

## Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

### India-Jordan Bilateral Relations

#### A. Introduction

1. 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.

2. India and Jordan have co-operated on various domains including dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Educational and Cultural exchanges further enhance people to people interactions. To help Jordan in its capacity building efforts, 26 ITEC slots have been made available apart from 5 scholarship slots under ICCR. Our interaction with Jordan in multilateral fora has fostered better understanding on mutual concerns and priorities.

#### B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

3. Over the years, bilateral trade has grown rapidly despite global economic downturn with India emerging as Jordan's 4th largest trading partner in 2021. In 2022-23 India-Jordan bilateral trade was valued at all time high at US\$ 4434.25 million with India's exports to Jordan amounting to US\$ 2143.85 million. India imports fertilizers, phosphates, phosphoric acid etc. from Jordan and exports electrical machinery, cereals, frozen meat, organic and inorganic chemicals, animal fodders, petroleum products, engineering and automotive parts etc. Bilateral trade ties have been expanding over the years with India emerging as the 4th largest trading partner of Jordan in 2021 and Indian investments in Phosphates & Textiles to the tune of US\$1.3 billion give us an edge to expand further. Details of the bilateral trade volume are tabulated below (values in US\$ million).

**Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows :**

#### **Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

(Values in US\$ Million)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>	<b>Total trade with India</b>
2019-20	1064.66	960.66	2025.32
2020-21	1065.53	630.89	1696.42
2021-22	1827.19	889.27	2716.46
2022-23	2290.40	2143.85	4434.25
2023-24	1410.63	1465.27	2875.90

(Source: Department of Commerce, India)

4. Among institutional dialogue mechanisms, a Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) was constituted under the 1976 Trade Agreement to promote and monitor progress in bilateral trade. The 10<sup>th</sup>

TEJC was held in New Delhi in 2017. The first meeting of India-Jordan Joint Maritime Committee via digital Video Conference was held in December 2018 between the Ministry of Shipping and the Jordan Maritime Commission. An MoU on Comprehensive Review of Existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement is in the pipeline.

5. A high-level Jordanian business delegation participated in the Jordan -India Business Forum (JIBF) organised by FICCI in cooperation with the Jordan Chamber of Commerce and the Jordan Investment Commission on 28 February 2018. FICCI also signed an MoU with the Jordan Chambers of Commerce to promote, strengthen, and expand, trade, economic, scientific, technological cooperation between India and Jordan.

6. Minister of Investment of Jordan Mr. Kheiry Y. Amr accompanied by Chairman of Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) paid a visit to India in March 2022 and met with Ministers of Commerce and Industry Shri. Piyush Goyal; and Chemicals and Fertilizers Dr. Mansukh Mandviya. On the sidelines of the visit, JPMC signed agreements with Indian companies enhancing phosphate trade between the two countries.

7. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya, paid a visit to Jordan in May 2022, aimed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the fertilizer sector (phosphates and potash). During the visit, Hon'ble Minister met with Ministers of Investment (Khairy Amr); Industry and Trade (Yousef Shamali); and Health (Feras Hawari); and Chairmen of Amman Chamber of Industry; Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and Arab Potash Company. On the sidelines, JPMC signed memoranda of understanding and agreements with a number of Indian phosphate and phosphate fertilizer companies and manufacturers worth \$1.5 billion. Also, the Arab Potash Company (APC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to provide the Indian market with amounts ranging between 275,000 and 325,000 tonnes annually.

8. A 3 day India International Trade Exhibition was held in Amman in March 2022, in association with Federation of Indian Exports Organisation (FIEO). Around 30 Indian companies representing multiple sectors like ceramics, tiles, stones, auto parts, construction machinery, electrical and engineering equipment participated. Indian business houses have been continually participating in the major internal events like the International Machines and Electro-Mechanical Exhibition-JIMEX and Interbuild, and Arab Pharma Manufacturers' Expo.

9. A State Business Seminar "Introducing Uttar Pradesh – the Land of Promise" in association with Jordanian Businessmen Association in Amman was held in September 2022.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

➤ Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) are now being held on a regular basis. 3rd India-Jordan FOC were hosted virtually on 16 December, 2020. It was co-chaired by Secretary (CPV & OIA), and Secretary General - MOFAE Jordan.

➤ Indian-Jordan Center of Excellence in Information Technology (a next Generation IT facility) at Al-Hussein Technical University was inaugurated on 02 October 2021. The Center which is equipped with state of the art IT infrastructure (including Super Computer - PARAM Shavak) and advanced training facilities is fully funded by Govt. of India and has been setup in pursuant to an MoU signed during the visit of HM King Abdullah-II to India in March 2018 with an objective to develop and strengthen software expertise in Jordan in premium fields. It is envisioned that 3000 Jordanian experts/professionals would be nurtured at the Center in a span of five years.

➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Working Group in the field of Health and Medical Science was held in November 2022, virtually. The two sides discussed potential areas of co-operation in the fields of pandemic management,

medical tourism and pharmaceuticals.

➤ 10 MoUs between institutions and universities were signed for enhancing educational cooperation. About 2500 Jordanian alumni of Indian universities are in Jordan. There are about 500 Jordanian students pursuing studies in India. Currently 28 slots have been allotted to Jordan under the ITEC in addition to two ICCR scholarships. Jordanian candidates have also been making good use of e-ITEC courses. India-Jordan Alumni Association was launched in August 2022, a forum bringing together distinguished Jordanian alumni members who graduated from prominent Universities in India.

➤ There is immense interest in Jordan for Indian art and culture, especially Bollywood films & actors are popular in Jordanian households. A few Bollywood movies have been filmed in Jordan. Most recently, an a Malayalam movie was filmed in Jordan in March-April 2020 in the midst of Covid pandemic.

➤ During the visit of President, a cultural exchange agreement between India and Jordan has been signed. There has been regular exchange of cultural troupes. Most recently, in July 2022, an ICCR sponsored “Qawwali group” performed at the 36th Jerash festival of Culture and Arts, the signature cultural festival of Jordan. Embassy, in cooperation with local partners, organizes several socio- cultural activities.

➤ As part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations in Jordan, Embassy organized a series of activities which included a Special Lecture and Mega Tree Plantation Drive at Isra University; Book Exhibition Week; NRI interaction; Grand Cultural Festival-cum-Handloom Fashion Show; Classic and Patriotic Film Festival; Independence Day Cup Cricket Match; Indian Food Festival; India-Jordan International Painting Exhibition; Seminars and other community and commercial events.

➤ Mission celebrates the International Yoga Day every year on 21 June with the participation of Yoga practitioners and enthusiasts from all walks of life.

➤ Jordan India Friendship Society, Indian Community Association in Aqaba, Jordan-India Alumni Association and Indian Women Association are actively organising socio-cultural events across the Jordanian society.

➤ There are around 16,500 Indian nationals living in Jordan, mostly working in textile, construction and manufacturing sectors. Few are associated in health, nursing, universities, IT and financial companies, UN organizations. As part of Mission’s outreach activities, Embassy regularly visits garment companies located in the industrial zones for interaction with the Indian expatriates employed there.

**Source:** [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)