

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

FOR

THE YEARS 2026-2029

The Government of the Republic of India and The Government of the State of Israel (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Sides" and separately as a "Side");

DESIRING to strengthen the friendly links between the Sides so as to deepen cultural relations between them;

BASED on the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of India signed in New Delhi on May 18, 1993;

Have agreed on the following Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2026-2029;

CULTURE

Article 1

1.1 The Sides welcome the high level of reciprocal cultural activities, noting the valuable role played by cultural ties between the two countries. The Sides reaffirm their intentions to continue to encourage direct cooperation between cultural institutions, organizations and individuals in both countries.

1.2 The Sides will encourage initiatives designed to assist organizations and individuals engaged in promoting and sponsoring cultural activities of Israeli origin in India and cultural activities of Indian origin in Israel.

1.3 The Sides will encourage the exchange of music, theatre, visual and plastic arts, design, dance and all other artistic groups or individuals participating in tours, festivals and other cultural events, including conferences, symposia, mutual performances,

workshops, artistic exposures and meetings involving the exchange of information and experiences. In addition, the Sides will encourage visits of art critics, science writers and journalists dealing with culture, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the sociological and cultural developments taking place in the other country.

Article 2

Music and Dance

The Sides will encourage the exchange of music and dance ensembles and/or individual performing artists including classical and for a period not exceeding five (5) days each. Dates and other details of such exchange will be mutually agreed in writing by the Sides through diplomatic channels.

Article 3

Theatre

3.1 Both Sides will encourage and facilitate exchange of theatre performances in both countries and to participate in local and international theatre festivals on mutually agreed terms in writing.

3.2 Both Sides will exchange theatre journals and publications on a reciprocal basis between the two countries on mutually agreed terms in writing.

Article 4

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

4.1 The Sides will encourage cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage, exchanging information about relevant national laws and regulations. In addition, they will encourage activities aimed at preserving sites of mutual interest.

4.2 The Sides will encourage direct cooperation between institutions in the field of the protection of cultural heritage. They will also exchange professionals, academic experts, information and publicity material as well as information on seminars.

4.3 The Sides will encourage cooperation between relevant authorities and institutions with a view of preventing the illegal trade in cultural heritage goods in accordance with their respective national Laws and regulations.

4.4 The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of archaeological excavations, urban conservation and architecture research. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

4.5 The Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications of archeological content. They will also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Archaeological Survey of India.

4.6 During the course of this Program, the Sides will exchange one (1) expert each year from the fields of archaeology, preservation of antiquities, restoration of cultural heritage or conservation of monuments and architecture, for a period of up to five (5) days. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and Archaeological Survey of India.

4.7 The Sides will encourage cooperation in the field of conservation of objects of Jewish cultural heritage and Indian cultural heritage. Details of this cooperation will be agreed upon by the competent authorities of both Sides.

4.8 The Sides will encourage the relevant authorities in their respective countries to exchange information and publications concerning Jewish cultural heritage and Indian cultural heritage. They will also encourage the organization of joint seminars on subjects of mutual interest to be held during the course of this Program. Details in this regard will be determined by the Israel Antiquities Authority and **similar Indian Authorities**.

Article 5

Archives

5.1 The Sides will encourage the exchange of information and documentation concerning the history of Israel in the archives of India and the history of India in the archives of Israel, as well as copies of documents (digital copies) of interest to both Sides in order to restore in respective collections. Modalities will be worked out through mutual consultations.

5.2 Both Sides will exchange experts for a period of up to 5 (five) days in each case, in the field of Records Management, Archives Administration and Conservation of Records, digitization and digital preservation of records.

5.3 The National Archives of India will provide professional training facilities to officials and students of Israel in the courses run by the School of Archival Studies.

Article 6

Library

6.1 Both Sides will exchange publications and other reading materials of mutual interest on reciprocal basis.

6.2 The Sides will encourage the exchange of visits of library experts reciprocally with a view to promote library activities between both the countries. Details will be finalized through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

Museums

7.1 The Museums on both sides will exchange exhibitions, museum exhibits and museum personnel. Exhibitions may also be organized jointly by the respective museums. Details will be finalized through diplomatic channels.

7.2 The Sides will encourage direct contacts between museums, galleries and similar institutions in both countries, including exchanges of specialists, curators, materials, special exhibits and information.

7.3 The Sides will encourage the exchange of contemporary art exhibitions including works of art from museums, official and alternative exhibition spaces, private galleries, artist training schools and galleries, and the realization of joint contemporary arts projects.

Article 8

Literature

8.1 The Sides will work jointly to promote the translation of contemporary prose, poetry and other literary works of their country into the languages of the other Side. The Sides will also encourage the distribution of these translated works. For this purpose, the

Sides will annually exchange three (3) persons (writers, poets or translators) each for a stay of up to five (5) days, while this program is in effect.

8.2 The Sides will encourage writers and editors to participate in seminars, workshops and poetry readings aimed at promoting greater understanding between the two literary communities. The

Sides will support participation of poets and writers in festivals and literary events for up to five (5) days annually.

8.3 Both Sides will encourage direct contacts among publishers and libraries.

8.4 Both Side will encourage the participation in each others' International Book fairs on reciprocal basis.

Article 9

Science Museums

(a) Both Sides will encourage the exchange of one senior level professional to study science museums and science educational programmes in India and in Israel.

(b) Both Sides will encourage the exchange visits of professionals, on reciprocal basis, to study Science Museum programme for identifying and strengthening collaborative avenues for development of interactive science museums. The duration of the visit will be up to five (5) each.

Article 10

Anthropology

Both Sides will encourage the exchange visits of experts in anthropology of different institutes of both countries.

Article 11

Cinema and Audio-Visual

11.1 The Sides will encourage the participation of films and film-makers in each other's international film festivals. The Sides will promote special cinema retrospectives of the other country as part of international film festivals being held in their country. Information regarding major film festivals will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

11.2 The Sides will encourage holding film weeks of the other Side's country in their own country. Films that are screened in this framework will have English subtitles, if the language of the film is not English.

11.3 Each Side will encourage mutual visits of an expert or public figure in the field of cinema. For this purpose, the Sides may exchange annually two (2) experts each in the fields of cinema and audio visual for a period of up to five (5) days to participate in festivals, conferences, reviews, meetings, retrospectives and other prestigious international events.

11.4 The Sides will encourage cooperation between cinema and television experts as well as film and television institutes.

The Sides welcome the direct cooperation between the Film and Television Schools as well as between their national cinematheques and the exchange of students and teachers in this field.

11.5 The Sides express their interest in promoting co-productions between Israeli and Indian film producers in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on Film Co-Production between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Republic of India, signed in New Delhi, on January 15, 2018.

11.6 The Sides will encourage cooperation between the television authorities in the two countries, as well as the exchange of materials (feature and documentary) and experts in this area, on a commercial and non-commercial basis. In addition, the Sides will encourage holding workshops on the topic of educational television, staff training and background material aimed at enhancing each country's knowledge and understanding of the other country.

Article 12

Festivals

12.1 The Sides will encourage the exchange of experts and artists for performances and participation in their festivals of the performing arts. The details relating to these exchanges, such as the number of artists and length of stays, will be based on principles of reciprocity, and will be agreed upon by the Sides and/or relevant institutions, as appropriate.

12.2 The Sides will inform one another in advance through diplomatic channels about major international festivals to be held in their respective countries, in order to facilitate such participation. Information will also be published on the websites of the respective competent authorities and institutions.

Article 13

Mass Media

- 13.1 Both Sides will encourage the exchange programme depicting various facets of life and culture in the two countries through their respective radio and TV organization.
- 13.2 Both Sides will Endeavor to strengthen relation between their national broadcasting organizations by exchange of Programmes, professionals and by utilizing training expertise and facilities available in respective country. Details of such exchange will be mutually agreed upon by the Sides through diplomatic channels.
- 13.3 Both Sides will invite each other to its International Film Festivals.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

ARTICLE 14

Youth Programmes

- 14.1 The Sides will encourage the exchange of youth programmes, participation in youth festivals in either country, visits of the officials in charge of the Youth Affairs, sharing of experiences, skills, techniques, information and knowledge in the areas of cooperation in youth affairs and participation of youth in seminars and conferences organized in both the countries on youth related issues.
- 14.2 Details in this regard will be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Department of Youth Affairs, Government of the Republic of India.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ARTICLE 15

15.1 The Israeli side will do its utmost to offer two (2) annual Modern Hebrew summer language course and five (5) specialization scholarships for one (1) academic year (eight months) each for post graduate or research students who wish to undertake studies in an Israeli university. If this offer will be available, relevant information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc. will be available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <https://mfa.gov.il> and will be published annually through diplomatic channels.

15.2 The Indian side shall offer 5 annual scholarships for the full duration of the course for Israeli postgraduate students. Information for applicants (closing date for submitting applications, age limit, necessary documents, application forms, details on grant benefits etc.) will be available on the Indian Council for Cultural Relations online portal <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/> and will be conveyed annually through diplomatic channels.

15.3 These scholarships are subject to the budgetary frameworks of the Sides.

Article 16

General and Financial Provisions

16.1 Exchange of individuals, delegations, exhibitions:

Every Sides will send to the other side the bio-data (including languages spoken and proposed itinerary) at least two (2) months in advance of the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals selected under this Agreement, and bio-data of performing groups

at an exhibition four (4) months in advance. The receiving side will inform the other side about agreeing to receive or postponing the date at least one (1) month in advance.

16.2 Exchange of materials:

Each contracting side will have the right to use the materials exchanged in the fields of information, Mass Media in its own programmes and such materials should not be given by the receiving side to a third side and shall not be used for any other purposes than this programme without the written consent of the Side sharing such information.

16.3 Finances:

When visiting each other's countries, the Sending Side will provide international travel expenses for representatives of groups, delegations or performing groups, while the Receiving Side will cover the cost of accommodation in its country.

ARTICLE 17

Miscellaneous

17.1 Any dispute between the Sides arising out of the interpretation, application or implementation of this Cultural Exchange Programme will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Sides.

17.2 The provisions of this Cultural Exchange Programme will not preclude the Sides. from agreeing through the diplomatic channel, on other arrangements which they may deem desirable.

17.3 The present Programme is not an international treaty and does not create any obligations under national and international law.

17.4 The implementation of this programme is subject to national laws, rules and policies of the Sides and availability of funds and expertise.

17.5 The Cultural Exchange Program can be reviewed or amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Sides through diplomatic channels. Such revisions or amendments will enter into force on such date as may be determined by the Sides. Any such modification shall form part of this programme.

17.6 Either Side may terminate this Programme by giving written notice to the other Side six (6) months in advance. The termination of this Programme will not prejudice the completion of any on-going programmes and projects under this Programme unless the Sides decide otherwise.

17.7 This Programme comes into effect from the date of its signature thereof by the Sides and will remain valid for a period of four (4) years or till a fresh Programme is signed. Sides with mutual written consent shall extend or renew this programme.

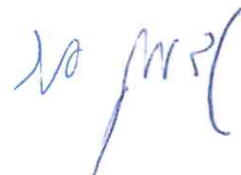
Done and signed at Jerusalem on 26 february 2026 in two originals in English languages.

**For the Government of the
Republic of India**



Dr. S. Jaishankar
External Affairs Minister

**For the Government of the
State of Israel**



Mr. Gideon Sa'ar
Minister of Foreign Affairs