



Malaysian MP Anwar Ibrahim and Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting each other on Thursday. ■PTI

# ‘India haunted by communal politics’

## Malaysian leader calls for pluralism

**KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE**  
NEW DELHI

Anwar Ibrahim, the charismatic leader of Malaysia’s Parti Keadilan Rakyat (People’s Justice Party) on Thursday said here the communal politics that defined birth of India in 1947, continues to be fanned in the country. Mr. Ibrahim urged for a tolerant world based on pluralism and freedom of religion and said his country is determined to protect freedom of religion for indigenous communities and religious minorities.

“The awful history of communal violence that was the birth of Indian independence continues to be incited and tragically re-enacted thanks to the visions of the past that em-

brace the thesis of Partition,” said Mr Ibrahim in his speech at the annual Raisina Dialogue.

Mr Ibrahim said India’s democratic process is a strength of the country which makes it unique in a region where most of the countries have troubling democratic credentials.

### **Meets PM**

Earlier in the day, Mr Ibrahim met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “The Prime Minister congratulated Mr Ibrahim on his recent election as President of the PKR Party. The Prime Minister fondly recalled their last meeting in Malaysia in May 2018,” a press statement from the Ministry of External Affairs stated.