

# नमस्ते DA'LU

*Two ancient nations open a new chapter*



(Ritesh Shukla/Getty Images)

## Welcome, Modi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Israel for a state visit on Wednesday, his second trip to the country and a rare high-level moment that comes after months of visible movement in the bilateral relationship. India's Prime Minister's Office said Modi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would review progress in strategic partnership and discuss next steps across defense and security, science and technology, innovation, agriculture, water management, trade, the economy, and people-to-people ties. Modi is also expected to meet President Isaac Herzog.

Israel has treated India as an important friend for years. Modi's visit is the moment to treat India as a top-tier strategic priority. The relationship has trust, history, and political chemistry. It also has a recurring weakness: under-execution relative to potential. Israel and India know how to sign frameworks. Now they must scale up.

*See full editorial text, Page 9*

### THE MODI DOCTRINE

## New Delhi's burgeoning partnership with Jerusalem

• By AMICHAÏ STEIN

In July 2017, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made history. He touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport, becoming the first Indian PM to visit the Jewish state, shattering decades of diplomatic hesitation.

"This visit is an occasion to rejuvenate the bonds of our friendship," Modi declared at the time. "It is my singular honor to be the first-ever prime minister of India

to undertake this groundbreaking visit to Israel."

Alon Ushpiz, a former Foreign Ministry director-general, Israel's ambassador to India from 2011 to 2014, and current CEO of Alon International Bridgeways, says the shift in tone from New Delhi was unmistakable and personal.

"He really likes Israel. He appreciates it," Ushpiz told *The Jerusalem Post*. "I think we don't have many

*See JERUSALEM, Page 7*

### FROM BREAKTHROUGH TO PILLAR:

## The maturing of ties between Israel and India

ANALYSIS

• By HERB KEINON

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive in Israel on Wednesday for a two-day visit – his second trip to the country. But this one is about far more than ceremony, contracts, or even bilateral warmth. It comes at a moment of geopolitical inversion.

On the tarmac at Ben-Gurion Airport on a sweltering July day in 2017, Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu greeted Modi with the words, "Prime Minister, we've been waiting for you for a long time."

And, indeed, Israel had. It took nearly 70 years for an Indian prime minister to visit the Jewish state – a state India voted against at the United Nations in 1947 and with which it established diplomatic relations only in 1992.

Israel had to wait only nine years for a return visit.

*See TIES, Page 7*

## Envoy: Modi visit set to open 'new phase' in ties

• By ZVIKA KLEIN

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit is expected to launch "a new phase" in India-Israel relations, with a broader agenda centered on advanced technology, trade, and strategic cooperation, according to Ambassador J.P. Singh in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* ahead of Modi's arrival in Israel.

Singh said on Tuesday that the visit comes after a long gap at the highest level and carries unusual symbolic and practical weight.

"Modi is visiting after almost nine years," Singh said, referring to the Indian leader's landmark 2017 trip to Israel. "This visit is going to be a very historic visit."

He said that once Modi "touch[es] Israeli soil," "a new phase in our relationship will start" and "a new chapter in our relationship will start."

Singh framed the visit as both a political and strategic reset between two leaders who have remained in contact over the years. Ties were

*See OPEN, Page 7*