



Winds of Shared Prosperity

Unlocking the next decade of Indo-Arab trade and partnership

A report prepared on the occasion of the 6th India Arab Partnership Conference 2023
New Delhi, India

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FOREWORD

Foreword | FICCI

India and the Arab world have had age-old ties. Our close connections - economic, cultural, and strategic, go back a long way and would become even closer in the decade ahead. Indian companies have invested in various sectors in the Arab countries, including real estate, infrastructure, construction, and healthcare. Additionally, Arab countries have relied on Indian expertise in the IT sector. The bilateral trade value between India and the Arab world in 2022-23 was USD 244 bn. As India grows towards a USD 8 trillion economy over the next 7 years, this trade value would increase rapidly.

There is tremendous potential for engagement at a much higher level between the Arab world and India, especially in sectors like food and energy security, textiles, information technology, agriculture, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals. Other sectors include infrastructure, telecommunications, hospitality, and retail. There is much more to do in maritime cooperation, food exports, joint energy exploration projects, military-security ties, and mutual business cooperation.

This report, drafted by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with Edelman Global Advisory, presents opportunities for India and the Arab world to promote trade and investment, reduce trade barriers, and enhance economic cooperation. A conducive trade environment would promote economic collaborations, technology transfer, and information exchange which can open new vistas for trade innovation and diversification.

We look forward to FICCI industry members and their Arab partners increasing their turnover and profitability, leveraging the insights in this report. Your feedback is always appreciated.



SHAILESH K PATHAK
SECRETARY GENERAL, FICCI

FOREWORD

Foreword | EGA

Over a thousand years ago, the strong winds that swept across the Arabian sea filled the sails of traders who plied the waters between the Indian subcontinent and the Arab world, establishing a vibrant trade and people-to-people relationship between the two regions. In the present day, there are new winds that energise both regions - winds of shared prosperity, that seek to exponentially transform the trade relationship between India and the Arab Countries.

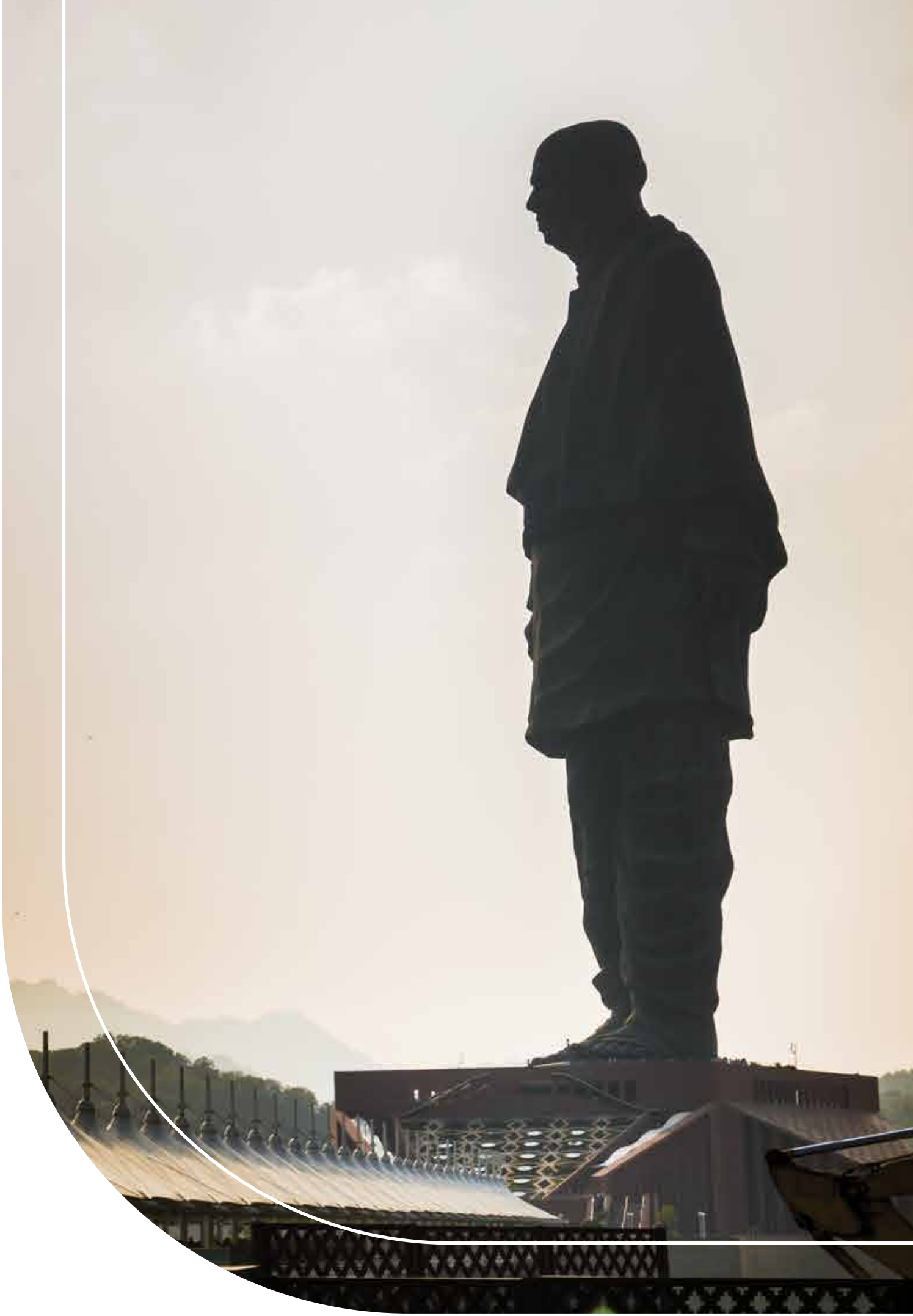
As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties of the 21st century, it is essential to explore avenues of collaboration that promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. By leveraging their respective strengths, India and the Arab Countries can tap into a wealth of opportunities in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, information technology, agriculture, tourism, and healthcare.

This report analyses the current state of trade relations between India and the Arab Countries and explores the potential of growth in key sectors. I would like to thank the team at EGA, including Vipul Sharma, Udisha Ghosh, Shaurya Gurung and Priyanka Joshi for their effort towards this report.

We trust that this report will serve as a valuable resource for all stakeholders interested in promoting and strengthening the future trade relations between India and the Arab Countries. By embracing the opportunities that lie ahead and forging meaningful partnerships, we can create a brighter future of shared prosperity and sustainable development.



VASUDEVAN RANGARAJAN
INDIA LEAD - EGA



BUILDING ON HISTORIC TIES FOR THE FUTURE



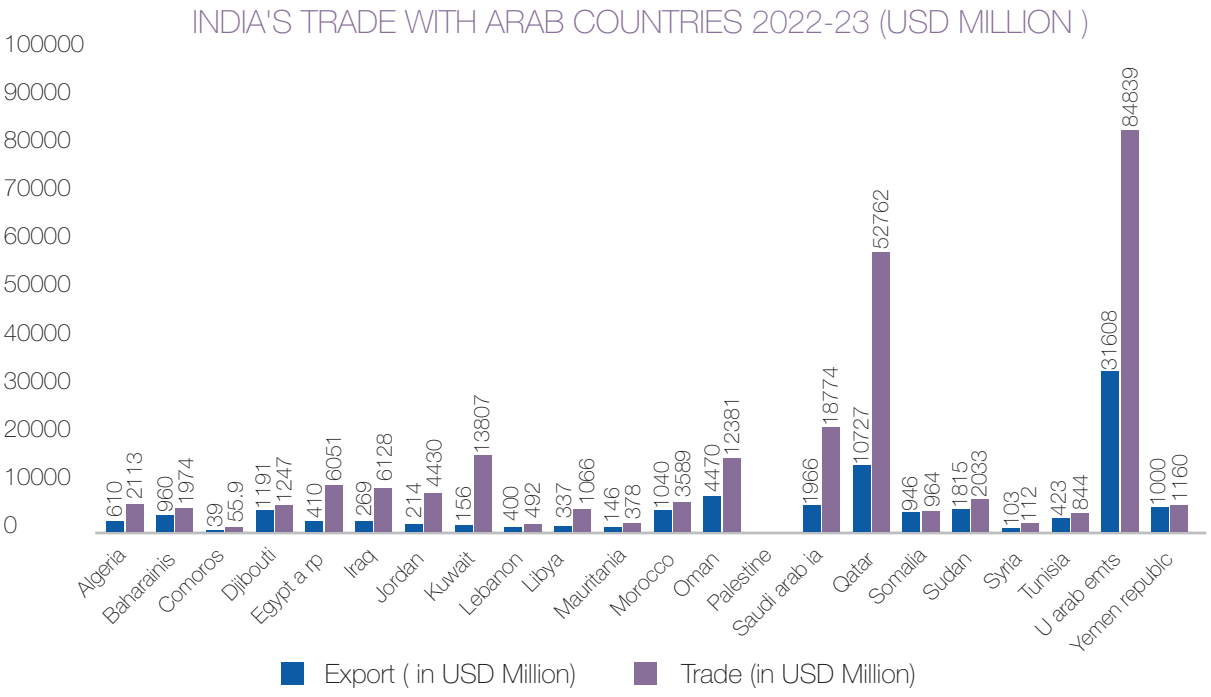
BUILDING ON HISTORIC TIES FOR THE FUTURE

India and the Arab countries have a long history of close commerce and people-to-people ties dating back over millennia as neighbours in the same extended neighbourhood. The development of this collaboration into a powerful geopolitical, economic, and cultural alliance has accelerated over the past decade. This relationship has been strengthened through the efforts of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, who has visited at least 10 Arab countries over the past eight years. Similar numbers of diplomatic trips to India have been made in return by Arab countries. Additionally, during FY 2022–2023, India's connections with the Arab nations deepened due to growth in trade and investment as well as improved ties in a number of other areas, including energy, security, defence, culture, education, health, and food security. The Arab nations continue to be among India's top trading partners, ensuring a growing partnership between India and the Arab countries[1].



TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND ARAB COUNTRIES

India's trade relations with Arab countries have a long and robust history that has strengthened over the years. The Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman, are vital trading partners for India. Trade between India and Arab countries primarily revolves around sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, precious metals, textiles, machinery, and agricultural products. India is a major importer of crude oil from Arab nations, meeting a significant portion of its energy needs. On the other hand, India exports a diverse range of goods, including pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, and automotive components, to Arab countries. The economic ties between India and the Arab countries have expanded through bilateral agreements, joint ventures, and investment collaborations. Additionally, the Indian diaspora in the Arab countries plays a significant role in facilitating trade and cultural exchanges. These strong trade relations have fostered mutual growth and cooperation, contributing to the development of both Indian and Arab economies.



Source: Ministry of Commerce(Governmentof India)



1

Overall bilateral trade value (India and Arab region) 2022-23 -USD 243.56 Bn.
FY 2021-22 the non-oil exports are valued at USD 33.8 Bn and non-oil imports at USD 37.2 Bn.

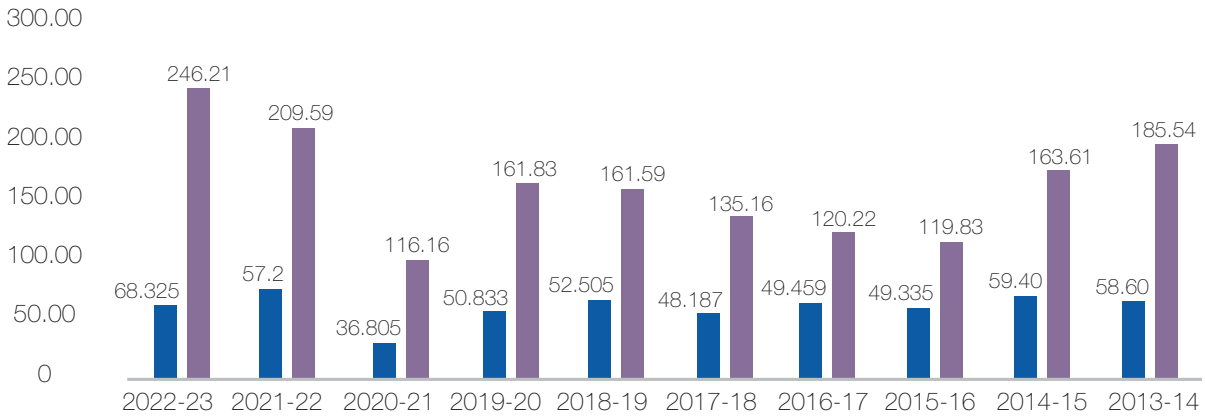
2

Bilateral trade for the entire Arab countries in FY 2021-22 in services was around USD 14 Bn, with exports valued at USD 5.5 Bn and imports at USD 8.3 Bn.

3

The GCC is also a major source of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in India, with current FDI being valued at over USD 18 Bn.

TRADE BETWEEN ARAB REGION AND INDIA IN LAST 10 YEARS (USD BN)



Source: Ministry of Commerce, Governmentof India

Top 5 exports from India to the Arab countries	Petroleum products Gems andjewellery Electric machinery Iron and steel Organic chemicals
Top 5 exports from India to the Arab countries	Petroleum Gems and Jewellery Fertilisers Organic chemicals Plastic products

Source: Ministry of Commerce, Government of India

According to the most recent data, India's overall bilateral commerce with the Arab world in the most recent fiscal year, 2022–2023, was over USD 212.55 billion and included a wide range of commodities and services, from consumer items to infrastructure, telecommunications, and oil. While commerce between the Arab countries and India has increased by 30% over the past 10 years, with the signing of trade agreements like CEPA and FTAs, that trade is predicted to quadruple to USD 424 billion. This will therefore create opportunities for both regions to benefit from increased investment and knowledge transfer, as well as market access benefits.

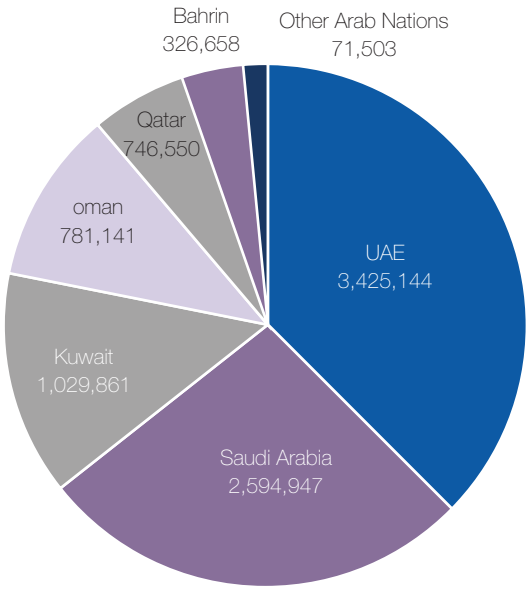
DIASPORA PRESENCE TRANSLATES TO STRONGER TIES WITH THE REGION

More than 8 million members of the Indian diaspora reside in the Gulf region. The cultural similarities between India and Arab countries have fostered a deeper relationship between the regions.

In addition to training a sizable population in the Gulf region to suit local economic demands, India supplies a significant part of the Arab countries' skilled and semi-skilled workforce. India also offers a huge opportunity for large investors, including sovereign wealth funds looking to invest across sectors, to tap into one of the world's fastest-growing economies with the Indian Government providing an impetus to boost sunrise sectors like electronics manufacturing, tech start-ups, electric vehicles (EVs), and renewables, among others.

More than one-fourth of the total Indian diaspora lives in the gulf region.

INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE ARAB NATIONS



Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



CULTURAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS THROUGH CINEMA, ART, AND CUISINE

Indian films have experienced significant popularity across Arab countries in recent years. The influence of Indian cinema has spread across countries like United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Morocco, captivating audiences with its vibrant storytelling, melodious music, and colorful dance sequences.

The popularity of Indian films has transcended language and cultural barriers, with many Bollywood movies being dubbed or subtitled in Arabic, allowing a wider audience to appreciate and connect with the content. This popularity of Indian films in Arab countries has resulted in a growing fan base, increased collaborations between Indian and Arab film industries, and even Indian movie stars gaining popularity and recognition in the region.

The penetration of Indian films in the Arab countries can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the large Indian diaspora living in the region has played a crucial role in introducing Bollywood cinema to the local population. The Indian expatriate community has organized film festivals, screenings, and cultural events that have helped familiarise Arab audiences with Indian cinema. Additionally, the availability of satellite television, streaming platforms, and affordable DVDs has made it easier for MENA viewers to access Indian films. The relatable themes, strong family values, and universal emotions depicted in Indian movies have struck a chord with audiences in Arab countries, providing them with a refreshing alternative to Hollywood productions. As a result, Indian films have become a significant part of the entertainment landscape in Arab countries, offering a diverse and captivating cinematic experience to millions of viewers.



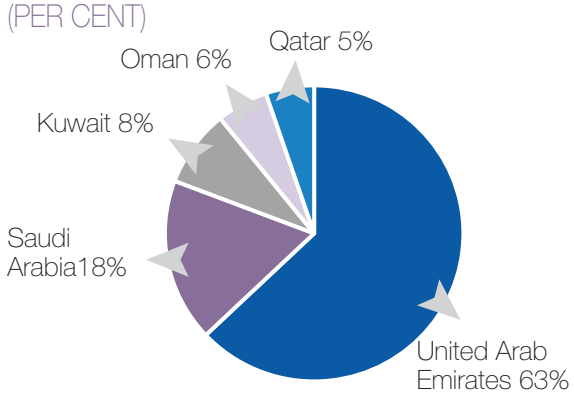
Iconic Indian movie star Rajinikanth's Kaala was the first Indian film to release in Saudi Arabia on June 7, 2018

Government funding is made available for the development, pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution of films, television series, commercials, video games, and other audiovisual works in a number of Arab nations. The Abu Dhabi Film Commission provided access to a generous 30% cash-back rebate on productions, including feature films and television dramas (including series) and post-production, digital content services, and visual effects (PDV) services for projects shot inside or outside Abu Dhabi[2]. This was the first production incentive offered in the Middle East. Even Saudi Arabia offers a 30% cash return on eligible production costs for goods, services, and below-the-line labour performed by residents and non-residents to boost tourism, other nations like Oman and Egypt also give Indian filmmakers financial incentives[3].

The cuisines of India and the Arab countries share several similarities and have seen an increase in recent ties, showcasing the interconnectedness of culinary traditions and flavors. Both Indian and MENA cuisines have a rich history influenced by ancient trade routes, migrations, and cultural exchanges. One common element between these cuisines is the generous use of aromatic spices, such as cumin, coriander, turmeric, and cardamom, which lend depth and complexity to the dishes. Both regions also have a love for rice and bread, with dishes like biryani and pilaf in India, and couscous and flatbreads like pita and naan in the Arab region. Another similarity lies in the emphasis on vegetarian and plant-based dishes, with legumes, lentils, and vegetables featuring prominently in both Indian and Arab cuisines. In recent years, there has been a growing appreciation for the fusion of these culinary traditions, leading to the emergence of Indo-Arab fusion restaurants and dishes that combine flavors and techniques from both regions. This cross-pollination of cuisines highlights the shared heritage and the willingness to experiment and create new culinary experiences. In addition, in 2020 India surpassed Brazil in food exports to the League of Arab States for the first time in 15 years as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted trade flows in 2020, according to data provided by the Arab-Brazil Chamber of Commerce

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

SHARE OF INWARD REMITTANCES IN TOTAL REMITTANCES(%), 2021-22 SHARE IN TOTAL (PER CENT)



Source:Country-wise Share in Inward Remittances, 2020-21

The Indian expatriate workforce in Arab countries has played a significant role in the economic development and cultural fabric of the region. Arab countries, such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait, host a large population of Indian expatriates who contribute their skills and expertise across various sectors. Indian professionals, including engineers, doctors, teachers, and skilled workers, have made substantial contributions to the infrastructure, healthcare, education, and construction sectors in these countries. The Indian diaspora has also played a vital role in the service industry, particularly in the fields of hospitality, retail, and information technology. The remittances sent back by Indian expatriates have had a positive impact on the Indian economy, providing financial stability and supporting the livelihoods of their families back home. In 2023, the Indian diaspora in the Arab countries remitted over USD 25.5 billion back to India. Remittances from the UAE are the largest, followed by those from Saudi Arabia[4].

EVOLVING DISCUSSIONS TO CAPITALISE ON EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

With a strong foundation in place, there is significant potential to expand commerce and cultural connections between India and Arab nations. Expanding commerce beyond traditional areas offers enormous opportunities, especially in information technology, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure development, and education sectors. Investments and cooperative projects in these developing industries have the potential to provide results that are advantageous to the economies of both regions. With improved connectivity and logistics systems, trade efficiency can increase and costs can be brought down by better logistical networks, efficient customs procedures, and improved transportation links.

This report aims to capture the opportunities for both regions to collaborate on areas including Digitalisation and Technology, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure and Logistics, Manufacturing and Retail, Sustainable Energy, Travel and Tourism, Education and Skill Development, Start-up Ecosystem, Agriculture and Food Processing.



Partnerships and discussion have been on ramping up the food and agriculture business, while also maintaining a steady supply of oil.



Ensuring access to medical treatment and higher education, besides improving tourism, is a key engagement point for both regions. There have also been discussions to enhance collaborations in renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, mining, manufacturing, IT and sports.



The start-up story of India has attracted the attention of investors with over 100 unicorn companies. It provides a huge opportunity for investors as well as cross-country collaboration.

An example of this collaboration is the launch of the India-Qatar Start Up Bridge in June 2022. Furthermore, regular meetings on increasing investments and business opportunities have been taking place between both sides.



HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS



HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS

The Indian healthcare and pharma sector has gained global competitiveness due to its skilled healthcare professionals, advanced medical infrastructure, and cost-effective healthcare services. With a growing emphasis on medical tourism and the production of high-quality pharmaceuticals, India has positioned itself as a preferred destination for medical treatments and pharmaceutical exports worldwide.

1

India-UAE CEPA agreement has a separate annexure on pharmaceuticals that will enable automatic registration and market authorization of Indian generic formulations in just 90 days. The pact is also expected to provide wider access to the much larger Arab and North African markets for the Indian pharmaceutical industry as well as export of Indian APIs to the Arab world.

The focus of the Indian government on promoting pharmaceutical manufacturing, particularly through the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) scheme for Manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), is positioning India as a global hub for high-quality, low-cost medicines that can be exported. Indian medicines and drugs have several cost advantages, high product quality, and credibility that have been accrued over the years.

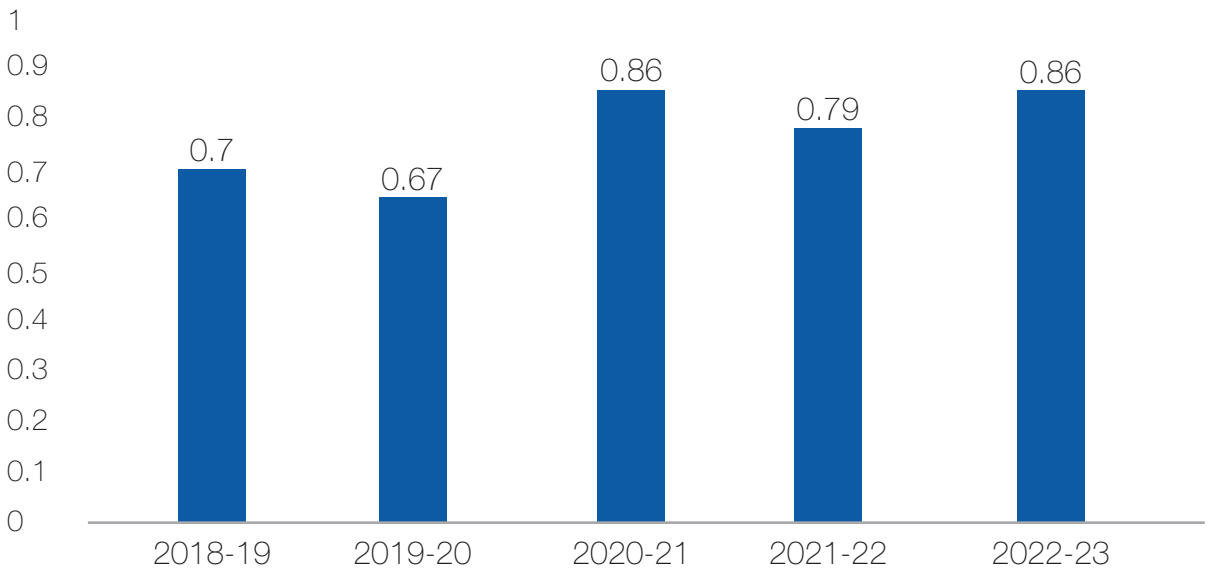
The healthcare and pharma sectors hold immense potential for collaboration and growth between India and Arab countries. India's expertise in affordable healthcare solutions and pharmaceutical products can meet the rising demand for quality healthcare services and medicines in the Arab countries, creating opportunities for trade, investment, and knowledge sharing between the two regions.

ACCELERATING TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND ARAB COUNTRIES

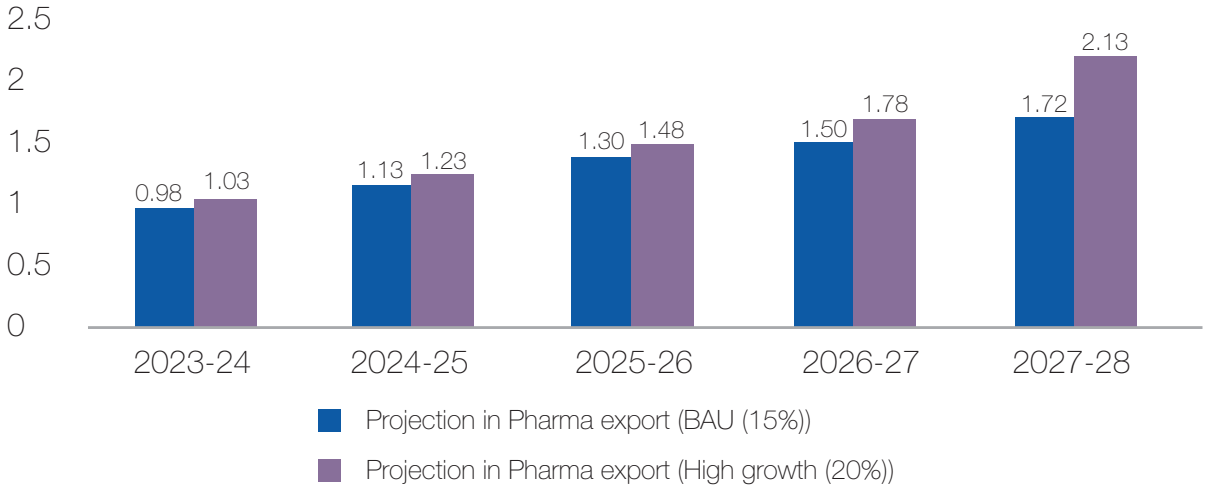
India is one of the top global suppliers of generic medications, playing a significant role in the global pharmaceutical industry. Both regions have been exploring ways to build synergies in the pharmaceutical industry.

India exports USD 11.37 million of pharmaceutical products to the West Asia – GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE)[5]. With increased instances of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Arab countries[6], there is a growing demand for low-cost high-quality pharmaceutical products.

PHARMA EXPORT BY INDIA TO ARAB REGION (USD MILLION)



PROJECTION GROWTH OF PHARMA EPORTS TO ARAB REGION (IN USD BILLION)



Source: Ministry of Commerce(Government of India) (Link)

Increased impetus by the Government of India for domestic manufacturing of pharmaceuticals through supply-side interventions can help India increase its exports and cater to future demand from the Arab Countries. Even in a business as usual (BAU) scenario of approximately 20% y-o-y growth, India can aim to export at least USD2.13 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the Arab countries in the next 5 years.

BENEFITING FROM KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & AI

Digital health infrastructure and leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to improve public health can well emerge as an area of potential collaboration between India and the Arab countries.

India is focused on creating frameworks for providing digital health and enabling equitable access to healthcare services across the world, particularly for low- and middle-income countries.

A collaboration between both regions, can strengthen the market capabilities of the Arab countries by helping governmental research institutes and laboratories collaborate with the pharmaceutical industries and funding agencies[7], helping improve R&D and quality of the medical products across the regions. .

2

"Aligned with the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India provided Co-Win, E-sanjeevani, and Aarogya Setu applications as digital public goods exemplifying our commitment to global health and our role in driving equitable access to critical health solutions".
- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare

India can assist the Arab countries in localising the production of pharmaceuticals and their active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), which can be crucial for drug security and strengthen the Arab countries' healthcare systems



CASE STUDY

BIOCON PARTNERING WITH TABUK PHARMACEUTICALS FROM UAE TO COMMERCIALIZE GENERIC MEDICINES.



Biocon

In December 2021, Biocon announced a partnership with Tabuk Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Astra Industrial Group, based out of United Arab Emirates to commercialise specialty generic products in the MENA region. As part of the agreement, Biocon will develop and manufacture the products, while Tabuk would commercialise them.

Through this partnership, Biocon is laying the foundation to expand into the MENA region, with a focus on markets like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

[8]*Biocon Ltd partners with Tabuk Pharmaceuticals to commercialise its speciality generic medicines in the Middle East - Biocon*



EASING PROCESSES TO SUPPORT MEDICAL TRAVEL TOURISM FROM THE REGION

3

Ministry of Tourism has introduced e- visa for medical tourists from Arab region. Eased medical attendant visa, facilitation counters at 3 international airports and 5 more are on the anvil.Accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) portal. (www.indiahealth-caretourism.com) has been augmented with comprehensive information on the accredited healthcare institutions in English, Arabic, Russian and French.

There is significant potential for growth in medical travel tourism between India and Arab countries, driven by the combination of India's advanced healthcare infrastructure, highly skilled medical professionals, and cost-effective treatments. Indian hospitals and medical facilities are renowned for their world-class standards and cutting-edge technology, offering a wide range of sspecialised medical procedures and treatments at a fraction of the cost compared to many other countries. Arab countries have a growing demand for quality healthcare services, and patients often seek treatment options abroad due to factors like long waiting times or limited local expertise. India's proximity to the Arab region, cultural similarities, and accessibility through direct flights further enhance its appeal as a medical tourism destination. By leveraging these strengths and promoting collaborative initiatives, India and Arab countries can foster a mutually beneficial medical tourism sector, where patients from the Arab region can access high-quality healthcare services in India, contributing to economic growth for both regions[9].

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has formulated a national strategy and roadmap for medical and wellness tourism. The strategy will strengthen the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism, enabling digitalisation by setting up the Online Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal, enhancement accessibility for medical value travel, promoting wellness tourism and governance and institutional framework[10].



OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

- Export of pharma products and vaccines from India to increase due to strong pharma distribution networks.
- Investment from countries such as the UAE to set up mega parks in pharmaceutical sector and medical devices.
- Expand the distribution of digital health infrastructure to Arab region with data first approach.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES

- Availability of high-quality generic medicines at significantly lower price.
- Provide support to Arab region with AI supported robotic devices to remotely carry out surgeries.





AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING



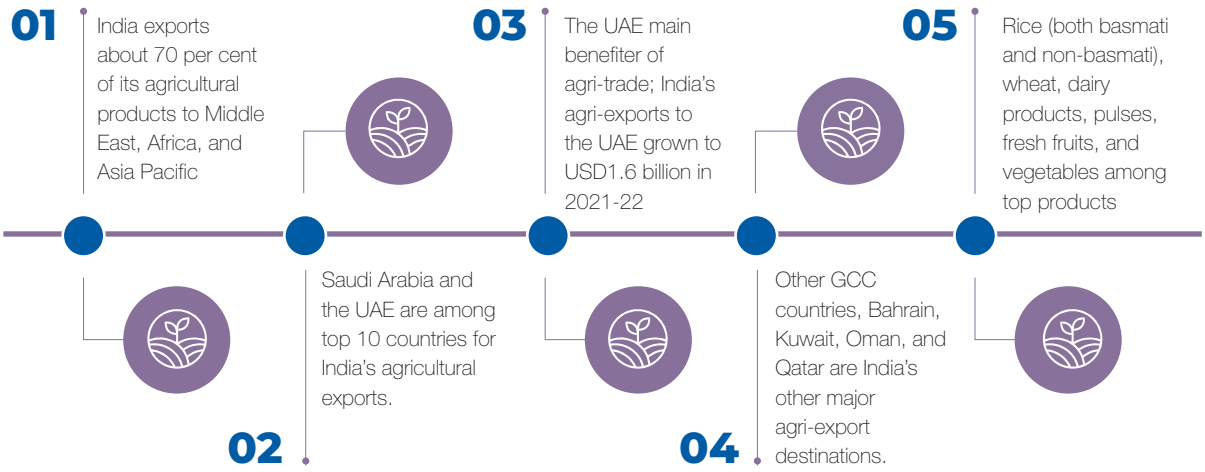
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

India has the chance to firmly establish its status as a significant and reliable food supplier to the Arab world. To increase food security, the Arab nations can, in turn, invest in India's food processing, logistics, and agriculture sectors.

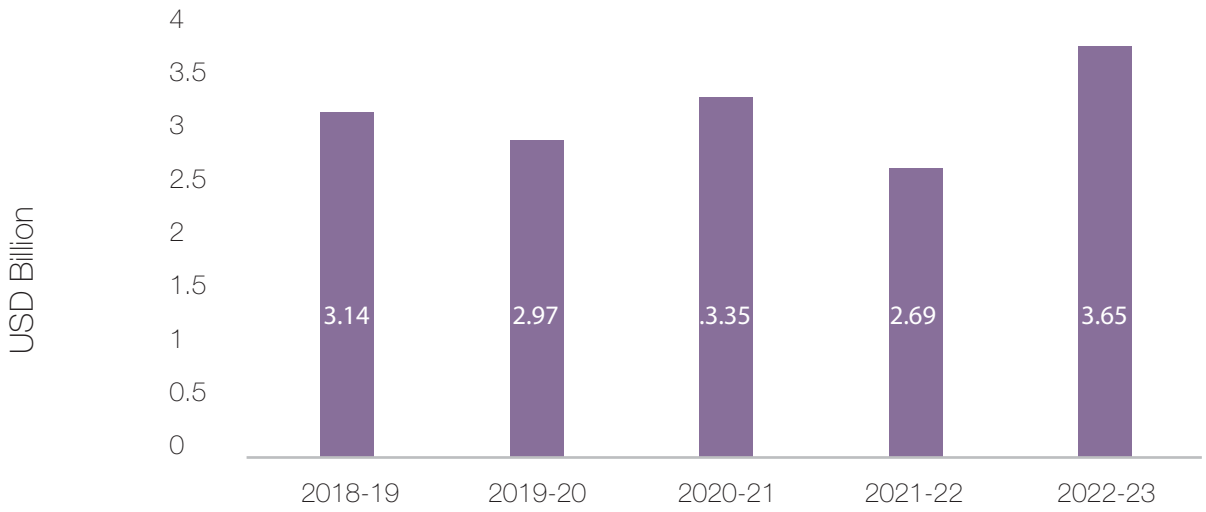
Through technological cooperation, Arab nations and India may see investments from the latter to improve food supply chains and crop productivity. This collaboration might encompass creating post-harvest cold chain infrastructure, agricultural technologies for the supply chain, output market connections, and agritech businesses aiming to increase food production and quality.

Arab nations have many investment opportunities in the agritech sector. Due to innovations such as micro-irrigation and smart and sustainable agriculture, which puts a focus on maintaining enough food supply, it is a rapidly developing sector in India.

Additionally, India and the Arab world have been concentrating on developing their economic alliances with a view to boosting food security. As an example, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE is projected to enhance both the quantity and diversity of food sold to the UAE[11]. By granting India access to other close-by markets, the entire region will be guaranteed of widespread food security. Additionally, programmes like CEPA and the creation of food parks under the I2U2 (a grouping of India, Israel, the US, and the UAE) umbrella open the door to additional collaborations on food security by fostering mutual trust and enhancing ties between India and the Arab world[12]. Arab countries also have an opportunity to support India in developing its infrastructure and logistical supply chains to ensure that their food security requirements are met.

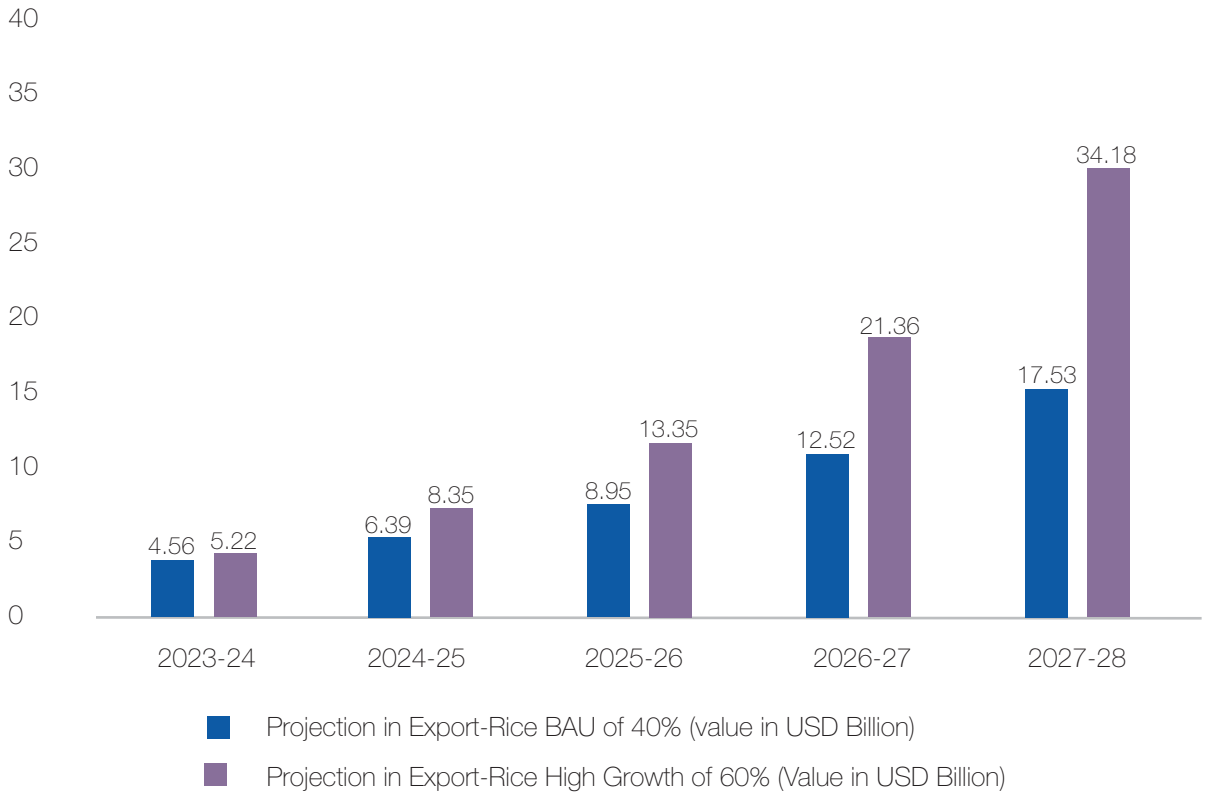


RICE EXPORT FROM INDIA TO ARAB REGION (VALUE IN USD BILLION)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Government of India)

PROJECTED GROWTH IN RICE EXPORT (INUSD BILLION)



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN COLD CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to increase agri-exports, the Indian government has been working hard to improve post-harvest infrastructure in the country, including cold storage, warehouses, collecting centres, and refrigerated transportation. As a result, there would be less food waste, improved communication between producers and consumers, and a stronger supply network for exports to Arab countries. It could make it possible for the Arab nations to meet their needs for food security, while also providing them with a fantastic investment opportunity.

The sector is anticipated to expand mostly as a result of the increased export demand for fresh produce and processed foods. The Indian government and India's private sector are both aware of the critical need to create a cold chain ecosystem to handle end-to-end connectivity from fields to consumers[13] . Given that only about 30% of the current cold chain facilities in India are used for storing products relevant for Arab countries, such as meat, seafood, dairy products, fruits, and vegetables, this has the potential to lead to collaborations between India and the Arab region for the development of infrastructure.

AGRITECH'S NEW TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INCREASED YIELDS

India has over 700 agri-tech start-ups that are providing customised solutions to the agricultural value chain, such as crop and livestock sensors, crop advisory and rental services in farm machinery and drones that aim to improve the quality and quantity of food. The Indian government is focussing on sustainable development and has prioritised the agritech sector, which would lead to a technological transformation in agriculture, greatly benefiting the Arab countries. The sector offers potential opportunities to Arab nations to invest in supply chain, output market linkages and precision agriculture. The investments can help startups mix technology with physical infrastructure to increase yields. This would facilitate India's technological advancements in meeting the Arab region's food requirements.

The Agri-tech sector can witness Investments worth USD10 billion over the next decade[14], which could lead to a technological transformation in agriculture.The sector offers potential opportunities to Arab nations to invest in supply chain, output market linkages and precision agriculture. The investments can help startups mix technology with physical infrastructure to increase yields. This would facilitate India's technological advancements in meeting the Arab region's food requirements.



CASE STUDY

DUBAI GOVERNMENT CREATES AGRI TRADING PLATFORM TO CONNECT INDIAN FARMERS TO UAE



In December 2021, Biocon announced a partnership with Tabuk Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Company, a subsidiary of Astra Industrial Group, based out of United Arab Emirates to commercialize specialty generic products in the MENA region. As part of the agreement, Biocon will develop and manufacture the products, while Tabuk would commercialize them.

Through this partnership, Biocon is laying the foundation to expand into the MENA region, with a focus on markets like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.

[15]*https://theprint.in/diplomacy/dubai-sets-up-trading-platform-to-connect-indian-farmers-to-uae-food-companies/489789/*

INDIA-UAE CEPA TO BOOST AGRI-EXPORTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

India has been one of the key partners to ensure food security in the UAE. The India-UAE CEPA will further strengthen this partnerships as more Indian products can be available to cater to the growing demand from UAE, such as fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and processed food. This would not only increase India's export basket, but also fulfil food security requirements in the Arab region. Rice, coffee, tea, spices and other agri products have already been witnessing significant export growth due to CEPA[16].

The CEPA could also lead to more bilateral partnerships in food and the agriculture sector between the two countries considering the UAE aims to achieve access to sufficient food globally as part of its National Food Security Strategy 2051[17]. The potential of strengthening of ties can be gauged from the fact recently the UAE committed to invest USD 2 billion to develop integrated food security parks across India. This project aims to increase crop yields and looks at tackling food insecurity in the Middle East[18]. It opens up opportunities for India and the UAE to jointly collaborate in modernising infrastructure with a plan to use advanced climate-smart technologies and develop agricultural solutions to meet the food requirements of the UAE and the rest of the Middle East.

Furthermore, CEPA gives India an edge over its other nations such as Brazil, Pakistan, Australia and China, due to the removal or reduction of tariffs under this agreement. This can enhance India's access to markets in Africa, other Gulf countries and Europe[19] and its success lays out opportunities for similar agreements on strengthening food security with other Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC).

CASE STUDY

INDIA TIES UP WITH LULU GROUP TO BOOST MILLET EXPORTS



The Indian government's focus on increasing export of millets over the years offers ample opportunity to grow India's agri-export basket as well as provide greater food security to the Arab nations. Partnerships such as between Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the Indian Commerce Ministry's agricultural export promotion body, and the Lulu Group, could also ensure this .

APEDA plans to promote millet products around the world with the Lulu Group, which is an international retail hypermarket chain that operates stores and shopping malls across the Arab region. The group will facilitate promotional activities for millet products and enable India to display millet product in international retail chains. APEDA will facilitate manufacturers to send samples of millet products to Lulu Hypermarkets, which will be showcased at its various stores. These activities are expected to push millet exports through generating awareness in a region that is a high importer of the product.

[20] *https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1902163#:~:text=As%20per%20the%20agreement%2C%20the,Farmer%20Producer%20Companies%2C%20women%20entrepreneurs*



OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER IN TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN FISHERIES SECTOR

There is significant trade potential between India and Arab countries in the fisheries sector, driven by the mutual benefits of seafood production and consumption. India is blessed with a vast coastline and a rich marine ecosystem, making it one of the world's largest producers of seafood. Arab countries, with their strong demand for seafood and limited domestic production capabilities, offer a lucrative market for Indian seafood exports. Indian seafood products such as shrimp, fish, and crustaceans are highly sought after for their quality and taste. By fostering trade partnerships, streamlining regulatory processes, and ensuring quality control, India and Arab countries can enhance bilateral trade in the fisheries sector. This collaboration can not only cater to the growing seafood consumption needs of Arab countries but also provide Indian fishermen and seafood exporters with expanded market opportunities, leading to economic growth and increased job opportunities in both regions.

The Indian government has setup a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) with a total funds size of USD 0.91 billion (INR 7,522.48 crore) to further create infrastructure facilities, both in marine and inland sectors, and increase fish production[21]. This is an area where the Arab countries can collaborate with the Indian government to further develop this fund to ensure the infrastructure development. This is an important sector for collaborations given that seafood exports to the Middle East have shown a growth of 20.2% in quantity, and 20.7% in dollar terms in 2021-22[22].

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

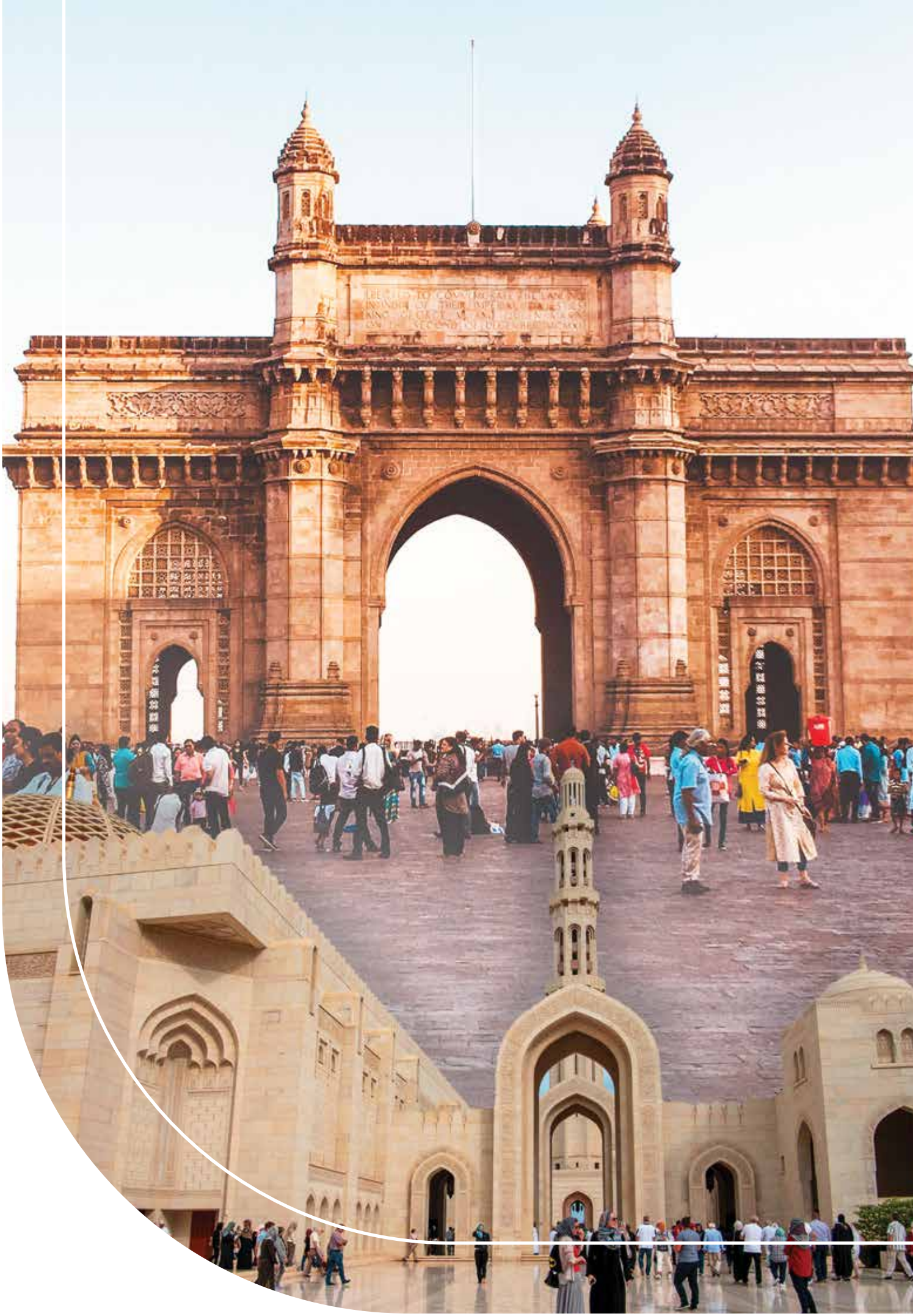
- Increase food exports and their variety through India-UAE CEPA
- Access to markets in Africa, Gulf countries and Europe through CEPA
- Grow agri-export basket through increase in millets exports to Arab nations



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

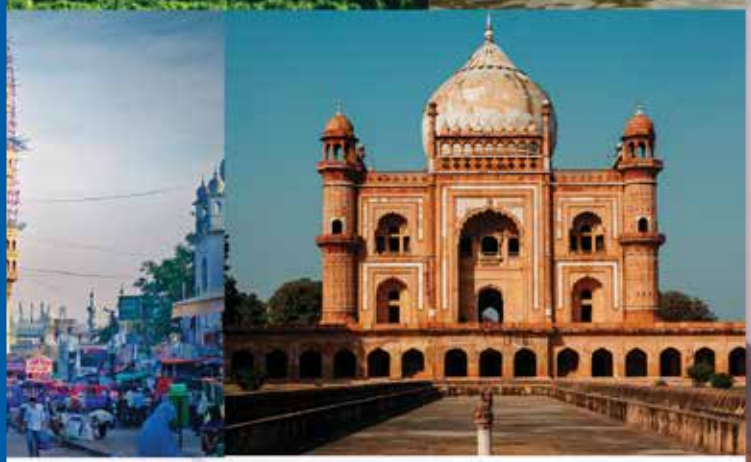
- Investment in India's cold chain infrastructure, important for post-yield harvest
- Investment in India's startup sector to increase yields and improve supply chain
- Collaborating with the Indian government on developing the fisheries sector





TRAVEL AND TOURISM



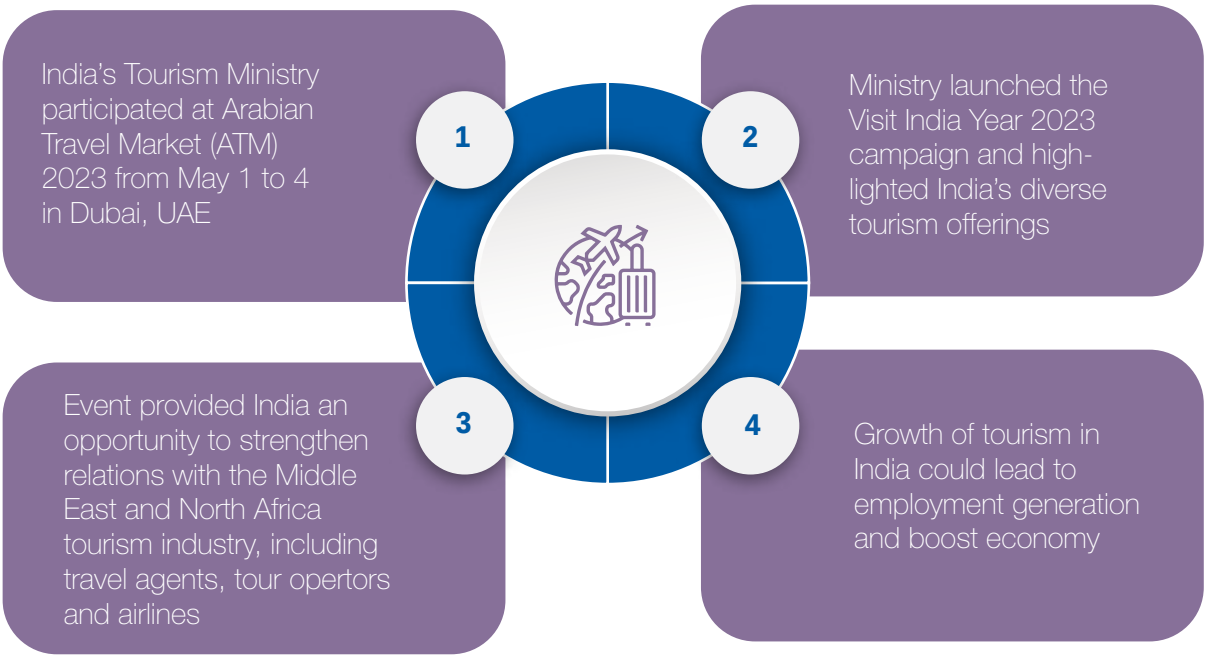






TRAVEL AND TOURISM

There is immense potential for tourism between India and the Arab countries, driven by the cultural, historical, and natural attractions that both regions offer. India, with its rich heritage, diverse landscapes, and iconic landmarks like the Taj Mahal, attracts a significant number of Arab tourists seeking to explore its vibrant cities and picturesque landscapes. Similarly, Arab countries with their stunning architecture, luxurious resorts, and cultural treasures like Petra and the Pyramids, captivate Indian travelers looking for unique experiences. Improved air connectivity, visa facilitation, and promotional campaigns can further enhance the tourism potential between the two regions. By fostering collaboration, cultural exchanges, and showcasing the best of each other's destinations, India and Arab countries can tap into this tourism potential, boosting economic growth, fostering mutual understanding, and creating unforgettable experiences for travelers from both regions



West Asia had the fifth highest percentage share of tourist arrivals in India in 2021, signaling an opportunity for India to tap this market[23]. Most of these arrivals during that year were for medical purposes (61.1 %), while the remaining were for business (14 %), leisure (9.3 %) and other activities, such as mountaineering and sports. India provides a varied tourism experience across segments of wildlife, adventure and heritage, and there is potential for further developing them[24].

Much like how India promotes itself as a tourism destination in other countries, the Arab countries can also look at more opportunities to promote their tourism activities at industry events in India. For instance, Saudi Arabia is encouraging inbound travel from India. Saudi Arabia expects over two million visitors from India in 2023. The Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) announced earlier this year that it plans to participate at important trade events to increase awareness about the country as a tourism destination[25]. In February, it announced its partnership with the Indian Premier League, a men's T20 cricket league, through which the country plans to tap the fanbase between the two countries and encourage awareness of Saudi Arabia as a leading destination for Indian travelers[26].

MINISTRY OF TOURISM HAS TAKEN SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO GIVE BOOST TO THE TOURISM SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY:



24x7 toll free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline.



Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e., e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for nationals of 166 countries.



E-Visa has been further liberalised and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.



New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.



Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of USD 12.09(INR 1,001) to USD 90.69 (INR 7,500)/night to 12%; those above USD 90.69 (INR 7,501)to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.



Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has declared "Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023".

The G20 Tourism Working Group offers an opportunity to Arab countries to promote their tourism sectors by leveraging their strategic relationship with India. Greater promotional activities could witness more footfall from India for religious tourism, leisure, adventure and meeetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) in the Arab region[27].

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

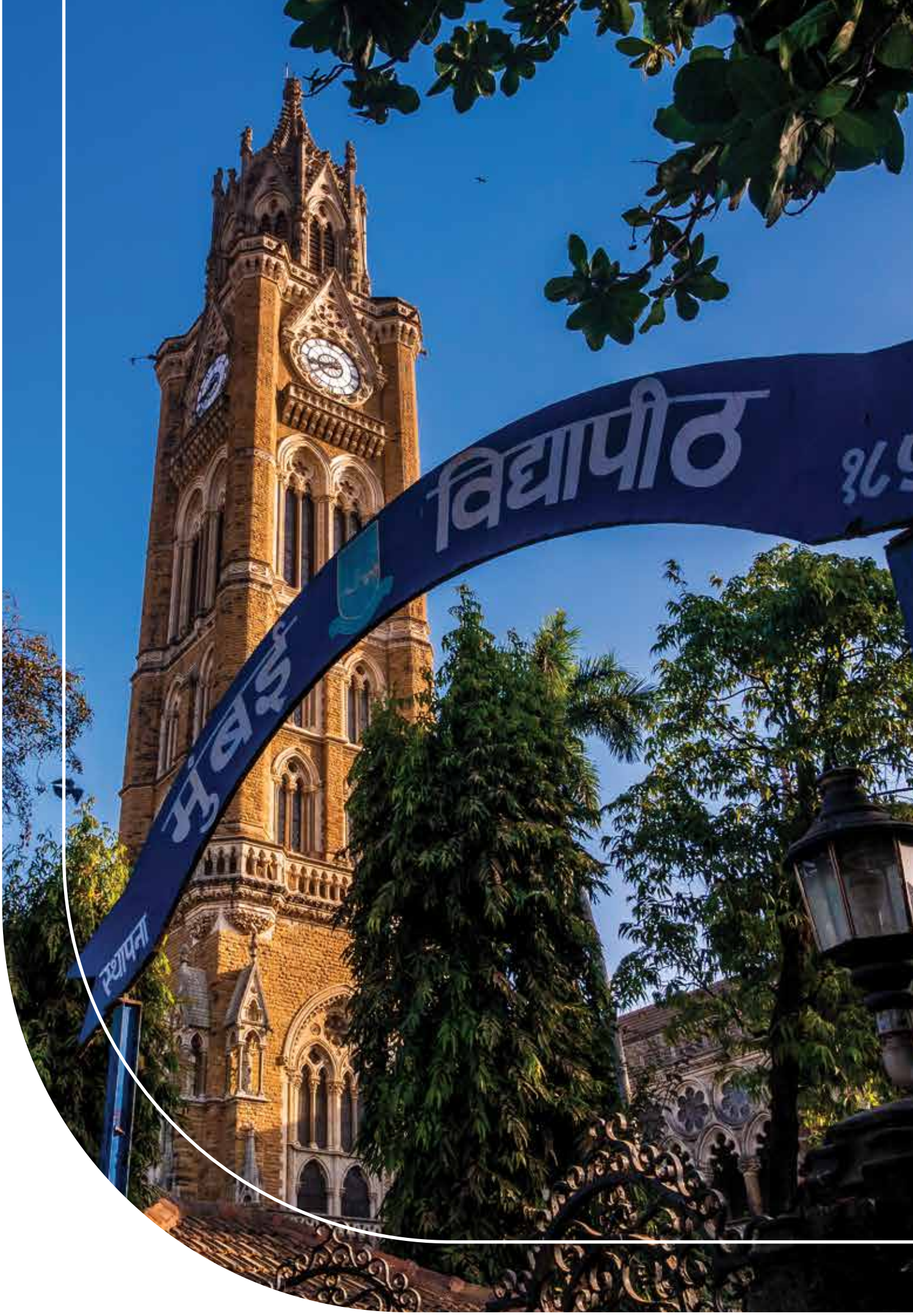
- Collaborations and cultural exchanges to increase tourism footfall
- Use the G20 Tourism Working Group to promote tourism sectors



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

- Engage in more industry events in India to promote tourism activities
- Local partnerships such as IPL to boost tourism in country
- Use G20 Tourism Working Group to promote tourism sectors




विद्यापीठ
मुंबई
स्थापना

EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

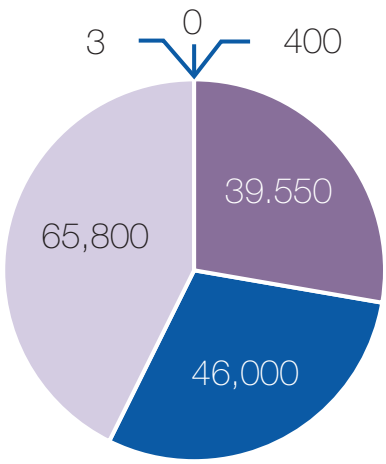


EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT



There is immense potential for collaboration in education and skill development between India and Arab countries, offering opportunities for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and academic partnerships. India's strong education system, renowned for its technical expertise and diverse range of disciplines, can provide valuable learning opportunities for students from Arab countries. Likewise, Arab countries can offer Indian students exposure to their rich cultural heritage, as well as the opportunity to enhance their knowledge at sophisticated institutions of higher learning in the region. Collaborative initiatives can include student and faculty exchanges, joint research programs, and vocational training partnerships, enabling the transfer of knowledge and skills between the two regions. Such collaborations can contribute to the development of a skilled workforce, foster cultural understanding, and pave the way for future collaborations in various sectors, ultimately leading to the mutual growth and progress of both India and Arab countries.

INDIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD IN 2022



•Egypt •Oman •Qatar •Saudi Arabia •Sudan •United Arab Emirates

Source: Ministry of External Affairs (Governmentt of India)

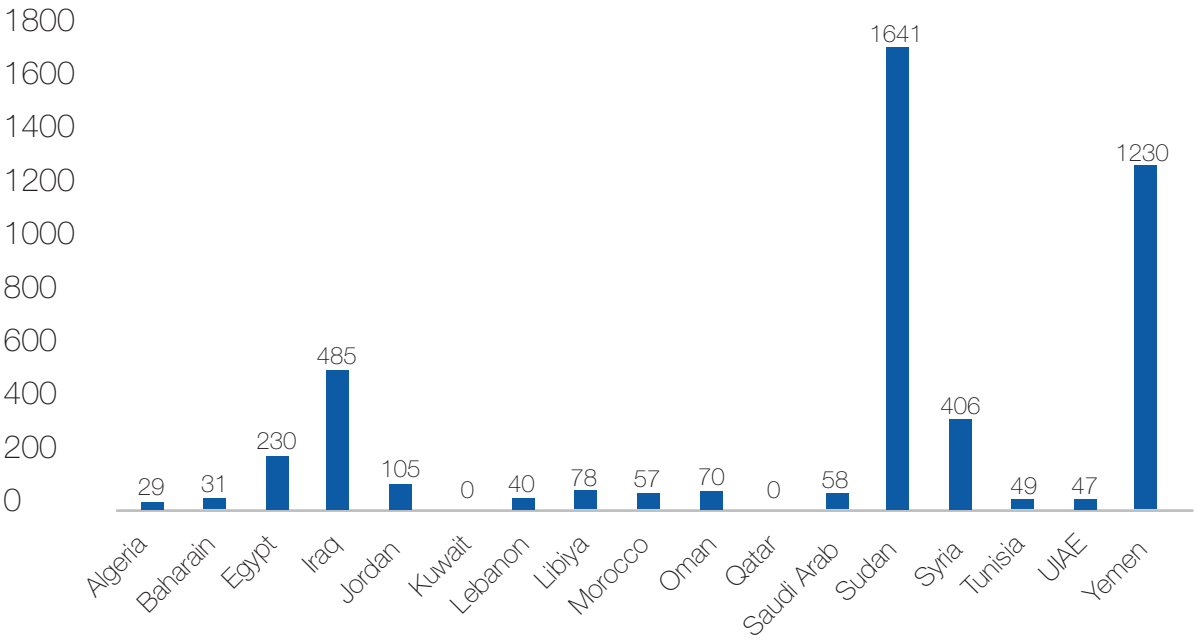
With a need to enhance the development of the knowledge-based economy, and the consequent development of highly skilled workers in both India and the Arab countries, the education sector is another area that can be primed from enhanced collaboration

INDIA SCHOOLS THAT HAVE PRESENCE IN ARAB COUNTRIES

There are about 108 Indian schools in the UAE, serving about 200,000 kids from expatriate Indian families. India intends to establish world-class institutes similar to the Indian Institutes of Technology in the Arab region to assist and stimulate technological advancement[28].

Higher education institutions in the Arab countries that want to open campuses in India will benefit from a similar initiative that has been in the works for some time by the Indian Government to bring top foreign universities from all over the world. This will support a mutually beneficial partnership in the education sector.

ARAB REGION STUDENTS STUDYING IN INDIA IN 2022



Source: Ministry of External Affairs (Government of India)

There are significant opportunities for Indian students to study in universities in Arab countries, offering them a unique academic and cultural experience. Arab countries have a growing number of prestigious universities and educational institutions that provide a diverse range of programs in various fields, including cutting edge fields of science and technology. Moreover, many universities in Arab countries offer scholarships and financial aid to international students, making education more accessible and affordable. The exposure to different perspectives, global networking opportunities, and the chance to explore career prospects in the Arab region are additional advantages for Indian students studying in Arab universities. Overall, pursuing higher education in Arab countries presents Indian students with a valuable opportunity to broaden their horizons, gain an international perspective, and develop the skills necessary for a successful global career.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO ARAB STUDENTS UNDER 'STUDY IN INDIA' PROGRAM.

The main goal of the "Study in India" campaign is to attract foreign students by positioning India as a desirable international education destination. According to the current framework, 10-15% more seats in Indian Universities are available for international students[29].

OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA THROUGH THIS PROGRAM

1. Improving the relationship between the countries
2. Boost the number of inbound international students in India.
3. Double India's market share of global education exports from less than 1 percent to 1-2 percent.
4. Increase in contribution of international student in the form of direct spends, indirect spends, spillover effects.
5. Improvement in overall quality of higher education.
6. Increase in global ranking of India as educational destination.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs

An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the Ministry of Education of the Government of the United Arab Emirates with the objective of strengthening ongoing educational collaboration between India and the UAE and widen the scope of engagements.

India announced 200 scholarships for Syrian students under Phase III of the Study in India program in the 2022-23 academic year. Through this program a total of 1,000 Syrian students have benefitted from the first two phases of the scholarship scheme.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN WORK FORCE FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

India is a significant source of human capital for the six GCC countries due to the presence of around 9 million Indian nationals in the Gulf area. Arab countries are increasingly looking for people with specialised, credentialed skills as they climb the technological ladder.

By empaneling reputable manpower companies and giving verifiable information about the employers, India's e-migrate platform, which aims to create a regulated pathway for the migration of blue-collar workers, secures a model contract that offers some level of protection for workers' rights.

The migration of blue-collar workers from India would be facilitated by the integration of the e-migrate platform with the labour portals of nations like the UAE and Saudi Arabia

MoU signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Emirates Driving Academy to provide skilled drivers from India.

NSDC has worked with the MoHRE and Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (ADQCC) to match the competencies of 13 UAE qualifications.

Their technical teams have conducted several meetings and work-shops to finalise the benchmarking, including assessment protocols. benchmarking, including assessment protocols.

CASE STUDY

COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAQ GOVT TO TRAIN OFFICIALS



India has been aiding Iraq under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program to train officials of the Government of Iraq. Iraqi officials participated in the online e-ITEC programs especially on COVID-19 pandemic management, Cyber Technologies, AI,and Emergent Technologies. India has also been offering opportunity to Iraqi students for higher studies in India under 'General Scholarship Scheme' (GSS) organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

[30] *Iraq_2015_07_02.pdf (mea.gov.in)*



INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

India has been improving its port, highway, and road infrastructure, which has created numerous investment prospects for corporates from the Arab region. This necessitates the management of large-scale projects, a specialty established through time by the Arab nations that might be applied in India. On the other side, India has an opportunity to increase its impact footprint in the Arab world through the development of large-scale projects like rail networks and port operation projects that would improve connectivity and facilitate trade.



UTILISATION OF INDIA'S RAILWAY BUILDING EXPERTISE IN ARAB REGION

India has been helping expand the rail networks of Arab countries, such as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. This includes helping build freight corridors, supplying locomotives and wagon spares. Now, the US is closely working with India to ensure that West Asia is more interconnected with India and the world.

India has one of the largest rail networks in the world, which is essential for long-distance travel and the transportation of bulk goods. Arab nations can benefit from India's experience in creating rail networks by enhancing connectivity and trade between themselves. Along with meeting India's energy needs, this might result in the expansion of its infrastructure in the area, such as assuring speedier transportation of crude oil via rail networks to shipping ports and lowering India's operational expenses. A more robust infrastructure would also help India's non-oil trade in the area and open up additional prospects for trade with other markets. This is possible by connecting Arab rail networks to Israel's Haifa port, from which Indian products can be shipped to foreign markets. Additionally, this will also strengthen India's reputation as a leader in the construction of rail infrastructure, which might attract more projects in the area.

EMERGING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN NIIF

As part of India's enhanced partnership with the UAE, infrastructure development in both countries is a priority area. The opportunities to invest in India's infrastructure are enormous with both countries looking at facilitating and expanding the partnership of UAE's investment entities in infrastructure projects and institutions in India, like the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has already signed an investment agreement of USD 1 billion with NIIF[31]. DP World and NIIF partnership, formed through the creation of Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL) in 2018, has made significant investments in rail logistics, multi-modal logistics parks, container freight stations, economic zones, cold chain infrastructure and contract logistics to create a market leading integrated logistics platform[32].

The National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM GatiShakti, and National Infrastructure Corridor, which contain numerous greenfield and brownfield projects, offer numerous prospects for investment.

> ."The broadening of our partnership with NIIF to include our flagship India ports platform is a natural extension of our existing relationship and aligns both parties to focus on delivering end-to-end supply chain solutions. Since the beginning of this partnership with NIIF, we have made significant progress in building an inland logistics infrastructure network of great scale that complements our container ports platform. Notably, the opportunity landscape in India remains significant and this transaction will allow us to accelerate investment across ports and logistics to drive returns for our respective stakeholders."
>
> **Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem,** Group Chairman and CEO, DP World while announcing the extension of partnership between NIIF and DP World



INDIA ASSISTING IN THE BUILDING IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES

Several infrastructure projects aimed at boosting the economies of the Arab countries are currently in the works. Huge-scale EPC projects, such as offshore hydrocarbon projects, oil fields, and power transmission lines, are among the huge EPC projects that Indian construction firms like L&T and Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry have been involved in building. These projects also include building urban infrastructure like residential and commercial complexes, hotels, schools and hospitals, for developing economies in the region, such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia. A key opportunity going forward for Indian companies is to engage in more collaborations with these developing countries to further build critical infrastructure. India and the UAE are already working together to facilitate the participation of Indian companies in infrastructure development in the latter.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCUTRE PROJECTS IN THE ARAB REGION WHERE INDIAN EXPERTISE CAN BE USED:

Red Sea Project:
Saudi Arabia's new tourism hub that is being developed on its western coast. It will have about 50 hotels, 1,000 residential properties and an international airport

Lusail City:
It is a sustainable city developed as part of Qatar 2030, the national vision for 2030. The city, which is expected to be one of the largest cities in the Arab region, will comprise of infrastructure for commercial, residential and leisure



CASE STUDY

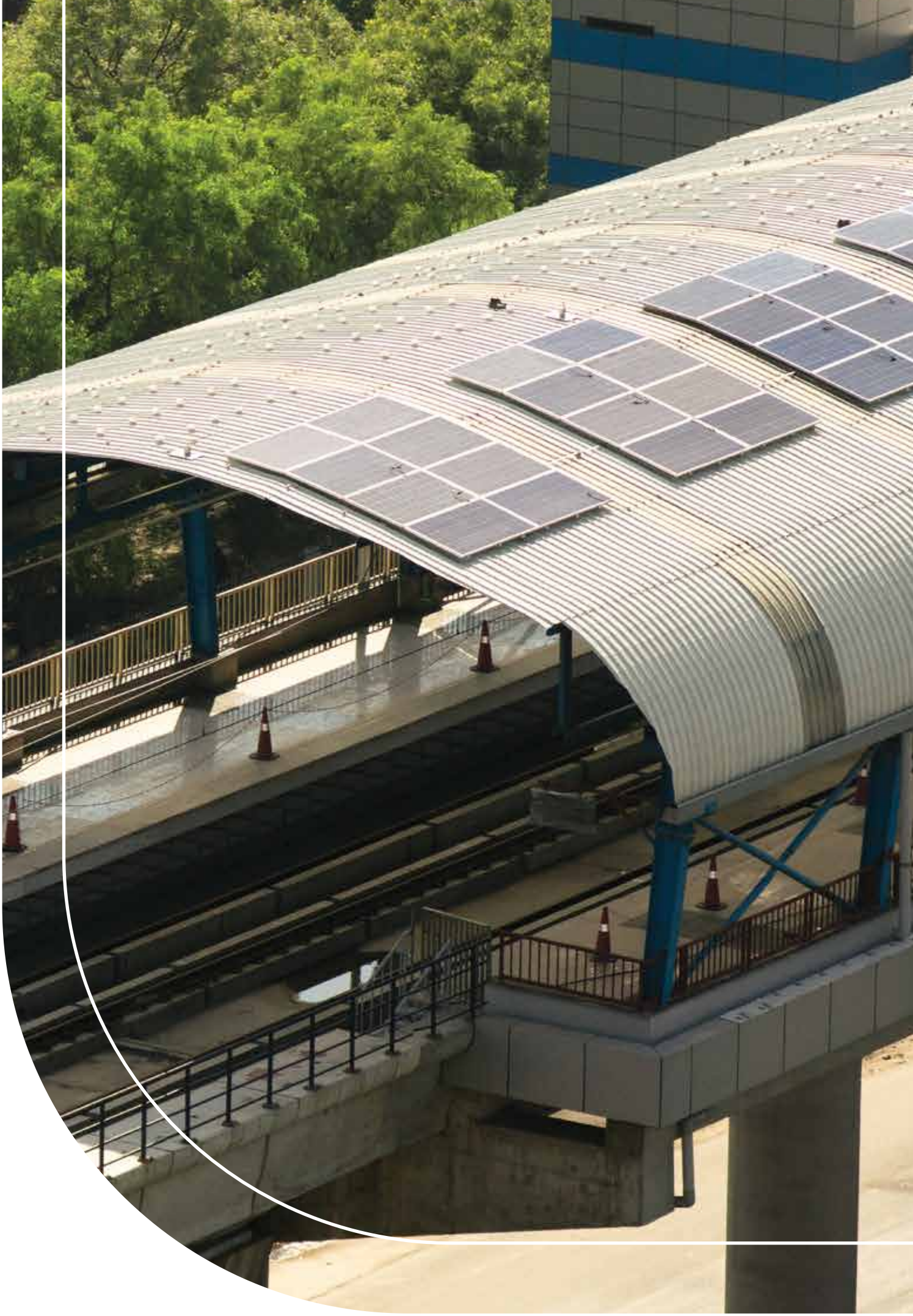
L&T PROJECTS IN THE ARAB REGION



One of India's top engineering conglomerates, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has been undertaking the engineering, design and construction of over 400 km of 380kV transmission lines and a substation in Saudi Arabia. The contract, which ranges from USD 121.4 million to USD 303.6 million, is aimed at providing efficient electricity supply to Saudi Arabia. L&T is also engaged in constructing new infrastructure and upgrading multiple production deck modules at Saudi Aramco's Zuluf oilfield. L&T in April 2023 also secured an order to supply, construct and commission a 132kV substation in the UAE.

[33] *L&T projects in Arab region*





SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

A number of Arab nations are dealing with serious climate issues, and the rising need for desalinated water and cooling has important long-term ramifications. As a result, there are now more attempts being made to deploy renewable energy, and the region consistently receives some of the lowest bids worldwide for solar PV projects. Future energy market changes that might reduce the need for oil present a significant opportunity, especially for nations that export fuel. India's government can work with the Arab world to develop low-carbon energy sectors and try to diversify their energy mix.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN SOLAR INDUSTRY IN ARAB COUNTRIES

- The Arab region's renewable energy potential is high, particularly for wind and solar projects. Most Arab countries are part of the SunBelt[34], and benefit from solar insolation levels that are among the highest in the world (as high as 6.5 kWh/m^2 per day). This shows that despite favourable natural conditions for renewable energy development, there is much room for progress in utilising these resources[35].
- Further, India is leading the way for sustainable energy and has initiated coalitions such as the International Solar Alliance, to bring clean and affordable energy within reach of all and both Egypt and Saudi Arabia are part of it.
- There are opportunities for Indian companies to export solar products including solar panels, solar inverters, batteries, solar mounting structures, and other solar components.
- Collaborate in solar project development by offering EPC, project management, system design, and installation services.
- The Indian government actively encourages solar exports and partnerships with Arab nations through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). In addition to participating in regional renewable energy shows and conferences, it organises business-to-business connections and trade missions.
- Support in training and capacity building where research institutions and training centers, collaborate with Arab counterparts to provide training programs and capacity-building initiatives in solar energy.

INITIATIVES BY ARAB REGION IN SUSTAINABILITY

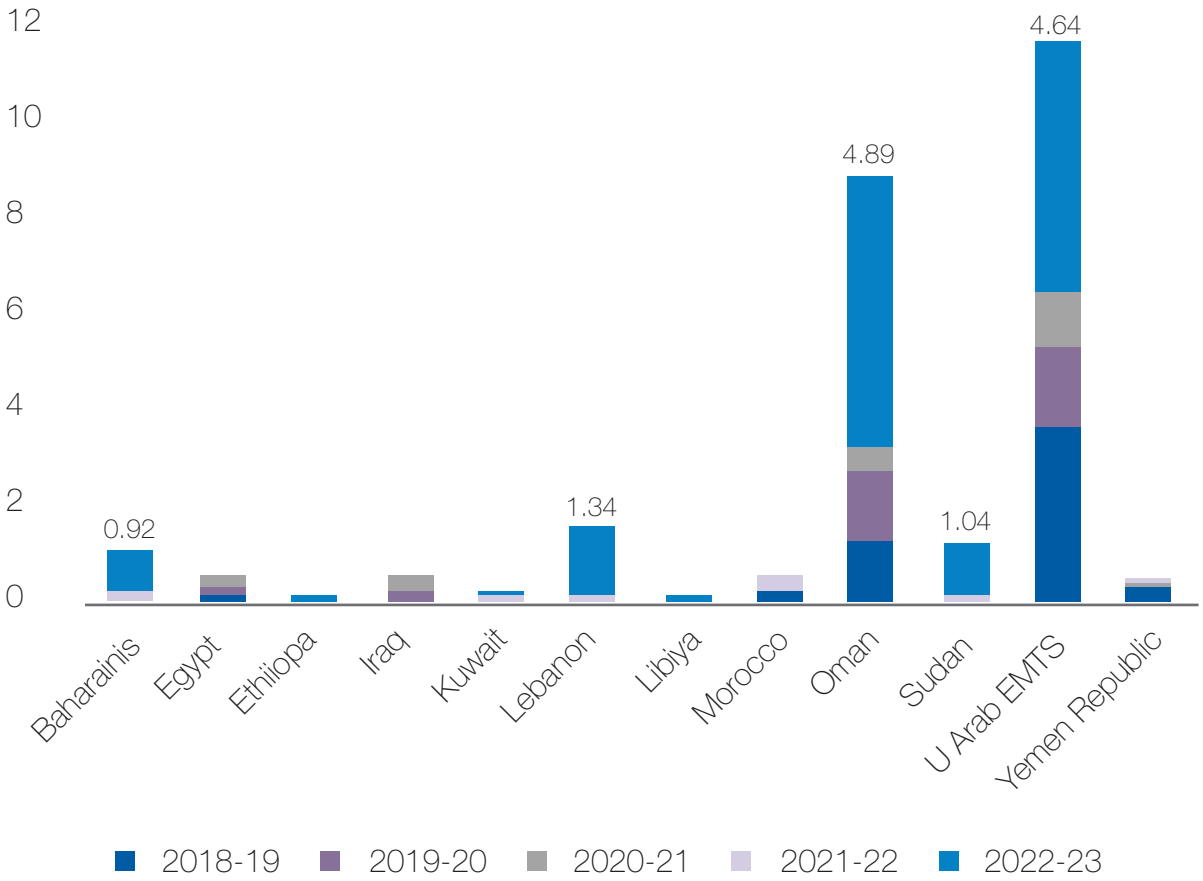
Morocco initially set a target to produce 42% of its installed power capacity through renewables by 2020, subsequently raising this to 52% by 2030.

Egypt extended the timeline for its 20% renewables target by two years, until 2022. It remains a key market, with plans to develop 10 GW of wind and solar projects by that year.

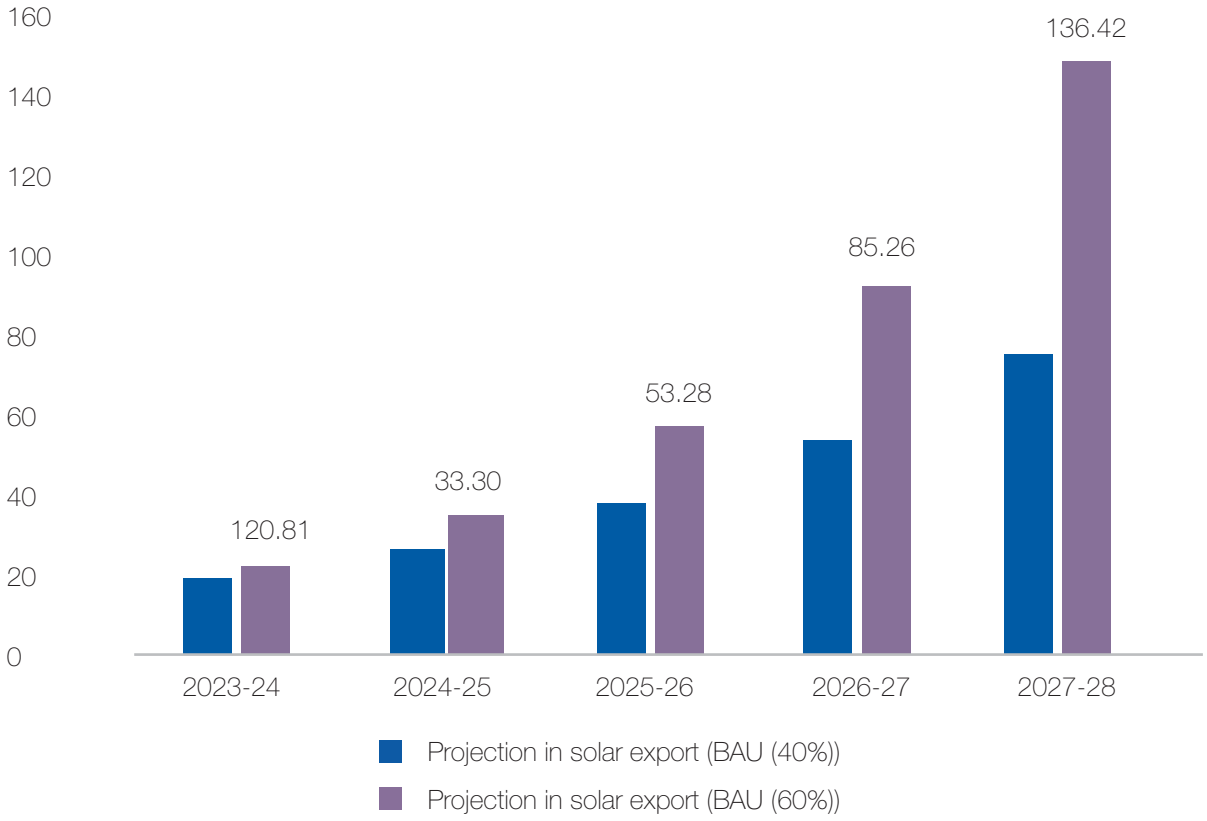
Algeria revised in 2015 stepped up a 6% target to 27% of electricity generation by 2030.

Tunisia plans to source a third of its electricity generation from renewables

EXPORT OF SOLAR CELLS(UNASSEMBLED) FROM INDIA TO ARAB REGION (IN USD MILLION)



PROJECTION IN EXPORT (SOLAR CELLS) (IN USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry(Government of India)

In the Arab region, India exported unassembled solar cells worth USD13.01 million in 2022. Further based on our projections with a BAU scenario of 40% Y-o-Y growth, India can export nearly USD69.97 million solar cells to the Arab region in 2027-28. While in a high growth scenario of 60% Y-o-Y growth, India will export approximately USD136.41 million unassembled solar cells in 2027-28.



EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN SUSTAINAIBILITY

Investors from the Arab world have a significant opportunity to invest in a high growth market thanks to the Indian government's persistent focus on supporting sustainable development across industries.

India's transition to EVs in the past couple of years has been exponential, especially in the 2W and 3W category. In the coming years, this growth will be mirrored by 4W and other categories too and provides an opportunity for investments in EV manufacturing, charging infrastructure, battery technologies, and related services to increase dramatically.

India has committed to 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030[36]. This presents a sizable investment opportunity for solar, wind, biomass, and hydroelectric power projects. Project development, equipment manufacture, project financing, and operation and maintenance services are all areas with opportunity.

India is a good place to invest in hydrogen as it works to diversify its energy mix and cut carbon emissions[37]. The Indian government has outlined plans and regulations to encourage hydrogen production, infrastructure development, and use as a key enabler of the energy transformation.

CASE STUDY

ACME GROUP STARTED WORK ON GREEN HYDROGEN AND AMMONIA PLANT IN OMAN



- ACME Group, India started work on its 1.1 million tonne per annum green hydrogen and ammonia plant in Oman.
- The company is investing USD650 million (INR 5,200 crore) in setting up the first phase of the 300-tonne-a-day plant in Oman and has tied up with the Norway-based firm Scatec, which has taken 50% equity in the project.
- The total investments planned in Oman for the two-phased development is around USD5-6 billion (INR 40,000-48,000 crores).

[38] *Iraq_2015_07_02.pdf (mea.gov.in)*


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DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY



DIGITALISATION AND TECHNOLOGY

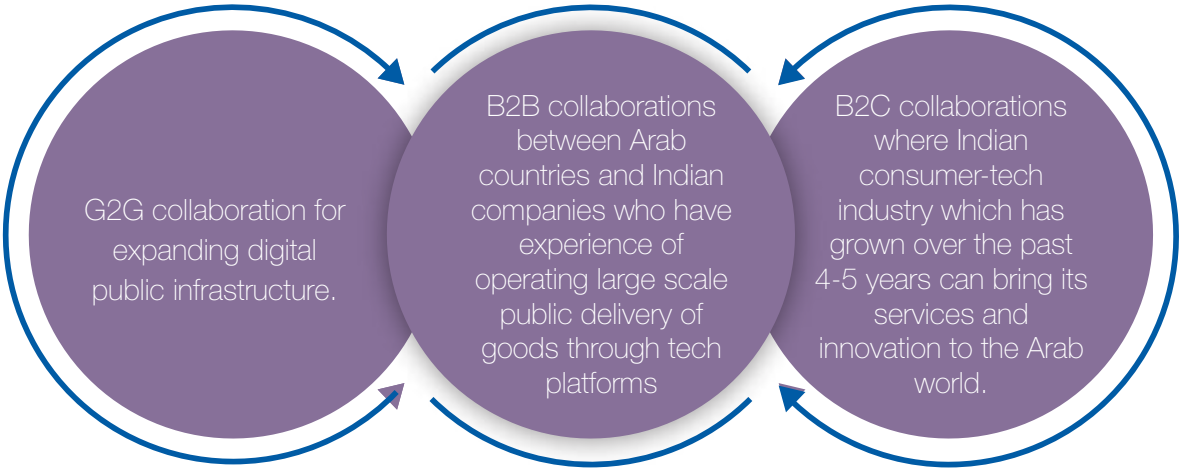
The 'Digital India' programme in India is significantly advancing the development of the nation's digital industry, which is experiencing rapid expansion. The digital economy is expected to contribute about 20% of India GDP by 2025-26[39]. The creation of open digital platforms is one of the ways the Indian government intends to further improve economic growth. Favourable demographics, the massive growth of the middle class, and digital behaviour patterns are the main drivers of India's growth story for digital public infrastructure. Arab nations can work with India to create Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for their populations by utilising the lessons learned from India.

DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The Arab region has the potential for additional economic digitisation and change, which India may aid in fostering, given its comparatively large population of technologically savvy individuals. Several of these nations, including Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have created policies to promote digitisation, including growing ICT, e-services, smart technologies, improving government IT skills, and transforming into digital societies.

This digital transformation opens the demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud, cybersecurity, data analytics and other digital technologies. Indian IT companies with the experience of delivering large scale citizen centric services can help in developing the region's-DPIs. Additionally, there are numerous opportunities for Indian enterprises to contribute to the growth of ICT innovation and supply in these nations in order to close the gap between consumer adoption and digitisation among businesses and governments.

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA AND ARAB REGION



UPI FOR THE WORLD

UPI, which was created in India, has somewhat revolutionised the world of digital payments. More and more nations have expressed interest in implementing the technology to increase their use of digital payments.

India and Singapore on February, 2023 witnessed the launch of cross-border connectivity between the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Singapore's PayNow.

The BHIM UPI QR code has gained acceptance in UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal and Bhutan, ensuring that Indian travelers can make payments using the platform for all retail purchases at international merchant establishments.

Source: UPI for the world

India, on the other hand, has developed a unique and cogent digital story to tell that has captured the attention of many nations globally. Its recent successes in creating digitally enabled identities and building digital payments, like United Payments Interface (UPI, in a rapid cost-effective manner for a large population, can be leveraged by Arab nations. This, in turn, would lead to applying India's technological capabilities across regions.

GROWING IT EXPORTS FROM INDIA

The development of software technology parks, special economic zones (SEZ), the ecosystem for entrepreneurship, and software product development are only a few of the measures the Indian government has made to improve the country's export of IT and IT-enabled services. It gives India the opportunity to share e-governance efforts and increase its export of software, hardware, and and ITeS. Due to India's USP, which comprises of cost-effectiveness, high reliability & quality, quick deliveries, and the usage of cutting-edge technology, the region stands to gain tremendously from this.

Furthermore, Indian IT companies, such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), are becoming top employers in the Arab region with an aim to build a diverse workforce and generate the next generation of technology talent there[40]. The region's focus on expanding its digitisation and a growing tech-savvy population allows Indian companies to recruit and train a talented workforce.



INDIAN GOVERNMENT STEPS TO INCREASE IT EXPORTS:



LEVERAGING E-COMMERCE FOR GROWTH

India's e-commerce sector has experienced rapid expansion in recent years. The sector is projected to reach USD 350 billion by 2030. The Indian government is looking forward to promoting cross-border trade through e-commerce. The latest Foreign Trade Policy 2023 has increased the cap for e-commerce exports through courier from USD 6042 (INR 5,00,000) to USD 12,085(INR 10,00,000). The government has also outlined the roadmap for establishing 'E-commerce Export Hubs' (ECEH), to facilitate cross-border trade-related activities such as payment reconciliation, returns policy, and export entitlements.

These government initiatives and the growing e-commerce market in the Arab region offers vast potential opportunities for Indian players in this sector. Similarities between the Indian and Arab region markets, such as the popularity of cash-on-delivery and the demand for Indian goods from the presence of the Indian diaspora, are reasons why Indian brands can expand their footprint in the region.

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

TCS has built a major presence in the Arab region with customers in sectors such as banking, retail, telecom, government, tourism, aviation, and manufacturing. TCS is using its domain knowledge across industries and state-of-the-art digital technologies to help customers digitally transform and grow their businesses. TCS has also launched All-Women Centre to train and develop professional capabilities in Saudi women in IoT services.

It works with several leading companies in the Arab region to support the adoption of advanced technologies and deliver value to industries. The TCS Innovation Ecosystem is being used by customers to create new products and services. The company has established a Customer Experience Center in Saudi Arabia and partnerships with top universities in region, including the UAE University, to facilitate these engagements.

[41] *https://www.tcs.com/who-we-*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

- Share e-governance efforts and increase its export of software, hardware, and ITeS.
- Promote cross-border trade through e-commerce.
- Opportunity for Indian brands to expand their presence, owing to the popularity of cash-on-delivery and the demand for Indian goods from the presence of the Indian diaspora.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES

- Create their own Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for their population.
- India can contribute to the growth of ICT innovation to close the gap between consumer adoption and digitisation among businesses and governments.





MANUFACTURING AND RETAIL



MANUFACTURING AND RETAIL

One of the most significant engines of long-term economic growth in the Arab region is the retail sector. While the region has struggled recently as a result of changes in the price of oil. The retail sector is also expected to develop due to the country's growing population, high GDP per capita, and booming tourism industry. Additionally, nations like the UAE and Saudi Arabia opened the sector to 100 percent FDI in order to draw regional and international brands to the retail sector and to increase investment in manufacturing & retail[42].

01	02	03	04
In 2022 Lulu Group International invested INR 300 crore in Gujarat to set up India's biggest retail mall in Ahmedabad.	It is the third retail mall, after Kochi and Lucknow.	Provided direct job employment direct employment to 6,000 people and indirect employment to over 12,000 in India.	The investment in India has been due to financial incentives in form of lower upfront capital expenditure requirements and indirect subsidies like tax breaks.





By exporting a wide variety of consumer items, such as clothing, textiles, home furnishings, handicrafts, jewellery, cosmetics, and traditional Indian handicrafts, Indian companies can meet the different consumer needs of the Arab market. Putting a focus on the distinctive features of Indian culture and workmanship will provide a competitive edge.

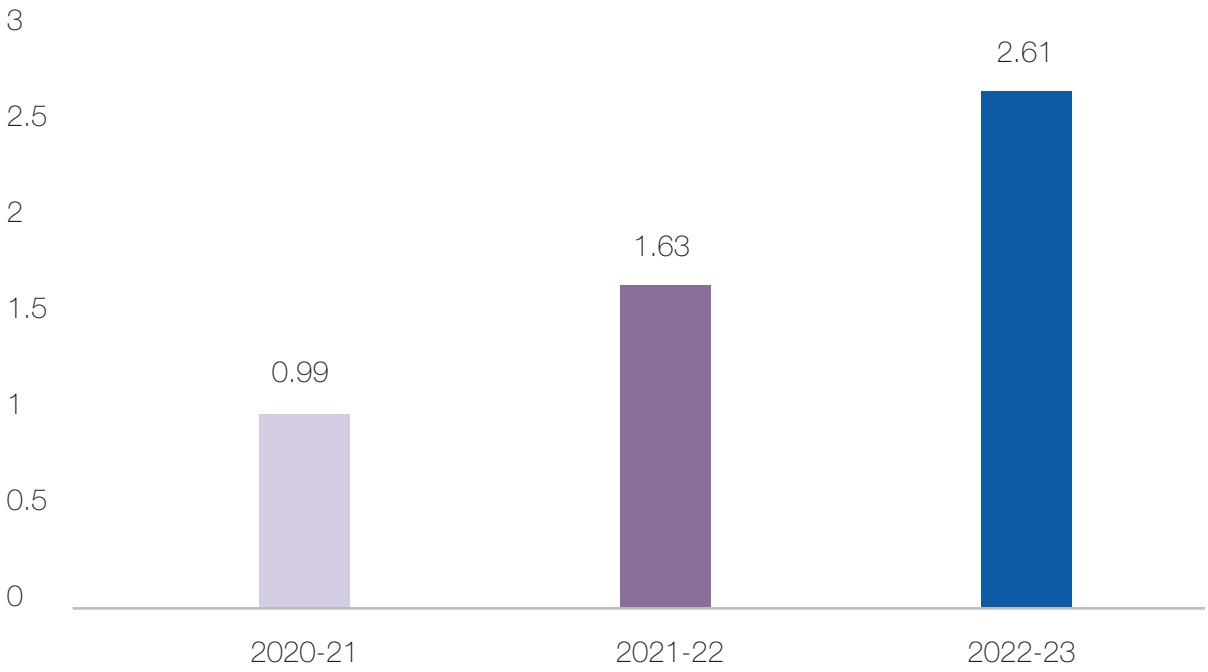


India is one of the world's top producers of agro-products. Imports of agricultural and food products are common in Arab nations. In order to meet the tastes of the Arab market, Indian firms can look into export potential for goods like millets, rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, processed meals, and dairy products.



One of the distinguishing features of the "Make in India" initiative is the mobile manufacturing eco-system that has grown in the nation over the past five years. Indian manufacturers have a great opportunity to the export of mobile phones to the Arab world. In the next five years[43], mobile phone exports to the region might increase from their current $2.61 billion level to approximately USD 10 billion[44].

EXPORT OF MOBILE PHONES, SMARTPHONES AND PORTABLE ELECTRONIC GOODS FROM INDIA TO ARAB REGION (USD BILLION)



PROJECTED GROWTH OF EXPORT(MOBILE PHONES, SMARTPHONES AND PORTABLE ELECTRONICS) TO ARAB REGION (USD BILLION)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry(Government of India)

B2B FASHION MANUFACTURING COMPANY FASHINZA EXPANDS IN THE GULF REGION

- Digital B2B fashion manufacturing company Fashinza announced its global expansion program for the Middle East in 2021.
- Fashinza's team had identified several potentially high-growth markets and planned to add leadership teams of 15-20 members in the Gulf countries.
- The effort will cater to GCC markets with a focus on UAE

[45]*https://www.indianweb2.com/2021/10/b2b-apparel-manufacturing-firm-fashinza.html*




STARTUP
BUSINESS
INVESTMENT
IDEAS
STRATEGY

STARTUP ECOSYSTEM



STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

A key area of possible cooperation between India and the Arab countries is to take advantage of the rapid growth of startups in the region. India currently has over 99,000 startups, including four out of 46 companies globally that have achieved the decacorn status while over 100 unicorns are currently present in the country.

INVESTMENT OPPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA'S STARTUPS

TOP FUNDS FROM ARAB REGION THAT MADE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN INDIA:

1. Qatar Investment Authority invested in Swiggy, Rebel Foods, Flipkart, VerSe Innovation
2. Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company, an investment vehicle for Abu Dhabi government pumped funds into Byju's, Spinny, Deal Share, and MobiKwik
3. Jabbar Internet Group, a leading investor in the region, invested in Ola and Arzooo
4. Investors have put their money into other upcoming entities such as Tea Box, Healthify Me, Zoom car, Medtrail, Magicpin, Lets Transport, and Khatabook

In the upcoming years, India is likely to see tremendous growth in new-age start-ups in industries including ag-tech, drones, health tech, fintech, e-commerce, and AI.

There are significant investment opportunities for Arab countries in Indian startups, which have emerged as a hotbed for innovation and entrepreneurship. India's startup ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth, fueled by a supportive regulatory environment, a large pool of talented entrepreneurs, and access to a vast consumer market.

Arab countries can tap into this thriving ecosystem by investing in Indian startups across various sectors such as technology, e-commerce, healthcare, fintech, and renewable energy. These investments can provide Arab countries with strategic partnerships, access to cutting-edge technologies, and exposure to the rapidly evolving Indian market.

Additionally, investing in Indian startups offers the potential for high returns on investment as several Indian startups have achieved significant valuations and global recognition. By fostering investment collaborations, Arab countries can not only diversify their investment portfolios but also contribute to the growth and success of Indian startups while benefiting from the innovation and disruptive potential that they bring to the table.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN STARTUPS IN ARAB REGION

At the same time, countries are seeking partnerships to build their own tech-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem. Bahrain is playing a major role in enhancing such partnerships. The Bahrain Economic Development Board is planning to build strong linkages with the Indian startup ecosystem in financial services, technology, and ICT domains. It would invite firms from India to set up their operations in Bahrain. The UAE has also been aiming to diversify its business activity beyond the energy sector, and therefore its Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), a government entity, has been seeking more investments from Indian startups that are engaged in their priority areas, such as agritech, tourism, healthcare and financial services. This will expand the footprint of Indian startups and drive the growth of the economies in the Arab region.

Additionally, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also launched the Dubai Startup Hub, which attracts strong interest and participation from startups in India[46]. Abu Dhabi is keen on housing more Indian startups in its 'Hub71' ecosystem after having already met with some successes. Hub71 is designed as an ecosystem that can help startups across sectors in all their needs, including getting access to venture funding and finding the right talent[47]. Furthermore, Indian tech startup founders have been moving to Dubai under the UAE's "golden visa" program, which is a long-term residence visa for investors and entrepreneurs[48]. These initiatives make UAE a place where Indian startups can thrive.

In addition, the UAE-India CEPA is also unleashing the spirit of entrepreneurship that exists in both countries. The agreement is likely to inspire innovators and investors and catalyze SMEs, startups, and India Inc. alike to make decisive inroads into new markets.

INDIA'S UNICORN SECTORS THAT PRESENT HUGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENTS:



Healthcare: Startups that offer digital shifts in the sector with the use of better technology, and favorable government policies are facilitating their growth



Social Commerce: These startups are growing fast in India, grabbing attention



TOWARDS A VIBRANT FUTURE



TOWARDS A VIBRANT FUTURE



Trade ties between India and the Arab countries have witnessed significant growth and hold immense potential for further expansion. Both regions have benefited from their complementary strengths and economic synergies. India's strong manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce, and expertise in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and information technology have created opportunities for trade collaboration with Arab countries. On the other hand, the Arab countries' vast reserves of oil and gas, construction projects, and growing consumer market have provided avenues for Indian exports and investment.

India and the Arab countries strategic and economic ties are continuously evolving and are poised for rapid expansion due to a process of constant engagement, interaction, and cooperation. India's total bilateral trade with the Arab countries is over USD 212.55 billion and the region is home to 8 million Indians and caters to 70% of India's energy imports.

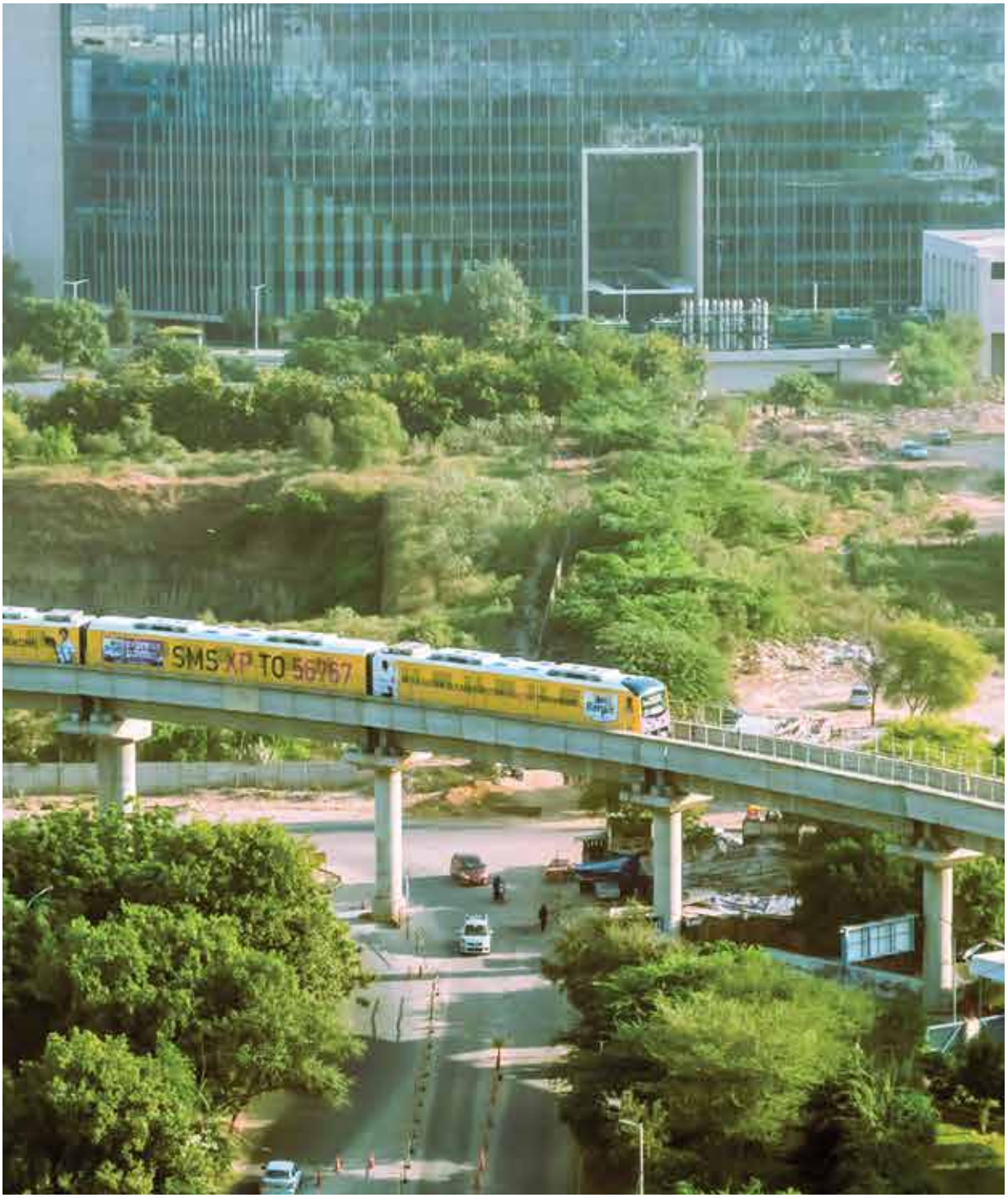
India and the Arab world share a strategic aim for the area to have political stability and security. Initiatives to promote peace, security, and stability are motivated by the shared political and security concerns of India and the Arab world. The Arab world is undergoing significant transitions, and the process of understanding and integration is maturing. Additionally, the scope of collaboration is expanding beyond trade, commerce, and human resource exchange and development. It is essential that efforts are made to improve the ties between the areas and move beyond the current trade and investment relations.

With India's growing role in world politics, it becomes important that the bilateral trade between the regions expands in knowledge sharing in pharmaceutical products, digital public goods, renewable energy uptake and food supply chain. Against this backdrop, it is imperative that both regions discuss and improve trade relations through consultative platforms, industry discussions and one-on-one government meetings.

The bilateral trade between India and Arab countries has been strengthened through various initiatives, including bilateral agreements, trade delegations, and investment collaborations. The exchange of goods and services has resulted in economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards in both regions. Moreover, cultural exchanges and people-to-people interactions have fostered a deeper

understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions and values.

To further enhance trade ties, it is crucial for both India and Arab countries to focus on reducing trade barriers, streamlining customs procedures, and enhancing transportation infrastructure. Additionally, promoting business partnerships, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing can unlock new opportunities for trade diversification and innovation. By capitalising on the strengths of both regions and nurturing a collaborative approach, India and Arab countries can build a stronger and more sustainable trade relationship that benefits their economies and contributes to the overall prosperity and development of the two regions.

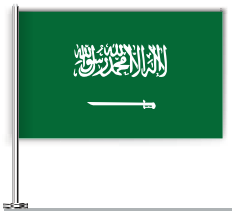




INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



SAUDI ARABIA

TOURISM & QUALITY OF LIFE SECTOR

- NEOM is a destination where investment is so impactful that it will shape the evolution of sustainable urban living across the world. NEOM offers a blank canvas with ESG principles as the foundation for everything Saudi does. They have multiple investment opportunities with a unique size and partnership model across several sectors.

- (NIO) is the representative body responsible for attracting capital, identifying business opportunities for private and public participation and delivering partnerships that will shape the Land of the Future. The NIO, communicates investment strategy to maximize impact and facilitates partnerships and investment to contribute to NEOM's development.

IMPACT AND FACILITATES PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEOM'S DEVELOPMENT.

ENERGY

- Saudi Arabia has announced plans to become the region's renewable energy hub by 2030, recognizing the importance of a diverse energy mix for its long-term economic prosperity. The Kingdom also aspires to become a major manufacturing hub, offering green energy investors attractive investment opportunities in a large and underdeveloped market

- Saudi Arabia's energy sector is the country's economic backbone, thanks to a large and well-established industrial base. The Kingdom's booming economy is set to drive exceptional demand across all market segments, coupled with a renewed focus on energy efficiency and sustainable growth. Vision 2030 sets the ambitious goal of meeting over 50% of the energy mix with renewable energy sources, boosting market demand for solar, wind, tidal, and other renewables through significant government backing and private sector investments.



CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

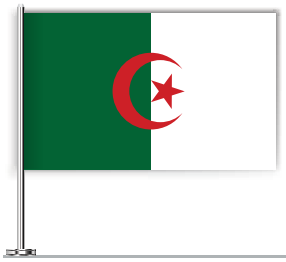
- Under Vision 2030, the Kingdom has ambitious plans to grow the sector even further and double its size by 2030, unlocking new opportunities for investors across the entire value chain. Chemical investors in Saudi Arabia enjoy a cost-competitive environment and a strong ecosystem that includes world-class universities, R&D centres, suppliers, infrastructure, and logistics. The Kingdom has the world's fifth largest chemical production market and accounts for 10% of total global output.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

- The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector plays a crucial role in driving growth, innovation, and economic diversification in the Kingdom. As a core component of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has set ambitious targets to become a modern and globally competitive ICT hub.

- This ambition envisages many investment areas, including the development of the digital content and media, the expansion of the telecommunication system, the digitization of the country, and the creation of new high-tech and smart industries. The government is working alongside the private sector to modernize the ICT infrastructure, enhancing the regulatory framework to enable new innovative investments, and building the most suitable ecosystem to support entrepreneurs and digital talents.





ALGERIA

CONSTRUCTION OF A PLANT FOR MANUFACTURING OF LABORATORY CONSUMABLE AND MEDICAL DEVICE

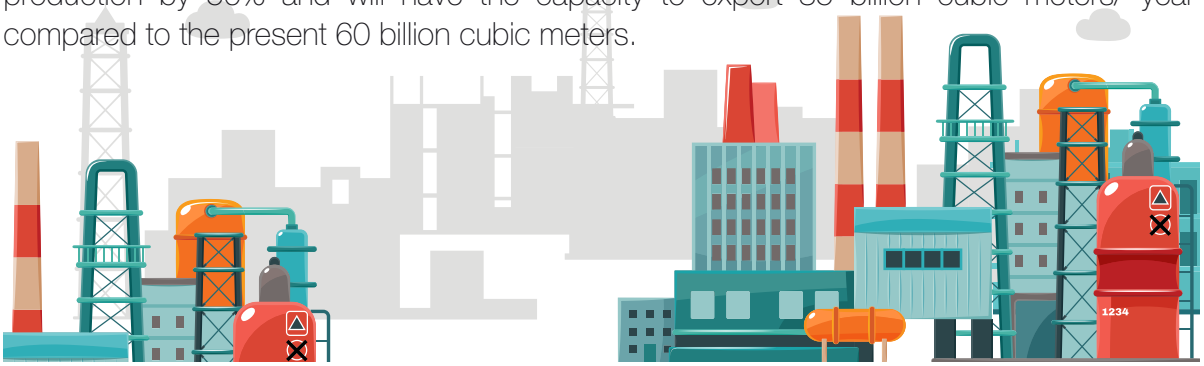
- A Private Investor is looking for a partner who owns industrial premises built on an area of 3,000M² with all utilities or a land of 4,000 M².
- The project consists in building a plant for the manufacture of various types of laboratory consumables and plastic medical devices.
    - Target Wilayas : Algiers, Blida, Boumerdes, Tipaza.
    - Available equipment: 3 production lines.
    - Developer's experience: 20 years
- Administrative steps carried out with:
    - the Algerian Agency for Investment Promotion "AAPI",
    - the State Investment Fund,
    - the Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry, and the Bank

FACILITATES PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEOM'S DEVELOPMENT.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS – HYDROCARBONS

- The hydrocarbons sector is dominated by state-owned hydrocarbons company Sonatrach. Crude oil extraction capacity is around 1.42 million barrels per day, though currently running at roughly 1.2 million due to OPEC quotas. One-sixth of the total oil output is consumed at home, with the rest exported as crude, LPG or refined oil products.

- Algeria is estimated to hold the third largest amount of shale gas resources in the world : 707 trillion ft3 and 5.7 billion bbls of technically recoverable shale gas and oil resources, respectively. The Algerian government is engaged in building two mega LNG plants, due for completion by 2015. When these projects come on stream, Algeria will increase its production by 50% and will have the capacity to export 85 billion cubic meters/ year compared to the present 60 billion cubic meters.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

- Since 2009, Algérie-Telecom, Algeria's state-owned phone company is developing a major 5-year USD 6 billion infrastructure development plan. Several key government ministries and public institutions have started the process of modernizing and digitizing their records, including the tax authority. These are large undertakings, requiring various consultative and solutions-based services. Government agencies are also providing increasing amounts of information on the Web and need web-based information management services.

- The e-Algeria 2013 Strategy is a Government program that aims to provide e-government and e- business solutions and nearly 300 on-line services for Internet users in Algeria.Indian companies can capitalize on the successful launch by an Indian launcher of the second Algerian satellite. The drafting of the cahier of charge of a USD 13 billion satellite network project aiming at answering the needs of ail the sectors of activity using satellite resources is in its final stages.

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LEBANON

TOURISM & QUALITY OF LIFE SECTOR

- Lebanon has access to 225 kms of Mediterranean coastline, its beaches and favourable summer weather make it a perfect destination for 'sun and beach" gateways. Lebanon hosts six ski resorts for skiers and snowboarders of all skill levels, as well as other winter sports options such as backcountry, cross-country and snowshoe trails. Visitors can also enjoy breath-taking hiking trails throughout the country all year round.

- Medical Tourism: Lebanon is renowned for its world-class health services and has always been considered the Middle East's top destination for medical tourism. New investment opportunities exist in wellness and alternative medicine, elderly care centers, rehabilitation centers and sports and health centers.

- Business and Convention Canters: Lebanon has only a handful of large exhibition centres, the majority of which are located within existing hotels. This offers ample opportunities for landmark flagship developments in Beirut and beyond the capital. Opportunities exist in large-scale as well as small and medium-sized centers.

IMPACT AND FACILITATES PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEOM'S DEVELOPMENT.



TECHNOLOGY

- Lebanon has witnessed a surge of high tech companies. These industries, characterized by high growth dynamics, are helping to create ample opportunities for pioneering and innovative companies in Lebanon.

- ICT Manufacturing: Opportunities are now emerging in the manufacturing and design of hardware components: Hardware sales are expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.3% over the 2016-2019 period.

- Medical Technologies: Lebanon's well developed medical and health infrastructure underlies the country's potential to offer services ranging from research to product and medical applications development:
  - In 2017, health expenditures accounted for 7% of Lebanon's GDP.
  - The medical devices market is forecasted to reach USD 339.4 million by 2019.
  - It has the highest ratio of doctors to population (35 per 10,000 people) in the region

- R&D potential: Lebanon enjoys a substantial scientific infrastructure and has the capacity to innovate and develop new products:
  - Scientific and technical journal articles increased at a rate of 77%from 2010 to 2016.
  - 12 higher education institutions that include science and/or technology faculties, and 6 research centers.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

- The ICT sector in Lebanon has witnessed considerable government attention and reform over the last decade, transforming it into one of the most prominent economic sectors today. Its positive growth outlook for the coming years will be fueled by investments in the telecommunications infrastructure, modernization initiatives by both the public and private sector, and improvements to the business environment, resulting in greater demand for ICT services.





BAHRAIN

BILAJ AL JAZAYER (TOURISTY CITY)

- The project, also referred to as the "Tourist City", is located in the southwest of the Kingdom and is one of the projects that will enhance the Kingdom's position on the global tourism map. The first phase includes public beaches and a walkway extending over 1.2 km, with key recreational, residential and tourism facilities being developed. The project will host the Avani Bilaj Al Jazayer Bahrain Resort and Tivoli Bilaj Al Jazayer Bahrain Resort. The project also won "The best project in the entertainment sector in Bahrain" Award, and was nominated for "the best project in the entertainment sector in the Arab region" Award.partnerships and tnt.

BAHRAIN METRO

- Establishing a metro network covering all areas in Bahrain with a length of 109 km, to be implemented in several phases. The first phase of the project will include the construction of two 29-km lines with 20 stops. The first line will connect Bahrain International Airport and Seef District, while the other will link the Juffair Area and the educational district in Isa Town. This project is led by Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

• ALUMINIUM DOWNSTREAM ZONE

The project aims to provide the necessary infrastructure to establish a downstream zone for the aluminium sector near the Aluminium Bahrain factory to attract local and foreign investment in the aluminium sector and develop exports in this dynamic sector. The area will have a size of 472,000 m2. This project is led by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.



- **HOUSING PROJECT**

  The "Sharaka" programme has been launched, which allows bidding on land rights to develop government lands by private developers. The programme will be expanded over the coming years to include more than 16,000 housing units. The move is in line with the government's commitment to strengthen its partnership with the private sector to provide quality houses for citizens.

- **SOUTH CITY**

  Located in the southern east coast of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The project is envisaged to be implemented over five phases, the first of which will encompass a 5 star hotel with an all-inclusive concept, theme park and an outlet mall. The shareholders include Edamah, the government's real estate investment arm as well as Kuwait Finance House.

- **KING HAMAD CAUSEWAY**

  The second bridge linking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Bahrain will consist of four lanes for vehicles and part of the railway. The project strengthens the strategic, political, economic and cultural ties between the two Kingdoms. It also aims to reduce traffic congestion and enhance the efficiency of transporting people and goods across the GCC, which will further boost regional economic growth.





UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IT/ AI

- As part of the UAE's efforts to establish a competitive knowledge economy, it has invested heavily in creating a world-leading regulatory framework for IT / AI ventures, as well as providing infrastructure to build the best possible tech-investment ecosystem for start-ups, SMEs, and multinational corporations.

- In 2017, the UAE released its Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, which sought to integrate technology into various industries in novel ways, whilst also ensuring that the government could provide tailored regulations to these emerging industries. As part of the Strategy, the UAE has established a number of regulatory 'sandboxes,' which have been developed for companies to test their products and businesses, while allowing regulators the opportunity to assess their legal regulatory framework in a controlled environment with relatively relaxed rules.

- With an impressive track record of both home-grown and international success in the fields of IT and AI, the opportunities are only increasing as the UAE and emirate-level authorities pursue technology-based visions.and tnt.

HEALTHCARE

- As the premise behind the UAE Vision 2021 is to create a successful knowledge-based economy, and there is no success without good health, part of the Vision aims to create a world-class healthcare system. Ongoing reforms currently being undertaken in the healthcare system are also in line with various emirate-level plans to develop improve healthcare.

- Supporting its technological ambitions, the UAE healthcare sector has witnessed a continuous inflow of medical tourists, with visitors seeking treatments ranging from major surgery to rehabilitation and cosmetic corrections. In 2020-2021, the Medical Tourism Index indicated that Dubai and Abu Dhabi were respectively ranked as the sixth and ninth best global destinations for medical tourism. Privatization of hospitals and mandatory medical insurance, especially in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, will continue to encourage spending and contribute to a more integrated health system.

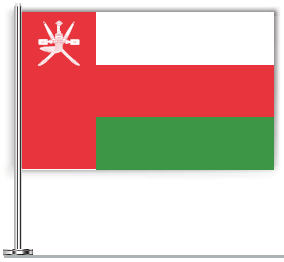
- The UAE already has an impressive track record with healthcare investment, having attracted the world-class Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, and education programs by NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) and John's Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Research and development (R&D) is a top government priority in the UAE, as it underpins the country's rapid growth. Various campaigns and efforts have recently been launched to support R&D in the UAE, such as the R&D Governance Policy announced in 2021, which resulted in the establishment of the Emirates Research and Development Council.

- The UAE's R&D scene is already well established, with important work being done through the Emirates Center for Happiness Research, The National Space Science and Technology Center, Khalifa Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, to name a few. In addition, R&D cooperation has expaned, with international joint centers such as the UAE-Korea Joint R&D Technical Center, a joint initiative between Khalifa University and the Korea Basic Science Institute (KBSI). The expansion of R&D international partnerships to boost capacity are set to remain a key focus for the UAE Government in the future.





OMAN

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Oman's circular economy ambitions aim to maximize value and eliminate waste by improving the design of locally-made materials, products, systems and business models. Transitioning to a low- carbon, circular economy will deliver significant economic, social and environmental benefits as well as present Oman with a variety of opportunities including.

- The design of long lasting, reusable and easily recyclable products. Decreased use of raw materials and non-renewable resources and increasing the use of renewable resources and recycled materials.

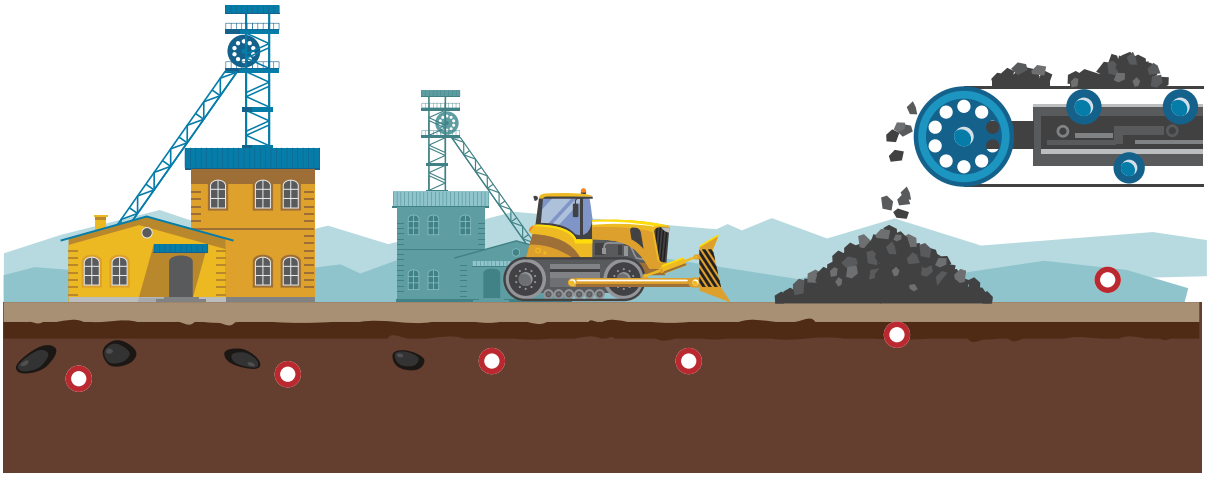
- A shift from "waste management" to "resource recovery" where everything has a value and zero waste goes to Omani landfills.tnt.

MINING

- Large-scale copper mining is set to start in Oman with the Al Hadeetha Resources project at Washihi-Mazzaza, which targets sales of 16mn MT per annum of copper ore and the eventual construction of a 1mn MT per annum copper concentration plant with an initial 10-year mine life.

- Mining production of 26mn MT in 2018 is set to rise to 147mn MT by 2023, More targeted and efficient mining through automation and digitalization.

- It is estimated that the mining sector will contribute US$779mn to GDP by 2030. Greater use of 3D modeling, AI and drones at the prospecting and exploration stage.



EDUCATION

- Education, will become an important driver of Oman's GDP growth with its current share of 4.9% projected to climb to 6.2% by the end of 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025). Growth in career-long reskilling of workers in response to the 4th Industrial Revolution, automation and digitization of the workplace

- Use of AI, machine-learning technologies, tutoring apps and video-assisted remote learning. Greater demand for hyper-personalized, blended and experiential learning.

- Deployment of virtual reality tools to enable experiential, scenario-based learning and workplace training. Greater emphasis on vocational training, internships and work-based learning.

TOURISM

- Boosting international tourism will play an important part in Oman's post-COVID-19 financial recovery plans. As part of Oman's National Tourism Strategy, create 500,000 jobs in the sector by 2040.

- Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran) will oversee a number of high-profile tourism projects including the integrated Yeti Sustainable Tourism City, a 1.5mn m2 waterfront complex, and the 5-star Alila Hinu Bay Hotel in Mirbat, Dhofar, with its 112 room, integrated leisure facilities and freehold villas. Naseem Hotel in Al Jabal Al Akhdar with its chalets and adventure theme park, and the freehold Hay Al Sharq tourism complex.

- Investments in Oman's tourism sector will be driven by joint ventures. Omran has partnered with Majid Al Futtaim to develop the US$12.9bn new mixed-use development Madinat Al Irfan or "City of the Future". The "Sharaka" programme has been launched, which allows bidding on land rights to develop government lands by private developers. The programme will be expanded over the coming years to include more than 16,000 housing units. The move is in line with the government's commitment to strengthen its partnership with the private sector to provide quality houses for citizens.





EGYPT

REAL ESTATE

- Real Estate In Egypt Is A Great Industry With Many Opportunities And With The Building Of The New Administrative Capital, Investments Are Flooding In This Field. Moreover, The Recent Rise In Business Park Developments Has Created Many Investment Opportunities In Commercial Real Estate. Some Of Those Business Park Projects Include Mivida Business

OIL AND GAS

- One Of Egypt's Most Vibrant Economic Sectors Is The Oil And Gas One. This Industry In Egypt Is Expected A CAGR Of About 8% Between 2019 And 2027. Hence, It's A Great Area Of Investment As Well.

AGRICULTURAL

- Egypt Was The Biggest Exporter Of Cotton In The Whole World Till 2018! Potatoes, Cotton, And Fresh Fruit, Particularly Citrus, Make Up Egypt's Main Agricultural Exports To Other Countries. Most Of Egypt's Exports Are Going To The Middle East, North Africa, The EU, And Russia.

TOURISM

- The Tourism Industry In Egypt Is One Of The Industries That Make Up Most Of The Country's Income, As It Accounts Around 12% Of The Growth Domestic Product (GDP). Due To Egypt's Great Civilization And Magnificent Monuments, Tourism Has Been A Great Sector To Invest In.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Due To Its Large Landmass, Favorable Climate, And Strong Winds, Egypt Is A Top Destination For Renewable Energy Projects.

- The Market For Equipment For Renewable Energy Sources Might Be Worth Billions Of Dollars. In Order To Meet Rising Demand And Transition To A More Ecologically Friendly And Diverse Electrical Sector, The Egyptian Government Is Aware Of The Need For A Sustainable Energy Mix. Hence, It's A Great Field To Invest In.



ANNEXURE: COUNTRY PROFILES



ANNEXURE: COUNTRY PROFILES



PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA (ALGERIA)

Algeria is the largest country in the African continent. It is the world's sixth largest exporter of natural gas and is among the global top 20 countries with the highest oil reserves in the world. The hydrocarbons sector accounted for more than 90% of the country's exports between 2016 to 2018. A strong recovery in hydrocarbon output helped its economy bounce back from a recession during the pandemic.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

Trade between India and Algeria has been trending upward. India's exports to Algeria increased by $ 44.62 million and imports from Algeria by $55.43 million in 2022-23. India's top imports from Algeria are oil, gas, phosphate, and lubricants. India's exports to Algeria include frozen meat, chickpea, milk, rice, spices, auto parts, pharma, cosmetics, mobiles, and agricultural and industrial machinery equipment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA AND ALGERIA

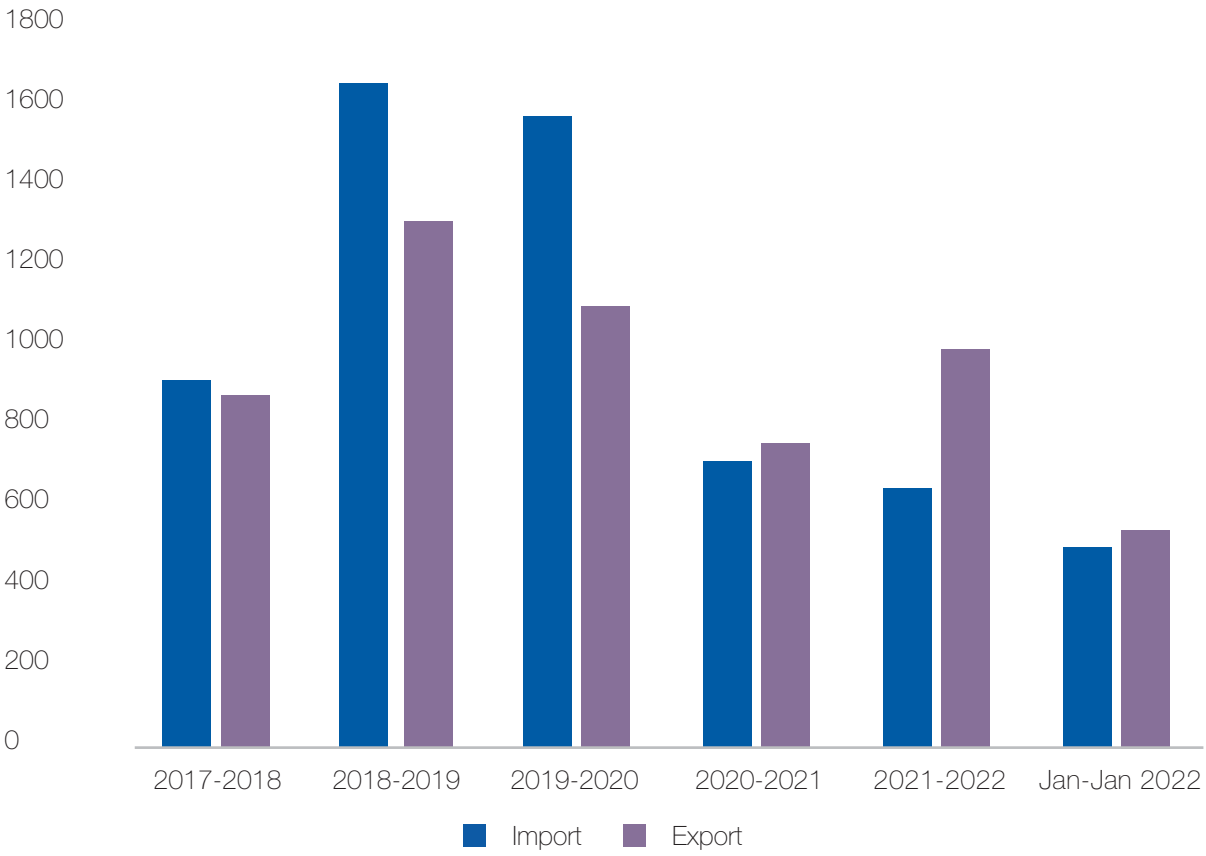
The country has a high, largely untapped, potential for tourism presenting an attractive opportunity for future growth. Other than tourism, some of the leading sectors with opportunities for foreign investors are agriculture, auto, chemicals, food processing, mining, oil and gas, pharma, renewable energy, and space. India and Algeria signed an agreement to cooperate closely in the fields of space, technology, and application in 2018.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND AIGERIA

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	ALGERIA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	535.8	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	163.04	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	3.5	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	57	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	487.72	9280
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	7.2	5.1
Population (Million)	44.178	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	157	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-ALGERIA TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce(India)

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Two-way reached a peak of US$ 2.9 billion per annum in 2018 and declined to USD 1.5 billion in 2021. This trade figure of 2021, however, represented a rise of 12.5% over 2020 figures for total trade. In 2021, Indian exports amounted to US$ 935 million and imports from Algeria were US$ 625 million.
- In the current year, Indian exports from January to June 2022 amounted to US$ 517 million and imports from Algeria were US$ 445 million for the same period. This represents a growth in total trade of 82.88% over the first half of 2021 and indicates that a trade recovery is underway.
- The commercial relationship between India and Algeria has seen a higher level of engagement in recent years. There are a number of Indian corporations operating in Algeria in both the public and private sectors. Shapoorji Pallonji International is executing various construction works for the Algerian government such as housing projects, construction of hospitals, stadiums etc; IRCON International Ltd. is executing a railway project for the Algerian railway company ANESRIF; Dodsal Engineering and Construction FZE is executing a construction project of gas pipeline for the Algerian hydrocarbon company Sonatrach; and Larsen & Toubro Limited is executing hydrocarbon projects for the Algerian Oil and gas company Sonatrach. Another branch, Larsen and Toubro Transmission, is executing power transmission projects for the Algerian electricity company Sonelgaz.
- On 22 February 2022, Infosys Limited a major Indian Information Technology company and a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting and Intervalle Technologies, an Algerian IT company with more than 13 years of experience in IT banking sector, entered a strategic partnership to address the needs of the banking sector in Algeria.

Indian Diaspora: Indian diaspora in Algeria is very small. There are about 3800 Indians working in various projects and establishments serving the country. Most of them are workers in Indian/Local companies executing local contracts.



BAHRAIN

Bahrain–India relations are the political, socio-economic, military, and cultural ties between India and Bahrain. India is a close ally of Bahrain.Presence of around 350,000 Indian nationals who comprise a third of Bahrain's total population of 1.4 million is an important anchor of India's bilateral relations with Bahrain. India and Bahrain are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries in 2021-22.

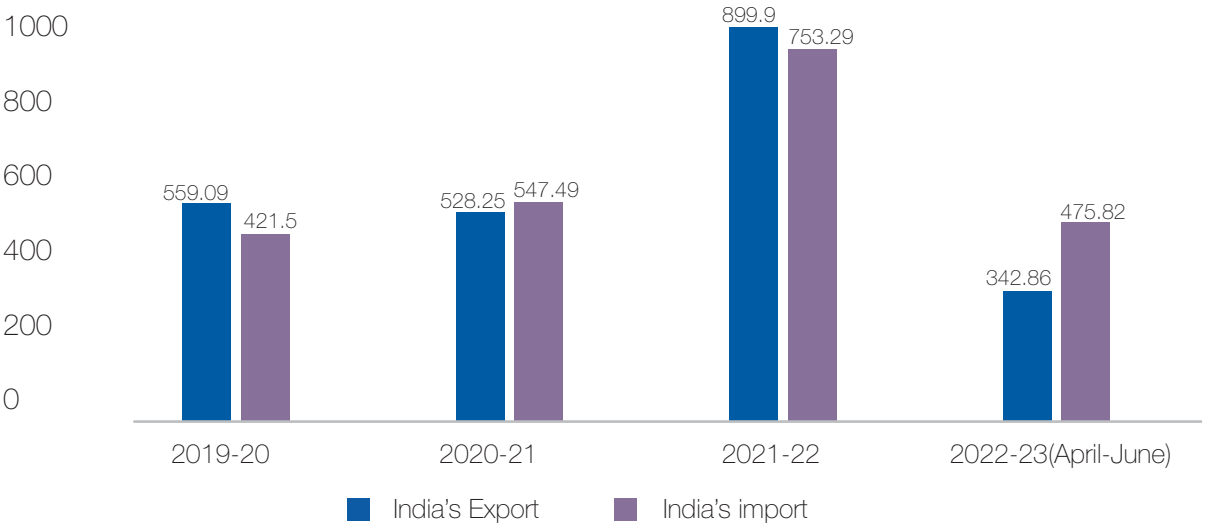
KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

- India and Bahrain have had economic and trade relations for over several centuries.
- Trade relations have received impetus from the oil boom of the early seventies. Relative prosperity and higher standard of living in Bahrain boosted global imports of goods and services, including from India.
- Bahrain Government's policy of industrial diversification also played an important role in enhancing economic co-operation between India and Bahrain.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND BAHRAIN

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	BAHRAIN	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		13.03 trillion
Inflation rate		5.9%
GDP current price		3.18 trillion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		63
Population		1.2 Billion

INDIA-BAHRAIN BILATERAL TRADE (VALUES IN US$ MILLIONS)



Ministry of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- FDI from Bahrain to India 2000-2021 in USD million: 181.62.
- Top sectors for Indian investment: There are 23 branches of prominent Indian banks/-companies registered in Bahrain and 3,181.



COMOROS

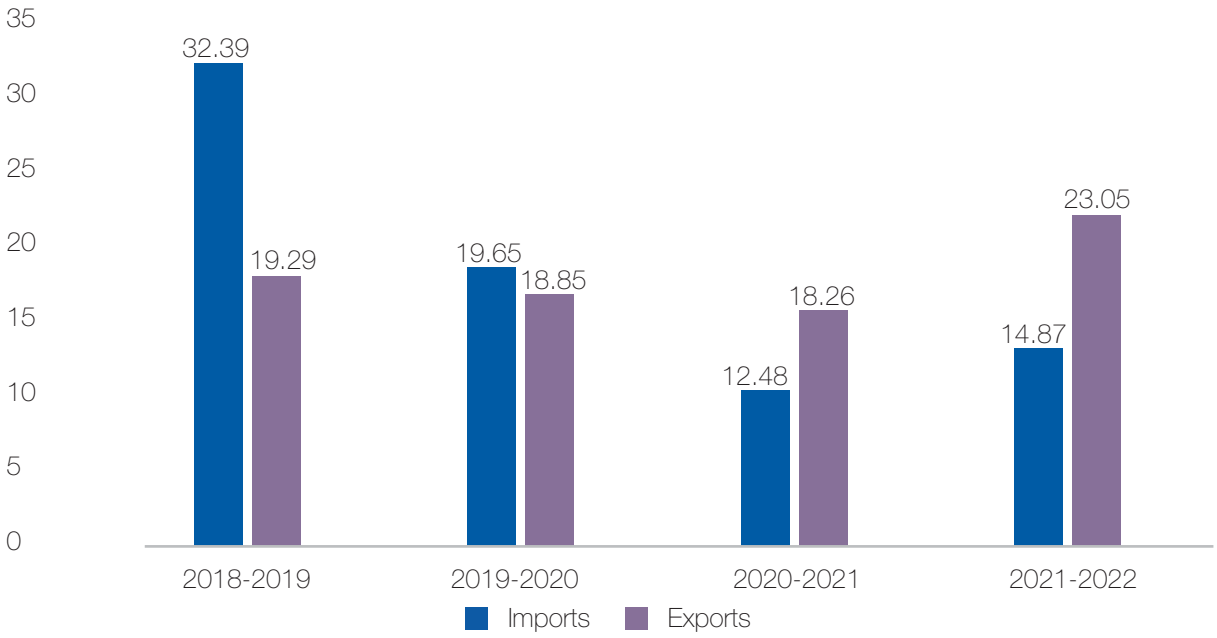
Strategically located at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel in the Indian Ocean between northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique, Comoros is predominantly a Muslim country with 98% population following Sunni Islam. The commonly used language is Shikomoro (Swahili dialect). French and Arabic are also widely spoken. Around 60% of the population is literate.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND COMOROS

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	COMOROS	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	2.91	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	1.3	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	2.1	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	191	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	2.65	9280
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	-4.3	5.1
Population (Million)	0.924	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	160	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-COMOROS TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce and OEC

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- The trade between the Comoros and India is increasing steadily. The bilateral trade between the two countries in 2011-12 was US$ 13.89 million. During 2012-13 bilateral trade was US$ 29.11 million with India's exports at US$ 20.74 million and imports by Comoros were at US$ 8.37 million.

Indian Diaspora: The Indian Diaspora comprises of around 250 persons and majority of them are engaged in trade and business.



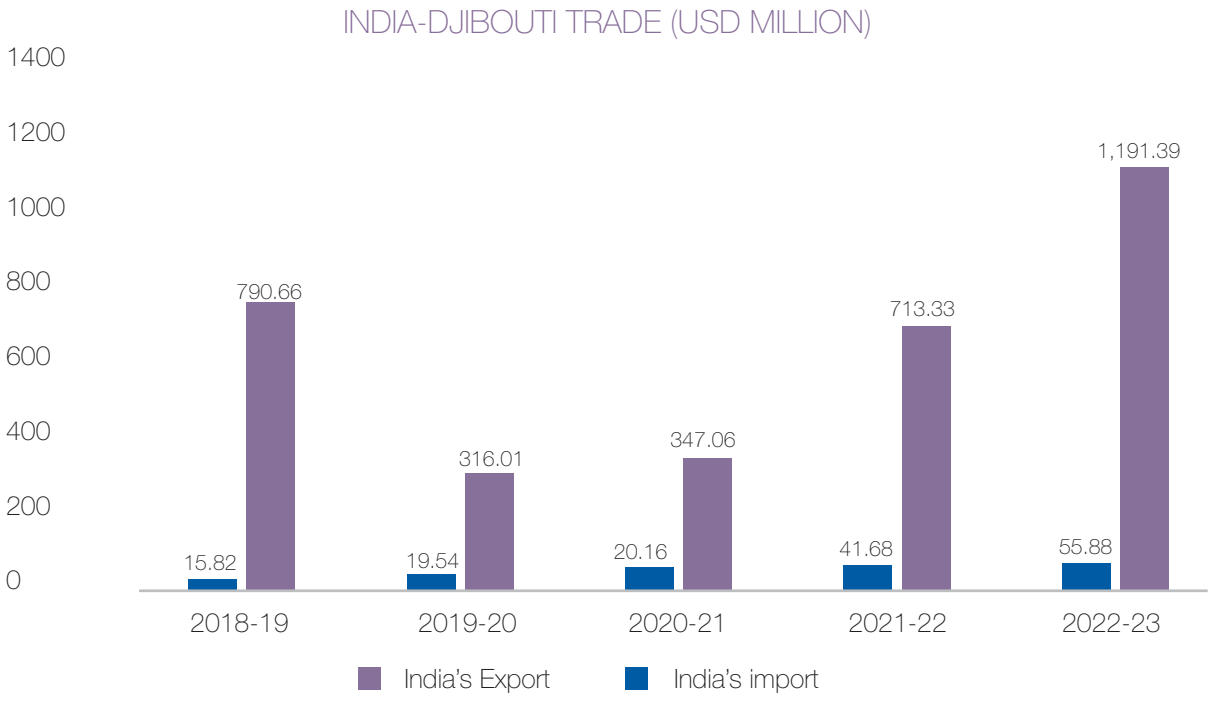
DJIBOUTI

GDP growth in Djibouti rebounded to 4.3% in 2021 from 0.5% in 2020 (lowest growth since 2000), driven by the withdrawal of COVID-19 movement restrictions, which allowed for the resumption of major public works, such as the transformation of the old port into a shopping center, preparatory works for the construction of a shipyard repair factory, and the development of the Damerjog Industrial Development Free Trade Zone.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND DJIBOUTI

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	DJIBOUTI	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	7.1 Billion	13.03 trillion
Inflation rate	3.2%	5.9%
GDP current price	3.48 billion	3.18 trillion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	112	63
Population	1.03 million	1.2 Billion

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank



Source: Department of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Government of Djibouti encourages and promotes Indian investment and business. Djibouti is keen to promote economic and development partnerships with India, especially in the areas of education, health, information technology, agriculture, small-scale industries, portable electricity generation, fisheries, and water resource development.
- IRCON has conducted a feasibility study for the rehabilitation of rural electrification.
- India actively collaborated with the Government of Djibouti in its developmental projects. The government of India has extended four Lines of Credit (LOC) aggregating nearly US $ 50 million to Djibouti for financing the Ali Sabieh Cement Project being constructed at Ali Sabieh, the second largest city of Djibouti, about 150 kms from Djibouti.
- Djibouti Government recently sought Government of India's assistance for developing the SME sector in Djibouti, and in the health care sector for deputation/training of medical personnel and supplying specialized medical equipment.

INDIAN DIASPORA

The Indian nationals are modest about 750 in number, either settled or employed in Djibouti. The Indian-origin community of about 100, consists of Gujarati traders and entrepreneurs from Rajkot and Jamnagar. New Indian arrivals to Djibouti include corporate employees, and professionals, including bankers, accountants, IT professionals and skilled workers in the hotel and port expansion projects. The companies engage in Doraleh Port Project and also Free Trade Zhashave also employed a sizeable number of workers of Indian origin.



(ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT) EGYPT

Egypt has the highest population among the Arab countries and is the second largest economy in Africa. It is abundant in natural resources. India and Egypt have a long history of cooperation and Egypt has been one of India's most important trading partners.

The Sanmar group, Godrej, Kirloskar, Dabur and Mahindra are among the Indian business groups with investments in Egypt. Indian investments in Egypt are estimated to be $ 3.15 billion, and that of Egyptian companies in India around $ 37 million.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

The India-Egypt bilateral trade agreement has been in operation in 1978 and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause.

India's major imports from Egypt include petroleum and petroleum gases, other gaseous hydrocarbons, natural calcium phosphates, raw cotton, coke and semi-coke. Egypt's major imports from India include meat, light vessels, petroleum, cotton yarn and automobiles.

OPPORTUNITIES

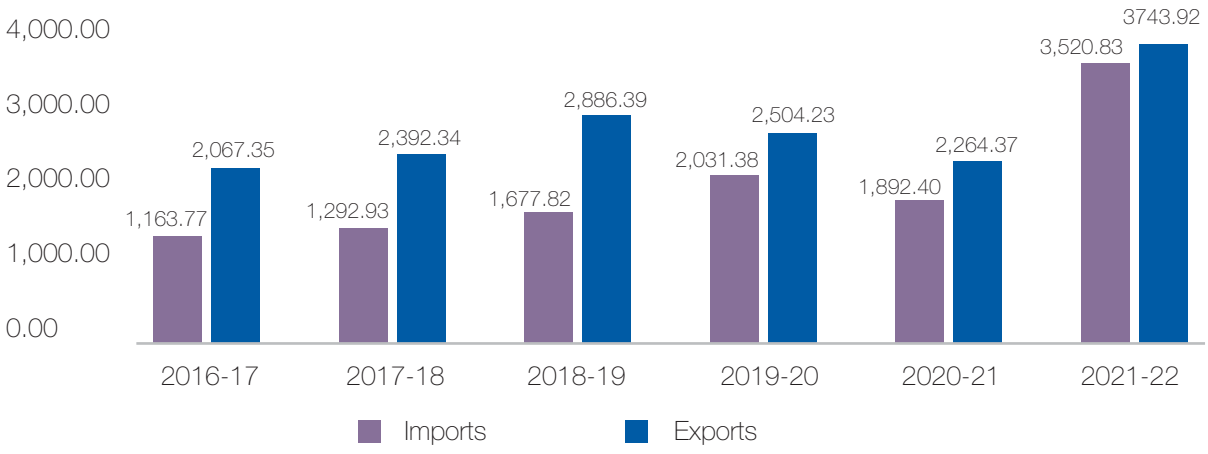
The country's Vision 2030 agenda outlines eight goals to be met by 2030, which are in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Strategy for Africa 2063. It also has a Digital Egypt strategy focused on the three areas of digital transformation, digital skills and jobs and digital innovation, supported by robust digital infrastructure and legislative frameworks.

Along with tourism and IT and BPM, pharma, food processing, retail and e-commerce, agriculture, textiles and garments, chemicals and gems and jewelry are some of the opportunity areas for investments.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND EGYPT

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	EGYPT	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	1388.32	10218.57
GDP (Current US $ billion)	404.14	3173.39
GDP growth (annual %)	3.33	8.95
GDP Ranking - global	34	6
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	12121.16	6675.35
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	5.55	5.13
Population (Million)	104.25	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	114	62

INDIA-EGYPT TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Over 450 Indian companies are registered in Egypt, of which Around 50 Indian companies are in manufacturing and construction with a combined investment of more than US$ 3.15 billion, approximately half are joint ventures and wholly owned Indian subsidiaries.
- Major Indian investments in Egypt include TCI Sanmar (with a value of US$ 1.5 billion), Alexandria Carbon Black, Kirloskar, Dabur India, Egypt-India Polyester Company (EIPET), SCIB Paints, Godrej, Mahindra and Monginis.
- Indian companies are present in a range of sectors like apparel, agriculture, chemicals, energy, automobiles, retail and others. It is estimated that overall, these companies provide direct and indirect employment to approximately 35,000 Egyptians.
- Indian companies have also executed projects in Egypt. L&T successfully completed Toshka 2 – Wadi Halfa 220 kV double circuit overhead transmission line project and it was successfully energized on 13 January 2020. Previously, L&T executed 500kV / 220 kV GIS substation projects for Egypt Electricity Transmission Co. in Ain Sokhna and Ras Ghareeb and 220kV overhead transmission line from Safaga to El-Qusair. These projects were worth a total of US$ 133.3 million.
- Sterling & Wilson built a cumulative capacity of 250 MW of Solar PV plants in 5 projects in Aswan in 2018-19, worth a total of US$ 250 million, in addition to a data center project worth US$ 3 million.

INDIAN DIASPORA

At present, the Indian community in Egypt numbers at around 4200, most of whom are concentrated in Cairo. There are also a small number of families in Alexandria, Port Said and Ismailia. Many of the Indians are either employed with Indian companies or are professionals with various multinationals. The Mission provides assistance to the Indian Community Association in Egypt (ICAE) and works closely with members of the community. About 290 Indian students are studying in Egypt, mainly in Al Azhar University, and a few in Ain Shams and Cairo Universities.



REPUBLIC OF IRAQ (IRAQ)

Iraq's economy has bounced back strongly with pandemic blues fading and global demand for oil picking up. As one of the world's most oil-dependent economies, however, Iraq needs to aggressively diversify to prevent future shocks to the economy from any weakening in global oil demand or price slumps.

KEY TRADE ITEMS

Iraq is the largest supplier of crude oil to India. India also imports raw cotton, sulphur and other commodities from Iraq and exports cereals, iron and steel, meat, pharmaceutical products, agrochemicals, cosmetics, rubber products, paints, gems and jewellery, ceramics, machine tools, electrical machinery and instruments, transport equipment, electronic goods, handicrafts, sugar, tea and garments.

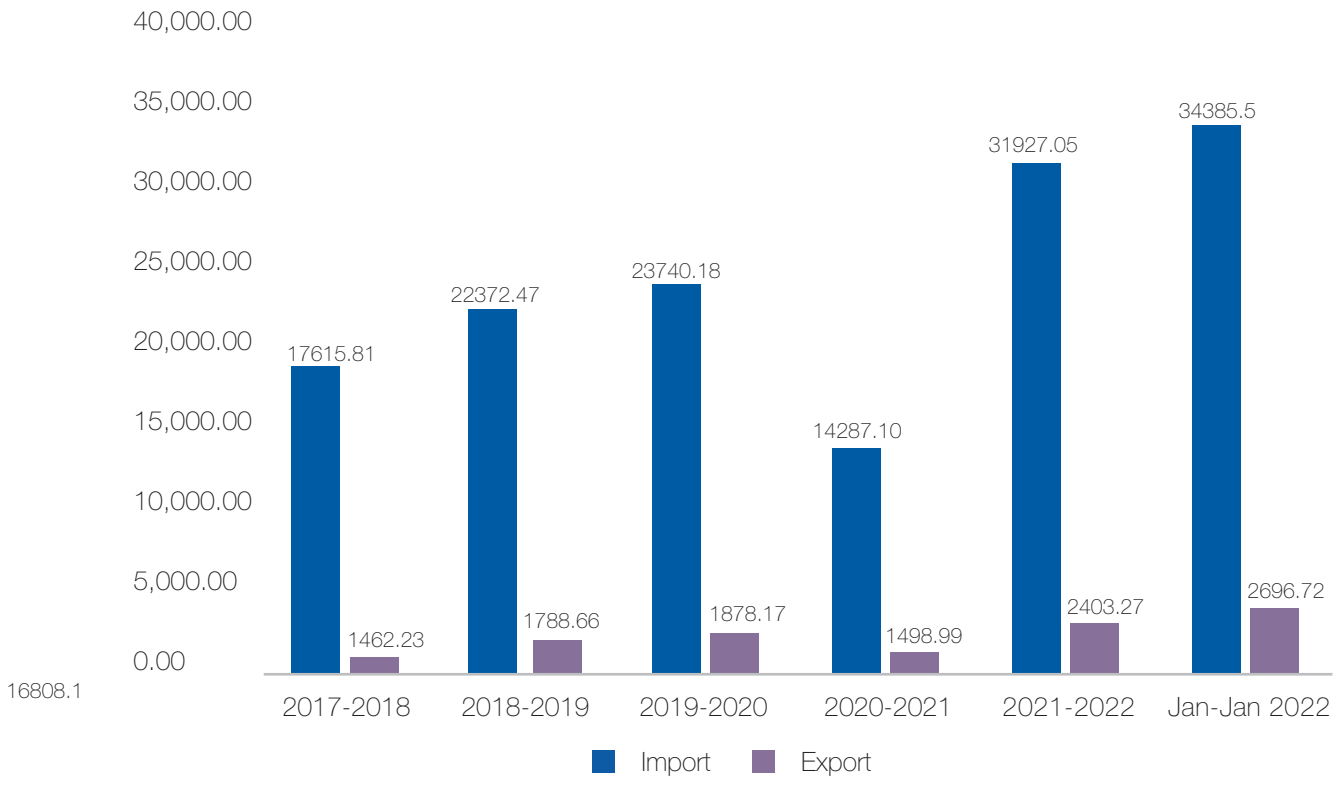
STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND IRAQ

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	IRAQ	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	428.63	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	207.89	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	2.8	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	52	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	390.17	9280
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	6.041	5.1
Population (Million)	43.5	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	172	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA- IRAQ BILATERAL TRADE

INDIA-IRAQ TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce and OEC



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN (JORDAN))

ordan's economy showed resilience post-pandemic with growth picking up on the back of a recovery in its tourism and allied sectors,and supported by growth in mining and manufacturing. Jordan is the world's seventh largest producer of potash and is home to Petra, the UNESCO heritage site that is among the most visited tourist destinations.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India is the number one importer of phosphate from Jordan. It also imports fertilizers and exports electrical machinery, cereals, frozen meat, organic and inorganic chemicals, animal fodders, engineering and automotive parts etc. India and Jordan share ties across multiple sectors including in garments, healthcare and education. Indian garment factories have invested $ 300 million in Jordan collectively.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JORDAN AND INDIA

The two countries are co-operating in defence, food, IT, education, health and medical sciences, research and energy security. India's apex software industry body, National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) and the Information Technology Association of Jordan have signed collaboration agreements. Jordan's Investment Commission is interested in attracting investments in ICT, finance services, renewable energy and bio-medical services sectors.

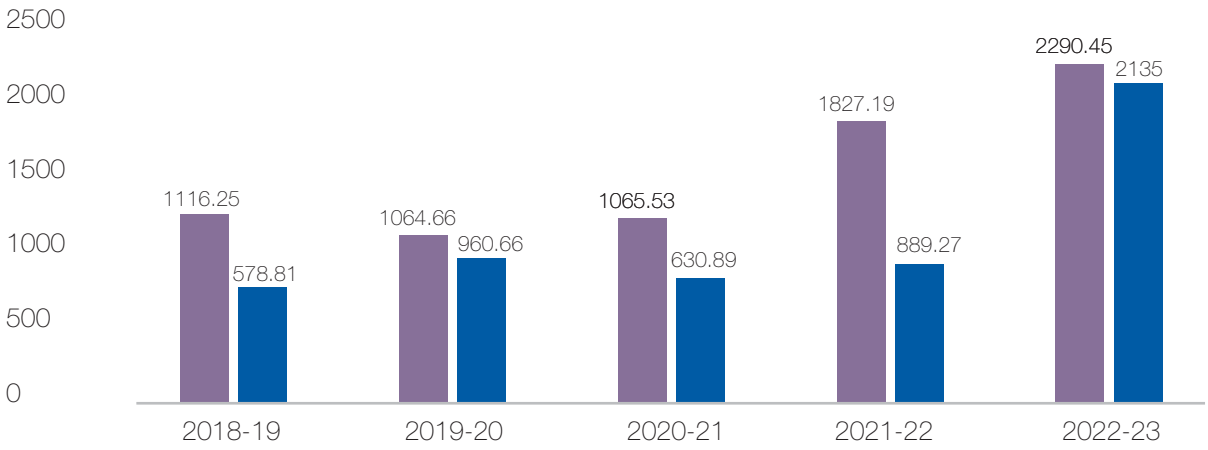
Given the country's vulnerability to climate change effects and extremities of weather, it is also a ready market for sustainability solutions. Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision 2033 focuses on transitioning to sustainable energy.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND JORDAN

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	JORDAN	INDIA
Indicators (FY 2021)	112.96	110190
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	45.74	3190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	2.2	8.7
GDP growth (annual %)	88	5
GDP Ranking - global GDP per capita, PPP	102.82	9280
(constant 2017 international $)	4.2	5.1
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	10.11	1393.40
Population (Million)	75	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-JORDAN TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Over the years, bilateral trade has grown rapidly despite global economic downturn with India emerging as Jordan's 4th largest trading partner in 2022. In 2022-23, India-Jordan bilateral trade was valued at all time high of US$ 4.425 billion recording an exceptional growth of 63% over last year. India's exports to Jordan stand at US$ 2,135 million with an annual growth of 140%.

DIASPORA

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, 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 for the period 2015-17 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.



STATE OF KUWAIT (KUWAIT)

Kuwait is one of the top ten trading partners of India. Like Oman, it has a sizable Indian population and its ties to India go back a long way. Leading Indian firms like L&T, Punj Lloyd, Shapoorji Pallonji and Kalpataru have been executing large EPC contracts in Kuwait. The Kuwait Investment Authority, Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, also has investments in India.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India's exports to Kuwait include food items, cereals, textiles, garments, electrical and engineering equipment, ceramics, machinery and mechanical appliances, cars, trucks, buses, tyres, chemicals, jewellery, handicrafts, metal products and iron and steel. Kuwait is the 9th largest supplier of oil to India and meets about 4.63% of India's energy needs. Kuwait's imports from India include food, textiles and garments, electrical and engineering equipment, ceramics, machinery, automobile and auto parts, iron, steel and other metals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR KUWAIT AND INDIA

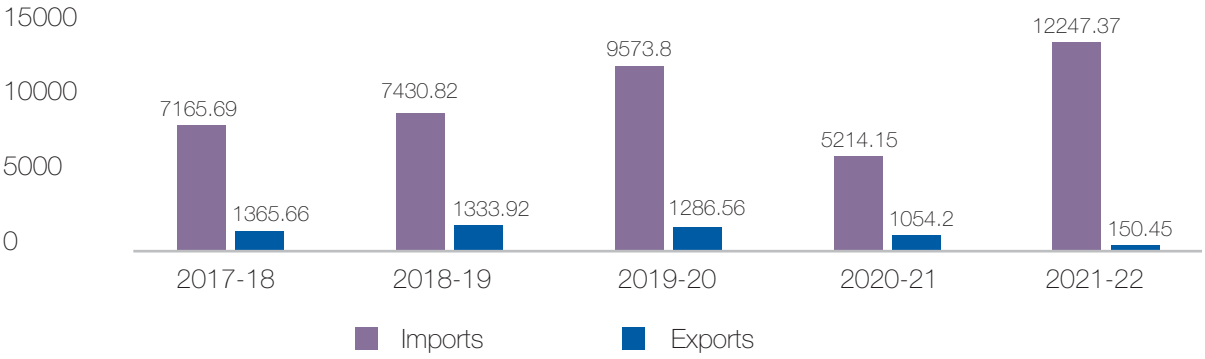
To maintain its growth, Kuwait needs to accelerate the pace of economic reform and reduce its dependence on oil and domestic consumption as its key growth drivers. This presents a window for the two countries to collaborate more closely in finance and technology as well expand in services such as healthcare. With smart buildings and intelligent automation now a reality, Indian firms executing EPC contracts can also be valued partners in Kuwait's transition to the digital economy.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND KUWAIT

INDICATORS (FY 2023)	KUWAIT	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		13.03 trillion
Inflation rate	3.3%	4.9%
GDP Growth rate	0.9%	5.9%
GDP current price	105 billion	3.18 trillion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	83	63
Population	4.7 million	1.3 billion

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank & CIA Factbook

INDIA-KUWAIT TRADE (USD MILLION)



BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- FDI from Kuwait to India: USD 82.84 Million
- Top 5 sectors for Kuwait investment: Insurance, Electronics, Infrastructure, Aviation, Power, Petroleum
- Focus States for Kuwait investors: UP, Tamil Nadu
- Top sectors for Indian investment: Construction, Energy, automobile, IT, Healthcare
- Top Indian companies in Kuwait: L&T, Shapoorji Pallonji, Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd, TERI, Essar Projects, Simplex Projects, as well as IT/ITES firms including Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), WIPRO and Tech Mahindra, LIC (International), LIC Housing Finance, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance Company, HDFC

INDIAN DIASPORA

- The presence of over one million Indian community members in Kuwait (the largest expatriate community in Kuwait) form an important dimension of our bilateral ties with Kuwait.
- The community of Indians in Kuwait includes Indian (mostly hailing from the southern states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu) expatriates in Kuwait, as well as Kuwaiti citizens of Indian origin or descent.



LEBANESE REPUBLIC (LEBANON)

Lebanon is strategically located at the intersection of Europe, Asia and Africa. It has a free forex market, fully convertible currency with no restriction on capital movement. Both ports and telecoms infrastructure are conducive to supporting trade.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India imports aluminum, copper scrap and waste, tanned hides and skins and exports machinery, gems, textile and plastic.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA AND LEBANON

Opportunities exist in tourism, Lebanese cuisine, telemedicine and co-operation in agriculture and allied sectors. The Apollo Group of Hospitals has signed an MoU with the Lebanon-based Irfran Establishment for telemedicine, training of doctors by experts from Apollo group and transfer to India for critical care and sophisticated medical treatment.

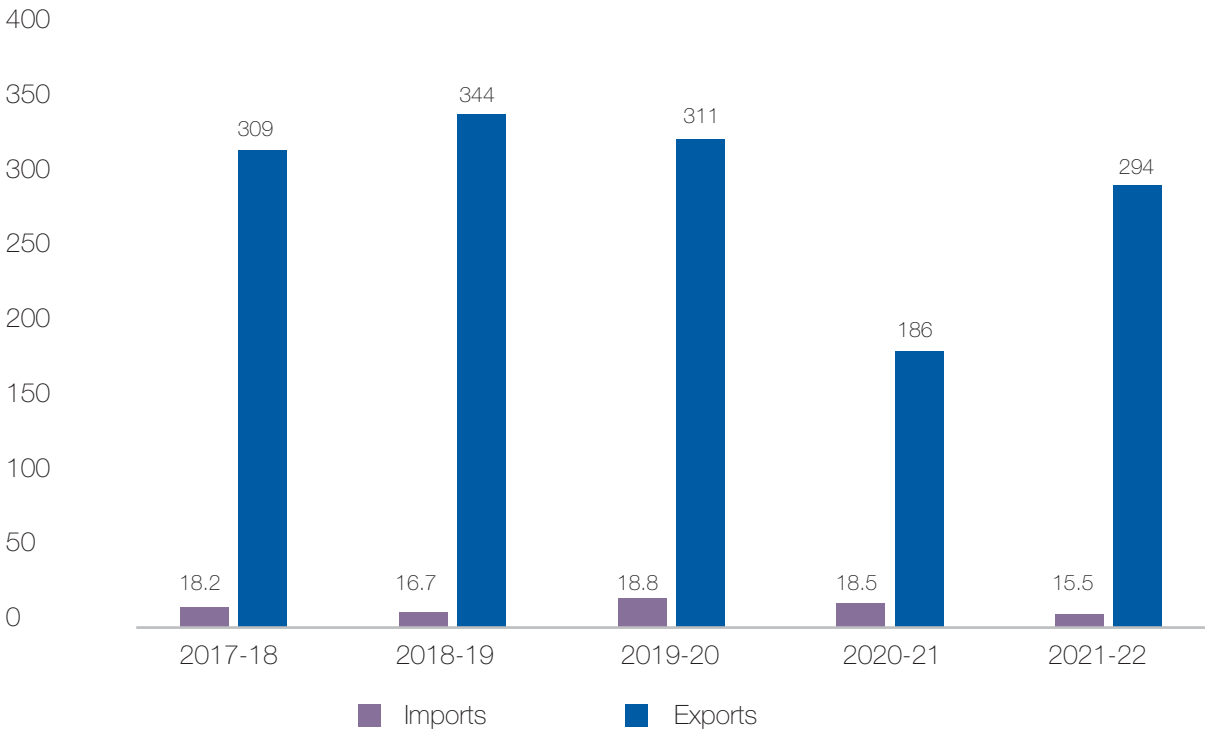
The MoU between Lebanon and India in agriculture and allied sector will facilitate the goal of food security through best practices in agricultural and increased farm productivity. There is also a growing market for Indian music and films in Lebanon.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND LEBANON

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	LEBANON	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	79.73	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	23.13	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	-7.0	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	112	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	72.58	9280
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	154.8	5.1
Population (Million)	5.59	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	142	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-LEBANON TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce and OEC

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Total volume of trade between India and Lebanon during financial year 2021-22 was $ 345.6 million with Indian exports to Lebanon at $ 313.14 million and Indian imports from Lebanon at $32.46 million. The exports have shown more than 64% increase between 2020-21 to 2021-22.

INDIAN DISAPORA

The Embassy works closely with several local organizations, most notably Lebanese-Indian Friendship Parliamentary Committee [LIFPC] and the Association for Development of Lebanese-Indian Relations [ADLIR], in further strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation in diverse sectors.



SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA (LIBYA)

Libya is rich in hydrocarbons and holds the largest known reserves of crude oil and fifth largest known reserves of natural gas in the African continent. Several Indian companies, both from the private sector and public sector, have been active in Libya in oil and gas, power, construction and infotech. Because of the civil war and kidnappings of Indian nationals in Libya, India has currently stopped all travel to the country.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

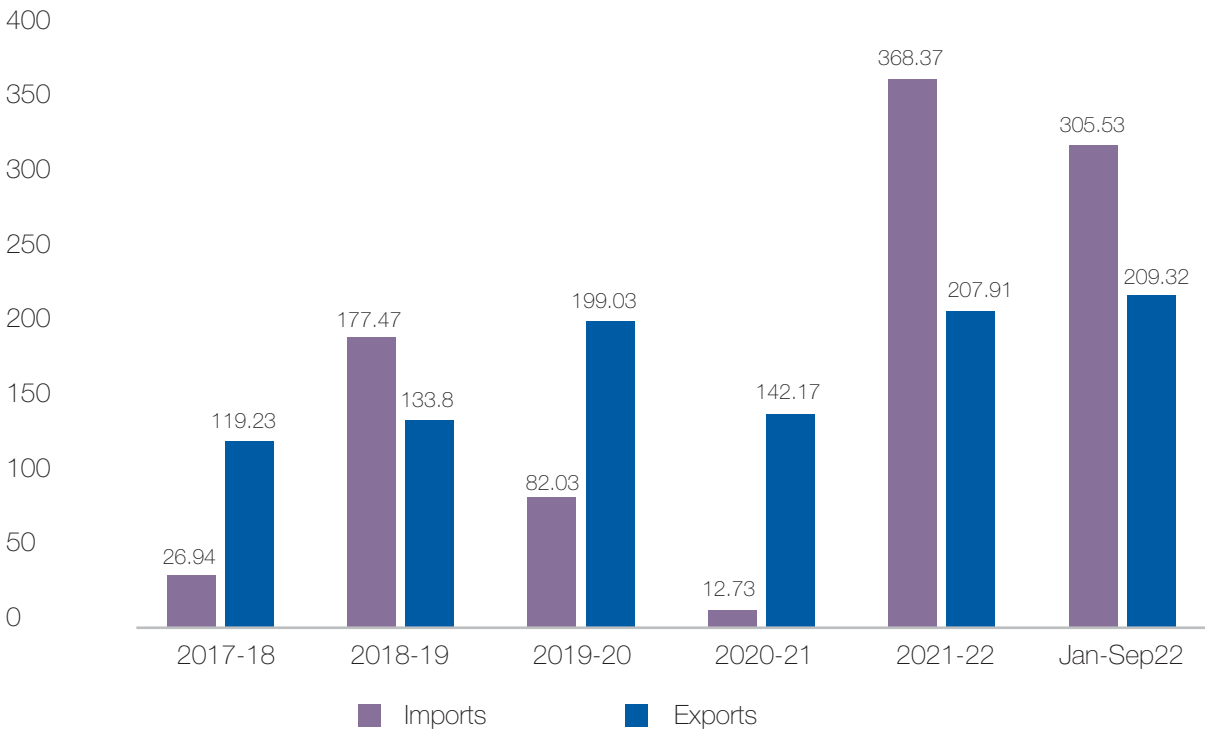
India imports petroleum and aluminum ore from Libya and imports drugs and pharmaceuticals, stone, plaster, tobacco and coffee.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND LIBIYA

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	LIBYA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	162.53	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	42.82	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	31.4	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	91	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	147.94	9280
Consumer Price Inflation (%)	2.6	5.1
Population (Million)	6.74	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	186	63

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-LIBYA TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce and OEC

INDIAN DIASPORA

- India and Libya signed a Cultural Exchange Agreement in 2007 during the then EAM's visit to Libya following which some Indian cultural troupes sponsored by ICCR visited Libya and staged cultural performances in major cities.
- An 8-member Cultural Group of Kathakali, led by Shri Kalamandalam Raman Kutty, visited Libya in August 2008 and gave two performances in Tripoli and in Sirte. An 8-member Libyan cultural troupe sponsored by the ICCR had visited India to perform during the first India-Africa Forum Summit in February 2008.
- A 12-member "Anart" Kathak group visited Libya from 16 November to 22 November, 2009, and performed in three cities of Tripoli, Sirte& Benghazi. Coinciding with Indian Republic Day Reception, an exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi was held in Tripoli on January 26, 2013 that was attended by a number of high dignitaries and foreign diplomats.
- Mission celebrated International Days of Yoga on June 21, 2015, 2016,2017 and 2018 in Tripoli. The event was however kept restricted to the Mission staff due to the civil strife and fragile security situation.



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO (MOROCCO)

With a high GDP growth rate and a relatively low inflation, Morocco has made huge strides as a country. Its GDP growth has nearly doubled in a decade. The growth trend is expected to continue despite pressures in recent times from the war in Ukraine and the ripple effect it has had on the global supply chain and commodity prices.

Ties between India and Morocco go a long way back to when the traveller-writer Ibn Batuta came to India in the 14th century. Over the years, the two countries have collaborated in a number of areas with leading Indian firms such as Tata Motors and Ranbaxy setting up base in Morocco. Morocco has also invested in a phosphate company in India. India imports phosphoric acid and rock phosphate from Morocco and the two countries have a joint venture in Morocco in the fertiliser sector.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

Morocco's major exports to India include phosphate and its derivates, metallic ores and metal scrap, semi-finished products and inorganic chemicals. India exports cotton yarn, synthetic fiber, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, agricultural implements, chemicals, spices and manufactured metals.

OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO

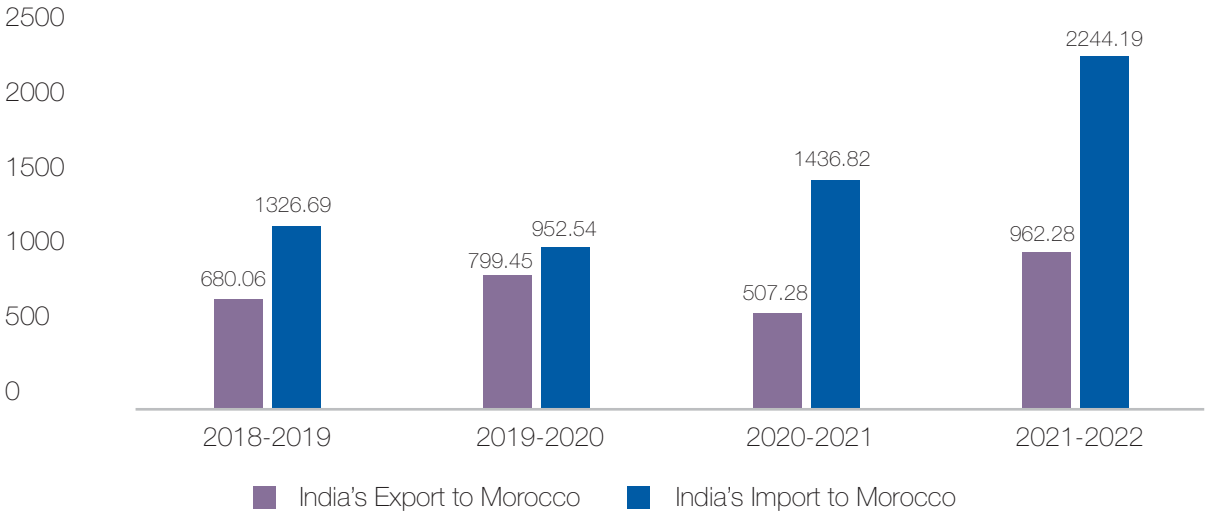
There is significant scope for the two countries to extend their areas of co-operation to education and digital frameworks. Entertainment is another area where the two countries enjoy close ties. Indian entertainment, particularly Hindi cinema, is popular in Morocco. Morocco is also known for its cuisine and with an increasing number of Indians open to trying out world cuisine, there is opportunity to popularise it in India.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND MOROCCO

INDICATORS (FY 2023)	MOROCCO	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	387 Billion	13.03 trillion
Inflation rate	4.6%	4.9%
GDP Growth rate	3%	5.9%
GDP current price	142.87 Billion	3.18 trillion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	53	63
Population	37.02 Million	1.3 billion

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank & CIA Factbook

INDIA-MOROCCO BILATERAL TRADE (IN US MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce,GoI

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Morocco has substantial reserves of rock phosphate and potash. Office Cherifian des Phosphates (OCP), owned by the Government of Morocco, is the sole producer and supplier of fertilizers in Morocco.
- Rock phosphates from Morocco are imported in India mainly by Paradeep Phosphate Ltd (PPL) which is controlled by ZuariMaroc Phosphate Ltd (ZMPL) which is a JV between Chambal Fertilisers, ZuariFertilisers and OCP.
- A two-member team from the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco visited New Delhi from 23-29 September 2018 to negotiate and finalize the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and Morocco. The negotiations are still continuing and the Moroccan side has invited the Indian side to Morocco for the next round of negotiations.

INDIAN DIASPORA

- The Indian community in Morocco is made up of two segments - the diaspora and the expatriate community. The diaspora comprises of about 250-300 families.
- The expatriate community of Indians in Morocco represent the top Indian enterprises namely, TATA, Birla (in collaboration as IMACID), forming a joint venture with OCP for phosphate imports for India. The other top enterprises include Furnace Fabrica, Satguru Travels, CIPLA, SunPharma (pharmaceuticals) etc.



SULTANATE OF OMAN (OMAN)

The Sultanate of Oman is a strategic partner of India and an important interlocutor at Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora. Oman also accords a high priority to its ties with India. The two countries across the Arabian Sea are linked by geography, history and culture and enjoy warm and cordial relations, which are attributed to historical maritime trade linkages, intimacy of the royal family with India and the seminal role played by the Indian expatriate community in building of Oman, which is acknowledged by Omani Government.

Many prominent Indian businesses, including L&T, Shapoorji Pallonji, Shriram Group, Aditya Birla Group, Nagarjuna Construction and KEC International, have a presence in Oman. There are an estimated 4000-plus Indian business groups accounting for $ 7.5 billion investment in Oman. India is one of Oman's top trading partners, ranking amongst the top three countries it imports from as well as among the top three countries it exports non-oil products to.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, textiles, machinery, electrical items, chemicals, iron and steel, tea, coffee, spices, rice and meat products and seafood are some of India's exports to Oman. India chiefly imports LNG, polypropylene, lubricating oil, dates and chromite ore from Oman.

OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND OMANS

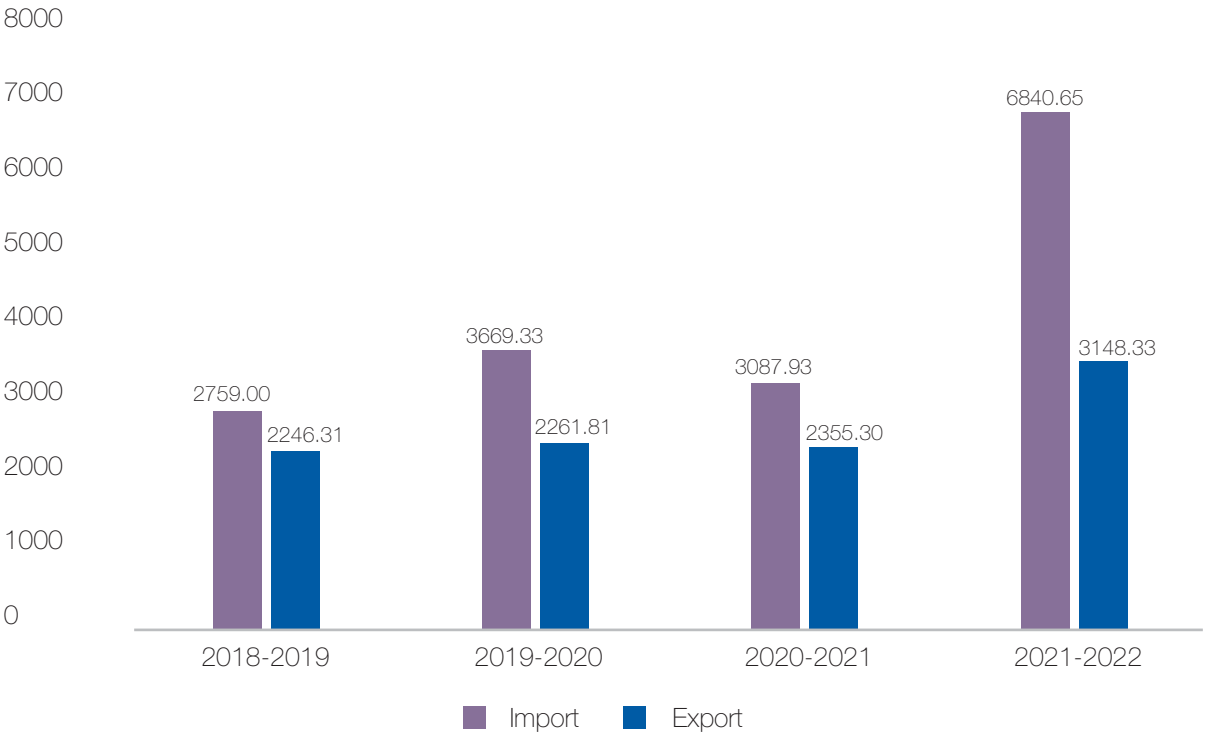
Oman's roadmap to 2040, Vision 2040, aims to take GDP contribution from non-oil sources to 90%, increase GDP growth to 5% and improve the ease of doing business and boost private sector participation. Vision 2040 provides an opportunity for the two countries to build on the strong foundation they have and extend their co-operation into more areas like IT infrastructure, healthcare, and sustainability solutions. Additionally, deepen and expand partnerships in education and skilling building, and science and technology. .

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND OMAN (YEAR: 2023; UNIT: US$)

INDIA		OMAN	
GDP (PPP) 2023	– 13.03 trillion	GDP (PPP)	– 201.53 billion
Inflation rate	– 4.9%	Inflation rate	– 1.9%
GDP Growth Rate	– 5.9%	GDP Growth Rate	– 1.7%
GDP, Current Price	– 3.74 thousand Billion	Consumer Price	– 104.9 Billion
Population	– 1.3 billion	Population	– 4.777 million
EoDB Ranking	– 63	EoDB Ranking	– 68

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank

INDIA-OMAN MERCHANDISE TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- **FDI from Oman to India:** Oman is the 36th largest source of investments into India
- The cumulative investments from Oman to India from Year 2000 till March 2023 is equivalent to USD 588 million

Financial Year	FDI Inflow from Oman
2000-23	USD 588 million
Total	**USD 588 million**

- **Top 5 sectors for Oman investment:** Industrial pipes and fittings, Insurance, Solar, power systems, & footware.
- **FDI from India to Oman**: USD 7.5 billion
- **Top sectors for Indian investment:** iron and steel, cement, fertilizers, textile, cables, chemicals, automotive, etc.
- **Top Indian companies in Oman:** L&T, Jindal, EPIL, Shapoorji Pallonji, Shriram, Aditya Birla Group, Nagarjuna, Construction Company, KEC International, etc

INDIAN DIASPORA

There are about 7,70,000 Indians in Oman, of which about 6,55,000 are workers and professionals. There are also Indian families living in Oman for more than150-200 years. Thousands of Indians are working as doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, teachers, lecturers, nurses, managers, etc. There are 21 Indian schools offering CBSE curriculum, catering to the educational needs of more than 46,000 Indian students. The Indian community in the country is also organized under Indian Social clubs in Muscat, Salalah and Sohar.



PALESTINE

Indian exports to Palestine include marble, granite, articles of stone, plaster and cement, basmati rice, raw material for making vaccines, coffee, cashew nuts, sugar, sweet biscuits, sacks and bags for the packing of goods, animal products, vegetable products, prepared foodstuffs, mineral products, chemical Industries, plastics, leather and furskins. Wooden industries, textiles, headgear, umbrellas, walking sticks, seat-sticks, natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, mineral products, base metals, machinery and mechanical appliances are also among the other main exports. On the other hand, Palestinian exports are mainly fresh and dried dates, virgin olive oil and its fractions and articles of base metal.

Trade between India and Palestine is conducted through Israel and therefore, comprehensive trade statistics are not available. India-Palestine annual bilateral trade volume was US $67.77 million for the year 2020. As per the data published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Indian exports and imports were US $67.17 million and US $0.6 million, respectively. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reports that India has a share of 0.06% of Palestine's exports, while India ranks 13th among the importing countries for Palestine with 1.1% share of total Palestine's imports.

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND PALESTINE

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	PALESTINE	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)		3190
GDP growth (annual %)		8.7
GDP Ranking - global		5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)		9280
Consumer Price inflation (%)		5.1
Population (Million)		1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		63

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

Bilateral investments between India and Palestine are relatively small, but there is potential for growth in the future. In 2020, the total value of bilateral trade between the two countries was US $67.77 million, with India exporting US $67.17 million worth of goods and services to Palestine and importing only US $0.6 million worth of goods and services from Palestine.

India has provided a total of US $39 million of budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority and has also offered a Line of Credit worth US $50 million to Palestine for implementing developmental and sustainable projects. In addition, Indian companies have invested in several sectors in Palestine, including pharmaceuticals, construction, and IT.

There are several factors that could boost bilateral investments between India and Palestine. These include the growing Indian economy, the Palestinian Authority's efforts to improve the business climate in Palestine, and the strong political ties between the two countries.

INDIAN DIASPORA

The Indian diaspora in Palestine is a small but growing community. There are an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 Indians living in Palestine, the majority of who are concentrated in the West Bank. The Indian community in Palestine has played an active role in the development of the country. They have contributed to the economy, the education system, and the healthcare system. They have also been involved in social and cultural activities and have helped to promote understanding between India and Palestine.



KINGDOM OF SUDAN ARABIA (SAUDI ARABIA)

Saudi Arabia's economy is positioned for strong growth, and long-standing ties between India and Saudi Arabia that have deepened through the years set the stage for increased trade and collaboration between the two nations across sectors.

Indian investments in Saudi Arabia, ranging across management and consulting, construction, telecom, IT, pharma, financial services, and software, has crossed $ 2 billion. Leading Indian businesses have a presence in Saudi Arabia, including through joint ventures with Saudi firms. Saudi Arabia is the 17th largest investor in India with over $ 3 billion.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trade partner. India imports about 18% of its crude oil requirement and 22% of its LPG requirement from Saudi Arabia. It also imports fertilizers, plastic, and chemicals, while Saudi Arabia imports rice, food products, ceramic tiles, textiles, and chemicals from India.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA

The Joint Working Commissions provide institutional mechanisms for collaborations in industry and infrastructure, agriculture and food security, IT and technology, and energy, and the Strategic Partnership Council overarches this with the economic and investment pillar being co-chaired by India's Commerce & Industry Minister and Saudi's Energy Minister.

The countries have MoUs in the fields of energy, security, defense production, civil aviation, medical products, strategic petroleum reserves, small and medium-scale industries, the launch of Rupay card, and cooperation between stock exchanges among others.

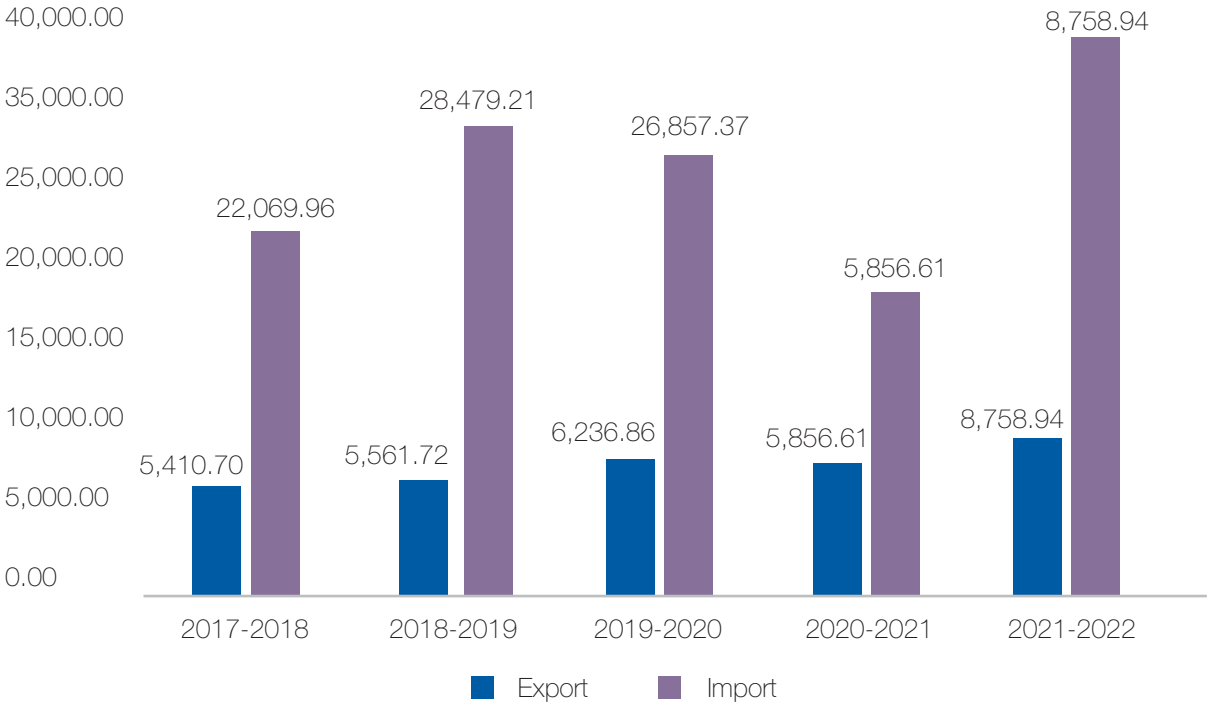
Sources: https://www.eoiriyadh.gov.in, World Bank

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA

INDICATORS (FY 2023)	SAUDI ARABIA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD trllion)	1.75 trillion	13.03 trillion
Inflation rate (annual %)	2.8	4.9
GDP Growth Rate(annual %)	3.1	5.9
GDP, Current Price	2.3 thousand Billion	3.74 thousand Billion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	62	63
Population	35.49 Million	1.3 billion

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank & CIA Factbook

INDIA-SAUDI ARABIA TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce(India)

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- FDI from Saudi Arabia to India is USD 3136.10 million.
- Total trade with Saudi Arabia accounted for 4.14% of India's total trade in FY 2021-22.
- India's imports from Saudi Arabia reached USD 34.01 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth USD 8.76 billion. An increase of 49.5% over 2021.Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trade partner (after USA, China and UAE) and a major source of energy as India imports around 18% of its crude oil requirement.
- Saudi Arabia is the 18th largest investor in India with investments amounting to US $3.15 billion (as per DPIIT from April 2000 to June 2022).
- There are 476 Indian companies, registered as joint ventures/100% owned entities, worth US $1.5 billion in the Kingdom as of March 2020.
- **Top 5 sectors for Saudi Arabian investment:** Oil & Chemical, refinery & petrochemicals, power
- **Focus States for Saudi Arabian investors:** Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat
- Top sectors for Indian investment: management and consultancy services, construction projects, telecommunications, information technology, financial services and software development
- **Top Indian companies in Saudi Arabian:** L&T, TATAs, Wipro, TCS, TCIL, Shapoorji & Pallonji, etc

INDIAN DIASPORA

- Indians in Saudi Arabia are the largest community of expatriates in Saudi Arabia.
- India and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to manage and organize the recruitment of domestic workers in January 2014.
- Between then and April 2016, 500,000 Indians moved to Saudi Arabia for employment.
- The agreement includes a provision that stipulates that the sponsor must pay a guarantee of USD 2,500 for each Indian worker they recruit.



STATE OF QATAR (QATAR)

Qatar's economy and travel, tourism and hospitality sectors were boosted by the FIFA World Cup, adding to the non-oil sector contribution to GDP in 2022. The world's largest producer of LNG needs to de-risk its economy from being dependent on hydrocarbons, opening opportunities in other sectors for increased trade and investment between India and Oman.

Indians form the largest expat community in Qatar working in diverse fields, including medicine, engineering, education, finance; banking, business, media and labour. The country's sovereign wealth fund, Qatar Investment Authority, has investments in several Indian ventures.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India is among the top five export destinations for Qatar. It is also among top five countries from which it imports. Imports from India include cereals, iron and steel, vegetables, fruits and spices and exports to India are primarily LNG, LPG, petrochemicals and plastics.

OPPORTUNITIES

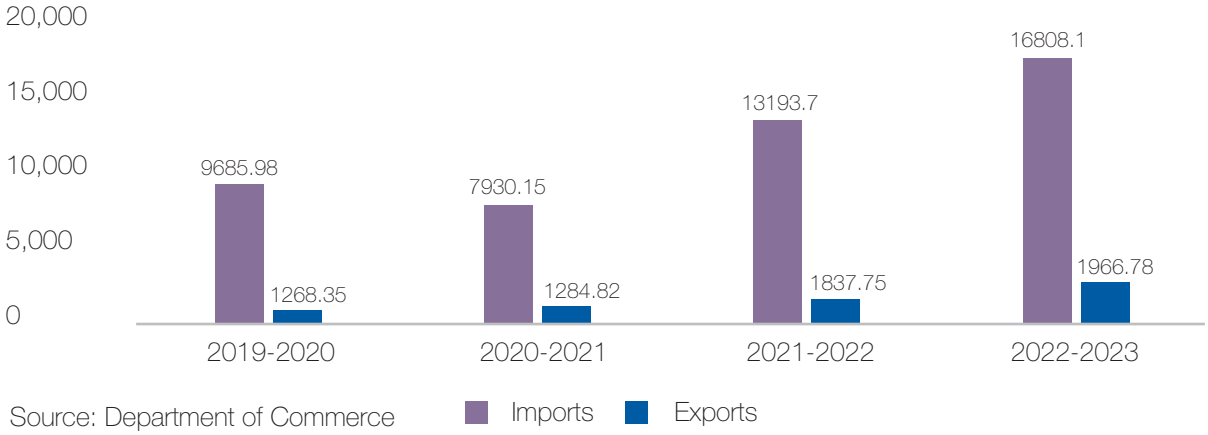
With the diversification away from hydrocarbons being a priority for growth, there scope for increased co-operation between India and Qatar in aviation, automobile, IT and BPM, renewable energy, pharma, tourism and other priority sectors.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND QATAR

INDICATORS (FY 2023)	QATAR	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	326 Billion	13.03 trillion
Inflation rate	3%	4.9%
GDP Growth rate	2.4%	5.9%
GDP current price	179 Billion	3.18 trillion
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	77	63

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank & CIA Factbook

INDIA-QATAR TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- FDI from India to Qatar: USD 498.93 Million
- Top 5 sectors for Qatar investment: real estate/construction, roads/highways, airports/airlines, ports, railways; LNG, petrochemicals and fertilizers; tourism/hospitality; and agriculture infrastructure, cold storage, warehousing and dedicated agro-ports.
- Focus States for Qatar investors: Gujarat, Karnataka
- FDI from India to Qatar: US$450 million
- Top sectors for Indian investment: infrastructure, communications and information technology, energy.

INDIAN DIASPORA

- Indian nationals totaling about 7,56,000 as of June 2019, comprise the largest expatriate community in Qatar.
- They are engaged in a wide spectrum of professions including medicine; engineering; education, finance; banking; business; and media apart from a large number of blue-collared workers.
- They are highly regarded for their honesty, hard work, qualifications and contribution to the development and progress of Qatar.



SOMALIA

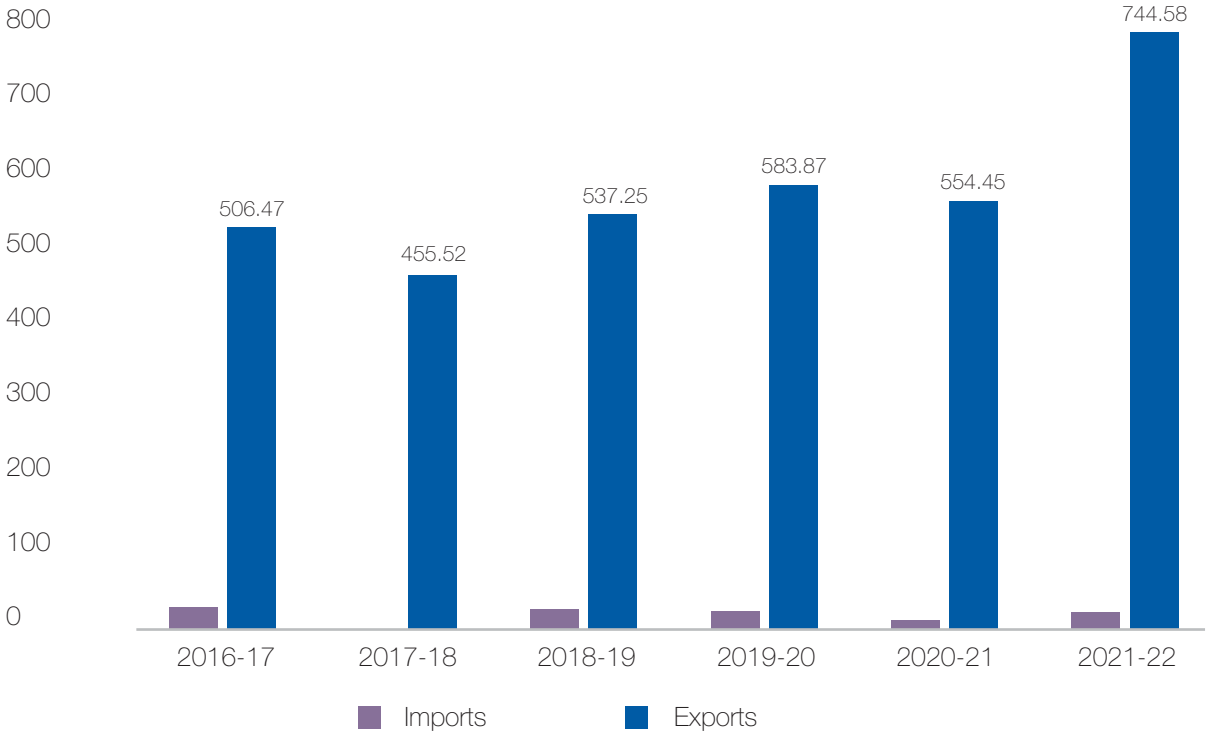
India and Somalia have historical and cultural ties dating back to ancient times when traders sailed through the Indian Ocean to exchange goods in the Horn of Africa. India and Somalia established diplomatic relations in 1961 and opened resident missions in each other's capitals.

Bilateral trade totaled US$391.05 million in 2014–15, recording a growth of 51% over the previous fiscal. India exported $352.81 million worth of goods to Somalia and imported $38.25 million.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND SOMALIA

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	SOMALIA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		10190
GDP(Current $ billion)	7.6	3190
GDP Growth rate	4.0	8.7
GDP ranking-global		5
GDP per capital, PPP	447.0	9280
Consumer Price Inflation		5.1
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	17.06	1393.40
Population		63

INDIA-SOMALIA TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce



REPUBLIC OF SUDAN (SUDAN)

The coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on India – Sudan bilateral economic relations leading to disruptions in trade, delays in infrastructure projects, reduced people-to-people exchanges, and a decline in oil prices affecting Sudan's oil sector. However, the pandemic also highlighted the importance of health cooperation, with India providing medical supplies and vaccines to Sudan. Despite the challenges, both countries have maintained diplomatic engagements and are expected to focus on recovery and rebuilding their economies in the post-pandemic phase.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India is the second largest exporter to Sudan after China with exports of over US $ 900 million in 2021-22. Sudan has preferential market access under India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme and gets duty-free access on about 96% of India's total tariff lines and preferential access (Positive List) on about 2.2% of tariff lines.

India exports manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, food, wheat and textiles to Sudan. It imports raw hides and skins, cotton, leather, ores and metal scrap.

OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND SUDAN

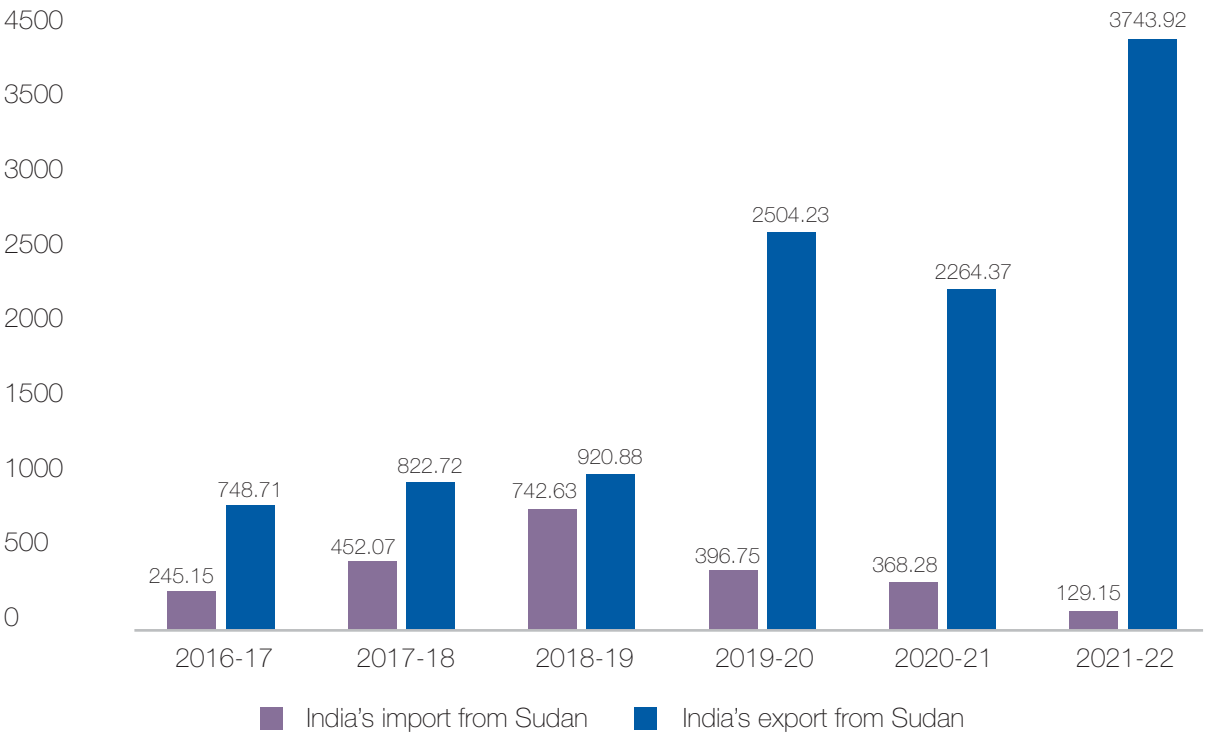
India is largest exporter of pharmaceuticals to Sudan. It is also the preferred destination for education and medical tourism. An estimated 100,000-plus Sudanese students have graduated from Indian universities.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	SOMALIA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	4,066.0	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	34.33	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	-1.9	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	100	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	751.8	9280
Consumer Price inflation (%)	382.8	5.1
Population (Million)	45.7	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	157	63

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-SUDAN BILATERAL TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- India is the second-largest exporter to Sudan, after China.
- India has invested in various sectors in Sudan, such as oil and gas, power, agriculture, mining, infrastructure, health and education.
- As per the National Investment Authority of Sudan, total Indian investments in Sudan up to December 2019 amounted to more than US $471.5 million with 86 investment projects including 51 industrial projects, 21 service projects and 14 agricultural projects.
- India has extended several lines of credit to Sudan for projects such as railway rehabilitation, power transmission, sugar factories, irrigation schemes and food processing units. The total value of these lines of credit is over US $700 million.
- India and Sudan have also cooperated in the field of capacity building through various programmes such as ITEC, ICCR scholarships, IAFS-III and e-VBAB network project. Indian companies are present in a range of sectors like apparel, agriculture, chemicals, energy, automobiles, retail and others.

INDIAN DIASPORA

The settled community in Sudan (now about 1500) is about 150 years old. The first Indian, Luvchand Amarchand Shah, a Gujarati trader who imported goods from India, is believed to have come to Sudan from Aden in the early 1860s. When his business expanded, he brought his relatives from Saurashtra, who in turn invited their own friends and family. This is how the Indian community grew and developed in Sudan. From the small towns in the eastern part of the country, (Port Sudan and Sawakin) the early Indian pioneers moved into the interior of the country and settled down in Omdurman, Kassala, Gedaref and Wad Madani.



SOUTH SUDAN

India's economic ties with South Sudan are growing, albeit modestly. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India - Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has invested approximately US$ 2.5 billion in the hydrocarbon sector since 2003. This investment includes participation in the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) and Block 5A in consortium with international partners. Trade between India and South Sudan primarily involves oil, timber, consumer goods, household items, food, and pharmaceuticals. Some Indian companies are also involved in construction, borehole drilling, printing, trading, and services to the oil industry.

Indian businesses have shown interest in investing in South Sudan. Indian companies are already operating in various sectors, including construction, drilling, trading, and hospitality.

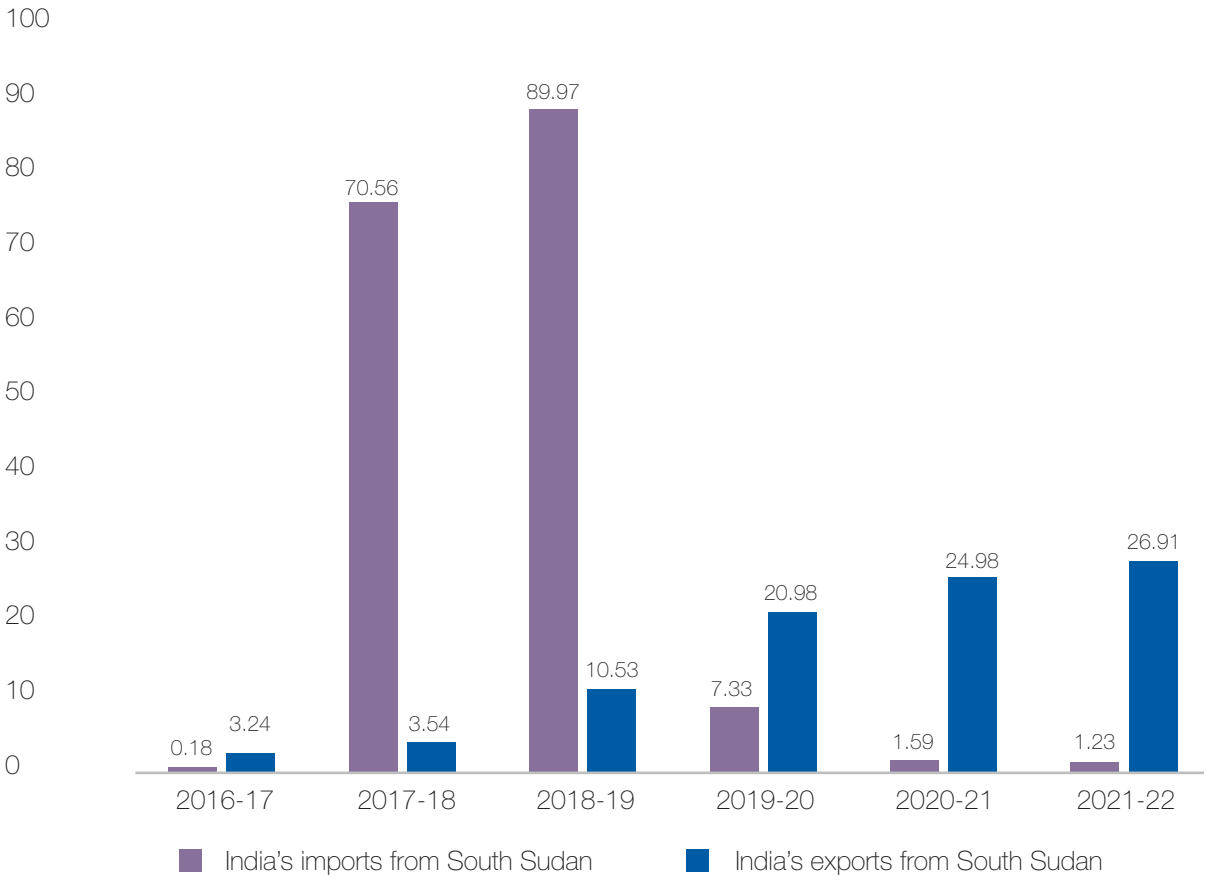
India's relations with South Sudan are based on mutual respect and growing economic cooperation. Despite the young nation's challenges, there is optimism for further development and investment opportunities, fostering stronger ties between the two countries.

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND SOUTH SUDAN

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	SOUTH SUDAN	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)		3190
GDP growth (annual %)		8.7
GDP Ranking - global		5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)		9280
Consumer Price inflation (%)	10.5	5.1
Population (Million)		1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		63

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-SOUTH SUDAN BILATERAL TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- India's main investment in South Sudan is in the oil sector, through its public sector company ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL). India invested approximately US$ 2.3 billion in Sudan and South Sudan through OVL. India also provides technical assistance and training to South Sudanese oil workers.
- India has also expressed interest in investing in other sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, and renewable energy. India has offered to share its expertise and experience in these fields with South Sudan. India has also donated solar panels to power schools and hospitals in South Sudan.
- India has also encouraged its private sector companies to explore business opportunities in South Sudan. Some of the Indian companies that have shown interest or presence in South Sudan are Reliance Industries, Tata Group, Bajaj Group, Bharti Airtel Communications, and other investment corporates. These companies have potential and good investments opportunities in sectors such as ICT, pharmaceuticals and medical services, finance and banking, housing and construction.

INDIAN DIASPORA

Presently, about 800 Indian nationals are based in South Sudan. Some of them have set up their businesses in Juba and others are working in various companies. A number of Indians are also working in UN organizations, Christian missionaries and in NGOs. Indians were among the first to open hotels, borehole drilling companies, printing press and departmental stores in Juba in early 2006 after South Sudan was declared an autonomous region. The Indian Association of South Sudan (IASS) in Juba has been organizing periodic free medical and blood donation camps in the past on important occasions such as on Indian national days.



SYRIA

India and Syria enjoy friendly political relations based on historic and civilizational ties, a secular, nationalist and developmental orientation and similar perceptions on many international and regional issues and membership of NAM.

India has sent aid worth $ 6 million in medicines and food to Syria and also facilitated the study of Syrian students in Indian universities. It extended a $240 million line of credit for a thermal plant in Syria. The project was halted force majeure but the line of credit has now been restructured and is expected to resume. A Syria-India joint business council was also constituted in 2010. India also facilitated the development and modernization of a steel plant with a $ 25 million line of credit, and has two major investments in the oil sector.

India and Syria have also set up a Centre of Excellence in IT, which could not be operationalised due to premature recall of the Indian experts on security grounds when the crisis broke. India, with its expertise in this sector, has offered to restart operations and upgrade it to a NextGen Centre of Excellence in IT.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

Before the crisis in 2011, India exported textiles and yarn, petroleum products, transport equipment, machinery & instruments, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals. After 2011, it exported rice, pharmaceutical raw materials and pharmaceuticals, yarns and textiles, blankets, chemical raw materials and frozen buffalo meat. It imported petroleum, crude & products & minerals, machinery, leather, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones before 2011 and after 2011, almonds, wool, leather, cumin and black sesame.

OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND SYRIA

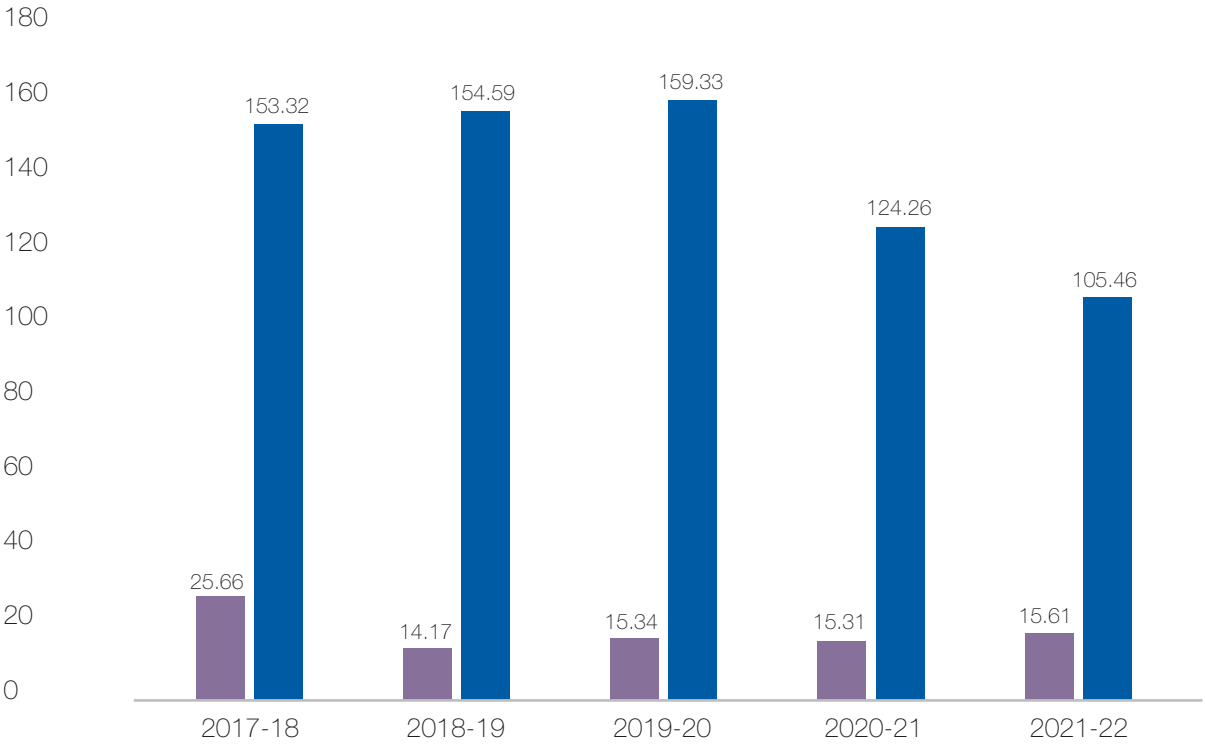
Agriculture, automobile, biotechnology, construction, chemicals, IT and BPM, gems and jewellery, and leather are some of sectors that have been identified as leading sectors with opportunities for foreign investors.

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND SYRIA

INDIA		SYRIA	
GDP (PPP)	10.21 trillion	GDP (PPP)	50.28 billion
GDP (Official Rate)	3.05 trillion	GDP (Official Rate)	136 billion
GDP Growth Rate	8.9%	GDP Growth Rate	1.5%
Consumer Price	5.1%	Consumer Price	36.7%
Population	1.3 billion	Population	21.5 millions
EoDB Ranking	62	EoDB Ranking	No Data Available

Source: IMF Data Mapper, World Bank & CIA Factbook

INDIA-SYRIA MERCHANDISE TRADE (USD MILLION)



Source: Department of Commerce

Import Export

INDIAN DIASPORA

The size of the Indian community in Syria shrunk significantly due to the on-going crisis. The current number of Indians in Syria is under 100.



REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA (TUNISIA)

India has traditionally maintained cordial and friendly relations with Tunisia since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1958. Bilateral relations have continued on an even keel. In the early 2000s, progress was made in bilateral cooperation in phosphates with the establishment in 2006 of the joint venture in this sector.

India accounts for almost 50% of Tunisia's global phosphoric acid exports. India exports a wide range of products including knocked-down kits, automobiles, electrical items, cotton, mechanical engines, organic chemical products, rubber, rice, coffee/spices etc. Indian exports to Tunisia increased by 47.4% during the calendar year 2021 compared with 2020. In 2022, 211 business visas have been issued from January till October.

Furthermore, bilateral relations between the two countries are built on shared values including secularism and rule of law. Both the countries cooperate extensively on the international fora including the UN and other multilateral agencies[1].

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India buys half of Tunisia's phosphoric acid exports. Other than phosphoric acid, India's top imports from Tunisia include raw hides, dried fruits, wool and flax yarn, wires and cables. India's top exports to Tunisia include automobiles, knocked-down kits, electrical items, mechanical engines, organic chemicals, rice, coffee and spices.

[1]Source: Embassy of India, Tunisia

OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND TUNISIA

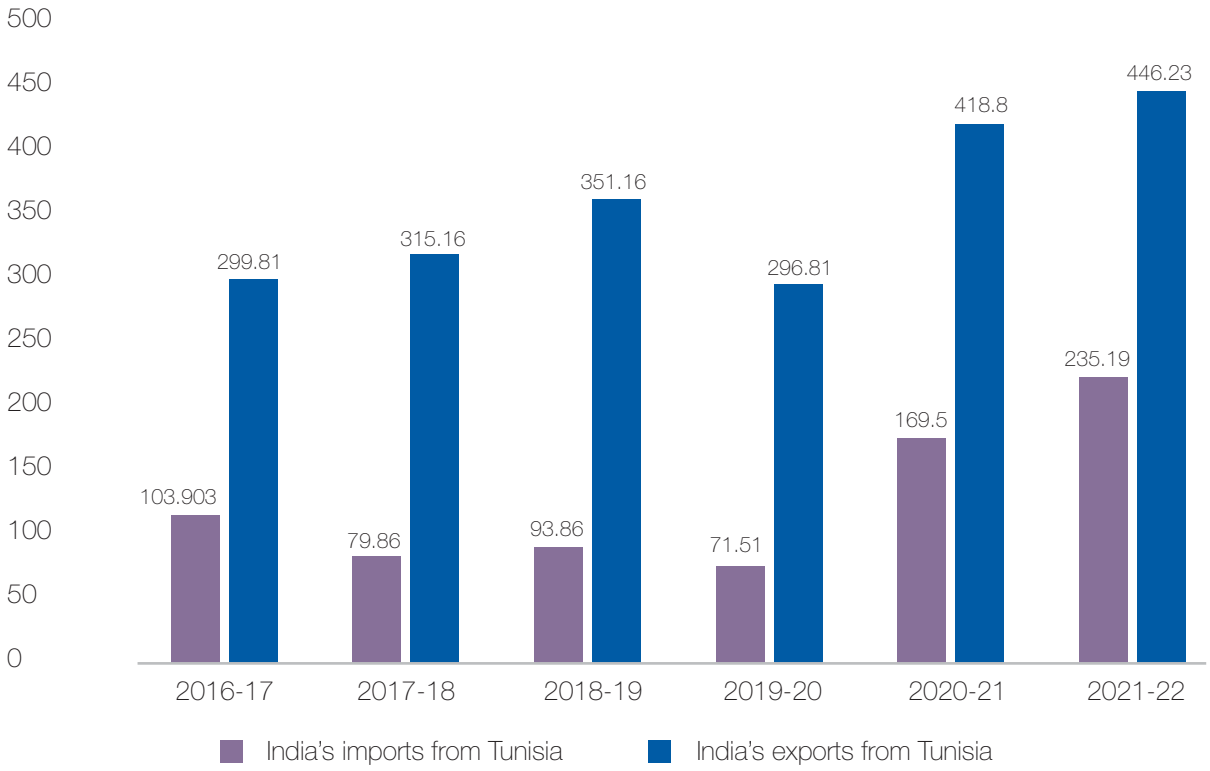
India and Tunisia are targeting $1 billion in bilateral trade over the next five years driven by opportunities in sectors such as automobile and automobile components, IT and BPM, electrical machinery, construction, ports and shipping, oil and gas, renewable energy, textiles and tourism. The two countries have signed an MoU for co-operation in space exploration for peaceful purposes.

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND SOUTH SUDAN

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	TUNISIA	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)	128.57	10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)	46.69	3190
GDP growth (annual %)	4.3	8.7
GDP Ranking - global	88	5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)	3,897.1	9280
Consumer Price inflation (%)	5.71	5.1
Population (Million)	12.26	1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	78	63

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

INDIA-TUNISIA BILATERAL TRADE (IN USD MILLION)



Source: Ministry of commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- [2]India has completed two 'Quick Impact Projects' in Tunisia. The first QIP is for landscaping and beautification of a park in Jendouba University (where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi has also been installed), at a cost of US $ 8,100 and the second QIP is for creation of a play area in Mreghma School in Jendouba, Tunisia at a cost of US $ 6,277.
- A third QIP under construction is that of a mini synthetic football ground for Raoued Municipality in Ariana at a cost of US $ 63,547. The total cost of the QIPs is US $ 77,924 USD. All three QIPs are located in remote/underprivileged areas in Tunisia, which goes in line with Tunisia's policy of promoting development in those areas.

INDIAN DIASPORA

At present, the permanent Indian community consists of a couple of families who have been here since several decades. There are some Indian professionals working in different projects; strength of the Indian community stands at about 50.

[2]Source: Ministry of External Affairs



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

UAE is the second largest economy in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia. In recent years, the UAE, through its 'Vision 2021', has sought to diversify its economy and reduce its dependency on oil. However, its hydrocarbon sector remains very important followed by services and manufacturing. Within services, financial services, wholesale and retail trade, and real estate and business services are the main contributors. The UAE has also been successful in positioning itself as a hub for trade, travel and financial hub. It is also known for its low taxation and ease of doing business, which has helped it attract global businesses to set up offices.

The UAE, which is India's top trading partner in the entire West Asia North Africa (WANA) region, as it alone represents 75 per cent of India's export to GCC nations, has substantially taken forward the relations with India. In the financial year 2021-22, India-UAE bilateral trade increased by 68.30% to US$ 72.8 billion. India's exports to UAE increased by 68.14% to US$28.04 billion whereas India's imports from UAE declined by 68.4% to reach US$ 44.8 billion

BHIM, India's UPI network, is available in select terminals in UAE for Indians to transact. The UAE's sovereign wealth fund, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, has committed to investing $ 75 billion in India's infrastructure sector over a period of time. In 2022-23, UAE ranked as the fourth largest investor in India.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India's exports to UAE are expected to reach $ 50 billion by 2026-27 from $ 31.3 billion in 2022-23. India's imports from UAE currently stand at $ 53.2 billion. The trade agreement signed between UAE and India in 2022 phases out duties on 80% of its tariff lines, accounting for 90% of India exports by value.

India exports petroleum products, precious metals, gems & jewellery, minerals, food items, textiles among others. It imports petroleum and petroleum products, precious metals, gems & jewellery, minerals, chemicals, and wood products.

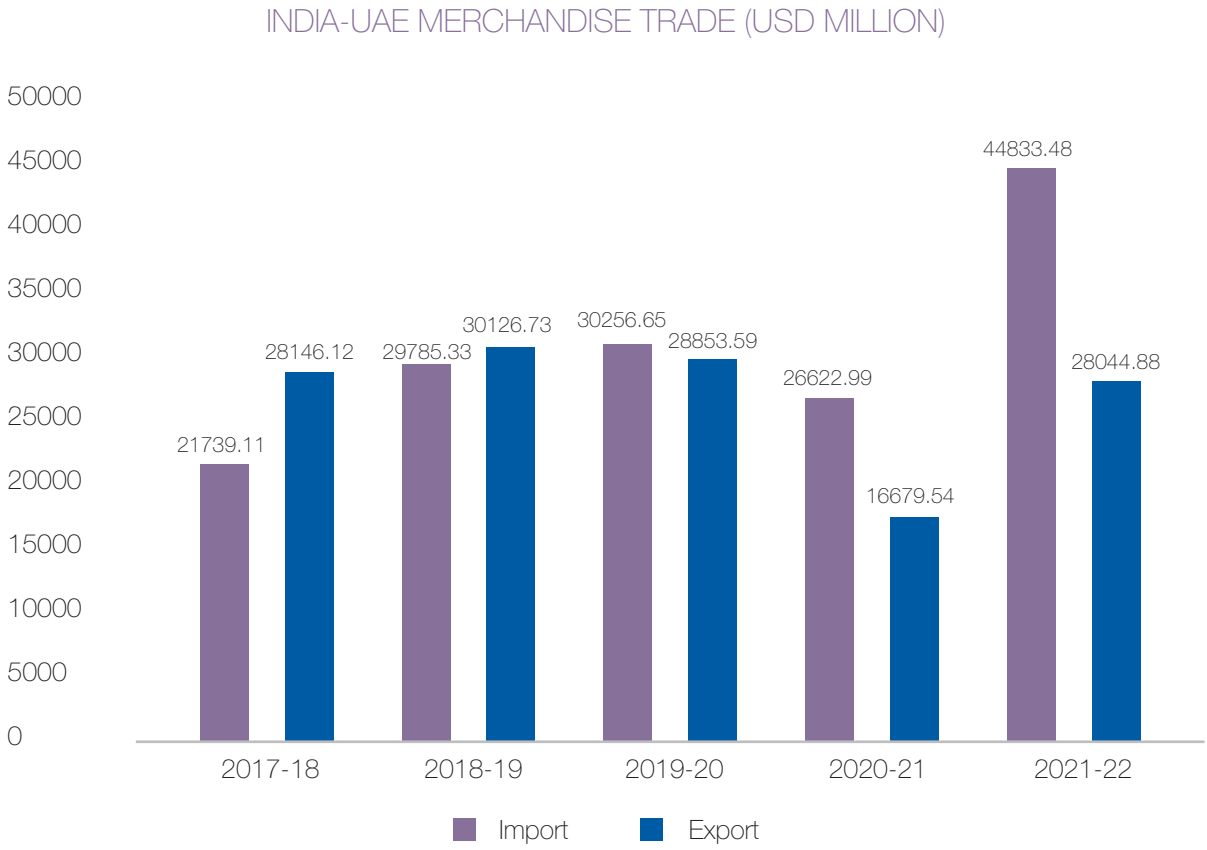
OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UAE

Apart from opportunities for investing in UAE in sectors such as telecom, tourism, wellness, food processing, media and entertainment, healthcare, IT and BPM, pharma, oil and gas, roads, construction and gems and jewellery, the Abu Dhabi Investment Office, through its Innovation Program supports startups and innovative businesses, expanding the scope of collaborations.

STATISTICS OF INDIA AND THE UAE (YEAR: 2023; UNIT: US$)

INDIA		UAE	
GDP (PPP) 2023	13.03 trillion	GDP (PPP)	201.53 billion
Inflation rate	4.9%	Inflation rate	3.4%
GDP Growth Rate	5.9%	GDP Growth Rate	3.5%
GDP, Current Price	3.74 thousand Billion	GDP, Current Price	498.98 Billion
EoDB Rnking	63	EoDB	16
Population	1.3 billion	Population	10.9 million

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank



Source: Department of Commerce

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- Top 5 sectors for UAE investment: Services Sector (15.78%), Sea Transport (8.80%), Power (8.34%), Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (7.15%) and Construction Development: Townships, Housing, Built-Up Infrastructure and Construction-Development Projects (7.08%)
- Focus States for UAE investors: Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,
- FDI from UAE to India: US $7.23 billion
- Top sectors for Indian investment: real estate, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, transportation, logistics, construction, financial and insurance activities
- Top Indian companies in UAE: HCL Infosystems, Wipro, TATA, Nagarjuna Construction Company Limited, Danube, L&T, ESSAR, Dodsal, Punj Lloyd, EIL, Sobha Group, Indian Oil Corporation, Reliance Industries

INDIAN DIASPORA

Indians in the UAE constitute the largest chunk of the country's population. Over 3,420,000 Indian migrants are estimated to be living in the UAE, which is over 27% of the total population of the UAE. Indians have migrated to the country due to opportunities in petroleum, finance and other industries. While most Indian migrants support the financial, manufacturing, and transport industries, a sizeable minority of migrants are involved in professional services and entrepreneurship.



YEMEN

India's relations with Yemen have been deep-seated and inconspicuously steady for more than five decades arising from anti-colonial sentiments, maritime security, aspirations in the UN, economic considerations, and geostrategic importance, especially with respect to UAE and Saudi Arabia.

India exports mineral oils and products of their distillation, cereals, sugars and sugar confectionery, pharmaceutical products, articles of apparel and clothing accessories, tea, rice, wheat, cereals, spices, tobacco, meat and meat products, hand tools, chemicals etc to Yemen. On the other hand, India imports mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, lead and articles thereof, raw hides and skins (other than fur skins), leather and limestone from Yemen.

Furthermore, Yemen's economy is reliant on agriculture and fisheries, which together account for a fifth of its GDP. Opportunities for investment in capacity building and training are emerging in both these sectors.

KEY TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India is third largest importer of goods from Yemen, chiefly importing oil and gas, lead and articles, raw hides and limestone. Yemen imports petroleum and products, cereals, rice, wheat, tea, sugar, pharmaceuticals, apparel, accessories, spices, tobacco, meat and meat products from India. India is among the top pharma importers with Cipla and other major India pharma companies active in Yemen.

STATISTICS BETWEEN INDIA AND YEMEN

INDICATORS (FY 2021)	YEMEN	INDIA
GDP, PPP (Current International $USD billion)		10190
GDP (Current US $ billion)		3190
GDP growth (annual %)		8.7
GDP Ranking - global		5
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international $)		9280
Consumer Price inflation (%)		5.1
Population (Million)		1393.40
Ease of Doing Business Ranking		63

Source: World development Indicators (WDI), World Bank

BILATERAL INVESTMENTS

- India is the third largest investor in Yemen, after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In 2021, Indian investments in Yemen totalled US $768 million. The main sectors of Indian investment in Yemen are telecommunications, construction, and manufacturing.
- Yemen is also an important market for Indian exports. In 2021, India exported US$240 million worth of goods to Yemen. The main Indian exports to Yemen are cereals, sugar, and pharmaceutical products.

INDIAN DIASPORA

The Indian diaspora in Yemen has made significant contributions to the country's economy and society. They have helped to develop the country's infrastructure, they have provided medical care to the Yemeni people, and they have helped to educate the next generation of Yemenis. It has also been affected by the ongoing civil war in the country. Many Indian nationals have been displaced from their homes, and some have been killed. The Indian government has evacuated some Indian nationals from Yemen, but many remain in the country.

NOTES

[1]Note: For the purposes of this report, the Arab countries shall only comprise of Algeria, Baharain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen

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