

# The Executive Program of the India-Arab Cooperation Forum (2026-2028)

January 31, 2026

The Member States of the League of Arab States and the Republic of India reviewed the achievements of the India-Arab cooperation since the establishment of the India-Arab Cooperation Forum in New Delhi on 2 December 2008 and recognized that this cooperation is in the interest of both sides.

Building on the Manama Declaration of 2016 and the various activities that were held from 2016 until date, the two sides set up this Executive Program to take forward the collaboration in various sectors during the period 2026-2028.

## Article I

### Cooperation in the Political Field

The two sides reaffirm their commitment to high-level and regular political consultations:

- To continue political consultations with the aim of discussing bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- To regularly convene ministerial and senior officials' meetings within the framework of the forum.

## Article II

### Cooperation in the Economic and Commercial Field

To further deepen strong trade and investment linkages between India and the Arab States, provide better connect among the traders of the two sides, enhance cooperation among small and medium enterprises, and forge investment linkages, the two sides decided:

- To organize the India-Arab Partnership Conference every two years alternately in one of the Arab Member States and India in order to intensify the trade & investment linkages. The Partnership Conference would be led by the Commerce & Industry Ministries of India and the Arab States accompanied by business delegations, who have current and future interest in each other's markets. The participation of relevant businesses would be coordinated by identified Chambers of Industry from both sides and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The deliberations would focus on policy decisions, investment opportunities, recommendations by the businesses for better market access, joint venture collaborations etc.
- To hold the 7th session of India Arab Partnership Conference in 2026 in one of the Arab States.
- To double trade between India and LAS to US\$ 500 billion by 2030, from the current trade of US\$ 240 billion.
- To encourage visits by trade & commercial delegations from two sides in the flagship sector-specific trade and investment related events and Fairs by publicizing such events well in advance among the relevant Industry Chambers of both sides, coordinated through the Secretariat of League of Arab States. Such Fairs would also include those specifically targeting handicrafts, micro, small and medium enterprises.
- To encourage joint programs to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, facilitate their access to markets, and support training and capacity-building initiatives for SME development agencies. To promote the exchange of expertise, capacity building, and knowledge transfer in the field of SME development, contributing to enhanced competitiveness and job creation, through joint programs for training, technical support, and skills development, implemented in coordination

with the competent national authorities of India, Arab League member states and the Secretariat General of the Arab League

- Considering the possibility of establishing a local currency settlement system between India and Arab League member states on a voluntary basis, subject to national feasibility studies, and without prejudice to the sovereign monetary policies of India and the Arab States, with the aim of facilitating bilateral trade, reducing reliance on foreign currencies, lowering transaction costs, and enhancing financial flexibility. India proposes conducting technical consultations among the relevant financial authorities, with the participation of Arab central banks, to examine implementation methods and operational frameworks.
- They explored ways to enhance cooperation in the field of digital payment systems, including examining the possibility of technical integration between national payment systems in India and the Arab League Member States, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with the legislation and monetary and financial policies in force in each country.

### **Article III**

#### **Cooperation in the Field of Energy**

The two sides, welcoming the strong cooperation between India and Arab States in the field of energy, called for enhanced cooperation aimed at energy security, support for renewable energy and energy efficiency; the promotion of the green transition; and clean energy technologies. They welcomed the First India-Arab Energy Forum (IAEF) held in virtual format in June 2023 co-chaired by India and Morocco and the 2nd India-Arab Energy Forum held in Goa on 27 January 2026, which inter-alia, identified specific sectors and recommendations to take the India Arab energy cooperation forward. The two sides agreed to:

- To enhance bilateral trade in hydrocarbons between India and the member states of the League of Arab States.
- To facilitate reciprocal investments across the oil and gas value chain, including exploration, production, and strategic petroleum reserves.
- To call on all member states in the LAS who are not yet members of the India-based International Solar Alliance to consider joining the Alliance
- To call upon member states of the League of Arab States to participate in the Global Biofuel Alliance.
- To urge Joint Ventures in solar parks and wind farms leveraging India's experience with large-scale renewable energy deployment and priorities of India and the Arab States.
- To encourage the coordination of efforts to mobilize joint financing for renewable and new energy projects through collaborative partnerships between the Republic of India and the Arab states.
- To facilitate collaboration in R&D, production, and supply chains for green hydrogen and ammonia.
- To encourage cooperation in clean technology and infrastructure such as (i) Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS): Joint research and pilot projects in decarbonizing fossil fuel operations (ii) Smart Grid & Battery Storage: Technology sharing and co-development in grid stability, EV charging infrastructure, and energy storage systems (iii) Adoption of biofuels.
- To collaborate in capacity development in energy sector in solar panel installation, grid management, and green technologies through institutions like the Skill Council for Green Jobs.
- To promote research partnerships between Indian institutes and Arab universities on energy transition technologies.
- To hold the third India-Arab Energy Forum in 2027 in one of the Arab States.

### **Article IV**

#### **Cooperation in the Field of Environment**

- The two sides agreed to establish a coordination mechanism between the Arab League and the Republic of India to implement the proposals outlined in the Manama Declaration and the Third Senior Officials' Meeting of the India-Arab Cooperation Forum. This mechanism aims to enhance cooperation in environmental protection, water resource management, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation, as well as in combating desertification, addressing climate change, promoting agriculture and food security, and coordinating positions between the Arab States and India at international environmental conferences.

- They further agreed to consider the convening of a joint India-Arab ministerial meeting on the environment, aimed at strengthening cooperation in monitoring and addressing regional and global environmental challenges, as well as exchanging expertise and best practices in this field.
- Organizing India-Arab events and joint knowledge exchange programs on "Energy, Environment, and Green Economy," focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, land degradation, water use, and biodiversity.
- To enhance cooperation in meteorology and early warning systems through the exchange of data and technical expertise, and capacity-building in forecasting extreme weather events, sand and dust storms, thereby contributing to risk reduction and climate adaptation.
- To strengthen India-Arab cooperation in the circular economy through sharing experiences in reuse, recycling, and sustainable production, developing supportive policies, and promoting green innovation and projects to enhance environmental and economic sustainability.
- To coordinate the sharing of best practices in water management and conservation, and reinforcing joint efforts in drought preparedness and the implementation of climate-resilient water strategies.

## **Article V**

### **Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Food Security**

In order to promote cooperation in the fields of Agriculture and Food Security, two sides agreed to:

- Cooperate in Agriculture and agricultural research, livestock and Fisheries, including benefiting from training programs provided by the two sides in these areas, in addition to increasing investments and joint ventures in order to achieve food security and sustainable development, exchange of expertise in the area of cultivation of arid lands.
- Collaborating in arid-zone farming, low-cost drip irrigation, solar pumps, drought-resistant and heat-resistant crop varieties.
- Cooperating in agri-tech with focus on AI-powered crop diagnostics, precision irrigation, soil health sensors, vertical farming systems.
- Promoting and sharing experiences, best practices and technologies in artisanal, small-scale fisheries development, aquaculture and fish hatcheries.
- Encouraging the use of space technology and applications in agriculture sector to monitor Crop health, water use, land degradation etc.
- Holding the first India-Arab Agriculture & Food Security Partnership Conference in India in 2027.
- Encouraging the exchange of expertise and best practices in the development of rural and agricultural communities, and strengthening the role of farmers' associations and agricultural cooperatives, thereby building institutional capacities, supporting sustainable agricultural development, and enhancing food security.
- Promoting cooperation in food processing and the development of agricultural value chains, including post-harvest activities, to increase the added value of agricultural products.
- Exploring the establishment of an India-Arab research platform for agricultural innovation through a network of joint research centres between Arab and Indian universities, with a focus on developing drought-resistant crop varieties. To work on the development of joint investment projects in the field of food security, aimed at promoting collaborative investments, exploring the establishment of food storage and processing centres, and enhancing agricultural supply chains between India and the Arab States.

## **Article VI**

### **Cooperation in the field of Water Conservation**

To address shared challenges related to water scarcity, arid and semi-arid climatic conditions, and the need to enhance water use efficiency and technological innovation, the two sides proposed the following measures:

- Sharing best practices in water management and conservation.
- Exploring cooperation in rainwater harvesting, artificial groundwater recharge, and aquifer management.
- Strengthening joint efforts to enhance drought preparedness and develop climate-resilient water strategies.
- Exchanging expertise and conducting joint training programs in water management, as well as improving water purification and sanitation systems.

## **Article VII**

### **Cooperation in the field of digital technologies, innovation and startups**

Promoting cooperation in digital technologies, innovation, and startups, while respecting state sovereignty, data privacy, and security, and ensuring compliance with relevant national laws and regulations, and in alignment with national and regional Arab strategies on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, the two sides agreed as follows:

- Linking startup ecosystems in India and the Arab states, to explore:
  - Market opportunities and access in both regions, including the exchange and analysis of non-sensitive information on priority markets and sectors, and supporting market entry for startups in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, while safeguarding data privacy and security.
  - Establishing joint projects and partnerships between startups based on complementary technical and innovative capabilities, ensuring intellectual property protection, data governance, and compliance with national regulatory and legislative frameworks.
  - Facilitating access to investments through transparent and secure mechanisms connecting startups with investors and funding sources, ensuring compliance with financial regulations
- Promoting cooperation between startups in India and Arab League Member States within a structured institutional framework that facilitates the exchange of expertise, capacity building, knowledge transfer, and localization of technological solutions, while considering the economic and social contexts of the Arab States. The priority sectors identified include: health technologies, financial technologies, agri-tech, green technologies, and others, in line with Arab states' developmental priorities and sectoral legislation, ensuring the highest standards of data protection, privacy, and security, particularly for health, financial, agricultural, and environmental data.
- Cooperating in the establishment of an India-Arab Startup and Innovation Partnership Platform to implement joint programs, facilitate investment access, support seamless startup integration, and provide capacity-building programs offered by the 'Start-Up India' initiative to startups from other States. This platform shall operate under principles of good governance and adhere to data security and privacy standards, consistent with national and regional strategies of India and the Arab States.
- Enhancing the exchange of expertise, best practices, and technology in public digital infrastructure, including the development of innovative technological solutions, technical knowledge sharing, strengthening institutional capacities to support comprehensive digital transformation, promoting integration between digital systems, and facilitating efficient delivery of public services.
- Strengthening bilateral and academic cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence applications, with the aim of supporting innovation, exchanging expertise, building capacities, and deploying AI solutions, while fully adhering to ethical standards, national laws, and data protection regulations. They further encourage joint research and development and the establishment of partnerships that deliver mutual benefits and promote sustainable development.

## **Article VIII**

### **Cooperation in the field of Space**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Space, both sides agreed to:

- Set-up an India-Arab Space Cooperation Working Group to study the possibility of encouraging cooperation in (i) joint remote-sensing missions for climate, agriculture, urban planning and disaster management; (ii) space research, capacity building and academic exchange programs; (iii) inclusion of private-sector entities in launches, satellite development, and data service delivery; (iv) Capacity building of scientists/engineers from Arab States at Indian space research centers and universities (v) Creation of joint space tech incubation hubs, linking ecosystems for startups and SMEs. Indian and Arab space agencies, whether governmental or private, are invited to participate in this cooperation.
- Organizing the first meeting of this India-Arab Space Cooperation Working Group in India in 2027.

## **Article IX**

### **Cooperation in the Field of Housing**

- The two sides agreed on conducting training programs on sustainable urban planning and design, construction, and modern building materials. This includes gaining insights into the latest scientific technologies in concrete and asphalt, updating building codes based on modern techniques, rehabilitating damaged and degraded areas, and addressing informal settlements.

## **Article X**

### **Cooperation in the field of Tourism**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Tourism, both sides agreed to:

- Cooperating in the field of tourism, acknowledging the growing importance of tourism as a driver for economic development, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.
- Collaborating in (i) Facilitating mutual visits by tourists through enhanced travel facilitation measures (ii) Sharing expertise, best practices, and technologies in sustainable tourism development (iii) Facilitation of tourism infrastructure development including training of human resources (iv) Private sector partnerships and investment in tourism (v) Promotion of UNESCO World Heritage sites in India and Arab states via joint festivals, exhibitions, and cultural events (vi) Cross-promotion of meetings /incentives /conferences /exhibitions (MICE) tourism.
- Establishing an India-Arab Tourism Working Group comprising representatives from League of Arab States Secretariat, relevant stakeholders from the Arab Member States and Ministry of Tourism in India. This Working Group shall meet once every two years in one of the Indian or Arab cities alternately to review the implementation, develop work plans, and explore new cooperation initiatives. First Meeting of India-Arab Tourism Working Group to be held in India in 2026.
- Enhancing cooperation in the tourism sector, particularly medical tourism, under the Indian government initiatives 'Healing in India' and 'Healing by India,' including partnerships in medical tourism, health services, capacity-building, and skills development for healthcare professionals. To further promote cooperation in showcasing unique tourism routes, luxury train journeys, and other premium tourism experiences.

## **Article XI**

### **Cooperation in the field of Human Resources Development**

In order to promote cooperation in the fields of Human Resources Development, both sides proposed:

- To enhance cooperation between the two sides in various areas of human resources development through providing industry-relevant training courses in India for professionals from member States of Arab States and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States including through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programs of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- To institutionalize cooperation between Diplomatic Training Institutes of India and LAS States.
- To organize, upon request, an exclusive tailor-made training program for junior and middle level diplomats of the Arab States and the Secretariat of the League of Arab States in India by the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS).
- To organize an annual training program for Indian–Arab diplomats at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, with

participation from two diplomats representing each member state of the League of Arab States.

· To send diplomats for training to member States of the League of Arab States and vice-versa, whenever feasible and upon mutual agreement.

## **Article XII**

### **Cooperation in the field of Culture and Education**

In order to promote cooperation in the fields of culture and education, the two sides agreed to:

- Organizing India-Arab Cultural Festival once every two years in one of the Indian or Arab cities alternately. This Festival can celebrate shared heritage through seminars, exhibitions, films, music, cuisine, and cultural performances. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will jointly initiate organization of this festival along with the Arab League Secretariat and Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). The 3rd session of the India-Arab Cultural festival will be held in India in 2026.
- Strengthening collaboration in the field of cultural and historical heritage, through cooperation among museums and the relevant institutions responsible for safeguarding and managing tangible and intangible cultural heritage, exploring the possibility of partnership between relevant libraries in India and the Arab States, access to Arabic manuscripts for documentation of Arabic literature and arts.
- To explore launching joint programs to preserve and digitize historically significant Arab and Indian manuscripts.
- Enhancing the participation of Arab creators and official cultural institutions in Indian festivals and exhibitions.
- To examine the possibility of allocating programs and dedicated spaces for students and young artists within festivals organized in India and the Arab world.
- Exploring the possibilities of promoting short-term visits for artists and students between the two sides.
- Encouraging cooperation in the field of archives through visits, training programs, and capacity-building for officials from both sides in archival management.
- Encouraging the participation of India and Arab League member states in each other's cultural festivals and handicraft exhibitions, as well as organizing cultural and artistic competitions across various fields. In this context, India welcomed the proposal for the Arab League to partner in the upcoming Surajkund Festival 2027.
- Supporting translation initiatives between the two sides through the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science, the national translation and literary centres of the Arab States, and their Indian counterparts.
- Organizing India-Arab University Presidents Conference, once every two years alternately in India and the Arab States, to discuss means of promoting cooperation in higher education, including discussing means for establishing university chairs for Arabic and Indian studies in selected Arab and Indian universities. In this regard, both sides welcomed the 2nd edition of Universities' Presidents' Conference in Ajman, UAE on 11-12 February 2026.
- Expanding communication channels between Arab and Indian educational institutions, strengthening interactions between universities and higher education institutes on both sides, exploring opportunities for partnerships and agreements, and promoting exchange and collaboration in scientific research. This includes continuing student exchange programs, offering additional scholarships, and facilitating the teaching of Arabic and Indian languages.
- Encouraging academic research and educational programs focused on the India-Arab civilizational relationship.
- The two sides emphasized the importance of developing effective mechanisms for coordination and cooperation in the protection and management of cultural, heritage, and archaeological property, combating illicit trafficking, and preventing smuggling, in accordance with national laws and relevant international agreements. They also highlighted the need to promote the exchange of expertise and information, strengthen capacity at both technical and institutional levels, and support joint efforts to recover smuggled or looted cultural, heritage, and archaeological property and return it to its country of origin, thereby contributing to the preservation of cultural identity.

## **Article XIII**

### **Cooperation in the field of Media**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Media, both sides agreed to:

- Promoting media cooperation and in this regard, encourage important media organizations on both sides, including those in the electronic and print media in both the public and private sectors to share Media best practices.
- Exchanging visits of journalists, media professionals, and content creators between the two sides
- Cooperating in content exchange to enhance the coverage of Arab States in Indian media and of Indian content in Arab media, focusing on topics of mutual interest, and enabling both sides to benefit from training programs in this field.
- Organizing the 2nd edition of India-Arab Media Symposium in one of the Arab States in 2026.

## **Article XIV**

### **Cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, both sides agreed to:

- Cooperating in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices with the aim of delivering competitive, accessible, equitable, affordable, and high-quality medical services for the benefit of all.
- Encouraging to work towards regulator harmonization in the pharmaceutical sector, which will further promote access to medicines. In this regard, India urged LAS States to consider recognizing Indian Pharmacopoeia, according to the regulations and standards applicable within the member states.
- Facilitating trade in low-cost medicines and vaccines through efforts aimed at enhancing market access. In this context, the Arab League member states commended India's role in supplying COVID-19 vaccines to Arab League Member States in 2021 under the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative, recognizing India as one of the world's leading vaccine producers and India commended the assistance provided by certain Arab League member states to India in its efforts to combat the pandemic, while looking forward to enhanced cooperation in the field of vaccines.
- Strengthening cooperation in health innovation and medical technologies to advance digital health management services, and to develop innovative, high-quality, and affordable medical equipment.
- Organizing the first India-Arab Health Partnership Conference in 2027 in one of the Arab States.
- Exploring ways for cooperation to strengthen traditional medicine systems, including Ayurveda, through research collaboration, institutional partnerships, capacity-building, expert exchanges, and the facilitation of market access, while fully adhering to the regulatory frameworks in force in each country.

## **Article XV**

### **Cooperation in Youth and Sports**

- The two sides agreed to strengthen the role of youth in India- Arab cooperation, recognizing them as a key pillar for building a sustainable partnership. This will be achieved by supporting youth and sports exchange programs, encouraging their participation in joint events and forums to promote cultural understanding.

## **Article XVI**

### **Cooperation in the field of Counter Terrorism**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Counter Terrorism, both sides agreed to:

- Study the possibility of establishing mechanisms to combat terrorism, radicalization and transnational crime.

- Encouraging cooperation in capacity building and knowledge exchange to combat terrorism and extremism across all domains, including the digital and maritime spheres.
- Encouraging cooperation within international bodies addressing terrorism to enhance coordination of efforts, exchange best practices among States and organizations, and explore ways for strengthening joint cooperation between the two sides in this field.

## **Article XVII**

### **Parliamentary Cooperation**

In order to promote cooperation in the field of Parliamentary Cooperation, both sides agreed to:

- Encouraging exchange of visits between parliamentary delegations from both sides and strengthen cooperation and ties between the Arab parliaments and the Indian Parliament. In this regard, welcome a delegation from Arab Parliament (Parliamentarians from Arab States) to visit India in 2026. An Indian Parliamentary delegation to visit Arab State in 2027.

**New Delhi**

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