

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, engaged in a meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of the State of Israel. The discussions took place in both face-to-face and extended formats.

According to the press service of the Prime Minister of Georgia, the two leaders deliberated on the primary avenues of collaboration between their respective countries across various domains. They also explored the potential for further enhancing their ongoing cooperation.

Gharibashvili highlighted that Georgia and Israel possess significant experience in productive cooperation. He emphasized the necessity of deepening this existing friendship and partnership, underlining the consistently high level of relations between the two nations.

"The discussions encompassed collaboration in the economic realm. The Prime Minister underscored the dynamic growth of trade and economic ties between the countries. Negotiations concerning a free trade agreement are scheduled to commence next year, signaling a significant upgrade in the



partnership's quality.

Within the context of the Joint Economic Commission, the meeting explored novel approaches and possibilities for identifying new areas of future cooperation. They acknowledged the favorable progress in the sphere of tourism cooperation.

Global security challenges and the broader international landscape also formed part of the deliberations," reported the Prime Minister's press office.

Gharibashvili extended an invitation to Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Georgia.

During their face-to-face

meeting, Benjamin Netanyahu expressed that Israel and Georgia enjoy a strong bond.

"Mr. Prime Minister, I am pleased to welcome you here. Israel and Georgia share a deeply warm relationship. Our connection spans back around 2,500 years, or perhaps even 2,600

years. Jewish communities have resided in Georgia, and many Jews migrated to Israel from there. They serve as a living bridge between our countries. I myself had the opportunity to visit Georgia. I am aware that we can elevate our relations to even greater heights, and I welcome this opportunity during your visit. Once again, I extend my welcome to Israel! We look forward to your next visit to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem! As the saying goes: 'Next time we will meet in Jerusalem!'" stated the Israeli Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of Georgia conveyed that the Jewish community has consistently experienced friendship, unwavering support, and a sense of belonging within Georgian society.

"Mr. Prime Minister, I extend my gratitude for welcoming me and my delegation. It is a privilege and joy to be here. I always approach my visits to Israel with delight, and as you mentioned, we share a special bond and friendship with Israel and the Jewish people. The Jewish community has consistently felt the warmth of friendship, unwavering support, and a sense of belonging within Georgian society. Thus, I am pleased to be here. Thank you very much!" expressed Gharibashvili.

Significance of Georgian Prime Minister's Visit to Israel Highlighted by Foreign Minister Darchiashvili and Ambassador Zhvania

By Liza Mchedlidze

The recent visit of Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili to the State of Israel holds profound importance, as emphasized by Iliia Darchiashvili, Georgia's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Darchiashvili praised the strong relations between the two countries and their people.

Darchiashvili believes this visit will give a fresh boost to the relations between the two countries.

"During the meeting, a broad spectrum of cooperation avenues was discussed, focusing on the sectors that merit further development and reinforcement in both countries. It's worth underscoring the explicit emphasis placed on strengthening and deepening trade and economic ties between our nations. Notably, negotiations for a free trade agreement between the two countries are scheduled to commence in 2024, which will bolster cooperation in this domain. Overall, I'd like to stress that the visit held substantial significance and occurred at an opportune moment. We are confident that the Prime Minister of Georgia's visit will amplify and enrich the already productive

collaboration, a testament to its value for both the Jewish and Georgian communities," stated Darchiashvili.

"Relations between Israel and Georgia are progressing dynamically. We're experiencing growth across various domains, regional collaboration is close, and our trade and economic ties are expanding. In fact, we've reached the point where negotiations for a free trade agreement, starting from 2024, are set to increase investments from Israel into Georgia," stated Lasha Zhvania, Georgia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Israel, while discussing Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili's visit to Israel.

According to Zhvania, this cooperation is set to flourish further in the coming years.

"As you're aware, tourism is flourishing, and we anticipate an even higher number of Israeli tourists visiting Georgia in the future. In a regional context, Israel is a key partner for us, and reciprocally, we stand as a significant partner for Israel. This robust foundation paves the way for enhanced collaboration between the two nations, which will undoubtedly see further development in the times ahead," highlighted Zhvania.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER
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Georgia's MFA Confirms Epicenter Search Completion and Expanded Exploration Efforts in Shovi



As reported by Temur Mghebrishvili, the head of the emergency management service at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, approximately 25 kilometers away from the disaster's

epicenter in Shovi, the rescuers have purportedly located the body of a man. The body was subsequently transported to the Samkharauli forensic bureau in Kutaisi.

Mghebrishvili further elaborated that the search of the collapsed area at the disaster's epi-

center has indeed been concluded and stated that they had actively commenced the introduction of heavy equipment into the riverbed while expanding the exploration efforts.

"At this phase, our primary

focus lies on employing heavy machinery within the riverbed. The nature of the terrain has allowed us to glimpse water at depths of around 2 meters in specific spots. Our estimation is that we should search at depths ranging from 1.5 to 2 meters. We have designated sectors up to Ambrolauri, comprising a total of 18 sectors. These efforts involve equipment deployed within a 1.5-kilometer perimeter from the disaster's epicenter," detailed Temur Mghebrishvili.

Up to this point, rescue teams have recovered a total of 27 bodies from the Shovi disaster zone, with ongoing search operations targeting 6 individuals.

Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, Meets with Jerusalem's Patriarch Theophilos III

Irakli Gharibashvili, the Prime Minister of Georgia, held a meeting with Theophilos III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. According to the Prime Minister's

press service, their discussions encompassed the historical bonds between the churches of Georgia and Jerusalem, as well as the present global situation. Both leaders underscored the

of the Government of Georgia and the accompanying delegation, extending his wishes for their success," stated the Prime Minister's press service.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem



paramount importance of global peace and stability.

"Theophilos the Third requested the Prime Minister to convey warm regards to the Georgian Patriarch Ilia the Second.

The Patriarch of Jerusalem offered his blessings to the Head

hosted the Prime Minister at the Patriarchate.

Together with the delegation, Irakli Gharibashvili visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where they paid their respects at the tomb of Jesus and Golgotha.

H.E Mr. ISHIZUKA Hideki, Ambassador of Japan to Georgia makes the first visit to the Adjara A/R

Last week H.E Mr. ISHIZUKA Hideki, Ambassador of Japan to Georgia visited Adjara A/R. During his first visit, the ambassador made courtesy calls to the Chairman of the Government of the A/R, Mr. Tornike Rijvadze; The Mayor of Batumi, Mr. Archil Chikovani; The Minister of Agriculture of the A/R, Mr. Zaza Shavadze and the Minister of Education, Culture, and Sports of A/R, Ms. Maia Khajishvili. During the meetings, the parties mutually reaffirmed their positions to advance bilateral relations and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in the

spheres of economy, culture, tourism, agriculture and education, etc.

During the trip, Ambassador ISHIZUKA visited Shuakhevi and Khelvachauri Municipalities and handed over the heavy machinery purchased within the Grassroots Human Security Grant Program (GGP) of the Embassy of Japan. Specifically, within the GGP Program Shuakhevi Municipality purchased a garbage collection truck and Khelvachauri Municipality purchased a compact excavator. The total amount of the grant:

143,852 USD.

Ambassador ISHIZUKA also visited the Mobile Library that was purchased in 2021 with the financial support of the Japanese government to travel from village to village for providing education opportunities for the chil-

dren and youth in the Mountainous Adjara Region. The project is implemented by the NGO Independent Journalist House (IJH). Grant amount - 72,000 USD.

One of the highlights of the Ambassador's trip was a visit to

the Batumi Botanical Garden, which includes one of the oldest Japanese corners in the Europe. The Ambassador met the director of the garden, Mr. Irakli Archaia and discussed the possibilities for enhanced use of the Japanese corner.



Weather

Friday, August 18

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 34°C
Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 20°C

Saturday, August 19

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 33°C
Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 21°C

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