72 Extraordinary Israeli Achievements

1 Introduction of Israel's Independence Day, 1948

2 Founding of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) (May 31, 1948)

3 Israel's Air Force (IAF) (June 1948)

4 Israel's Navy (Aug. 1948)

5 Israel adopts the Hebrew calendar (Sept. 1948)

6 Israel's Supreme Court (Dec. 1948)

7 Israel's Central Bank (Dec. 1948)

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By 2014, Viber served 300 million registered users and on February 13, 2014 was acquired by Rakuten, Inc for $900 million.

52) Israeli-designed GrainPro cocoons provide a simple and economical way for African and Asian farmers to keep their grain market-fresh (2011)

Invented by food technology Professor Shlomo Navarro and developed through the US-Israel Science and Technology Foundation in the 1980s, the cocoon was first marketed by a kibbutz specializing in plastics. It kept water and air out, saved crops from mold and pests, and solved the issue of freshness of the food products even in extreme heat and humidity.

53) Israeli chess Grandmaster Boris Gelfand places second in 2012 World Chess Championship (May 30, 2012)

A six-time World Championship Candidate (1991, 1994-95, 2002, 2007, 2011, 2013), Gelfand won the Chess World Cup 2009 and the 2011 Candidates Tournament, making him Challenger for the World Chess Championship 2012. Although placing second in 2012, he competed in 11 Chess Olympiads and held a place within the top 30 players ranked by FIDE from January 1990 to October 2017.

54) Israeli plant biotechnology company Morflora's TraitUP wins Agrow Award for the Best Novel Agricultural Biotechnology (November 18, 2013)

TraitUP, a generic non-transgenic and non-heritable platform that enables the delivery of DNA into a wide variety of seeds in a fast and reliable manner to protect them for a single generation from a wide range of diseases, and introduce new desired traits for plant and crop enhancement, was developed by Hebrew University agricultural scientists Ilan Sela and Haim D. Rabinowitch.

The award recognizes the most significant practical application of a novel biotechnology to the advancement of crop protection and agriculture.

55) Israeli actress Gal Gadot announced as *Wonder Woman* (December 4, 2013)

The Gal Gadot-fronted superhero movie went on to record-breaking success in its opening weekend raking in $223 million globally, including a historic $100.5 million at the US box office.

56) Israel is ranked fifth in the world on 2015 Bloomberg Business' Global Innovation Index (February 2015)

Israel ranks number five overall on the 2015 Bloomberg Innovation Index, an annual ranking of countries that measures performance in research and development, tech education, patents, and other marks of technology prowess. Fifth place marked a dramatic rise from 30th in 2014, putting Israel ahead of France, Singapore, the UK, and the US.

57) Ben-Gurion University and the University of Arizona sign a collaborative research agreement (March 2015)

The agreement allowed cooperation to take place on mutual areas of interest and strength, including cyber security, homeland security, nanotechnology, robotics, community medicine, remote sensing, and sustainability. The collaboration incorporates joint research as well as student exchanges.

58) Israeli high-tech companies close 104 deals worth $10 billion (2016)

The figure, up 12% from 2015, accounts for 93 mergers and acquisitions worth nearly $8.8 billion, including the $4.4 billion Playtika acquisition, eight buyouts that generated $1.22 billion and three small IPOs totaling $15.1 million according to the IVC - Meitar High-Tech Exits Report.

59) DowDuPont, conglomerate of two major U.S. corporations form and expand operations in Israel (2017)

"Israel is one of the economies with the swiftest growth in the world and many of Israel's companies are leaders in technologies and services that will help companies and communities to prosper worldwide," said Dow Chemical Co. EVP and president of Dow Europe, Middle East, Africa & India, Heinz Haller at a ceremony in Tel Aviv in October 2017.

60) Intel completes the first stage of the $15.3 billion purchase of Mobileye, an Israeli technology company that specializes in producing sensors and cameras for autonomous cars (August 2017)

The acquisition is expected to accelerate innovation for the automotive industry and positions the global microchip giant as a leading technology provider in the fast-growing market for highly and fully autonomous vehicles.

61) Israeli exports expected to pass $100 billion for the first time (2017)

A preliminary report on Israeli export activity for 2017 shows a 5% rise in total exports of goods and services, with a 3% boost in industrial exports, a 2% jump in agricultural exports, a 7% increase in export of high-tech services and a 20% improvement in Israeli exports to the European Union.

62) A record-breaking year for tourism to Israel notes over 3.6 million tourists (2017)

The number of tourists visiting Israel increased by 700,000, setting a new record and boost to the economy of $6 billion USD.

63) Israel's Technion ranked #1 worldwide in digital education (2017)

A leader in providing students with digital skills, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa ranks in the Times Higher Education 2017 survey as the world's top academic institution in terms of preparing students for leading positions in the digital revolution.

64) Two major US surveys rank Israel among most powerful, innovative countries (2018)

US News and World Report named Israel as the 8th most powerful nation in the world, surveying more than 21,000 people from four regions around the globe.

Meanwhile Bloomberg News, hailing Israel's high-tech industry and technological advances, listed the Jewish state as the 10th most innovative, above the US and UK, using an index that annually ranks economies by analyzing seven contributing factors such as research and development, spending and the concentration of public hi-tech companies.

65) Israel ranks ahead of United States, Britain, France and Italy in the annual World Happiness Report (2018)

The survey of global societal well-being ranks 156 countries by happiness levels using variables such as GDP per capita and healthy life expectancy.

66) IDF increases effectiveness of its troops on the battlefield with a unit in Military Intelligence that has revolutionized how soldiers receive and understand critical information (2018)

Unit 3000's mission is to use modern data science for operational and visual intelligence for commanders and intelligence officers to increase combat effectiveness of the IDF. The army unit comprised of over 400 soldiers has developed several applications that can function on tablets and other portable devices, allowing troops to fully understand the geographical imprint and topography of an area where they will be operating.

67) Israel's Wizcomtech designs pen to make reading easier for kids with dyslexia (2018)

Modiin-based Wizcomtech, one of the largest producers of pen-shaped handheld scanning translators, secured a $5 million deal with a US distributor to sell a new pen that helps children with dyslexia.

68) Israel's largest-ever Winter Olympics squad heads to Korea (2018)

Ten Israeli athletes represented (eight skaters, an Alpine skier and a skeleton racer) represented Israel at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, to become Israel's largest-ever Winter Olympics delegation since its first participation in the Games in 1994.

69) One of the largest renewable energy projects in the world set to open in the summer of 2018

The sprawling Negev complex will produce 300 megawatts of clean electricity daily, contributing 2.5% toward the government's goal of 10% renewable energy by 2020.

70) Israel to launch world's first flight of nano-satellites by end of 2018

A group of three nano-satellites developed by scientists from Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology will be the first autonomous spacecraft in the world to be flown in formation.

"Israeli technology is breaking boundaries and proving its innovation again and again," commented Science and Technology Minister Ofir Akunis. "We are proud to be part of this flagship project, which is a significant contribution to the advancement of space in Israel and to the training of students in the field."

71) Israel becomes the seventh nation to orbit the moon

Although Beresheet craft touchdown on April 11, 2019 was unsuccessful, the mission allowed the Jewish state to become the seventh country to orbit the moon which was an undertaking the *New York Times* said "captured the imagination and excitement of people in Israel and around the world."

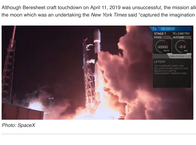

Photo: SpaceX

72) 'Israel Start-Up Nation' becomes the first-ever Israeli team to compete in the Tour de France in 2020

The squad, which carries 30 riders from 16 nationalities, will participate in the world's third most-watched sporting event after the quadrennial summer Olympic Games and the soccer World Cup, displaying Israeli innovation to billions of viewers.

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