STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is Netanyahu's New 'Hexagon' Alliance?

International Relations

26 Feb 2025

Background

Netanyahu's "Hexagon" Alliance (also called the "Hexagon of Alliances") is a proposed strategic geopolitical framework announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2026, during a cabinet meeting. It envisions a loose network or "axis" of nations that align on security, economic, diplomatic, and other interests to counter what Netanyahu describes as "radical axes" in the Middle East — specifically the radical Shia axis (led by Iran and its proxies) and an emerging radical Sunni axis.

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What Countries Are Involved?

Netanyahu explicitly named:

- Israel (at the center)
- India
- Greece
- Cyprus (Greek-administered side)

He also mentioned including:

- Unnamed Arab states
- African nations
- Asian nations (beyond India)

The "hexagon" metaphor suggests six key pillars or sides (hence six entities/groups), forming a structured system of cooperation around or within the Middle East region. No formal treaty or binding alliance has been signed yet — it's currently a vision or strategic concept rather than an established bloc.

Goals and Purpose

Netanyahu framed it as a counter to perceived threats from "radical" forces (Iran-backed groups like Hezbollah/Houthis and certain Sunni extremist elements). Key areas of cooperation he highlighted include:

- Security and defense
- Intelligence sharing
- Diplomacy
- Economic connectivity (trade, energy, infrastructure)
- Standing together against common challenges

The proposal comes amid:

- Ongoing Israel-Iran tensions
- Netanyahu's efforts to expand Israel's diplomatic circle beyond traditional Western allies
- Recent high-level visits and talks (e.g., Indian PM Modi's visit to Israel around the same time)

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Reactions and Skepticism

- Positive views (from Israeli officials and some analysts): It builds on existing partnerships (e.g., India-Israel defense ties, Greece-Cyprus-Israel energy cooperation) and offers alternatives to stalled normalization with Saudi Arabia.
- Critical views (from analysts and regional players):
    - Some call it a "fantasy" or "hedge" against isolation, especially with Israel facing international criticism.
    - Pakistan condemned it as an "anti-Muslim Ummah bloc" and a threat.
    - Analysts doubt its feasibility — many potential Arab/African partners may hesitate due to domestic politics or fear of backlash from Iran or Turkey.
    - It risks deepening regional polarization ("axis vs axis" framing).