



## PREFACE

I was unaware of the many similarities between India and Israel—history, politics, family values, water shortages, social and religious divisions, British heritage, and more. A common mistake made by Westerners is to see Indian women solely through the lens of their traditional sarees, and Indian men through their turbans. **“HODU,”** as India is called in Hebrew, is a fascinating, smart, and well-managed country—home to a vibrant young generation and rich in heritage and knowledge. India is an economic and intellectual powerhouse that has been developing for more than 78 years and has become even more powerful recently. Despite the challenges posed

## Seven Rivers Seven Gates



by its vast size and large population, tourists and casual visitors often hold condescending views.

The years I spent in Mumbai opened up a new and fascinating horizon that I had not previously known. My personal and professional experiences made it clear that, in many ways, India serves as a historical mirror reflecting Israeli society and politics. In one way or another, India also touched me and my personal story. This is not merely a book about India—many aspects of this book resonate with both the history and present-day reality of Israel.