

# India's security interests linked to peace and stability in West Asia: PM Modi during his visit to Israel

India and Israel decide to work closely to implement IMEC and I2U2 projects; ongoing tension between Iran and U.S. discussed; PM Modi reiterates that terrorism in “all its forms and manifestations” remains unacceptable

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands during a press conference in Jerusalem on February 26, 2026. | Photo Credit: Reuters

India's security interests are “directly linked” to peace and stability in the West Asian region and that is why India has consistently sought a resolution of West Asian

regional tensions through peaceful means, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (February 26, 2026) in Israel.

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After holding talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Mr. Modi said the two sides have decided to work closely for the implementation of the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) projects. He reiterated the position that terrorism in “all its forms and manifestations” remains unacceptable.

“Peace and stability in West Asia are directly linked to India’s security interests. Therefore, from the very beginning, we have supported dialogue and a peaceful resolution of issues. This is the call of the Global South and of humanity as a whole,” said Mr. Modi in his speech laying out India’s position on the tense situation that is prevailing in the Gulf region because of growing tension between Iran and the Israel-U.S. coalition.

Regarding India’s position on terrorism, Mr. Modi said, “Terrorism has no place in the world. In any form and in any manifestation, terrorism cannot be accepted. We have stood shoulder to shoulder in opposing terrorism and those who support it, and we will continue to do so.”

In a special briefing for the media towards the end of the visit, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the “ongoing” tension between Iran and the U.S. came up for discussion between the two Prime Ministers. “The Prime Minister made his point, stating India’s firm belief in the value of dialogue and the value of pursuing peaceful solutions to all such issues and also reiterated his readiness to offer India’s support if there is any way in which India’s support is required towards a peaceful solution,” he said.

Mr. Modi’s two-day visit to Israel that came nine years after his 2017 visit has attracted widespread attention, as it took place in the backdrop of a large-scale military build-up by the U.S. that appears to be getting ready for an armed conflict with Iran over the latter’s position on the use of nuclear energy. The Gulf region is vital for India’s energy security and because it hosts more than a crore of expat Indian workers in the GCC countries.

The External Affairs Ministry said the two Prime Ministers discussed possibilities of close cooperation “across all domains”, such as trade and investment, defence and security, space, energy, critical technologies, cyber security, education, scientific research and innovation. **The two sides sealed multiple MoUs, including one on cooperation in the field of “geophysical exploration” that will enhance bilateral cooperation in “mineral exploration using advanced geophysical and AI technologies” and include “sustainable resource development”.**

Mr. Modi further said India and Israel will move ahead with “renewed momentum” on IMEC and I2U2 projects that aim to increase cooperation on connectivity, digital public infrastructure and food production. Foreign Secretary Misri, in response to a question from the Israeli media, clarified that the “regional situation does weigh on the progress of the initiative”. He, however, informed that “there are countries” that are taking steps in their “national capacities” for advancing the components of the IMEC project.

Mr. Misri’s statement came in response to a question on how Israel’s relation with Saudi Arabia, which is stuck because of a lack of progress on the issue of Palestinian statehood, could impact the IMEC project.

**Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Israel concluded with the two sides bringing out a joint statement that described the bilateral relation as a “special strategic partnership”. The statement appreciated the advances made in the negotiation for a trade pact and said the two leaders have instructed the respective negotiating teams to prepare for an “early signing of a Free Trade Agreement”.**

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi and other Indian officials visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem and paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust during the Nazi era in Germany. He also met with Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel, and planted a tree in the President’s garden to mark his visit.

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