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Chips to digital tech and health, India and Singapore sign 4 MoUs, elevate bilateral ties as Modi meets Singapore PM

Later in the day, Prime Minister Modi will also call on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

Written by [Shubhajit Roy](#) [Follow](#)

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EXPRESS EXPI

**Why PM Narendra Modi says Singapore is semiconductor hub**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong during a bilateral meeting in Singapore on Thursday. Modi was seen playing the 'dhol' after he arrived on Wednesday. (Photos: PTI)

India and Singapore on Thursday elevated their bilateral ties to a “comprehensive strategic partnership” and signed four Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), including one on cooperation in the semiconductor industry, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his counterpart Lawrence Wong.

As reported by [The Indian Express](#) earlier, the MoUs are —Cooperation in the Field of Digital Technologies, India-Singapore Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership; Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine, and on Educational Cooperation and Skills Development.

During his opening remarks, Modi said Singapore is not only a partner nation but it is an inspiration for every developing country.

“A new chapter in – ties: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established. PM @narendramodi and PM @LawrenceWongST held a productive meeting in

Singapore today,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X after the meeting.

“The leaders agreed to elevate the ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They extensively reviewed various facets of the bilateral relationship covering areas of Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity, Digitalisation, Healthcare & Medicine, Skills Development and Sustainability,” he said.

The MEA in a statement said both leaders reviewed the progress of India-Singapore bilateral relations.

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“Given the breadth and depth of bilateral ties and immense potential, they decided to elevate the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This would also give a major boost to India’s Act East Policy,” it said.

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Taking stock of the robust progress in economic ties, the leaders called for further expanding trade and investment flows between the two countries. Prime Minister highlighted that Singapore with an investment of around USD 160 billion in the Indian economy, is a leading economic partner for India. He further noted that rapid and sustained growth in India has opened up immense investment opportunities for Singaporean entities, it added.

They also reviewed existing cooperation in the fields of defence and security, maritime domain awareness, education, AI, Fintech, new technology domains, science and technology and knowledge partnership. The two leaders called for strengthening connectivity between the countries to enhance economic and people-to-people ties. They also called for acceleration in green corridor projects.

The two leaders discussed the outcome of the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable held in Singapore in August 2024.

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“Noting that the Ministerial Roundtable is a unique mechanism, the leaders appreciated the work done by senior ministers from both sides in deliberating and identifying a new agenda for bilateral cooperation. The leaders called for accelerated action under the pillars of cooperation identified during the Ministerial Roundtables — advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitalisation, healthcare & medicine, skills development and sustainability,” the statement said.

The leaders underscored that the cooperation under these pillars, particularly in the areas of semiconductors and critical and emerging technologies, opens a new

chapter in bilateral relations making our ties future-oriented, the statement said.

Their discussion also covered the celebration of the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations in 2025. Highlighting that the cultural connect between the two countries is an important component of these ties, the Prime Minister announced that the first Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre would be opened in Singapore.

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Why PM Narendra
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The leaders also exchanged views on important regional and global issues of mutual interest, including India-ASEAN relations and India's vision for the Indo-Pacific.

The Prime Minister invited Wong to visit India, which he accepted.

C Raja Mohan writes | C Raja Mohan writes: In Rahul Gandhi and PM Modi's US visits, a new internationalism

Modi in his opening remarks thanked Wong for the warm welcome. "This is our first meeting after you assumed the post of premier. Many congratulations to you from my side. I am confident that under the leadership of 4G (the fourth-generation leaders), Singapore will progress even faster," Modi said.

"We also want to create many Singapores in India and I am happy that we are working together in this direction. The ministerial roundtable that has been formed between us is a path-breaking mechanism." He said the partnership between the two nations in skilling, digitalisation, mobility, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, Artificial intelligence (AI), healthcare, sustainability and cyber security has become an identity of this mechanism.

"The discussions with my friend, PM Lawrence Wong continued today. Our talks focused on boosting cooperation in areas like skilling, technology, healthcare, AI and more. We both agreed on the need to boost trade relations," Modi said in a post on X after the talks.



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Why PM Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore is significant for semiconductor ties

The meeting between the two leaders comes months after Wong took over as premier and Modi began his third term as prime minister.

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EXPRESS Shorts



Any threat to Sanatan Dharma threat to humanity: Adityanath in Ayodhya

Cities September 6, 2024 02:43 IST

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the contributions of Ashok Singhal to Sanatan Dharma and claimed that any threat to the religion is a threat to humanity. He also highlighted Singhal's role in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the consecration of Ram...