



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# India and Israel Elevate Ties; Sign 16 MoUs, Announce Special Strategic Partnership

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During the ongoing state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel, both countries signed 16 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and formally announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a “Special Strategic Partnership.” The agreements were signed in Jerusalem in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu.

## **Key Areas of Cooperation Covered by the MoUs**

**The 16 MoUs** and agreements span multiple strategic and emerging sectors, such as:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies

### **Agriculture and innovation centres**

Cybersecurity and digital payments (UPI linkage)

### **Education and research collaboration**

Commerce, services, and manufacturing protocols

### **Cultural and people-to-people exchanges**

These agreements are expected to enhance high-tech engagement, trade flows, research cooperation, and bilateral economic integration.

## **Special Strategic Partnership Framework**

### **Kamaraj IAS Academy**

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Both leaders announced that the upgraded bilateral relationship will focus on:

Joint collaboration in defence, technology, and innovation (e.g., defence R&D and technology transfer).

Expansion of economic cooperation, including advanced discussions on a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Digital cooperation, such as enabling the use of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Israel to facilitate cross-border transactions.

Cooperation in space, energy, and cybersecurity sectors.

This reflects a comprehensive partnership covering security, technology, trade, and people-to-people links.

### **Strategic and Geopolitical Significance**

The partnership signals a deepening of India-Israel ties against the backdrop of evolving global and regional dynamics.

Both nations reiterated their shared position against terrorism and commitment to peace and stability.

The elevated strategic link also aligns with frameworks such as I2U2 and the potential India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

### **India-Israel Diplomatic Relations**

India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992 after decades of limited engagement.

Strategic cooperation has grown significantly over the past three decades, covering defence, agriculture, water management, and technology.

### **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**

UPI is a real-time payments system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that enables instant funds transfer across banks and merchants.

The agreement to enable UPI in Israel is expected to facilitate seamless digital payments, boost tourism, and strengthen financial connectivity.

National Payments Corporation of India:

Founded: 19 December 2016

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Non-Exe Chairman: Ajay Kumar Choudhary

MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

### **India-Israel Defence Cooperation**

Israel is one of India's major defence partners, with cooperation in joint development, production, and technological transfers. The relationship has expanded from traditional defence equipment to focus on high-tech and co-development projects.

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