over the share price for the deal. The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that Sun Pharmaceutical Industries of India can take over Taro without a special offer for the founders' shares.
14. Video and voice transaction analysis firm NICE Systems Ltd will supply an integrated security system solution to India's Delhi Police. The value of the deal is over US\$ 1 million. Indian company HCL Security Ltd., NICE's strategic partner, is the project's prime contractor. HCL will implement NICE's integrated security solution at India's Delhi Police. NICE will enable Delhi Police with an integrated command, control, coordination and communication center (C4i) solution to meet

operational requirements for October's Commonwealth Games 2010 and beyond. Delhi Police selected HCL-NICE consortium through competitive bidding in anticipation of the 2010 Commonwealth Games to manage and enhance the police response to security events. The Delhi Police will implement the NICE solutions to fuse data from multiple systems and sensors, dispersed across 45 sites throughout the city, including sporting venues, metro stations, markets and police stations.

15. Applicure Technologies Ltd announced that the company made a significant sale in India, as an Internet hosting services company bought 15 software licenses for its website protection dotDefender program. The Indian company, Herzliya-based Applicure's first major customer in India, reviewed the software for three months. The customer will pay a set monthly fee for the licenses. The firm in India supplies, among other things, hosting services for large sports websites in India. It had bought one license originally, and now expanded the order.
16. BOS Better Online Solutions Ltd. said that it has begun supplying electronic components to several customers in India, based on initial orders of over US\$ 400,000 received in the last few months. BOS supplies RFID solutions and supply chain solutions for enterprise logistics and organizational processes. Its supply chain division, which supplies electronic components to the aerospace, defense, medical and telecommunications industries, recently began establishing relationships in India. The recent orders are for electromechanical parts, semiconductors and networking equipment.
17. Israeli start-up Metal Explorer Ltd., a developer of Internet and mobile products, has invested US\$ 50,000 to penetrate the Indian market. The company currently has five employees and is hiring ten more employees in India. Metal Explorer is collaborating with Vindia Services Ltd., an IT outsourcing company for Internet and mobile companies, including software engineers and quality assurance staff. Metal Explorer was founded in 2007.

September

18. While Mivtach Shamir Holdings Ltd. investors wait for updates on the company's sale of its 20% stake in Tnuva Food Industries Ltd., its India operations unit, Jarvinia Holdings Ltd., continues to develop its real estate transactions. Mivtach Shamir said that Jarvinia, in which it holds a 35% stake, signed, through a daughter company, a deal with Indian real estate company Vascon to develop a residential and commercial complex in a suburb of Chennai. Jarvinia, which will receive a portion of the project's revenue, in accordance with the extent of sales, estimates its share of the revenue, will reach \$170 million. Vascon trades on the Mumbai Stock Exchange. It has already deposited an initial sum to guarantee Jarvinia's rights in the projects. The project is to build 6,000 residential units, in addition to 930,000 square meters of commercial space. The project will be built in four stages over 6 years.

October

19. Israel Electric Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with India's Bajaj Auto Ltd. to provide planning and engineering consultancy services for the construction of a large coal-fired power station. Bajaj is a motorcycle manufacturer that has established an infrastructures contracting unit. IEC will advise Bajaj on the planning and construction of a coal-fired power station with three 660-megawatt units. The power station will use supercritical technology, which allows for the combustion of coal at much higher temperatures, improving efficiency by increasing the amount of energy that can be extracted from a single unit of coal, and reducing nitrogen oxide emissions.
20. Modiin Energy LP and Emmanuelle Energy Ltd. have sold a further 5% of the Myra and Sarah offshore licenses to the license operator GeoGlobal Resources (India) Ltd. for US \$240,000 for each 1% of the license rights. GeoGlobal is exercising an option given to it by the partnerships in May. Modiin Energy and Emmanuelle Energy sold 5% of the Myra and Sarah licenses to GeoGlobal, and gave it an option to buy an additional 5%. With the exercise of the option, GeoGlobal will own 10% of the two licenses.
21. The Modu Company, which launched tiny smartphone Modu T, announced that it has its first customer – Micromax, the third largest Indian distribution company. Micromax will sell the cellular phone as part of a package that includes two “jackets,” which are add-on sets for the Modu.

November

22. A substantial number of Amdocs' workforce, 36.5%, not including management, is in India. The company's workforce totaled 19,455 employees at the end of September 2010, 12.8% more than a year earlier. The company's Indian workforce shot up by 49% - 2,170 persons -over the same period. Amdocs' Israeli workforce grew by 690 employees during the 2010 fiscal year, to 4,306 persons by the end of September. The Israeli workforce is back at its level of 2008, before layoffs in 2009. Israelis account for 23.9% of Amdocs' global workforce.

Important Economic and Commercial Events
Organized by the Embassy or held in cooperation with the Embassy during
January - December 2010

January

Visit of Secretary of Agriculture to Israel

A 5-member high level delegation, led by Mr. T. Nanda Kumar, Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, visited Israel from January 10 till January 14, 2010. The delegation comprised of senior officials from the agriculture department of Rajasthan, Haryana and Maharashtra.

During their visit, the delegation met with Agriculture Minister, Mr. Shalom Simhon, senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Mr. Yosi (Joseph) Ichay, Director General, Mr. Itzik Ben David, Senior Deputy Director General, officials from the Agriculture Research Organization (ARO), officials from the Veterinary Services, and officials from Mashav, Israel's National Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation participated in a round table conference organized by the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute and interacted with leading Israeli agriculture companies. The round table conference included presentations by the Indian side and a brief introduction by each of the Israeli companies participating in the event.

In addition, the delegation visited the AgroMashov 2009 Exhibition at the exhibition grounds in Tel Aviv and explored the Israeli agriculture market and the opportunities it has to offer to India.

February

Presentation on “India – Now more than Ever” at the Haifa University

At the concluding session of the course “Doing Business with India”, part of the International MBA program at the Haifa University, a presentation on “India – Now More than Ever” was given by the Second Secretary (Economic & Commerce), before MBA students on Friday, February 5th, 2010, at the Haifa University. The presentation covered both business related as well as cultural related issues which are of interest to anyone interested in entering the Indian market, opening an office there, and doing business with the sub-continent.

Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM) - February 9-10, 2010

The 16th International Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM) took place in the Israel Trade Fairs & Convention Center in Tel Aviv on February 9-10, 2010. IMTM is the largest annual professional tourism fair of its kind in the Eastern Mediterranean and it serves to promote incoming tourism, domestic tourism and outgoing tourism, as well as to strengthen cooperation among tourism bodies in Israel and elsewhere in the world.

India once again participated in this unique international tourism exhibition. Seven Indian companies formed a delegation led by the India Tourism Frankfurt office (represented by Mr. Anil Oraw, Assistant Director). The Indian participation included an India booth showcasing tourism opportunities in India. A seminar on "Incredible India" was held on February 10, 2010. The theme of the presentation was to project India as a tourist destination and to discuss ways to jointly promote tourism to and from India. The presentation was followed by an interactive session between the participating Indian company and the Israeli counterparts attending the seminar. Various brochures, posters and DVDs were distributed to the participants.

Executive and High Officials from NABARD

A 13 Member delegation of Senior officials from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) led by Shri S S Rajshekhar, General Manager visited Israel from 22 February to 01 March 2010 for an Exposure-cum-Study visit on Regional Development, High Tech Agriculture and Innovative Irrigation Solutions in Israel. The major objectives of the Study were to document the development and the technological progress made by Israel in the areas that are critical and relevant to Indian agriculture and to examine its adaptability in India. The study team visited a number of farming systems - Moshavs and Kibbutz; Green House Computer, controlled micro irrigation system, Nursery unit, Dairy unit, NAANDANJAIN Irrigation Company, besides holding discussions with Institute for Technology and storage of Agricultural products and post harvesting, the Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute, State Bank of India and the Ambassador at the Embassy of India in Israel. In addition to the visits, the group had lectures on Integrated Regional Development the "Rehovot Approach" and on the Development of the Israeli Agriculture.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jyotiraditya Scindia visits Israel

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led a three member delegation to Israel from February 16-18, 2010. During his three day visit Minister met with the President of the State of Israel Mr. Shimon Peres, his counterpart Mr. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, and the Chief Scientist of Israel. Shri Scindia discussed possibilities of developing further cooperation in high tech areas, including information technology, biotechnology, nano technology, and agriculture and water management. He also announced Government of India's decision to start negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Israel. During his visit he met with leading Israeli industrialists to discuss promotion of trade and commerce between the two countries. He also visited an incubator and agricultural sites to have first hand knowledge of Israel's expertise in these areas. He addressed a seminar organized by the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute in collaboration with the Embassy of India. The theme of the seminar was "Indian Economy in the Next Decade – an Engine for Growth". The seminar was attended by CEO's and Representatives of major industries in Israel.

GroWin program of IEICI

The Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI) has established a close-knit forum consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture to bring together capabilities, budgets and resources to promote the GroWin program over the next decade from 2010 to 2020 for development of advanced agriculture in semi-arid areas in India by efficient use of water resources. The GroWin program aims to reinforce and expand Indian-Israeli agricultural cooperation. It is structured as a Public to Private Partnership (PPP model) sponsored by the Israeli government.

The program was launched on February 21, 2010 in the presence of the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor and Ambassador Navtej Sarna. A delegation from YES Bank, India, also attended the seminar organized on this occasion and held talks with Israeli companies for possible partnership.

March

Plastics delegation

A 10-member high level plastic delegation from India, visited Israel from March 14-19, 2010 in order to further explore the Israeli Plastic market and the opportunities it has to offer to Indian companies.

The delegation was led by Mr. Shiv Singh Mehta, President of the Organization of Plastic Processors of India (OPP) and Managing Director of Kriti Industries Ltd, and Mr. Ashok Goel, Vice Chairman & MD, Essel Propack Limited.

On March 15, a business seminar called "Indo-Israeli Cooperation in Plastics" was organized by the Embassy in cooperation with the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce (FICC). The seminar included greetings and presentations by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Advocate Uriel Lynn, President of FICC, Mr. Shiv Singh Mehta, President OPP, Mr. Gil Haskel, Director, Department for Economic Affairs III, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Eyal Dekel from the Manufacturers' Association of Israel. Following the greetings and presentations there were B2B meetings between the Indian delegates and leading Israeli plastic companies.

During their visit in Israel, the delegation visited various plastic factories and academic institutions including Shenkar College, NaanDanJain Irrigation Systems, Netafim, Metzertplas, Carmel Olefins, Plastopil, and Tefen Plastic.

Minister of Science and Technology visits Israel March 20-23, 2010

Mr. Prithviraj Chavan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, visited Israel from March 20-23, 2010. During his visit, Minister Chavan called on President Shimon Peres for a wide-ranging discussion on India-Israel scientific and technological cooperation. Mr. Chavan also met Minister of Science & Technology Rabbi Prof. Daniel Hershkowitz to review ongoing cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the existing Memorandum of Understanding. The two Ministers discussed possibilities of greater exchange of scientists and researchers from both sides to take advantage of the complementarities between the two countries.

Mr. Chavan also visited renowned Israeli Institute of Technology - Technion and Weizmann Institute of Science for interaction with the senior management to explore closer cooperation with Indian scientific institutions. In addition, he visited a desalination plant in Palmachim, as well as the drip irrigation facilities at Kibbutz Naan to get firsthand knowledge of water and agricultural solutions which could have possible applications in India.

Young Indians Mission to Israel

As part of the Young Indians Mission to Israel and Istanbul, a 14-member delegation visited Israel from March 16-22, 2010. During their visit, the delegation visited various Centers of Excellence as well as leading companies including the Tel Aviv University, Shafdan (waste water treatment facility), the Keneset (Israeli Parliament), Weizmann Institute, NaanDanJain Irrigation Systems, MATIMOP (Israeli Center for R&D), Elbit Imaging, and more.

May

Indian Delegation Visits Israel to Attend a Seminar on Water Management

A 2-member delegation led by Mr. E.K. Majhi, Joint Secretary (RFS), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, visited Israel from May 2-3, 2010. The delegation also included Dr. Lily Mitra, Deputy Commissioner, Horticulture Division.

The delegation attended a seminar on "Advanced Water Management for Agricultural and Urban Use" at Tel Aviv which was organized for member countries of CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia) by MASHAV (Israel's Center for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in cooperation with CINADCO (Israel's Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). Special emphasis was given in the seminar to wastewater reuse and sea water desalination as innovative solutions for areas with limited conventional water sources.

June

Israel - Asia Chamber of Commerce Annual Event

The Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce, headed by Mr. Ran Cohen (former Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor) held its annual event on June 3, 2010. Several Ambassadors and senior officials from various Asian countries (including India, China, Japan, Nepal, South Korea and Sri Lanka) participated in the event which was held in the Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv. In addition, the event was attended by the Israeli Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor, Mr. Benjamin Ben Eliezer, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Daniel Ayalon, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Yitzhak Cohen and other senior officials from the Israeli government, and heads of leading Israeli economic organizations.

Minister Ben Eliezer handed over awards to several distinguished companies including India's Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd which won an award for its outstanding activity in Israel and its investment in NaanDanJain Irrigation (Jain Irrigation has 50% stake in Israel's NaadDanJain Irrigation).

Ambassador of India, Mr. Navtej Sarna, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Mr. Donald Perera, and Ms. Dafna Steinmetz, Vice President and the Corporate Chief Innovation Officer at Comverse, participated in a panel which discussed the challenges faced by Israeli companies that wish to enter the Indian and the Sri Lankan markets. Ambassador Sarna presented before the audience the tremendous opportunities that the Indian market has to offer to Israeli companies, and explored the various areas in which the potential for mutual collaboration is still untapped.

HTIA Annual Event

Three high level Indian delegations visited Israel from June 6-10, 2010 to attend the Israeli High-tech Industry Association (HTIA) Annual event in Jerusalem: a 3-member delegation of senior officials from the Government of India, Department of Information Technology (led by Dr. G.V. Ramaraju, Senior Director & HOD, Department of Information Technology); a 35-member delegation of senior representatives of top Indian IT & Telecom companies; and a 15-member delegation of senior businessmen / investors from the Indian Angel Network.

The highlight of the event from the Indian point of view was the signing of MOUs between the Israeli High-tech Industry Association (HTIA) and three leading Indian High-tech Associations - the Indian Telecom Manufacturers Association (TEMA), the Indian Chip Industry Association (ISA) and the Indian Global Entrepreneurs Association (TIE). The signing ceremony was attended by Indian Ambassador, Navtej Sarna and Second Secretary (Economic & Commerce), Mr. Sanjay Vyas. Following the signing ceremony there was a special session on business opportunities in India in the areas of Telecom and IT, which was attended by senior representatives of leading Israeli and Indian IT and Telecom companies. Notable speakers included senior officials from Tejas Networks, ECI Telecom, Alvarion, BDO I2I, Sagitaur Ventures India, Siklu, and Canaan Partners.

GroWin delegation to India

Mr. Yitzhak Kiriati, Director (Agriculture Department), Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI), led a 15-member delegation to India as part of the GroWin project (under the Shavit program which was introduced by IEICI). The Israeli delegation which was composed of senior representatives of leading Agricultural and Water companies visited India from June 7-11, 2010. The objective of the visit was to further increase the cooperation between the two countries in Agriculture and Water Management with focus on the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

During their visit the delegation met with senior government officials and representatives of leading Indian agricultural companies. The meetings and site visits were held in Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad. The delegation also attended a business seminar on advanced agricultural technologies in the areas of irrigation, green houses, water management, dairy farms, and more. The delegation interacted with over 20 Indian companies including the Yash Birla Group, Tata Chemicals, Kaveri Seeds, Britinnia, Mahanand Dairy, Shapoorji Pallonji, Godrej Agrovet, Central Warehousing Corp, and more.

An Indian delegation participates in the KPCS meeting

Mr. Anil Mukim, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, led a 6-member delegation composed of government officials and senior representatives of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) to Israel from June 21-24, 2010. The delegation participated in the Intersessional Meeting of KPCS (Kimberley Process Certification Scheme) which was held in Tel Aviv. As part of the program, the delegation also attended a unique Seminar on Border Control and Enforcement Efforts. On the agenda of the meeting were a number of initiatives relating to the on-going work of the Kimberley Process and to the consolidation of the process such the creation of an office for administration and support and the establishment of a Working Group on Trade Facilitation.

July

Visit of Members of Parliament to Israel

A group of six MPs which included Mr. Naveen Jindal, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Mr. Kalikesh Singh Deo, Mr. Jayant Chaudhary, Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal and Mr. Naresh Gujral visited Israel from July 17-22, 2010. The visit was organized by FICCI. The MPs' delegation called on President Shimon Peres and met Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin, Leader of Opposition Tzipi Livni, Deputy PM and Minister of Intelligence Dan Meridor, Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer, among others. President Peres met the delegation on July 19, 2010 and underlined the huge potential for future cooperation in areas such as water, agriculture, R&D, nano-tech, renewable energy and so on. The delegation also visited the Israeli Knesset where they called on the Speaker Reuven Rivlin.

During their stay, the delegation also visited Kibbutz Naan to experience at firsthand the latest advances in irrigation and water management, a dairy farm to check out the progress that Israel has made in this sector along with visits to the Weizmann Institute, Better Place and a counter-terrorism facility among others.

Indian Automotive delegation visits Israel

Mr. Jayant Davar, President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), led a 16-member delegation to Israel from July 10-14, 2010. The delegation's objective was to further explore the Israeli Automotive Industry and seek possible collaborations with leading Israeli automotive companies in general, and companies which offer innovative new products and technologies in specific.

The delegation met with various Israeli automotive companies during a special Seminar which was organized by the Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute. In addition, the delegation visited various sites of interest including the world-acclaimed academic institution, the Technion Institute of Technology as well as various leading automotive companies such as Palsan Sasa, Better Place, and Tadir Gan Group.

In addition, the delegation met with senior officials from the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor. The delegation also met with Ambassador Navtej Sarna.

Israeli Life Science Delegation visits India

A 9-member delegation of senior representatives of leading Israeli Medical Devices and HealthCare IT companies visited India from July 26-29, 2010 in order to further explore the Indian Life Science market and interact with leading Indian companies. The delegation was organized by the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI) as part of the SHAVIT program and India's SkyQuest Technology Group (which was selected as the Life Sciences advisor of IEICI).

The delegation visited various sites of interest including the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital and the Medicity Hospital in New Delhi. The delegation also attended a Seminar in Mumbai and held one-on-one meetings with leading Indian life science companies. It was reported that several deals were signed as a result of this visit.

August

High Level business delegation from Gujarat visits Israel

An 11-member high level business delegation from the State of Gujarat visited Israel from August 28-30, 2010. The delegation was led by Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Managing Director of INDEXTB (Industrial Extension Bureau) a Government of Gujarat organization. The delegation visited Israel in order to promote the 5th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit to be held on 12-13 January, 2011 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

On Sunday, August 29, the Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI) in cooperation with the Embassy organized a business seminar on "Investments Opportunities in Gujarat". The Seminar was attended by dozens of Israeli companies which are interested in entering the Indian market in general and investing in the State of Gujarat in specific. Key note speakers in the seminar included Mr. Avi Hefetz, Director General, IEICI; Mr. Sujit Ghosh, First Secretary (Political and Information), Embassy of India; Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Managing Director, INDEXTB; and Mr. Dan Catarivas, Director, Manufacturers' Association of Israel.

The morning seminar was followed by a Round Table meeting which was attended by a selected group of companies which are already active in India and would like to further increase their business and investments in the State of Gujarat. The delegation visited various sites of interest including the following: Shafdan, the waste water treatment facility of Mekorot, Tel Aviv University, IDE desalination plant in Ashkelon, Netafim Irrigation company in Kibbutz Hatzerim, as well as some leading companies (e.g. LR Group, Building & Property of IDB Group, etc).

September

Conference on India's New Telecom Regulations

A Conference on India's new Telecom regulations was organized by the Israeli company Altal Security Consulting on September 6, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Tel Aviv. Altal is one of the few companies which has been authorized by the Indian government to conduct the new mandatory audits. The Conference which was attended by about 20 Israeli Telecom companies explored the Indian government's new telecom regulations and auditing procedures for foreign vendors on all core network equipment.

Key note speakers at the Conference included Mr. Sanjay Vyas, Second Secretary (Economic and Commerce), Embassy of India; Dr. Nimrod Kozlovski, Board Chairman of Altal and Mr. Netanel (Nati) Davidi, CEO of Altal. Following the presentations a panel of leading telecom experts addressed the gathering and provided some additional insights.

October

AMA delegation visits Israel

A delegation from the state of Gujarat, representing 16 businesses from various sectors, has visited Israel this month. The delegation was organized by the Ahmadabad Management Association (AMA) which acts to promote business efficiency and excellence. The visit consisted of a tour and a seminar organized by FICC, followed by B2B meetings with the delegation. The speakers were: Mrs. Ronnie Reiber, International Relations Division Director (FICC); Mr. Sanjay Vyas, Second Secretary (E&C); Mrs. Anat Bernstein-Reich, VP Israel – Asia Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Tushar Patel of the AMA.

November

Israel's 1st International HLS Conference

The Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI) in cooperation with the Israel Airports Authority organized Israel's first International Home Land Security Conference which was held from October 31 – November 4, 2010 at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv. The Conference, which focused on "Safe Cities and Airport Security", was attended by Ministers of Public Security from various countries (including Germany, Italy, Mexico and Panama) as well as mayors, airport directors and Chiefs of Police. Several high level delegations from India attended the conference including the following senior officials Mr. Rajeev Shahare, Joint Secretary (WANA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Dr. R.P. Sharma, IG, NSG and Mr. Udayan Banerjee, DIG, CISF.

IMC delegation visits Israel

The Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC) in association with the Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Bombay organized a 30-member high level delegation to Israel and Jordan from November 23 till December 3, 2010. The delegation was headed by Mr. Dilip Dandekar, President of IMC and Mr. Gul Kripalani, President of Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce. The delegation visited various sites of interest including Kibbutz Naan (for NaanDanJain Irrigation Company), Weizmann Institute, a desalination plant and more. In addition, on November 25, 2010, the delegation had the opportunity to interact with leading Israeli companies at a B2B session organized by the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce (FICC) and Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI).