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First Round of India–Israel FTA Talks Conclude Successfully in New Delhi

FTA Talks Cover Wide-Ranging Issues; Next Round to Be Held in Israel in May 2026

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The first round of negotiations for the India–Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA), held from 23 to 26 February 2026 in New Delhi, concluded successfully today. The Terms of Reference (ToR) was signed in November 2025, establishing a structured framework for discussions on identified areas to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

Presently on a two-day State Visit to Israel, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while addressing a Special Plenary of the Knesset in Jerusalem on February 25, 2026, called for early finalization of an ambitious Free Trade Agreement to realize the untapped trade potential between the two countries.

On 24^{th} February 2026, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri **Piyush Goyal**, met the visiting Israeli delegation and emphasized that both sides should work closely to unlock new opportunities in trade, innovation, and growth, thereby further strengthening the valued partnership between the two countries. He encouraged both sides to strive towards a modern, comprehensive, and future-ready trade agreement.

During the four-day negotiations, both countries engaged in discussions covering a wide range of areas, including trade in goods and services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, customs procedures, intellectual property rights, digital trade, and other key chapters. Discussions were held in a constructive and forward-looking manner, with both sides reaffirming their objective of negotiating a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial agreement. Both sides also agreed to continue inter-sessional engagements virtually. The next round of in-person negotiations will be held in May 2026 in Israel.

Bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries stood at approximately USD 3.62 billion in FY 2024–25. The proposed FTA offers a valuable opportunity to enhance trade flows by providing a stable and predictable framework for businesses in both India and Israel. Both sides noted the untapped potential in key sectors, including machinery, chemicals, textiles, agriculture, medical devices, and advanced technologies. The successful conclusion of the first round reflects a shared commitment to deepen economic partnership and creating new opportunities for stakeholders.

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