

India – Jordan Relations

India's relationship with Jordan has always been characterized by warmth and goodwill based on mutual respect. First bilateral agreement for cooperation and friendly relations was signed in 1947 and got formalized in 1950 when the two countries established full-fledged diplomatic ties. In 2015, 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations was celebrated with large scale cultural activities to enhance people to people exchanges. Recent high level exchanges including meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister (PM) and His Majesty King Abdullah (KA) in September 2015 and first ever HoS level visit to Jordan by Hon'ble Rashtrapati (President) in Oct 2015, EAM's transit visit in January 2016, MoS for External Affairs (MJA)'s official visit in November 2016 and recent visit to India of Chief of Royal Court have given a boost to bilateral relations.

The 10th TEJC was held in New Delhi from 4-5 July 2017, led by Minister of Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Jordanian Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Mr. Yarub Al-Qudah. FOC's are being held on a regular basis. First FOC was held in Amman at the level of Secretary (East) in 2014 and the second in New Delhi from 1-2 November, 2016. The Indian side was led by Secretary (ER).

Since November, 2014, Government of India offers e-Tourist Visa facility to Jordan. To help Jordan in its capacity building efforts, 30 ITEC slots have been made available apart from other scholarships under ICCR. GOI has increased ITEC slots from 30 to 50 since 2015-16, which was announced during the State visit of President to Jordan in October 2015. In October 2014, our Mission in New York handed over a cheque amounting to US\$500,000 to the United Nations in New York for the Emergency Response Fund for Jordan. In 2015 we paid the second tranche of 0.5 million by bank transfer directly to Jordan Government. In December 28, 2016, Ambassador handed over a cheque of US\$2 million towards cash grant from GOI to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan towards humanitarian assistance.

Our interaction with Jordan in multilateral fora, particularly under UN framework has fostered better understanding on mutual concerns and priorities. Jordan had extended its support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12 and India had reciprocated its support to Jordan's candidature for the term 2014-16. In October 2014, our Mission in New York handed-over a cheque amounting US \$ 500,000 to the United Nations in New York for the Emergency Response Fund for Jordan. King Abdullah reassured of his full support to India's candidature for the permanent seat at the expanded UNSC. Both sides also cooperate in WTO and other international fora. Indian Embassy shifted to its new premises in Abdoun, Amman. Secretary (ER) accompanied by JS(WANA), inaugurated the new Chancery building of Embassy of India on 04 June 2017. Ms. Areej Al-Hawamdeh, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates represented Jordan at the event. A bilateral meeting was held between the two after the event at the Embassy.

Political Relations:

Hon'ble Rashtrapati paid a State visit to Jordan from October 10-12, 2015, which was first ever at HOS level from India. During the visit, Rashtrapati met with His Majesty King Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and DPM and FM Mr Nasser S. Judeh.

Rashtrapatiiji also separately met with Senator President and Foreign Relations committee. He inaugurated Mahatma Gandhi Road and planted & dedicated an Olive tree to the World Peace. Heads of both states remotely inaugurated the \$860 million JIFCO Joint Venture. Six agreements/MoUs were signed in various fields of cooperation including on Cultural Exchange Programme 2015-17, Maritime Transport, Bureau of Indian Standards and Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization, Foreign Service Institute of India and Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. In addition 10 MOUs for Educational cooperation between the Indian Universities and Institutes and their Jordanian counterparts were signed. University of Jordan conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Rashtrapatiiji. In August 2017, His Majesty King Abdullah sent a cable to Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji congratulating him on taking presidential oath.

Earlier on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri.NarendraModi met His Majesty King Abdullah. The landmark State visit of King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein and Queen Rania to India in December 2006 provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging views on all aspects of our bilateral relations. During the visit, a number of bilateral agreements were signed. Dr Fayez Al-Tarawneh, Chief of Royal Court (CRC) visited India from 7-10 March, 2017 at the invitation of MoS (MJA). During his visit to India, CRC called on the President, VP, PM, MoS (MJA) and NSA. His address at ICWA focused on the theme Global war on terrorism and its implications on Middle East region and beyond. He also interacted with Indian industry at meeting organized by FICCI.

The then MOS(EA), Shri E. Ahamed made a transit halt in Amman on 20 November 2011 en route to Ramallah (Palestine) and called on the then Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Awn Shwkat Al-Khasawneh. His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal paid a visit to India during October-November 2012. Shri S.M. Krishna, the then External Affairs Minister (EAM), accompanied by an official delegation, made a transit visit to Amman on 8 and 11 January 2012. During the course of the visit, the Indian side led by EAM and the Jordanian side led by H.E. Mr. Nasser S. Judeh held talks on bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern. MOS(EA) again paid an official visit to Jordan on 2-3 July, 2013, and transited on 6 July, 2013. During the visit, he called on PM Ensour and met with Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry Smt.NirmalaSitharaman visited Jordan from 29 to 31 March, 2015 for the 9th Joint Economic Committee Meeting held in Amman on 30 March 2015. During her stay in Amman from March 29 to 31, 2015 she had bilateral meetings with DPM & FM Mr.NasserJudeh and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ms.Maha Ali.

During External Affairs Minister Smt.SushmaSwaraj's transit visit to Amman in January 2016, Secretary General Mr.MohammadTaisirYassen called on her. MoS for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar paid an official visit to Jordan from 09-10 November 2016. During his visit to Jordan, MoS(MJA) met Chief of Royal Court Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh, DPM and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr.NasserJudeh, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mrs. LinaAnnab, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr.IsherKhasawneh, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr. Yusuf Mansur and Deputy Director General of GID Major General QasemRawashdeh. He also interacted with Minister of Interior Mr.SalamehHammad, Mayor of Amman, Mr.AqelBiltaji, other high ranking dignitaries

from Jordan and prominent members of Indian community during luncheon hosted by Ambassador. The Minister met with the members of the Investment Commission of Jordan, senior members of various Development Zones across Jordan, as well as with the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA), who organized a roundtable where Dr. Jawad Anani, DPM for Economic Affairs and MoS for Investment Affairs was the Guest of Honour. An 8-member National Security Guard team participated in the Annual Warrior Competition held in Amman during 30 Apr-04 May 2017. 71st Independence Day was celebrated by the Mission where Ambassador addressed the members of the Indian community and friends of India in Amman. In a Reception hosted by Ambassador at India House in Amman H.E. Mr. Imad N. Fakhoury, Hon'ble Minister of Planning & International Cooperation was the Chief Guest and three other cabinet Ministers were also there.

Commercial Relations:

India-Jordan trade is governed by an agreement signed in 1976. A Trade and Economic Joint Committee constituted under the Agreement promote and monitor the progress. Over the years, bilateral trade has grown rapidly despite global economic downturn. A successful cooperation in fertilizer sector between the two countries exists. A Joint venture project worth US\$ 860 million between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative (IFFCO) for manufacturing of Phosphoric Acid set up in Eshidiyawas inaugurated by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji & His Majesty King Abdullah. The MMTI India Ltd inked an MOU with the JPMC on cooperation in the fertilizer sector in June, 2015. A commercial delegation headed by Mr. Thabet Elwir, Chairman of Jordan Investment Commission visited Delhi and Mumbai from 1-3 May 2017 to hold business meetings with Indian companies which were organized by FICCI.

Over two dozen textile factories owned by Indian entrepreneurs with an investment of US\$300 million account for Jordan's exports under the FTA regimes to the west. India became the 4th largest trade partner of Jordan after Iraq, Saudi Arabia and China. Details of trade volume are tabulated below (values in US\$ billion).

Year	Total Trade turnover	Export to India	Import from India
2010-11	1.304	0.818	0.485
2011-12	2.304	1.483	0.821
2012-13	1.942	0.942	1.000
2013-14	2.206	0.610	1.595
2014-15	2.228	0.857	1.431
2015-16	1.350	0.851	0.499
2016-17	1.352	0.828	0.524

[Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI]

India imports fertilizers, phosphates, phosphoric acid etc from Jordan and exports electrical machinery, cereals, frozen meat, organic and inorganic chemicals, animal fodders, engineering and automotive parts etc. Possibilities for joint ventures in the fields of leather, automobile, IT, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy [Solar] and

construction sectors can be explored further. The newly constituted Investment Commission is actively pursuing to attract investors from all across the world, including Indian investments in Jordan especially in ICT, Finance/Banking Services, Renewable energy (Solar) and Bio-medical services sectors. The 10th India-Jordan Joint Trade and Economic Commission (JTEC) was held in New Delhi from 4-5 July, 2017. Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Mr. Yarub Al-Qudah led a high-level official and business delegation to India for the meeting. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation. During the meeting, the two sides signed Economic and Trade Cooperation agreement. India has extended a US\$ 100 million line of credit to promote Trade and Investment during Rashtrapati's State visit to India in October 2015. The Morbi Ceramics Association, Gujarat participated in the event Interbuild Jordan Fair 2017. Chairman of the Jordan Investment Commission H.E. Mr. Thabet Elwir led a high-level business delegation to India in May 2017. The delegation held a business interaction at FICCI and met with Invest India on 01 May 2017. Mission organized Business Promotion Seminar focusing on the State of Rajasthan in association with the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) in Amman on 04 October 2017. ITEC Day was celebrated by the Mission on October 31, 2017 with Chief of Investment Commission of Jordan and Minister of State for Investment Affairs Mr. Muhammad Shehadeh presiding over as the Chief Guest.

Cultural Relations:

There is immense interest in Jordan for Indian art and culture, especially Bollywood films. Bollywood actors like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan are popular in Jordanian households. Jordan is keen to see Bollywood and other Indian film producers to shoot films at their locations. A delegation from Jordan had participated in the 3rd edition of India International Film Tourism Conclave with the purpose to promote Jordanian locations to Indian film makers. During the visit of President, a cultural exchange agreement between India and Jordan for the period 2015-17 has been signed. There has been regular exchange of cultural troupes. Embassy, in cooperation with local partners, had organized several socio-cultural activities in 2015 to mark the 65th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between India and Jordan.

ICCR sponsored 10 member Rajasthani Folk troupe led by Esak Khan performed in Amman and at Al Dulayl in Zarqa Governorate in Feb 2016. Embassy, in cooperation with local partner, organized a "Bollywood Nite" with a special screening of popular Indian film "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo" at the Zara Centre, Amman on 06 October 2016. Ms. Lina Annab, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presided over the function as the Chief Guest.

The Mission, in cooperation with the Jordan-India Friendship Society (JIFS), celebrated 126th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of the Constitution of India on 13 April 2017 at a solemn ceremony at a local city hotel. H.E. Dr. Awad Abu Jarad Al Mashagabeh, Hon'ble Minister of Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mission celebrated the 3rd International Day of Yoga at the iconic and historical Citadel Amman on 21 June 2017, where Minister of Youth Mr. Hditha Al Khreisha was present as the Chief Guest. Mission organised a Drawing/Painting Exhibition by Children aged 8 – 14 years resident in Amman as part

of pre-event celebrations of 70 years of Indian independence. On 25 September 2017, Mission organized an event to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of PanditDeenDayalUpadhyaya who has been our nation's inspiration. Mission conducted a photo exhibition on life and times of SardarVallabhbai Patel on 31 October 2017.

Indian Community:

Jordan is home to more than 10,000 Indians, who are employed in textile, construction and manufacturing sectors, fertilizer companies, health sector, universities, IT, financial companies and multilateral organisation. There are about 25 garment factories across Jordan [Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZs)] owned by Indians with an investment of over US\$ 300 million and employing over 10,000 persons. In September 2016, in Association with the Embassy of India, Amman, India Tourism organized "Know India Seminar" for travel trade. Local Indian community in Jordan celebrated festivals of Onam on 24 September 2017 and Diwali on 03 November 2017 in Amman where Ambassador was invited as Chief Guest.

Useful Resources:

Website: <http://indembassy-amman.org/>

Facebookpage: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Embassy-of-India-Amman/>

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/IndiainJordan>

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