

Embassy of India
Amman, Jordan
India- Jordan Bilateral Relations

India - Jordan Bilateral Brief

Overview:

India's relationship with Jordan has 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.

Recent high level exchanges including, meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister (PM) and HM 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 Nov 2016, visit of Chief of Royal Court to India in Mar 2017, visit of Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Mr. Ayman Safadi to India in Dec 2017, the visit of Hon'ble PM Shri. Narendra Modi to Amman in Feb 2018, during his official visit to Palestine, HM King Abdullah II's state visit to India in Feb 2018 and NSA Shri. Ajit Doval's visit to Amman in Jan 2020 have given a boost to bilateral relations. PM Shri Narendra Modi and King Abdullah spoke on phone on 16 April 2020 and discussed bilateral and international efforts to counter the impacts of Covid-19. Earlier, PM Modi had met King Abdullah II on two occasions: at a pull-aside meeting during the 74th UNGA in New York on 24 September 2019 and in Riyadh during the "Future Investment initiative" meeting held in October 2019.

EAM Dr S Jaishankar met his Jordanian counterpart Mr. Ayman Al Safadi along the sidelines of 74th UNGA meeting in New York on 27 September 2019 and later on the sidelines of 12th Sir Bani Yas Forum in Dubai on 14 November 2021. EAM has held two telephone calls with his counterpart Mr. Ayman Al Safadi on 06 January 2020 to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues and on 05 October 2020 to discuss Covid-19 co-operation.

The 10th Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) was held in New Delhi in July 2017. Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) are being held on a regular basis and the third FOC was held virtually in Dec 2020. Since Nov 2014, Government of India offers e-Tourist Visa facility to Jordan. To help Jordan in its capacity building efforts, 28 ITEC slots have been made available apart from 5 scholarship slots under ICCR.

Political:

HM King Abdullah visited India on a state visit from 27 February to 1 March 2018. The King attended the CEO's Roundtable organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry in New Delhi. On 1 March, PM Modi and King Abdullah addressed a conference 'Islamic Heritage: Promoting Understanding & Moderation' held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Then the two leaders held delegation level bilateral talks at Hyderabad House and witnessed the inking of 12 MoU/Agreements. Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji received King Abdullah at Rashtrapati Bhawan where the King was accorded Ceremonial Welcome.

During the first ever visit by an Indian PM to Palestine, Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi transited Amman from 9-10 Feb 2018, during his official visit to Palestine on 10 Feb 2018. PM was received by HM King Abdullah at his private residential palace on a Friday as an exceptional gesture. There was a ceremonial reception for PM followed by a brief bilateral meeting with the King.

National Security Adviser to the Hon'ble PM of India, Shri Ajit Doval visited Amman on 19 Jan 2020 and had an audience with HM King Abdullah II of Jordan. He also met the Foreign Minister Ayman Al Safadi and other important dignitaries.

Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji paid a State visit to Jordan from October 10-12, 2015, which was first ever at HOS level from India and met with HM King Abdullah. 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 Covid update as on date: teen agreements/MoUs were signed in various fields of cooperation. University of Jordan conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Rashtrapatiiji. The landmark State visit of Their Majesties King Abdullah and Queen Rania to India in December 2006 provided an excellent opportunity for exchanging views on all aspects of our bilateral relations. Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MOFAE), Mr. Ayman Safadi, visited India from 27-28, December 2017. On 5.10.2020 H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India spoke on phone with Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Ayman Al Safadi. He was also scheduled to visit India to participate in Raisina Dialogue in April, 2021.

2020 and 2021 are marked by Covid-19 during which the promotion of bilateral interests and cooperation and understanding is dealt in a measured way by virtual means.

Despite limitations of Covid-19, regular interaction was made with top leadership of Jordan and in the process, Ambassador met Minister of Transport; Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources; Minister of Industry, Trade and Supplies; Minister of Planning and Cooperation; Minister of Media Affairs; Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Youth. Interaction was also maintained with top brass of Armed forces of Jordan and Arab Army as well as leadership of Legislative institutions of Jordan.

3rd India-Jordan Foreign Office Consultations was hosted virtually on 16 December, 2020. It was co-chaired by H.E. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA), MEA, India and H.E. Dr. Yousef Bataineh, Secretary General - MOFAE Jordan.

On April 13, 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated His Majesty King Abdullah II and people of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the state of Jordan through a video message.

Commercial:

India-Jordan trade is governed by an agreement signed in 1976. A Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) constituted under the Agreement to promote & 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 Eshidiya was inaugurated by Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji & HM King Abdullah. The

MMTC India Ltd inked an MOU with the JPMC on cooperation in the fertilizer sector in June, 2015. A commercial delegation headed by Chairman of Jordan Investment Commission visited Delhi and Mumbai from in May 2017. 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\$ million).

Year	Total trade with India	India's export to Jordan	India's import from Jordan
2017-18	1525.80	540.82	984.98
2018-19	1695.06	578.81	1116.25
2019-20	2025.31	960.66	1064.66
2020-21	1696.42	630.89	1065.53
2021-22 (Apr-Nov)	1673.71	577.76	1095.95

[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 have potential. 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 & Economic Commission (JTEC) was held in New Delhi from 4-5 July, 2017. Minister of Trade, Industry & Supply Mr. Yarub Al-Qudah led a high-level official and business delegation to India for the meeting. Minister of Commerce & Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation. During the visit, a bilateral agreement on Economic & Trade Cooperation was signed by the two Hon'ble Ministers. 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. Hon'ble ICT Minister of Jordan led a high level business delegation to interact with leading ICT companies in Bengaluru in Feb 2018. Jordanian Energy Minister Saleh led a delegation to the International Energy Forum in April 2018 in New Delhi. An MEA-CDAC delegation visited Amman from 24-25 July 2019 for setting up of the India-Jordan Next Generation Centre of Excellence in IT in Jordan.

A high level business delegation accompanied King Abdullah II during his visit to India from 27 February – 01 March 2018. King Abdullah attended the CEOs Forum organised by FICCI on 27 February and the Indian-Jordanian Business Forum in New Delhi, organized by the Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Jordan Investment Commission in cooperation with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. More than 300 Jordanian and Indian businessmen attended the event. During the visit, India signed a MOU with Jordan for Mining and beneficiation of Rock Phosphate, MOP in Jordan & setting up production facility in Jordan for phosphoric Acid/DAP/NPK fertilizers with a long term agreement for 100% off take to India. Under the umbrella of the agreement, the two sides have constituted a joint steering committee.

Over 15 textiles industries, owned by NRIs, with cumulative investment of \$500 million are located in Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZs). All finished products are exported to outside Jordan under Jordan FTAs with USA and other countries.

A state of the art facility, India-Jordan Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (IJ COEIT) has been established by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing: C-DAC at Al Hussein Technical University in Amman, with the objective to develop and strengthen software expertise in Jordan in premium fields with Indian Super computer Param Shavak installed at the Centre with an aim to train 3000 Jordanian IT experts in a span of 5 years.

The first meeting of India-Jordan Joint Working Group on Cooperation in the field of Manpower was held virtually on March 10, 2021.

Government of India organised a specialized training programme in India for 15 experts from the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army on Covid-19 Management from February 11, 2021.

Embassy also celebrated 56th ITEC Day, in September, 2020. 23 candidates from Jordan availed of ITEC scholarships in 2019-20.

Cultural:

There is immense interest in Jordan for Indian art and culture, especially Bollywood films. Jordan is keen to see Bollywood and other Indian film producers to shoot films at their beautiful 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.

On the occasion of 6th International Day of Yoga Embassy arranged for FB live Online Yoga Session on 21 June 2020 with two renowned Yoga teachers in Jordan Ms. Rula Ananda and Ms. Salwa Kaoukji.

Jordan-India Friendship Society and Indian Women Association are actively organising socio-cultural events across the Jordanian society.

Besides celebration of International Yoga Day every year, various programmes were organized in Jordanian Universities to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhiji in 2018.

Indian Community:

Jordan is home to 15,000 Indians approximately, who are employed in textile, construction & manufacturing sectors, fertilizer companies, health sector, universities, IT, financial companies and multilateral organization. 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. Ambassador interacted with management and workers of Indian Garment Factories as part of Mission's outreach activities towards Indian workers in Jordan.

Source: Embassy of India, Jordan Web site Dec 2021.