

Modi to make 'historic' Guyana visit for oil talks

**Natricia Duncan and
Neil Marks** *Georgetown*

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, will make a "historic" state visit to the oil-rich Caribbean nation of Guyana this week when the two countries are expected to sign energy and defence agreements.

Modi's visit, during which he will address parliament, is the first by an Indian prime minister since Indira Gandhi's in 1968, two years after Guyana's independence from Britain.

Guyana's foreign secretary, Robert Persaud, has described the visit as a significant milestone in relations between two of the globe's fastest-growing economies.

Guyana has become a magnet for global trade and investment interests. According to the World Bank, it has been experiencing "extraordinary economic growth" of more than 40% in the last three years owing to its oil boom. Dr Scott MacDonald, chief economist at Smith's Research and Gradings, said: "Guyana is climbing the ranks as an oil province."