

# Israeli parliament formally approves UAE normalisation deal

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Israel's parliament on Thursday voted overwhelmingly in favor of formally ratifying the country's historic agreement normalising diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates.

Israel and the UAE announced the U.S.-brokered agreement in August, and signed a deal in a White House ceremony last month.

## **Key Highlights**

- The approval by the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament, which passed in a 80-13 vote, was largely a formality.
- The UAE has become just the third Arab country to establish official ties with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan, and the first to do so in a quarter century.
- Bahrain is also in the process of formalizing ties with Israel, and the White House has suggested that other Arab countries will follow suit.
- The deals reflect a shift in the Middle East as Arab countries' shared concerns with Israel about Iran outweigh their traditional support for the Palestinians.

- The Palestinians, who have long relied on unified Arab support to boost them against Israel, have condemned the deal and accused the UAE of betrayal.
- The Joint List, the main Arab-dominated faction in parliament, cast the lone opposing votes Thursday in solidarity with their Palestinian brethren.
- Ayman Odeh, chairman of the Joint List, said the only deal that would bring peace and prosperity to the region would be a peace agreement creating an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

**SOURCE:** *The New Indian Express*