CHAPTER III
CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE GULF STATES

CULTURAL RELATIONS

There is hardly any country in the world with which we have better, warmer and more cordial relations than the Gulf States. India's cultural relations with these countries as has been discussed in the first chapter, date back to pre-historic times. As mentioned earlier the Harappans, Dravidians and Aryans wove the webs of many cultures in India. Recent excavations provide an insight into the traditional cultural relations between the Indian subcontinent and the Gulf region. It is welcome that the continuity of that old relation between these two regions is maintained so far. In course of exchange of visits between the leaders and officials of the two sides the cultural relations have received impetus in modern times. The study of this relationship is undertaken one by one as follows:

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

The third meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission was held in Teheran in December 1970 in which cultural relations between the two countries were discussed at length. Indian students were offered fellowships and it was decided that the cultural troops of the two countries would exchange visits. In pursuance of such decisions India and Iran signed in Tehran on 7 October 1973 an agreement for the expansion of cultural ties. The agreement which covered the period 1974-75 provided for cooperation between them in the fields of science, culture, exchange of teachers and students and sports. It also provided for collaborative

1. INDIA (A Reference Annual 1971-72) p. 528
programmes for archaeological field work, cooperation between their respective libraries and museums in respect of exchange of Manuscripts and seminars of scholars and senior teachers to evaluate human values. The agreement was signed by the then Minister for Education, Welfare and Culture Mr. Mural Hasan and his Iranian counterpart Mrs. Farrokhru Parsay.

A cultural exchange programme envisaging cooperation between India and Iran in fields of science, education, culture and arts for two years was signed in New Delhi on 12 December 1973. The programme, which was signed in pursuance of Cultural Agreement between India and Iran on 1 December 1956, provided for cultural cooperation in the fields of radio, television, press and sports. It also provided for the exchange of scientists, scholars educationists, writers, journalists, artists and sportsmen, besides the exchange of dance and music groups, art exhibitions, books, radio and T.V. material and award of scholarships. In pursuance of the expansion of cultural contacts India and Iran signed in Teheran in the third week of April, 1978, a three year cultural exchange programme for 1978-80. The programme contained nearly fifty items ranging over activities in the fields of art and culture, higher education and science, radio, T.V. press and sports. The two countries also agreed upon participation in film festivals organized by either sides, besides cooperation in the fields of radio, television and production of documentary and feature films. They also agreed to exchange dance and music ensembles, besides exchanges of

2. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay, dated 8.10.73
3. ASIAN RECORDER 1974, New Delhi, p. 11799
exhibition of books and publications between the universities of the two countries.

2. RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

Iraq and India signed in Baghdad on 20 April 1973, a Cultural Agreement replacing one concluded in 1954. The agreement provided for expanding and consolidating cultural ties between the two countries. The two countries would exchange teachers and scientists and grant each other scholarship facilities at higher educational institutions. Dr. Hissn Shawi, the then Iraqi minister for Higher Education, and S. K.R. Singh, the archetypal Indian ambassador in Baghdad, signed the accord on behalf of their respective countries. After a few months another Cultural agreement was concluded the same year by the same parties. The new agreement took into account the present day relations in the two countries and sought to promote Education and Scientific Research and existing 6, 6 old cultural ties between the peoples of Iraq and India. During Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Iraq in January 1975, Baghdad University conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on her. Actually in doing so the University made a departure from its tradition since this honour is usually reserved for Heads of State. It testifies the depth of long-standing cultural ties between the two countries.

4. ASIAN RECORDER 1978, New Delhi, p. 14345

5. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay dated 21.4.73

6. ASIAN RECORDER 1973 New Delhi, p. 11531

7. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay, dated 21.1.75
Iraqi news agency, INA, opened on 15 January 1976 news bureau in New Delhi to project India's correct image in the Arab world. The bureau was opened in collaboration with the Press Asia International. In a message of greetings, Mrs. Gandhi expressed the hope that the venture would go a long way to promote Indo-Arab relations. India and Iraq signed a three year programme in New Delhi the same day for cooperation in education, science and technology, arts and culture, sports, health, radio, TV. Press and films which provided for exchanges of teachers, scientists, research scholars, artists, writers, sportsmen and journalists. In April 1979 the cultural tie between the two countries was renewed when a cultural exchange programme was signed between them envisaging cooperation in the fields of education, culture and science. Both the sides would exchange academicians in humanities, engineering, medicine and science. Closer relations would be encouraged between the universities and institutes for engineering, agriculture and pure sciences. Experts in the fields of archaeology, mass media, youth activities, sports and performing arts would visit each other's country.

India also signed a cultural exchange programme with Iraq in New Delhi on 1 July 1982. The programme signed by Mr. Nasrullah, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Culture, covered a wide range of activities in the field of education, culture, science, mass media, sports, youth and tourism. It also provided for the conclusion of two protocols on cooperation in the sphere of information and mass media, and the equivalence of degrees diplomas awarded in both countries.

8. ASIAN ALMANAC 1976, Singapore, p. 7820
9. ASIAN Recorder 1979, New Delhi, p. 14832
10. THE TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi dated 2.7.82
3. RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA:

There have not been official level cultural contacts between India and Saudi Arabia in modern times. No doubt private individuals and organizations have been maintaining such contacts. Two factors account for this cultural gap in present days—conservative political system and linguistic parochialism. The conservative regime of Saudi Arabia has been resisting modern current of thought that might undermine the basic structure of its political system. Their thinking was incompatible with the modern ideas of equality, liberty and fraternity. Linguistic parochialism is the offshoot of this actuality. The royal family welcome only these men and material and these principles and ideas that may not prove a threat to their rule of medieval style. Only Arabic knowing people are welcome in Saudi Arabia. In Universities and colleges the medium of instruction is Arabic. All subjects but these of professional courses are taught in Arabic. The objective is that Saudi people may not be exposed to political education. That is why there has been no exchange of academicians, scholars and students between the two countries in recent times. It is well known to Saudi rulers that India is the largest democracy of the world and its citizens infected with the germs of democracy may disseminate them among Saudi people and thus damage the traditional regime of that country. The height is that Western technocrats are preferred to Indian ones. Only people engaged in promoting Islamic cause, such as Muslim theologians, members of Jamaat-i-Islami and Tableeghi Jamaat, who have nothing to do with the politics are hailed in Saudi Arabia. One of the top Muslim theologians Maulana Syed Ali Nadwi has received Shah Faisal award for his Arabic proficiency. Any way,
the relations between the two countries in other fields (political, economic, technical) have developed considerably and we should be optimistic about the promotion of cultural relations as well in the near future.

4. RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT:

Indo-Kuwaiti cultural contacts in recent times have been rare. A cultural agreement between the two countries was signed in early 70s. But thereafter the cooperation in cultural field ceased to exist. Though Kuwait has the distinction of having a responsive government among the Gulf states, but linguistic parochialism still prevails there. This is a great hurdle in the way of promotion of cultural relations between India and Kuwait. But since the Emir of Kuwait has broad outlook towards politics and has respect for the aspirations and expectations of the peoples of the two countries we should hope that cultural relations between two peoples shall develop in course of time.

Cultural and technical relations between India and four major Gulf states deserve elaborate assessment so that we may find out something distinct and new. As discussed at the outset the cultural relations between India and the Gulf countries date back to prehistoric times and there has been no let up in such relations throughout the ages. Its continuity is maintained in modern times as well. So far as Indo-Iranian cultural relations are concerned, the existence of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission has been helpful in boasting such ties between the two countries progressively. Cultural contacts are a must for the training of mental or moral powers of the people of the countries concerned. Both Iran and India have been well known for their cultural heritage. There has been exchange of
cultural troupes between India and Iran for the promotion of culture. The Indian students were also offered fellowships by Iranian Government. These decisions were given effect by signing an agreement in October 1973 which marks the expansion of cultural ties between India and Iran. The agreement covered various fields including culture, sports and science and technology. It also included the fields of archaeology and general education. A similar agreement was signed between the two countries in December 1973, providing for cooperation in the fields of press, sports, radio and television. Actually it was the extension of an agreement originally signed in December 1956 which had also included exchange of dance and music troupes. The 1973 agreement excluded the items of dance and music perhaps due to the growing influence of Muslim fundamentalists in Iran. In April 1978 India and Iran signed in Tehran a three year cultural exchange programme containing a wide range of items including dance and music. It is interesting to note that in previous agreement the Shah excluded the items of dance and music but the agreement of 1978 had contained these items. It reflects the Shah's animosity towards the Muslim fundamentalists during the last days of his rule. The cultural exchange programme not only contained dance and music but also there was provision of mutual participation in film festivals and cooperation in the production of documentary and feature films.

The Indo-Iraqi Cultural Agreement was originally signed in 1954 and that agreement was replaced in April 1973 that aimed to expand and consolidate the cultural relations between India and Iraq. The agreement contained the provisions of the grant of scholarships to the University
students of each other's country and the exchange of teachers and scientists. This agreement was followed by another agreement of the same nature purported to promote age old cultural ties between two peoples. Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Iraq in January 1975 marks a milestone in the annals of Indo-Iraqi cultural relations in that Baghdad University had conferred the degree of Dr. of Laws on her making a departure from its established practice. This honour is generally meant for Heads of State. It speaks for the deep rooted cultural contacts the two countries have been cherishing. The move of Iraqi news agency to open news bureau in New Delhi in January 1976 was hailed in India. The objective was to present before the Arab world correct image of India. Actually India has been in extreme need of such step because India's domestic as well as foreign policies were often criticized by Arab world due to misinterpretation of events in Indian subcontinent. Communal riots in India and her strained relations with Pakistan have been factors hurting the sentiments of Arab people. Mrs. Gandhi aptly observed that the venture would be conducive to the promotion of Indo-Arab relations. It is also noteworthy that the change of Government in India in 1977 did not affect its relations with Iraq or any other Muslim countries including Pakistan. The then Foreign Minister Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who till the other day had been the spokesman of a communal Hindu Party, turned most secular the moment he came to power. He visited most Muslim countries of the world and took all possible measures conducive to promoting better relations between India and them. During Janata rule the cultural tie between India and Iraq was renewed and a cultural exchange programme was
was signed. The programme included cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education. They also agreed to encourage closer relations between the universities and institutes of the two countries in pure sciences, engineering and agriculture. It also envisaged exchange of visits to each others' country in the fields of sports, performing arts, mass media and archaeology. It is noteworthy that cooperation in the field of science and technology was given priority by both the countries. The reason for this priority is that both want to catch up with other industrialised nations of the world. Another contributory factor in Indo-Iraqi cooperation in cultural field is that the leaders of both the countries have broad outlook towards politics and prefer to encourage free exchange of ideas between the two peoples. That is why in cultural agreement between them there has been provision for exchange of academicians, research scholars and students of all branches of studies. No doubt the continuing Iran-Iraq war has dealt a severe blow to cultural contacts due to the deteriorating economic condition of Iraq as well as the bombing of civilian population by both the warring nations. The signing of cultural exchange programme by the two countries in July 1982 is significant for two reasons. For one thing, it covered a wide range of activities in various fields i.e. sports, youth, tourism, science, mass media, culture and education. For another it recognized the equivalence of degrees diplomas secured by the students of both the countries. Thus it opened up new avenues to the job aspirants in India and Iraq.
As has already been mentioned the official level cultural contacts between India and Saudi Arabia have been absent in modern times. It has been due to her conservative political system and linguistic parochialism. Although cultural ties between India and Kuwait has not been totally absent in recent times but of course rare. There also the relations suffer from linguistic parochialism. But due to the broadbased polity of Kuwait and open outlook of her Amir towards politics we should be optimistic about the development of cultural links between the two countries with the passage of time.

TECHNICAL RELATIONS:

Technical cooperation i.e. cooperation in the field of science and technology between India and the Gulf-region is not a new phenomenon. As has already been discussed, the Gulf people are indebted to India in the field of medicine, astronomy and mathematics. Indian physicians and medical systems enjoyed a wide reputation even in pre-Islamic Arabia. The famous pre-Islamic Persian Academy of Ctesiphon invited Indian physicians to meet their counterparts and a curious blending of sciences took place there. Indian astronomy also made great impact on Arab world. The celebrated Indian astronomical work Surya Siddhanta brought by the physician Kuttaka to the court of the newly founded capital Baghdad was translated into Arabic under the name of As-Sind Hind. The continuity of such relations is still maintained. The fact that India possesses largest technical manpower in the world and the Gulf states have secured phenomenal economic power due to their oil bonanza provided best opportunity for fruitful cooperation between the two regions. The study of such cooperation is undertaken countrywise as follows;
I. RELATIONS WITH IRAN

The Third meeting of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission held in Teheran in December 1970 is significant in that it investigated the possibilities of a greater exchange of expertise and components between industrial units in India and Iran. In this meeting India offered fellowships and services of experts to help Iran in the development of its small-scale industries. He visited of Sardar Swaran Singh, the then External Affairs Minister, to Iran in February 1974, has been of crucial importance so far as economic and technical cooperation between the two countries are concerned. The two sides agreed in principle to establish joint venture fertilizer plants in Iran. Besides in order that industrial capacity in India might be further expanded to meet the rapidly growing needs of Iran for various commodities, it had been decided to set up a Joint Committee of experts with the objective of identifying industries in India which were of interest to Iran and determine the best manner in which Iran could assist to expand production so that the products in required quantities could be made available to that country. During Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Iran in April 1974 she emphasized that there was wide scope for developing the range and depth of mutual industrial and scientific cooperation. The joint communiqué issued at the end of her visit mentioned the Iranian readiness to provide credits in excess of one billion dollars to India to help maximise the capacity of its export oriented industry, establish a Joint shipping line with an industrial capacity of five lakh tonnes and triple the capacity

11. INDIA (A Reference Annual 1971-72) p. 528
12. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi dated 23.2.74
of the Kudremukh iron ore project to seven million tonnes. The memorandum of understanding provided for a study on increasing the capacity of the alumina project to 3 lakhs tonnes, over which Iran would have the first option.

India and Iran signed in New Delhi on 9 September 1977 a protocol which would pave the way for further expansion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The protocol embodied agreement in principle for Iran's cooperation in exploiting the bauxite reserves in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh and in establishment of paper and pulp manufacturing industries. The signing ceremony took place at the conclusion of sixth ministerial session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission for economic and technical cooperation. Prior to this protocol an agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was signed between the two countries in Bombay on 25 Feb. 1977. Dr. Akbar Etemad, president of the Iran Atomic Energy Organization told the newsmen that to begin with, there would be an exchange of technical and scientific know-how as well as scientists. This know-how would mainly be in the fields of reactor technology and equipment for reactors. A number of Iranian scientists would also come for training. Later other programmes would be launched. When asked why Iran was investing so much on nuclear energy when it had large reserves of oil, Dr. Etemad said oil reserves would suffice for another twenty to twenty-five years and by then the infrastructure of nuclear projects should be ready. During Shah's visit to India in February 1978 both sides reaffirmed

13. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, Tehran dated 3.5.74
14. ASIAN RECORDER 1977, New Delhi, p. 13958
15. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay dated 26.2.77
their resolve to cooperate with each other for the development of nuclear science for peaceful purposes.

India and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in wide-ranging sectors as well as to increase trade and industrial collaboration with each other. The document was signed in Teheran on 26 August 1982 by the then Commerce Minister of India Shivraj Patil, and the Iranian Minister of Commerce Mr. Habibollahaskar Guladi Hosain.

It was agreed that Iran would identify and initiate specific areas and items in which it would get technical know-how from India. It included tentative areas such as development of water resources, manufacture of steel through reduction processes, agricultural machinery and implements, development of small scale industry in rural areas and paper machinery.

The Indo-Iranian Joint Commission meeting held in Teheran in the third week of July 1983 marks a distinction in the history of Indo-Iranian relations. The Commission agreed to start lifting from 1981 iron-ore concentrate from the Kudremukh plant. His decision thus paved the way for a comprehensive agreement on this complex issue and it was expected that the remaining problems with regard to quantity, prices and delivery schedule would be sorted out later. The $660 million Kudremukh project was set up exclusively for exporting iron ore to Iran, but difficulties cropped up because the steel production plan of that country underwent a drastic change.

16. Hindustan Times, New Delhi Dated 6.2.78
17. ASIAN RECORDER 1982, p. 16350.
2. RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

In the Deputy Minister of India for External Affairs paid a goodwill visit to Iraq in September 1970. Prior to this visit a goodwill delegation, comprising Mr. A.P. Sharma M.P. and Mr. Mir Quasim, a political leader of Jammu & Kashmir visited Iraq in July 1970. These visits boosted technical cooperation between Iraq and India. A four-member Iraqi delegation led by the then Planning Minister Dr. Hashem Jawad visited India in December 1972 and had talks with then Indian Minister of Planning Mr. D.P. Dhar and members of the Planning Commission in New Delhi. It was decided to set up an Indo-Iraqi Joint Planning Committee to study and utilize planning activities of the two countries and to give a fillip to technical collaboration. In April 1973 as many as seven agreements, mostly in the field of technology, were signed between India and Iraq. One of the agreements was concluded between the Iraqi National Oil Company and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for a 'service contract' for exploration of oil in an onshore concession in Iraq. Another agreement related to the exchange of consultancy services between Engineers India Limited and the Iraqi Petroleum industry. It was also agreed to purchase the crude oil by India from Iraq on a long term basis. In return for Baghdad-Ramadi-Ali main railway project, steel rolling mills, electric power transmission ship building and repair facilities, supply of iron-ore for an Iraqi steel project, manufacture of light engineering goods, fertilizer and aluminium projects and natural gas plants etc. Supply of goods and services

20. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi dated 24.12.72
in respect of these projects was expected to result in balanced trade between the two countries. If this did not happen, the imbalances would be settled in convertible currency.

India and Iraq reached an Agreement in October 1973 under which India's Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) would have a right to search for oil in some specific regions in Iraq. In fact the Agreement had been decided in April 1973 when an Iraqi delegation had visited India. The Agreement empowering ONGC to search for oil, formed part of an overall agreement on the scale of Iraqi crude oil to India. The purchase of the Iraqi oil could be the most important factor in Indo-Iraqi cooperation. In addition to the search for oil, a railway would be built in Iraq and there would be an exchange of technical know-how. Saddam Hussein's visit (the then Vice President of Iraq) to India in March 1974 also invigorated the technical cooperation between two countries. The two Governments agreed to cooperate in the implementation of major irrigation and agriculture projects in Iraq. The expanding bilateral trade would be given a boost in the coming years, for which a concrete trade expansion plan for the period from 1 April, 1974 to 31 March, 1975 had been finalised. According to an Agreement India would establish three technical institutes and polytechnics in Iraq on a 'turn key basis' aside from continuing to provide facilities for the education of Iraqi nationals in the technical institutes and polytechnics of India.

21. THE STATESMAN, New Delhi dated 7.4.73
23. THE TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi dated 29.3.74
India and Iraq signed another Agreement in New Delhi on 1 March, 1975 under which both countries would collaborate in petroleum research, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, engineering and space research, construction designs and material research. The Agreement was signed by Dr. Y. L. Ayubkhan, the then Director of General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Dr. Najid Abdul Kadir the then resident of Iraq's Scientific Research Federation. Under the agreement the CSIR would assist Iraq to recruit 15 to 20 experts from India for the foundation of Scientific Research in Iraq. Dr. Kadir also mentioned that Iraq was establishing a space research centre and some observatories and would also take Indian help for that. At the end of the Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Iraq in January 1975 both the countries expressed confidence in increasing possibilities of collaboration between them in the development of the oil industry, setting up of industrial and transportation projects and developing potential of agriculture and water resources in Iraq. The two leaders affirmed their conviction that developing countries should strengthen economic and technical cooperation among themselves in order to achieve speedier and all round progress.

India and Iraq signed a three year programme on 15 January 1976 in New Delhi for cooperation in science and technology. According to a report published on 16 August 1975 ONGC had spudded its first exploratory well in search of oil in Iraq. This well is located about 265 km. South-

24. ASIAN RECORDER, 1975 New Delhi p. 12549
25. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay dated 22.1.75
26. ASIAN ALMANAC 1976 Singapore, p.7820
West of Basra in the desert area bordering Saudi Arabia, an area of about 4200 sq. km. was allocated to ONGC for oil exploration and production under a contract signed earlier with the Iraqi National Oil Company. In another report published on 13 September 1975, it was said that oil and Natural Gas Commission was to conduct a seismic survey in southern Iraq. The Commission had been engaged for this work by the Iraqi National Oil Company and was already exploring for oil in an adjacent region under a service contract. The Commission was to receive a fee of about US $3 million and would also train Iraqi personnel in topographic surveying and handling seismographic vibrators.

India and Iraq signed a protocol in New Delhi on 9 November 1977 for the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission envisaging wide ranging technical cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, industry, railways and consultancy services and deputation of Indian technical experts. The protocol was initialled at the conclusion of the Joint Commission meeting by the then Petroleum and Chemicals Minister Mr. H.N. Bahuguna and Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, member of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq. Both leaders were the co-Chairman of the commission which was set up in 1974. According to the protocol India would depute experts to advise the Iraqi officials on agricultural projects in the rain-fed areas, production of sugar and sugar-cane, animal husbandry and drinking water supply. The two sides also discussed the possibility of setting up a joint shipping service between the two countries to give a boost to bilateral trade and

27. Ibid., p. 7451
28. Ibid., p. 7602
commerce. Besides, India would assist Iraq in building grain silos, a specialised institute of engineering and 300 housing units, help in servicing and maintenance of instruments and equipment for the cement plants, develop the Iraqi iron and steel industry and set up an electronics complex. India would also assist them in manufacture of machine tools, synthetic fibres and extend assistance in the field of mining. Besides, India would set up in Iraq centres in metallurgy and fertilizers devoted to training, research and development purposes. The two sides also agreed on the modalities of cooperation between the consultancy organizations of the two countries. In certain fields, India would also train Iraqi experts in various Indian institutes.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission decide to abandon its concession in Iraq after spending Rs. eight crores on the project. Not that the well drilled by ONGC was dry. It had yielded oil at the rate of around twenty-four hundred barrels per day. By Indian standards this was a good find, but in Iraq a minimum flow of three thousand barrels per day was needed for the Government to recognize a discovery as of commercial value. ONGC could probably have stepped up production to three thousand barrels per day by stimulation techniques but it decided this would not be worthwhile. Under the contract ONGC was entitled to thirty percent of any oil it found. Even this would not be given free of charge ONGC would have to pay forty per cent of the posted price for it. This would have been an economic proposition if a large field had been discovered. But ONGC experts came to
the conclusion that the field was a small one and would not be able to sustain a production of three thousand barrels per day for more than seven years. Normally an oil field is expected to last twenty years. The Iraq concession was in a very remote area and it would have taken a considerable amount of investment in pipelines and other facilities to develop it.

In view of the low production potential of the Zone, ONGC decided to cut its losses and pull out.

India won a contract in Iraq when the construction of a Rs. three crore weir was entrusted to a Bombay firm in the third week of June 1980. The weir was to be built on the Hasa Chai river, about 260 km from Kirkuk, near Kirkuk in the Persian Gulf region. This was the third irrigation project India was constructing in the country. India had by then won contracts worth more than Rs. one thousand crores of which contract worth Rs. five hundred crores were obtained in 1980. The first half of 1980 saw Indian firms getting contracts worth Rs. 50 (fifty) crores and above. In 1979 the largest single contract awarded to a single Indian firm was worth Rs. forty crores. Although Indian companies share of projects under the massive development programme in Iraq is small compared to that of Japanese, West German and other firms, the demands for India's trained and skilled manpower continues to grow. The number of Indian experts has considerably increased. More than ten thousand Indian workers have been in employment in Iraq. Indian civil engineering firms are engaged in such diverse jobs as housing, sewerage network, massive soils for grain storage, canal excavation work, installation of huge gas and oil storage

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ASIA TODAY, 1977, New Delhi, p. 13741.
tanks and preparation of feasibility studies and project reports. The public sector Engineering Projects (India) Limited was engaged in the construction of five huge buildings for Iraqi television and the Council of Minister building. Indian firms have also been providing consultancy and management support services.

India and Iraq signed a protocol in New Delhi on 21 April 1980 to further expand technical cooperation between the two countries. The Iraqi Oil Minister Mr. Fayyad Abdul Karim who led a delegation at the Ministerial level talks signed the protocol on his country's behalf. Mr. Virendra Petil the then Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals signed on India's behalf. On the industrial side, India has been participating in a big way in construction projects in Iraq. India also agreed to participate in projects involving advanced technology in fields such as petrochemicals, irrigation and agriculture. The protocol also envisaged joint research on solar energy. Iraq would also assist India in its oil exploration programme. The Protocol also covered Indian cooperation in developing tourism in Iraq which wanted training facilities in India for 32 hotel personnel. In the seventh session of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission held in Baghdad on 21 & 22 October 1981, the two sides reviewed the developments since the last session of the Joint Commission which was held in New Delhi in April 1980. They had noted that there had been commendable improvements in the fields of projects and other areas including technical relations. In view of the large number of Indian experts and

31. ASIAN RECORDER, 1980, New Delhi, p. 15635
32. THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay dated 22.4.80
workers working in Iraq, both sides agreed to develop general guidelines for the recruitment of experts so that an orderly and mutually beneficial arrangement for such recruitment could be facilitated. The two sides also agreed to set up a separate sub-committee dealing with technical cooperation. In the field of tourism detailed discussions took place and the two sides finalised a draft protocol on cooperation in the field of tourism between ITOC and the Iraqi State Organization for Tourism.

While reviewing the collaboration in construction work, Mr. Sethi, the then Indian Minister for Petroleum said there was some panic at the initial stage of the Iran-Iraq war when the Indian construction workers fled Iraq and the Indian companies halted work. But when the Iraqi Government explained the situation and assured safety to the Indians they got back in strength and the fifty-three companies were working in full swing. India was involved in construction projects worth about $3.3 billion.

3. RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA:

A contract was signed between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Saudi Arabian Oil Company on 1 March 1976 under which India would import 1.1 million tonnes of light crude oil from Saudi Arabia during 1976. In addition to crude received on Government to Government basis, India would continue to get 2.75 million tonnes of Saudi Arabian crude from Exxon under the agreement signed at the time of acquisition of its affiliate Esso's marketing and refining operation in March 1974. Caltex also

33. ASIAN RECORDER 1981, New Delhi, p. 16368
34. THE INDIAN EXPRESS New Delhi dated 23.10.81.
received from its principles. Saudi Arabian crude for processing in its
refinery at Vishakhapatnam. During the visit of the then Petroleum and
Chemicals Minister of India, K.D. Halviya to Saudi Arabia on 20 July
1975, he paid a courtesy call on the then Crown Prince and acting Premier
Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz. The Prince assured the Indian Minister of
Saudi Government's desire to expand bilateral relations in technical aid
other fields. The electrification of Jizan region in Saudi Arabia by the
public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHSL) is a glaring
example of Indo-Saudi technical cooperation. The Rs. seven hundred
twenty million project was formally commissioned and power switched on to
nearly eight thousand consumers on 20 March, 1980. This was the first
time that India had executed such a job on turnkey basis abroad. The
scope of contract awarded to BHSL involved construction of a forty two
megawatt central power station near Jizan town, construction of 17 km.
of 33-kw transmission lines and 50 km. of 13.8 -K.V. distribution lines
and a network connecting eight thousand consumers. In addition, sub stations
were constructed at Jizan, Sabya Abu Arish and Hadayrah. The contract
was awarded to BHSL in June 1977 and its phase comprising powerhouse,
housing colony and substation was handed over to Saudi Arabian authorities
before the scheduled date in March 1980. BHSL also secured a contract

for operation and maintenance of the power station, sub-station and entire electrical distribution network for two years. India and Saudi Arabia signed in New Delhi on 14 April 1981, an economic and technical cooperation agreement aimed at encouraging investment and flow of capital and exchange of goods and products. The agreement also envisaged the formation of a joint commission to meet alternately in India and Saudi Arabia. The fields of cooperation mentioned in the Agreement included encouragement of the establishment of agricultural and technical development projects between the two countries, encouragement of exchange of information relating to scientific and technical research; encouragement of exchange of various goods and products between them; and encouragement of training of technical staff regarded for specific cooperative programmes. Exchange of views by economic and technical representatives and delegations between the two countries would also be encouraged. The agreement would come into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. Besides, at the end of the first meeting of their Joint Commission in New Delhi on 11 August 1983, India and Saudi Arabia agreed to further strengthen their bilateral cooperation in various fields including technical one.

The committee of the commission on science and technology identified the areas of cooperation in solar energy, Joint research in agriculture, pure sciences, computers, electronic system and oceanography. The committee on technical cooperation identified three fields which would provide a good basis for further cooperation. These included telecommunication and education.

36. The TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, dated 21.3.80
37. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI dated 15.4.81
38. ASIAN RECORDER 1983, New Delhi, p. 17370.
4. RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT:

The conclusion of an agreement in early 1970s between the two associated cement companies of India and the Government of Kuwait for the construction of a Clinker Grinding and Packing Plant, which had to be fabric ted almost entirely in India marked a notable example of technical cooperation between the two countries. During the visit of the then External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh to Kuwait in February 1973, India and Kuwait agreed to set up an inter Governmental Joint Committee for technical cooperation between them. The committee would meet at officials' level at least once in a year in India and Kuwait alternatively. It is true that for the past fifteen years Kuwait could not benefit substantially by the technical know-how of India as compared to other Gulf states. She preferred to enter into contact with industrialised nations. It is piety that so far Kuwait has not be able to utilize India's potential in her developmental activities though India has the privilege to have the largest and cheaper technical manpower in the world. No doubt India's labour class in welcome in Kuwait. The financial participation of Kuwait in India's projects has been commendable for instance. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) granted loan to India for the multi billion dollar Thal Vaishet fertilizer project in Maharashtra. Likewise KFAED, according to an agreement signed in New Delhi in October 1983, would provide a Rs. fifty crores loan to India for South...
development project.

India and the Gulf states maintained cooperation in the field of science and technology even before the advent of Islam. It has been readily discussed how pre-Islamic Persian Academy of Gonbad-Shapur played a commendable role in bringing about a curious blending of sciences by inviting Indian physicians to Iran. The translation of the celebrated Indian astronomical work 'Surya Siddhanta' into Arabic in Baghdad speaks for the active cooperation between India and the Arab world in the field of astronomy in ancient times. Though India's privileged position in having the largest technical manpower in the world has not been fully utilized in fruitful technical cooperation with the Gulf countries in the modern times, still such cooperation countries to exist.

Indo Iranian relations in technical field have been discussed at length suffice. There it would to concentrated on the basic features of those relations. The meeting of Joint Commission of the two countries in 1970 was of exploratory nature and the possibilities of closer cooperation between their industrial units were examined. It also considered ways and means for the speedy development of Iranian small-scale industries. The technical cooperation was further boosted with the visit of Sardar Swaran Singh, the then Foreign Minister, to Iran in February 1974. There was agreement between the two sides on the establishment of Joint venture fertilizer plants in Iran. It was also decided to set up a Joint Committee of experts to identify industries in India with:

42. THE INDIAN EXPRESS, NEW DELHI, dated 28.10.83
view to meet the Iranian needs of Indian products. Iran expressed her readiness to extend all help at her disposal so that industrial capacity in India might be further expanded. Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Iran in 1976 further strengthened technical relations in that Iran agreed to provide credits in excess of one billion dollars to increase the industrial production of India. The Joint Communiqué also envisaged the establishment of a joint shipping line and the increase in the capacity of the Kudremukh iron-ore project. The two sides also decided to make a study on increasing the capacity of the alumina project keeping in view the Iran's interest in the project.

The signing of protocol by India and Iran in September 1977 marks a step forward towards strengthening technical cooperation. The protocol envisaged Iran's participation in exploiting the bauxite reserves in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh and her cooperation in setting up the paper and pulp manufacturing industries. The protocol was signed during the sixth ministerial session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission. In pursuance of India's pronounced policy in nuclear field she signed an agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in February 1977. His action on the part of India also aimed to dispel Pakistan's doubt over India's integrity in the wake of Pokhran explosion. It was designed to convince Pakistan that like Iran, one of her allies, she should also be fearless from India's side and she (Pakistan) should not pursue her nuclear programme for weapons' purpose certain quarters in India were suspicious of Iran's nuclear programme due to the fact that she has 1 ...
services of oil. Dr. stemad, President of Iran convincingly argued that oil reserves would suffice for another 20 to 25 years and then Iran had got to prepare the required infrastructure of nuclear projects. The signing of a memorandum of understanding in August 1982 by the two countries is indicative of the extent to which Iran was interested in utilizing India's technical know-how. The reason is that within a short period of time India has made phenomenal advance in the field of science and technology and her technical manpower is cheaper than that in western countries. The memorandum of understanding provided that Iran would decide upon specific areas in which it would require Indian technology. It mentioned tentatively a number of items including agricultural machinery and implements, development of small scale industries and water resources. In the wake of Iranian revolution the steel production plan of that country underwent a drastic change and the lifting of iron-ore concentrate from Kudremukh plant was held up.

The decision to set up an Indo Iraqi Joint Planning Committee gave a fillip to technical cooperation between the two countries. It was decided in December 1972 when a four member Iraqi delegation led by Dr. Hashim Jawad visited India and had talks with Dr. D.P. Dhar the then Planning Minister and members of the Planning Commission in New Delhi. In 1973 a number of agreements in technical field were signed between India and Iraq. The agreements related to exploration of oil in Iraq and exchange of consultancy services. India also agreed to supply goods and services for a number of developmental projects i.e. ship building and repair facilities, steel rolling mills, Baghdad Ramadi Ali main railway project and manufacture of light engineering goods etc. In October 1973 Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission got the right to search for oil in certain regions in Iraq.
This agreement was finalized in April 1973 and it also contained the provision of the sale of Iraqi oil to India in abundance. It also envisaged the building of a railway in Iraq and an exchange of technical know how. During Saddam Husein's visit to India the two countries decided to further strengthen technical cooperation and India undertook the implementation of major irrigation and agricultural projects in Iraq. Besides, a concrete trade expansion plan was finalised. India also agreed to establish technical institutes in Iraq on "turn-key" basis. According to another agreement signed in New Delhi in March 1975 India and Iraq had to collaborate in engineering and space research, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, petroleum research, material research and construction designs. Iraq's Scientific Research Foundation has been indebted to Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for its assistance in the recruitment of Indian experts for the foundation. Iraq has also been looking to India's help in the establishment of a space research centre and some observatories on her soil. Gandhi's visit to Iraq in January 1975 further paved the way for fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology. In pursuance of this policy a three year programme was signed in January 1976.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission started drilling in Iraq in August 1975. The contract also embodied the provision of import of Iraqi Oil in substantial quantity in India. Besides, ONGC also undertook to conduct a seismic survey in southern Iraq. The commission was operating under a service contract between ONGC and Iraqi National Oil Company. The system of service contract contained terms favourable to host country (Iraq). The commission was obliged to train Iraqi personnel in
handling certain instruments and equipment. The fourth meeting of Indi-Iraqi Joint Commission heralded a new era in technical cooperation between the two countries since it decided to sign a protocol envisaging every significant field. It is a matter of satisfaction that change of Government in India did not affect her policy towards the Gulf States. But instead the relations were improved in every field. The signing of protocol in November 1977 testifies to this fact. The protocol provided for the deputation of Indian experts for consultancy services in Iraq regarding the production of sugar and sugar-cane, drinking water supply, animal husbandry and agricultural projects in the rain fed areas. Mr. H. C. Bahuguna the then Petroleum and Chemicals Minister and Mr. Chaim Abdul Jalil, member of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq also exchanged views on the possibility of setting up a Joint shipping service between the two countries. India was also to assist Iraq in building a specialized institute of engineering, three hundred housing units and grain silos. India would also help develop the Iraqi iron and steel industry, servicing and maintenance of instruments and equipment for the cement plants and setting up an electronics complex. The protocol also envisaged India's assistance in the manufacture of synthetic fibres, machine tools and assistance in the field of mining. The setting up of centres in metallurgy and fertilizers in Iraq for research and training purposes was also planned. An important aspect of our technical cooperation with Iraq is that the cooperation was sustained to the extent it was favourable to both the parties. The moment we felt that certain deal was detrimental to the interest of either party it was abandoned. For instance in 1977 OILC relinquished a concession in Iraq after investing a good deal of money. The commission’s achievement of yielding twenty four hundred barrels per day cannot be said to be modest. But it was below Iraq’s expectation of
of 300 barrels per day. ONGC could have reached the target by stimulation techniques but since the terms of contract were not favourable to India and the situation of oil field was such that India would have to invest in infrastructure much more than expected, it was thought expedient to abandon the contract.

There are a number of other instances of fruitful technical cooperation between India and Iraq. In June 1980 a Bombay firm won a contract for the construction of a Rs. three crores weir to be built on the Lhasa Chai river in Rumah governorate. By then (1980) India's contracts were of the order of Rs. one thousand crores. 1980 marked the winning of the contracts of largest amount of Rs. five hundred crores by Indian firms. An important feature of Indo-Iraqi technical cooperation is that Indian companies share of projects has been small compared to that of Japanese, West German and other firms but the demands for India's trained and skilled manpower have been showing upward trend. More than ten thousand Indian workers have been in employment in Iraq prior to Gulf war. No doubt the war has adversely affected the strength of Indian employees in Iraq. Indian engineers are occupied with a host of activities such as canal excavation work, installation of huge gas and oil storage tanks, housing, sewerage network and preparation of feasibility studies. The construction of buildings for Iraqi television and the Council of Ministers was also undertaken by the public sector engineers. The signing of Indo-Iraqi protocol in April 1980 by the then Petroleum Ministers of the two countries marks an advance in technical cooperation. The protocol encompassed cooperation in construction projects and advanced technology in the fields such as irrigation, agriculture and petrochemicals. It also covered joint research in solar energy. Iraq's initiative for
the development of solar energy reflects her concern for the depleting oil reserves. The protocol also included the provision for cooperation in developing tourism. The seventh session of Indo-Iraqi Joint Commission held in October 1981 reviewed the progress of the projects undertaken through the decision of the previous session. It was found that the pace of implementation of various projects had been commendable. The main achievement of the Joint Commission was that both the countries decided to evolve general guidelines for the appointment of the experts so as to facilitate the modality of recruitment. It was agreed to set up a sub-committee to deal with the cooperation in technical field. A draft protocol for the cooperation in tourism was also finalised. There was anxiety among Indians about the safety of their countrymen at the initial stage of war. But with the assurance of Iraqi Government of full protection to Indians the normal work on different projects was restarted. These Indians who had fled in the wake of war went back and reembarked on their duties. At that time India's participation in construction projects in Iraq was at its peak involving $ three billion.

In March 1976 a contract between the Indian Oil Corporation and Saudi Arabian Oil Company contained among other things the provision of technical cooperation. It involved two oil companies Exxon and its affiliate Esso for marketing and refining operation. Caltex also benefitted from Saudi crude by receiving it for refinery operation at Vishakhapatnam. During the visit of the then Petroleum and Chemicals Minister of India Mr. K.D. Malviya to Saudi Arabia, the then Crown Prince and acting Premier Prince Fahad bin Abdul Aziz assured the Indian Minister of Saudi Government's desire to diversify bilateral relations in various fields
including science and technology. Actually, Saudi Arabia was impressed
by the advance made by India in the field of technology and wanted to
benefit by it. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited undertook the electrification
of Jizan region in Saudi Arabia and completed the work fantastically
well schedule. The contract was significant in that India for the first
time concluded an agreement abroad on turn key basis. BHEL not only
completed the electrification work but also took the responsibility of
operation and maintenance of the power- station and electrical distribution
network in the entire region for two years. In order to expand bilateral
relations between the two countries a Joint Commission was formed in
April 1981. The Commission was to meet alternatively in India and Saudi
Arabia. They also signed an agreement in economic and technical field
to encourage investment and flow of capital and exchange of products.
The agreement emphasized the need to encourage the exchange of information
relating to research in science and technology, encourage the training of
technical staff required for cooperative programmes, encourage the
establishment of agricultural and technical development projects and
exchange of views by economic and technical experts of the two countries
the first meeting of Joint Commission of India and Saudi Arabia held in
August 1983 took the following decisions:

(i) To expand the bilateral relations with special emphasis on technology.
(ii) To cooperate in the field of solar energy, agricultural research,
oceanography, computers electronic system telecommunication and
education.

The above decisions reflect two points. For one thing, Saudi
Arabia recognized India's potential in the field of science and
technology. For another, the Saudi Government was conscious of the fact that oil is a depleting and non-renewable source of energy and it should take effective measures for commercial development of solar energy.

Kuwait sought assistance of two associated cement companies of India in the construction of a clinker Grinding and Packing Plant in early 70s. The visit of Sardar Swaran Singh, the then External Affairs Minister to Kuwait in February 1975 marked an important development in the annals of Indo-Kuwaiti relations. It was during the visit that the agreement on the setting up of inter-Governmental Joint Committee was concluded. Though India has the largest and comparatively cheaper manpower in the world, so far Kuwait has not been able to substantially utilize Indian know-how. It is ironical that the technocrats of Western nations are preferred in Kuwait to Indian ones. Labour power constitutes the majority of total Indian immigrants.