

REPORT ON WEBINAR

On 10th September 2020, a webinar was organized for the students of SSIS on the topic "Israel-US relations and the implications for West Asia". The speakers invited for this virtual event were Dr. Shreya Upadhyay, Principal Analyst, Geopolitical Risk department at India Bound and Visiting Faculty, SSIS, and Dr. Alvite Singh Ningthoujam, Non-Resident fellow at the Middle East Institute, New Delhi and Visiting Faculty, SSIS. The webinar sought to explore the integral role of the United States in Israel's security, regional and foreign policy dynamics. It explored the implications of the US' Middle East policy- formation of opposing blocs with Iran, Syria, Turkey and the likes on one side, while Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Israel on the other.

The format of the discussion started with Dr. Alvite briefly introducing the background on Israel and the Middle East relations, with an emphasis on political issues, wars, pacts and policies. He outlined the significance of the recent Abraham accord and its implications and concluded by providing a brief background on Israel- US relations from the perspective of past divergences and convergences.

Dr. Shreya followed up on this discussion by making some pertinent remarks on the contemporary Israel-US relations, with a focus on its relationship in the post-Covid19 world order and in dealing with two common issues: Covid-19 and Counter-Terrorism.

Dr. Alvite finished the event by underlining the existing Modi-Netanyahu connections and defence cooperation in the evolving world order, echoing Dr. Shreya's remarks. Mr. Nischal Dave and Mr. Udit Sharma, both former SSIS students and discussants at the session, made remarks after that. Following the statements of the session discussants, the floor was opened to SSIS students for questions.



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