

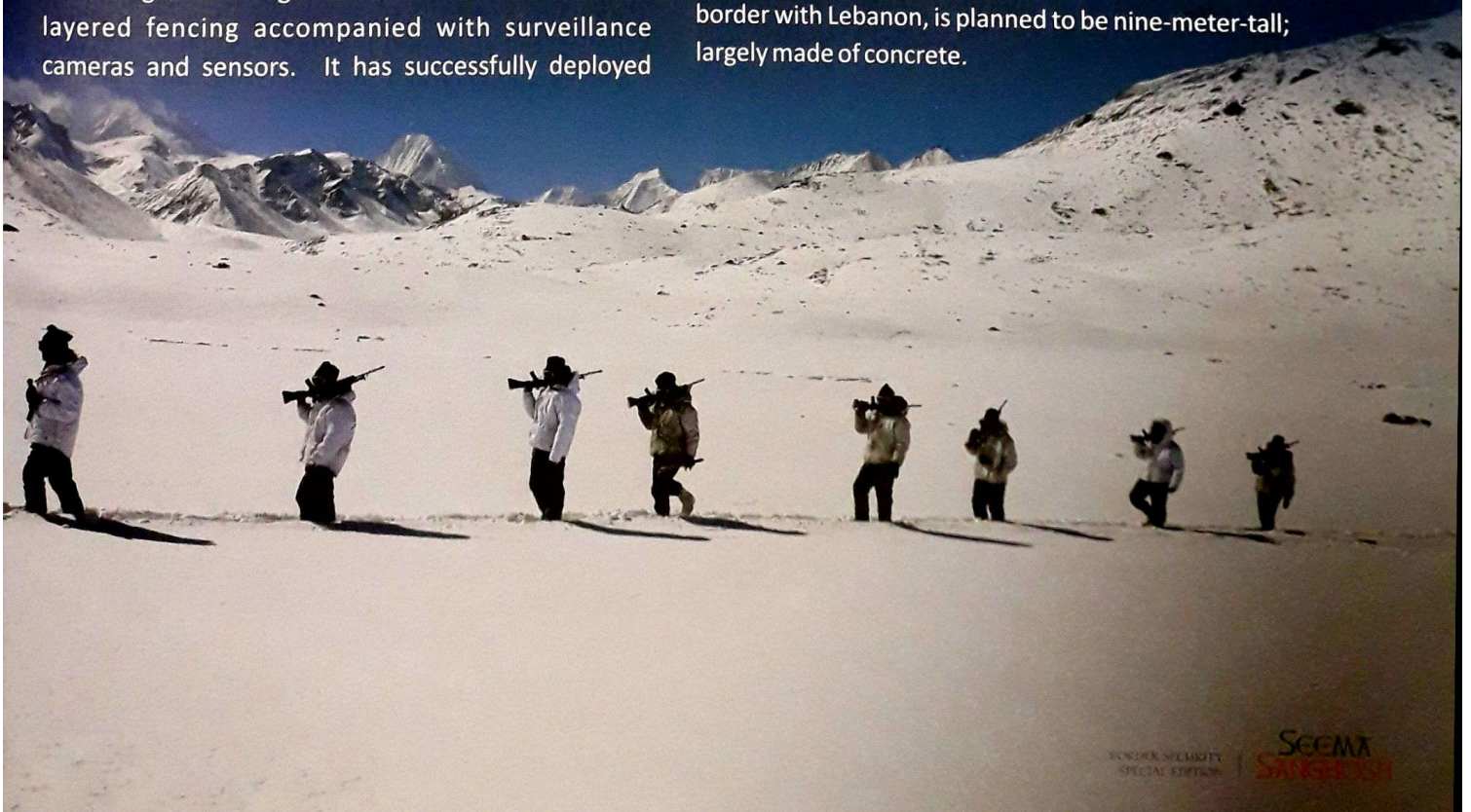
# INDIA-ISRAEL COOPERATION IN BORDER MANAGEMENT

Mr Jatin Kumar

In the current world Israel has gained repute for its expertise in border security and management. Israel's gaze towards specialized border management dates back to the 1960s, when technological investments were made in surveillance, route clearing and patrols. Some Israeli companies, namely, Elta Systems, Elbit Systems, Magal Security Systems (founded by IAI), Rafael's Security Integrated Systems (SIS) and Seraphim Optronics and Magna BSP, have been observed to develop a sophisticated border-management system to secure borders that the country shares with Gaza Strip and West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. In the contemporary times, Israeli companies lead in providing border security solutions; offer sophisticated options in electronic fencing, covert "virtual fences", advanced tracking and screening methods, advanced thermal imagers, radar, electro-optical-based surveillance sensors, autonomous, unmanned aerial, ground and maritime patrol vehicles respectively.

Israel uses various kinds of border management technologies starting from concrete wall to multi-layered fencing accompanied with surveillance cameras and sensors. It has successfully deployed

various systems such as, unmanned fortified towers comprising of remotely controlled machine gun, sensors and high definition surveillance video cameras. Its borders with Gaza are secured by two parallel barriers; the first comprising of barbed-wire within Gaza and second of a 10-foot-high metal "smart fence" packed with surveillance sensors along the Israel demarcation line. Elaborate technologies have been put to use in the border that Israel shares with Egypt. The 750 kilometre long West Bank security wall guarding Israeli territories from Palestinian suicide terrorism, is constructed of concrete (a small percentage of the whole length) and chain-link type fence combined with underground and long-range sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles, trenches, landmines and guard paths. A 26-meter-high smart fence is under construction along Israel's border with Jordan. The fence under construction has been planned to be capable of stopping Kornet missiles aimed towards Israel's newest civilian airport – Eilat Ilan and Assaf Ramon International Airport. The border wall under construction along Israel's northern border with Lebanon, is planned to be nine-meter-tall; largely made of concrete.





India shares a 15,106.7 km. long land and 7,516.6 km coastal boundary with its neighbouring countries. Its borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh are considered among the world's most dangerous. India shares 4096.70 kilometres long border with Bangladesh along the states of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, while with Pakistan it shares a border of 3323 kms along the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

These critical borders are prone to various security dangers, such as, cross-border infiltration, smuggling of narcotics and arms, illegal migrants and separatists. For any government in India, security of this huge borderline for the purpose of thwarting infiltration has been a challenge. Since independence, security of its borderline proved to be a difficult task for the Indian defence forces. Terrain has always posed a determining role in the maintenance of border security. The western frontiers of India pass through the mountain ranges of Jammu and Kashmir, Thar Desert and barren salt marshes of Gujarat and its adjoining areas, known as the Rann of Kutch. Maintenance of security at border shared with Pakistan have continued to be of immediate and major concern for the Indian security forces. In 2016, around 242 cases of infiltration were reported from the Pakistan border and 95 at the Myanmar border. In 2017, Pakistan had been reported to have violated ceasefire 771 times which is 230 percent higher than the numbers in 2016. The recent attacks faced by India at the Indian Air force base at Pathankot in Punjab, Uri Camp in Jammu and Kashmir and other strategic installations, such as BSF and CRPF camps in Jammu and Kashmir; highlights the fact that a major enhancement is vital to India's border management system. Therefore, "the Indian government started to implement the initial version of the comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS) project" in 2015. The project included the extensive use of optical satellite imagery from high resolution sensors and high definition thermal cameras to track and analyze the terrain along the border. Under the new CIBMS; the government resolved to deploy Israeli developed comprehensive integrated border management system (Smart Fencing) along its border with Pakistan in August 2017. According to reports, the high-tech surveillance system would create hidden electronic barrier on land, water and air. The smart border fencing is expected to help Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to detect and foil infiltration bids.

## India-Israel Cooperation in Border Management

India and Israel share robust defence relations. India recognized the state of Israel in September 1950, but the history of warm relationship starts from 1992, when both the countries established formal diplomatic relations with each other. Since then, ties between the two are constantly moving in the positive direction. India received support from Israel in its wars against Pakistan in the years 1962, 1971 and 1999 respectively. Israel's contribution in improving India's border security has been noteworthy. The normalization of relations between India and Israel followed the visits of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017 and subsequently that of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to India in January 2018.

In 2004, India started using Israeli equipments and tactics for border management in Kashmir. It paved the way "to the construction of a 580 kilometer electrified fence along the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir". Israel also provided radars, and special jamming equipment for use in Jammu and Kashmir. In this regards, sophisticated night vision device (NVD) was the first gift from Israel to the Indian security forces. The Israeli security equipments and technologies, such as, radar and special jamming equipments have been deemed successful in countering infiltration attempts in Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2014, India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh visited Israel to discuss over the topic of enhancement of ties between the two countries in the field of Border security management. Singh visited one of the border out-posts in Gaza and praised Israeli border management systems. During the visit three agreements related to home land security were also signed. In 2015, India initiated implementation of primary phase of the comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS) project. A vital part of the "CIBMS was the use of satellite imagery, which helps security forces to analyze the terrain and fortifications along the border. This project has started sealing 2400 km stretch of India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders and incorporates Israeli technologies. In August 2017, the Indian Government confirmed of the deployment of Israeli developed smart fencing system along its borders with Pakistan under the comprehensive integrated border management project. This smart fencing monitors the



area with the security cameras and sensors. The smart fencing is connected with the CCTV-powered control room which detects an infiltration attempt and immediately alerts security officials about it.

In last few years, India and Israel have deepened the level of cooperation in the area of border management. In the contemporary times, India is procuring motion detectors and surveillance equipments to counter infiltration attempts in problem areas like Kashmir. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) developed by Israel have proved to be of assistance to the Indian security forces in dealing with infiltration. In mid August 2017, these equipments and system were tested at the northwest border. During the test, Israeli border management technology was used in the two five kilometre (3.2 miles) long sections of the border with Pakistan. The test included new motion sensors and software that detects any suspicious movement along the border. If there is any moment or infiltration, sensor alert activates the nearest day/night video cameras at a manned border outpost and alerts the closest QRTs (Quick Reaction Teams). In 2016, after the Uri attack Indian government realised the urgent need of upgraded border management system. To help India,

Israel quickly offered its new sophisticated technology for strengthening Indian border management system. Furthermore, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also stressed that the two countries share "similar challenges" on many fronts, including cross-border terrorism. In February 2018, amidst continuing cross-border firing and infiltration from Pakistan, both the countries again discussed the issue of security along the international border and decided to utilize Israeli know-how in this sphere.

The Israeli companies have enormous experience in the border Management which can actually be useful for India in defending its boundaries. The Israeli border management systems those have been deployed in the Golan Heights and area along with Lebanon border its mountainous can be useful for addressing Indian concerns regarding mountainous terrain of Jammu and Kashmir. An assessment of successful Israeli border management system underlines that the system has worked well in desert, plain and mountainous terrains and can resolve India's security requirement on the eastern and western borders.

