India’s Engagements with Jordan

Mains: *GS II – Bilateral Relations*

Why in News?

As part of a three nation visit to Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman from 15-18 December, 2025 PM Narendra Modi was in Amman on December 15-16, where he held extensive discussions with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan on the 15th of December 2025.

What are the engagements of India-Jordan bilateral relations over the years?

- **Background** – India and Jordan enjoy warm relations based on mutual respect.
- Diplomatic ties were formalized in 1950 after the first agreement for cooperation and friendly relations was signed in 1947.
- This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- PM visited Jordan in February 2018, in transit, during his visit to State of Palestine.
- This was followed by King Abdullah-II’s state visit to India from 27 February to 1 March 2018.
- During this visit there were delegation-level talks, a CEO’s Roundtable, a joint address at the conference on ‘*Islamic Heritage: Promoting Understanding & Moderation*’, and the signing of **12 MoUs/Agreements**.
- **Trade and Economic Cooperation –** Over the years, economic relations between India and Jordan have strengthened significantly, with bilateral trade showing robust growth.
- *India is the fourth largest trading partner of Jordan*.
- In the financial year 2023–24*, total India-Jordan trade reached US$ 2.875 billion, with India’s exports to Jordan amounting to US$ 1,465 billion.*
- Institutional frameworks underpinning this trade include the Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC), set up under the 1976 Trade Agreement, and other dialogue mechanisms such as maritime and sector-specific working groups.



- **Defence Relations –** India and Jordan signed an MoU on Defence Cooperation in 2018.
- In 2024, a three-member Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force delegation attended the Special Operations Forces Exhibition and Conference (SOFEX) in Aqaba.
- A Jordanian Royal Navy delegation also visited India. They toured the Southern Naval Command Kochi and the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala.
- This visit took place from April 29 to May 4, 2024.
- **Science and Tech –** The Indian-Jordan Center of Excellence in Information Technology (IJCOEIT), a next-generation IT facility at Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU), was inaugurated on 02 October 2021.
- The Center is equipped with state-of-the-art IT infrastructure, including the Super Computer PARAM Shavak and advanced training facilities.
- The Government of India conducts master trainer courses for Jordanian experts in emerging fields such *as Cyber Security, Web Development, Machine Learning, Big Data Analytics, etc., who in turn train Jordanian youth at IJCOEIT.*
- It is envisioned that 3000 Jordanian experts/professionals would be nurtured at the Center.
- On the sidelines of the 4th round of Foreign Office Consultation with Jordan held in Amman, Secretary (CPV & OIA) and JS(WANA) visited the India-Jordan Center of Excellence in IT (IJCoEIT) at the Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU).
- **Education –** India and Jordan are strengthening ties in education and capacity building.
- India is a popular study destination for Jordanian students.
- There are 50 slots for Jordan under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of Ministry of External Affairs.
- **People-to-People Ties –** More than *2,500 Jordanians* have graduated from Indian universities.
- In 2024-25, Jordan used 37 civilian ITEC slots, 4 special executive programmes, and 5 ICCR scholarships.
- India and Jordan signed *a Manpower Agreement* and a visa-free travel for diplomatic and official passport holders during King Abdullah II's visit to India in March 2018.
- Around ***17,500*** *Indian nationals currently live in Jordan*, mostly working in textiles, construction, manufacturing, healthcare, nursing, universities, IT, financial companies

and UN agencies.
- Jordan provides Visa on Arrival to Indian tourists since 2009 and e-Visas since 2023.
- There is a direct flight from Amman to Mumbai. Both countries cooperated during the evacuation of Indian nationals from Israel under Operation Sindhu.
- **Cultural Exchanges –** There is strong interest in Jordan for Indian culture, especially Bollywood films.
- Regular cultural exchanges involving dance and music, as also events on Yoga Day take place between the two countries on a regular basis.
- Most recently, in July 2024, an ICCR sponsored *"Natraj Sanskritik Silpi Samaj"* cultural troupe performed Assamese Folk Dance at the 38th Jerash festival of Culture and Arts, the signature cultural festival of Jordan.

What are the Outcomes of PM's Visit?

- **Strengthening ties Engagements** – Both the leaders discussed ways to further deepen bilateral engagement in the fields of:
  - Trade and investment
  - Defense and security
  - Renewable energy
  - Fertilizer and agriculture
  - Innovation
  - It and digital technologies
  - Critical minerals
  - Infrastructure
  - Health and pharma
  - Education and capacity
  - Tourism and heritage
  - Culture and people-to-people ties.
- **Bilateral trade** – Prime Minister proposed that the two countries should aim to enhance bilateral trade to *US$ 5 billion* over the next *5 years.*
- **Digital payments** – He also called for collaboration between Jordan's digital payment system and India's United Payments Interface (UPI).
- **Investing in Fertilizers** – Jordan is an important supplier of fertilizer to India, and companies on both sides are in discussions for further substantive investment in Jordan to meet growing demand for *phosphatic fertilizer in India.*
- **Peace & Security** – The two leaders conveyed strong appreciation and support for each other's fight against terrorism and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- They shared perspectives on the developments in the region and on other global issues and reiterated the importance of restoring peace and stability in the region.
- **MoU's signed between India and Jordan**
  - MoU on Technical Cooperation in the Field of New and Renewable Energy
  - MoU on Cooperation in the field of Water resources Management & Development
  - Twinning Agreement between Petra and Ellora
  - Renewal of the Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2025-2029
  - Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at population scale for digital transformation

What lies ahead?

- The India-Jordan, ties demonstrate how sustained political engagement reinforces economic and other outcomes for strong bilateral relations.
- Regular consultations, leadership-level meetings, and shared perspectives on regional stability and counter-terrorism have added strategic depth to the partnership.
- The engagements and outcomes of the recent high-level visit will further consolidate these gains.
- As India deepens its West Asia engagement, Jordan's role as a reliable economic and political partner remains significant, reflecting a balanced relationship built on trust, trade, and strategic alignment.

Reference

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