



## Commentary...

### Huckabee Holds his Own Against Carlson's 'Gotcha' Moments

By Alan Newman

Hats off to Mike Huckabee, U.S. ambassador to Israel!

With elegant professionalism, he tolerated a two-hour-plus hostile interview by conservative political commentator and podcaster Tucker Carlson. Simply, the former governor of Arkansas endured a torturous assault of loaded questions bordering on "blood libel."

Carlson's inquiries were framed as variants of the infamous, "Do you still beat your wife?" They were complex questions based on false, malevolent assumptions. It was a "gotcha" for the unsophisticated recipient—a distracting quiz masking his darker motives.

Journalists have every right and responsibility to pursue a story. And yes, the interviewee must be prepared for the tough and uncomfortable questions. Certainly, Huckabee came to the inquisition expecting hostility and armed with impressive interpersonal skills. But Carlson's interrogatory form was exclusively based on a rhetorical form of using fallacious elements. Many of his questions included the loosey-goosey evocations, "... it seems" and "... I believe."

Why the sensitivity to Carlson's question-and-answer session at Ben-Gurion International Airport? This particular journalist is joined at the hip with Vice President JD Vance; speaks before Turning Point USA gatherings; has provided airtime for some of America's most virulent and widely heard antisemites; and sits astride the interventionist fault line splitting MAGA politics and affecting Israel's safety.

He is part of an alliance with other right-wing, Jew-hating voices. His behavior warrants careful examination and swift condemnation, as it is a clear reveal of his anti-Jewish sentiment and anti-Zionism.

Huckabee is a politician, diplomat, minister and talk-show host. He represents the Christian Zionist evangelical base of mainstream America that supports Israel. In this verbal parlay with Carlson, the righteousness of the ambassador was as much under attack as were Israel and American Jews.

Carlson's stream of questions for Huckabee tap-danced across every uncomfortable topic. It was a biased display of sour cherry-picking intended to lead the audience to think only the worst about Israel and American Jews. He focused on warts, including Jeffrey Epstein, Jonathan Pollard, child molesters, civilian casualties in Gaza and the death of a 14-year-old Palestinian fighter. The ambassador parried well these falsehoods and frustrated Carlson as he maintained his cool.

The presumption of guilt was cleverly injected by Carlson. Huckabee did a yeoman's job explaining relevant contexts, including the Hamas-led invasion and atrocities in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, the ensuing attacks on Israel from all fronts, its military prowess in a just war, as well as the nation's biblical and international rights.

At the end, Huckabee offered, "I don't hate you."

And he invited Carlson back to visit Israel—to see the country, not just sit in its major airport, where the thin-skinned Carlson created a dustup over standard security protocols. It is part of his skill to craft stories with him at the center. Beyond his famous hyena laugh, penchant for over-arguing and general smarminess, he is a master at duck-and-weave narratives that relegate fact to second place behind feelings.

It might be hyperbolic to reach back to 20th-century automobile czar Henry Ford and Roman Catholic priest and radio celebrity Charles E. Coughlin, both working out of Detroit, for teaching moments of Jew-hatred of significance rumbling from the United

States. We can even wonder if Carlson channels a maxim by Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels, "A lie told once remains a lie, but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth."

What were hateful pamphlets and static-filled radio

broadcasts are now AI-powered social-media blitzes. What was a time of great vulnerability does not compare to the existence of the modern-day State of Israel and the military that can defend it.

For American Jews to ignore the menace of all Tucker Carlson—and all those like him—is to do so at their own peril. (JNS Feb 25)

### Amit Segal's T-Shirt, Netanyahu's Resolve By Ruthie Blum

The best sense of the mood in Israel right now can be gleaned from two sentences written by pundit Amit Segal—not, however, in one of his brilliant columns, daily newsletter or Channel 12 analyses.

No, these are lines that Segal ordered to be printed on a T-shirt, the front of which reads in Hebrew, "I don't know when there's going to be an attack on Iran." For emphasis, the text on the back adds, "No point in asking me."

The selfie that he posted on social media made followers giggle. It also aroused envy among fellow journalists who hadn't thought of it first.

But anyone who heard Dan Senor's "Call Me Back" podcast on Feb. 22 knew that the gag was in the works. In a preview of a segment for paid subscribers following the broadcast, Segal spilled the beans about it, explaining that it would be "the only way to skip the hundreds of people approaching to ask me [about it]."

Addressing the practical side of the issue, he went on, "We can sit here for an hour and discuss the timing [of a potential attack], and I may tell you that it's [happening], let's say, between days and weeks [from now]. But it's totally different when someone with a flight ticket or a hotel reservation tell[s] you, 'Listen, should I cancel? Should I go there or not?' Because then you're tested against your own prediction, which is very dangerous for a journalist—not because people will mock you if you say that Trump is never going to attack Iran and then he attacks."

Though this, he acknowledged, "is terrible," far worse is "having your parents-in-law count on you ... and now they're stuck in London, and they're angry at you, and your wife is mad at you because she doesn't have a babysitter."

Humor aside, he went on to express his actual opinion—albeit without reference to whether locals or foreigners should alter their travel plans.

"While I still think the attack is imminent ... and inevitable, I would question those waves of reports ... saying [opposite things] simultaneously," he began. "Forty-eight hours ago, it was [about] great negotiations with Iran, many concessions being made and [how the United States is] approaching an agreement [with the regime]. And, all of a sudden, now it's, 'No, we are heading to a war; this war is inevitable.'"

This, he stated, "looks like a spin to me. So, my general assumption hasn't changed. There is going to be an attack. It's going to be massive, unprecedented in the scope of Iranian wars. And yet, it's not a matter of hours or days."

Segal's take appears to be the view with the broadest consensus in the Jewish state, otherwise known in the halls of the Islamic Republic as the "Small Satan," which the mullahs repeatedly threaten to annihilate.

Peppering the discussion with literal and figurative home-front humor is equally widespread. Jokes about bomb-shelter preparations are rampant, alongside news of U.S. aircraft carriers and fighter jets arriving in the region, as well as the sight and sound of Israeli Air Force planes overhead at all hours.

The above makes talk of a potential deal that would stave off a military confrontation seem hollow. What didn't sound the least bit

vacuous was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments to the Knesset on Feb. 23, despite heckling from a few typically shrill oppositionists in the plenum.

"Israel has never been stronger; the alliance with the United States has never been closer," he declared in an unusually brief speech.

He continued, "We are vigilant and prepared for any scenario. ... I made it clear and conveyed to the Ayatollah regime that if they make the mistake—perhaps the worst in their history—of attacking Israel, we will respond with the kind of force that they can't even imagine."

This, he stressed, "is not the time for [internal] arguments. During these days, on the eve of the [Jewish] holiday of Purim—then as now—we have to close ranks, stand shoulder-to-shoulder. I trust in our might. I have faith in our commanders, our fighters, our nation. I trust you, the citizens of Israel. We've already proven that when we stand together, we achieve great things. On the eve of Purim, we will stand together and, with God's help, guarantee Israel's eternity."

The prime minister's invoking of Purim wasn't merely an apt analogy due to the calendar date. It was Bibi at his best, calling for societal unity in the face of what could turn out to be a challenge of biblical proportions. You know, as recounted in the Book of Esther.

It was the leader of the State of Israel and the Jewish people reminding us what we'll be celebrating next week: the story of Jewish deliverance from destruction in ancient Persia—contemporary Iran—through courage and resolve.

More than anecdotal evidence suggests that we're "locked and loaded" and up to the task. (JNS Feb 24)

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### **Fact Check: Debunking Carlson's Claims on Israel**

By Josh Hasten

Controversial conservative political commentator and former Fox News host Tucker Carlson made several false statements during his Feb. 18 interview with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee.

He claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's family did not speak Hebrew and had no historical ties to the region.

This is incorrect: the leader's paternal grandfather, Nathan Mileikowsky, was a Zionist rabbi who delivered sermons in Hebrew—uncommon at the time—and ensured that his family spoke the language at home.

His father, Benzion Netanyahu, born in Warsaw, was a historian of medieval Jewish history who spoke Hebrew fluently, taught Hebrew literature and served as editor-in-chief of the Hebrew Encyclopedia.

Netanyahu's mother, Tzila Segal, was born in Petach Tikvah and spoke Hebrew as her native language. While the family has Eastern European roots, they were members of the Zionist movement, with documented Hebrew usage and ties to the Land of Israel dating back generations.

Carlson also claimed that Israeli President Isaac Herzog visited convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's "pedo island," while, in fact, he did not. The slander appears to stem from a 2014 Epstein email, released by the Justice Department, that falsely listed Herzog as a potential guest.

Under the threat of legal action, Carlson on Sunday retracted his claim that Israel's head of state had any links to the convicted child molester.

Another allegation made by Carlson was that Israel intentionally attacked the USS Liberty in 1967, knowing it was an American vessel. However, all 10 official U.S. investigations—including those conducted by the Navy, CIA, NSA and congressional committees—as well as three Israeli military inquiries, concluded that Jerusalem did not know it was a U.S. vessel.

Instead, the incident was found to be a tragic mistake resulting from misidentification amid the chaos of the 1967 Six-Day War. Jerusalem apologized, paid compensation to the families of the sailors who were killed, and the United States officially accepted the incident as an error.

Carlson further claimed that Israel sold American secrets obtained from Jonathan Pollard to the Soviets. But U.S. investigations, including a 1987 CIA damage assessment, found no proof that Jerusalem transferred the information to Moscow; Israel has

consistently denied the allegations.

Carlson then asserted that Netanyahu had "attacked" his children. In reality, Netanyahu has never mentioned, much less attacked, his family.

While Netanyahu has slammed Carlson's views, including in statements and messages through intermediaries, suggesting that some of his rhetoric veers into antisemitism, he never referenced his family.

Carlson also claimed that Qatar has more Christian citizens than Israel. In fact, while some 400,000 Christians live in Qatar, they are primarily migrant workers on work visas; there are virtually no Christian citizens.

By omitting the fact that Christians in Qatar are non-citizens and subject to strict restrictions, such as limitations on public displays of crosses or church bells, Carlson's claim is misleading.

The Jewish state, by contrast, counts some 185,000 Christians among its residents, most of whom are citizens with full political and social rights.

Israel's Christian communities have grown consistently since the state's founding in 1948, and members enjoy freedoms not available in Doha.

Sharp declines in Christian populations have occurred—primarily in Palestinian Authority-controlled cities such as Bethlehem, which has been under P.A. control since 1995, not within the pre-1967 lines.

Beyond these lies and libels, Carlson refuses to acknowledge that Israel has a right to exist.

When repeatedly challenged on this point by Huckabee, the podcast host declined to affirm the Jewish state's right to exist, and instead preposterously suggested that Israeli Jews take a DNA test.

"Who are [Abraham's] descendants now?" he asked Huckabee. "How do we know who they are? "What you're saying is that certain people have a title to a highly contested region. They own it in some deep sense. So I think it's fair to ask: who are they and how do we know?"

The U.S. ambassador responded that if people worship the same God and follow the same Bible, pray toward Jerusalem and seek to return there, "does that not give you a little bit of a clue as to who they are?" (JNS Feb 23)

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### **Let Israel Start, and Let the Iranians Win** By David Wurmser

S. President Donald Trump has done much to stabilize the Middle East and support Israel, but as during the Iran-Israel 12-day war in June 2025, it is imperative that Israel should once again do this operation as much alone as it can. Not only should it initiate and go first, but it must also remain the heavy-lifter and guide this through.

In retrospect, one can argue that it would have been better last summer to avoid having "Operation Rising Lion" become "Operation Midnight Hammer," although managing American pressure to intervene was complicated. And yet, had the war required another week for Israel to have done alone in June without U.S. participation, it may have been less elegant, less efficient and more risky, but it likely would have been nonetheless effective.

Why advocate Israel's initiating the campaign, even though voices on the American right—some of whose isolationism increasingly emanates from antisemitism—will argue that "Israel started this war, got bogged down and is in over its head, so we now should get entangled because of them"? This ill-informed mindset is a nightmare for sure, but in this circumstance, fidelity to strategic clarity, which Israel possesses, is more important. Victory can eventually be sold, but strategic failure cannot. A long, muddled, seemingly endless campaign, strategically adrift and descending into periodic half-measures to cope with a festering strategic threat, cannot be sold.

So what constitutes this strategic clarity?

To note, wars are not won through power alone, nor even by power wedded to grit and willpower, but by strategy. The West has, through the ages produced great strategists, but there is undeniably a dearth of astute practitioners of the art of strategy dominating Western policy elites. Even were there strategists aplenty, strategy

begins and ends with culture and the political nature of the ideas informing that culture. No people on earth understand that better—and master the art of strategy better—than the Iranians. Arabs are a close but still distant second.

Strategy in the Middle East emanates not from recent Western concepts or culture, but from a mastery of manipulation, even irrespective of the balance of power. No amassing of power or clear display of the will to use it impresses the more strategically minded Middle Easterners. Indeed, theirs is a politics of how weakness overpowers absolute strength and brutality, as the most important political text of the Middle East, *A Thousand and One Nights*, reveals.

The fatal flaw of such Middle Eastern concepts of strategy, however, is reliance on an opponent's consistency and predictability. To manipulate an adversary, one must be able to read him. The antidote to such strategic manipulation must necessarily be to display uncontrollability. There is no greater strategic asset Israel has acquired in the region than the image of being a bit out of control—namely, that Israel is possessed by the Jinn (“Genies,” and becomes a “Majnoun”) and draws fatal blood from its enemies. Cultivating the paralysis imposed on one's adversary through such unpredictability is imperative to restore regional order and establish long-term deterrence.

America is culturally not adept at such dissembling and manipulation, nor is it comfortable with being perceived as out of control. There has yet to be an American tourist, no matter how curmudgeonly, who has emerged from a Middle Eastern market with a good deal on a carpet. Westerners find this general Middle Eastern mindset so alien, but in the case of Iran and other Islamists (Sunni and Shi'ite), they also cannot fathom the depths of evil animating them.

The United States once did, but Hitler and Stalin are too distant to have left scars on younger Americans. The American people are happily too normal to conceptualize the reigning regional psychopathy not only in Iran, but with several other prominent regional actors informed by Islamist ideology, and sadly, even a few distorted communities such as the Palestinian Arabs. Until Western nations experience that mindset more pervasively, which Europe soon will and America eventually will, they culturally cannot comprehend the nature of what they face, and thus cannot understand the strategic concept required to advance toward victory and stability.

As such, it is fortunate that Israel exists as the premier, most loyal and most capable American ally in the region. But Washington should rely not only on the fortune of having such a strong, loyal and willing ally as Israel to do heavy lifting for all the civilized world, but also on the fact that this ally—through failures, pain and blood—has had seared into its outlook the full extent of that evil and thus comprehends it better.

To be clear, Israel still struggles with the concept. It had made grave missteps before (the “Oslo” mindset of the 1990s and the Oct. 7 Hamas-led terrorist attacks in 2023) for failing to understand the illness of the Islamist mindset. For not only Israel, but Judaism itself, is not a revolutionary, destabilizing civilization. It is introverted, stability-seeking and reactive. And yet, Israel is now so singed by the fire of Islamism that it reluctantly gets it ... sort of.

While Israel struggles with being a “Majnoun,” America is at this point incapable as a modern, secular culture wedded to a concept of personal and material self-interest to understand the Islamist apocalyptic mindset and how it fears only the “Majnoun.” Thus, only Israel has at least partial ability to understand the strategic path required.

Of course, even if Israel strikes alone, Iran likely will strike back at the United States. America should respond, but it is imperative at that point to let Israel carry this through to victory and not then pressure to hit, stop and try to negotiate a ceasefire. Washington must let its ally win. And victory means that not only does Iran's leadership feel fear before it falls, but that fear should be projected to other potential threats. Others who seek the West's demise in the region should also fear the Majnoun. While harsh, that is the reality with which one is dealing when confronting Shi'ite and Sunni apocalyptic Islamists.

One other community understands this well, and is aligned with Israel and the United States: the Iranian people.

Hope lies with the power of a rising Iranian nation, which has also learned bitterly and now understands through pain and blood the nature of the monster with whom the world must face. They, too, know this must go all the way. They too know, as do Israelis, that no deal or ceasefire is possible with any element of the current evil leadership.

This war must be informed by an understanding that it must be carried through to the very end. And that Israel must guide and shape strategy to both achieve victory and jolt the region into understanding that Jerusalem cannot be manipulated, but must be respected and even feared. Israel should initiate and do the primary lifting both in military force and strategic concept.

In other words, let Israel start, and then let it and the Iranian people win. (JNS Feb 25)

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## **Will Israel Be Able to Screen Future Gazan Police Officers?**

By Yaakov Lappin

The announcement that the recently formed American-backed National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) has launched a police recruitment drive has raised concerns about the makeup of the future policing force.

The NCAG recently said on X that it began recruiting Palestinians, while its website states applicants must be Gazan residents aged 18 to 35 with no criminal record.

According to a Reuters report, some 2,000 Palestinians signed up within hours after applications opened. The figures were presented last week at a Board of Peace summit in Washington, D.C., by Trump-appointed Gaza envoy, Bulgarian diplomat Nikolay Mladenov.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers, commander of the International Stabilization Force, added that the goal is to train about 12,000 police officers.

The prospect of an armed Palestinian police force tasked with maintaining internal order raises key questions about vetting, loyalty and oversight. Two former Israeli senior defense officials offered differing perspectives on the risks and opportunities.

Meir Ben-Shabbat, head of the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy and Israel's national security adviser from 2017 to 2021, told JNS he views the creation of the force with deep suspicion.

The nature of Gazan society after nearly two decades of Hamas rule makes the idea of a trustworthy police force nearly impossible, he argued.

“If we admit the truth, there is no way to ensure that problematic people, from an Israeli perspective, will not serve in this body,” Ben-Shabbat said.

He warned that even a rigorous initial screening process would not provide long-term assurances. “Even if there were an ability to filter people during recruitment, it cannot be guaranteed they will not transfer their loyalty to Hamas or other hostile elements immediately after they begin to serve.”

Ben-Shabbat pointed to the entrenched ideological environment in Gaza as the main obstacle.

“There are very high support rates for Hamas in Gaza, as well as relatively high support for the Oct. 7 attack,” he said. “More than half of the population was born into Hamas rule, educated in Hamas institutions, prayed in Hamas mosques and consumed Hamas media.”

As a result, he concluded, any vetting mechanism's ability to separate civilians from Hamas ideology is doubtful.

Lt. Col. (res.) Amit Yagur, a former deputy head of the Palestinian arena at the IDF Planning Branch, acknowledged the risks but argued the broader security structure mitigates them.

“I assume the names will be passed, to one degree or another, to the State of Israel for vetting by the Shin Bet,” Yagur said.

He agreed that Gazan recruits will likely have past connections to Hamas's civilian infrastructure, which includes teachers, doctors and clerks.

“Hamas wants this civilian mechanism to serve the technocratic government so it will retain a hold on the ground,” he warned,

drawing a parallel to Hezbollah's civilian system in Lebanon. "Therefore, there is a risk."

However, Yagur emphasized that ultimate authority in Gaza would rest not with the Palestinian committee but with the U.S. military.

"The commander of the force is Jasper Jeffers of CENTCOM," he said. "With CENTCOM, Israel has exceptionally close operational coordination."

"All security issues in the Strip are managed by CENTCOM," he added.

Addressing the police specifically, Yagur described a layered command structure.

"The police force's role is mainly to maintain internal order within the Strip, and I think we have a way to control it," he said. "The police and the International Stabilization Force are under the Gaza Executive Board, not the technocratic government."

He added that civilian ministries would handle areas such as engineering and health, while the police would derive operational authority from the broader stabilization force.

"There is not much decentralization of security authorities in the Strip—this was one of Israel's conditions," Yagur said. "The security issue is not removed from Israel's hands; it is delegated to the United States."

He described the arrangement as a strategic compromise allowing Israel to pursue a hostage deal while avoiding a long-term military administration in Gaza.

"Since we chose this path, we are essentially delegating to another entity—the United States—on which we rely heavily," he said.

Yagur also noted the American plan includes relocating large segments of the population to a managed area in Rafah to separate civilians from entrenched terrorist infrastructure in central and northern Gaza. (JNS Feb 24)

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## **Modi's Visit Highlights Deepening Bond and Netanyahu's 'Hexagon' Vision** By Israel Kasnett

This week's visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a milestone in the deepening strategic partnership between Israel and India. Modi's two-day state visit to Israel on February 25-26 marks his second trip to the country in nine years, following his groundbreaking 2017 visit, the first by an Indian prime minister.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, posting on X ahead of the visit, emphasized the strength of the relationship, writing: "The bond between Israel and India is a powerful alliance between two global leaders. We are partners in innovation, security, and a shared strategic vision. Together, we are building an axis of nations committed to stability and progress."

Oshrit Birvadker, a senior foreign and defense policy expert, Director of the South and East Asia Center at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security (JISS), and CEO of Indivade, views the visit as a demonstration of a relationship strengthened during wartime.

"This visit is an expression of a relationship that grew stronger during the war," Birvadker told JNS. "It is a display of strength for an alliance that has effectively intensified throughout the war."

She noted transformations on both sides since 2017: India has emerged as a "New India" under Modi, implementing major reforms and becoming a globally courted power, while Israel, still processing post-Oct. 7 trauma, has learned who its true allies are, fostering greater appreciation for ties with New Delhi.

And there are substantial mutual benefits.

The relationship between the two countries has grown significantly amid recent global and regional challenges. Since Oct. 7, 2023, and through ongoing conflicts, India has provided Israel with labor (over 20,000 Indian workers replacing Palestinian laborers since the Gaza war began), weapons and diplomatic support. India remains the world's largest purchaser of Israeli defense equipment, including drones, missile systems, sensors, surveillance technology and border-control systems.

"In a changing world, where the old order is crumbling, it is crucial to forge and deepen new partnerships," Birvadker told JNS.

She said that India offers a massive market of over a billion

people, while Israel provides cutting-edge military, agricultural and water-management technologies. Both nations share concerns over radical Islam and terrorism, and India stands out as a country with no history of antisemitism toward Jews.

"After Oct. 7, Israel understands it needs alliances with reliable powers to balance its dependencies, and India fits perfectly into that category," she said. "Indeed, we are seeing significant growth in Indian demands from Israeli defense companies, especially following 'Operation Sindoor' in May 2025," she added, referring to the brief armed conflict between India and Pakistan that began on May 7, 2025.

Netanyahu has framed the partnership within a broader geopolitical vision.

Speaking to his Cabinet this week, he outlined plans for a "hexagon of alliances," a proposed network of like-minded nations countering what he termed "radical axes," including the "radical Shi'ite axis" [Hezbollah and Hamas] and an "emerging radical Sunni axis" [including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Qatar and Pakistan].

Core members of this new alliance would include Israel, India, Greece, and Cyprus, alongside other unnamed Arab, African and Asian states. Netanyahu highlighted potential collaboration in infrastructure development in Israel's Negev region as part of this framework.

Lauren Dagan Amoss, an expert on Indian foreign policy and India-Israel relations at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, emphasized that the relationship has become institutionalized beyond personal leader chemistry.

"The more important question is whether the two countries are building additional strategic depth that will allow the relationship to remain stable even under complex regional conditions," Dagan Amoss told JNS.

Since 2017, ties between Israel and India have evolved from exceptional diplomacy to systematic cooperation in security, technology, economics, and institutions. Defense cooperation now extends to industrial collaboration and joint development.

Dagan Amoss also highlighted the importance of regional initiatives such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), noting that its success "will ultimately be judged not by political announcements but by real-world implementation."

"For India, key concerns will include regulatory frameworks, infrastructure security, technical standards and risk management," she told JNS.

According to officials, Modi's visit is poised to usher in "a new phase" in bilateral relations, with discussions centered on advanced technology, trade, strategic cooperation, artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Modi is expected to address Israel's Knesset, a first for an Indian leader, visit Yad Vashem and participate in events highlighting innovation and hi-tech collaboration. A key theme will be leveraging India's vast market scale alongside Israel's renowned innovation ecosystem.

The visit is also likely to influence India's ties with other regional players, such as Iran, particularly after New Delhi halted Iranian oil imports and recently seized three oil tankers suspected of links to Iran's sanctioned oil trade.

As Modi and Netanyahu meet amid shifting geopolitics, including current tensions in Iran, the visit underscores a maturing partnership built on shared interests in innovation, security, and countering extremism. The proposed "hexagon of alliances" signals Israel's ambition to expand this model regionally, with India as a pivotal partner in fostering stability and progress.

Whether stronger ties with India will help push back against radical Sunni and Shiite influences remains to be seen but Birvadker believes stronger India-Israel ties can help balance global influences against radical forces. According to Birvadker, "at the end of the day, a partnership between a global power like India and Israeli technology is a definitive factor in balancing the world."

(JNS Feb 25)

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