

Modi on Israel visit: Cooperation in fields of trade and services will be expanded

Alongside Netanyahu, Modi reiterated his support for Trump's Gaza plan

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, the second day of his state visit to Israel, that he intends to expand cooperation between India and Israel in a range of fields, including commerce and services.

Speaking with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his side, Modi said that Indian workers are trusted in Israel thanks to their hard work. The Indian leader noted that security cooperation between the two countries has existed for years and is expected to expand, adding that India and Israel are expected to cooperate in the space field as well.

In remarks at a ceremony at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, where the two leaders signed a range of memorandums of understanding involving science and technology, the Indian prime minister said that the friendship between the two countries is based on shared "democratic and humanist

values." The countries, he said, would build momentum for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which is to link India to Europe through rail lines that are to run through the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel.

He and Netanyahu, Modi said, would also work on developing the I2U2 Group, a multilateral economic forum established in 2021 together with the UAE and the United States aimed at encouraging joint investments and cooperation in the civilian sector.

Modi reiterated comments that he had made on Wednesday in a speech to the Knesset in support of U.S. President Donald Trump's plan for peace in the Gaza Strip. "This is the call of the Global South," he told the Knesset. "Nations must never become a victim of conflict. India supports the Gaza peace initiative, and we will continue to pursue dialogue and cooperation with all nations."

For his part, the direc-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, speaking in Jerusalem on Thursday.

Maayan Tsoref/GPO

tor general of the Indian Foreign Ministry, Vikram Misri, told reporters in Jerusalem that Modi's support for the Trump plan also includes advancing a solution

to the Palestinian problem. At Thursday's ceremony, Prime Minister Netanyahu noted that the two leaders spoke about cooperation in a range of fields including ag-

riculture and education, and added that "not a dry eye was left in Israel" following the Indian prime minister's speech to the Knesset.

On a personal note, Ne-

tanyahu quipped that he owes India a "great personal debt," explaining that his first date with his wife Sara was at an Indian restaurant in Tel Aviv.