

## **India-Lebanon Bilateral Relations**

India established diplomatic relations with Lebanon in 1954. Shared commonalities include, besides cultural similarities, a democratic, parliamentary system of government based on a written constitution, basic freedoms and human rights; a market economy moving towards greater liberalization; a large pool of educated English-speaking professionals and entrepreneurs; and a vibrant global diaspora.

The fact that India kept its Embassy in Beirut opened and functioning throughout the civil war from 1975 to 1990 in contrast to the Embassies of a large number of other countries, is greatly appreciated by the Lebanese, together with India's traditionally strong linkages with the Arab world and our steadfast support for the Palestine cause. Both countries have also cooperated closely on various issues of mutual interest during their overlap in 2010 as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

### **Indian Community:**

There are around 1500 Indian community members in Lebanon including about 350 Indian nationals working in the new US Chancery Building Project. Rest are employed as workers in companies, construction sector, agricultural farms, etc. They are in North Beirut and Northern Lebanon. The Embassy attaches highest priority to reaching out to the Indian community in an earnest, active, helpful and broad-based manner, and in ensuring their well being and welfare. During the recent war in March 2026 between Israel/Iran/Hezbollah, the Embassy remained in close touch of the Indian community in Lebanon and facilitated two repatriation flights carrying 355 Indian nationals, who were working in M/s BL Harbert and were engaged in construction of new US Embassy in Beirut.

### **Indian Battalion [INDBATT] in UNIFIL:**

An Indian Army battalion (INDBATT) has been deployed in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since November, 1998 to perform peacekeeping duties in South Lebanon. The INDBATT contingent currently consists of 600 personnel. With their utmost professionalism, INDBATT personnel are highly regarded for their sincere outreach to the local community and they have been able to win hearts and minds of the local community. Number of projects have been undertaken by the Battalion in southern Lebanon.

On 14 July 2026, Col. Prasoon Singh, SM of the 5 RAJPUT regiment, formally assumed charge as the Contingent Commander (CONTICO) for INDBATT XXVII in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). He took over command from the outgoing Contingent Commander, Col. N. Gladson, who had been having this charge since 28 June 2025.

### **Visits**

#### **From India to Lebanon:**

- i. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, during his tenure as Prime Minister of India visited Lebanon in 1956 and 1960.
- ii. Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (East) visited Lebanon from 15-17 July, 1998 for Foreign Office consultations. He was received by Prime Minister Mr Rafik Al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Mr Fares Bouez.

- iii. Shri MM Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence paid a 3-day visit to Lebanon to meet Indian peacekeepers deployed at UNIFIL in South Lebanon from 10-12 September 2008.
- iv. Shri E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs visited Lebanon from 30 June-2 July 2013.
- v. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East) visited Lebanon from 27-30 March, 2014
- vi. Shri M.J. Akbar, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, visited Beirut in August, 2016.
- vii. Shri Amar Sinha, then Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs visited Lebanon in May, 2017
- viii. Shri T.S. Tirumurthi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs visited Lebanon in May 2019 and held wide ranging consultations.
- ix. Dr. Pradeep Rajpurohit, JS(WANA), Ministry of External Affairs visited Beirut on 13-16 June 2022 for Meeting of UNRWA.
- x. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV&OIA) and Dr. Pradeep Rajpurohit, JS(WANA) visited Lebanon from 01-04 October 2022.
- xi. On March 25, Govt of India delegation led by Shri K. J. Alphons, former MOS for Tourism & MeiT and comprising of Sh. V Muraleedharan, former MOS for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs; Sh. Benny Behanan, Hon'ble MP & Sh. Shone George, Member of Kottayam District Panchayat, participated in the Consecration Ceremony of Mor Gregorious Joseph as the Catholicos of Syrian Christians in Beirut. Sh Alphons read out Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi's letter on the solemn occasion.

#### **From Lebanon to India:**

- i. Foreign Minister Mr. Fairz Boueiz visited India in 1997 for NAM Conference in New Delhi.
- ii. Agriculture Minister Mr. Akram Chehayeb visited Delhi in February 2015 at the invitation of his counterpart and also inaugurated the Lebanese Pavilion at the Surajkund Mela where Lebanon was the Partner Country. Mr. Akram Chehayeb met Union Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh in New Delhi on 6 February 2015.
- iii. Former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Fouad Siniora participated in West Asia Conference organized by IDSA in February 2020 and also had a meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- iv. Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Louis Lahoud visited New Delhi from May 31 to June 4, 2022 to attend meeting of African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO).
- v. Finance Minister of Lebanon H.E. Dr. Youssef El Khalil virtually participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session and 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Finance Ministers of the Voice of Global South Summit (VGSS) on 13 January 2023 and 17 August 2024 respectively.
- vi. Industry Minister of Lebanon H.E. Mr. George Bouchikian traveled to India to attend World Food India Exhibition from 3-5 November 2023 and met the then Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- vii. Two Senior Officials from the Ministry of Health visited India from 19-21 Aug 2024 to further discuss issues pertaining to recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia and adoption of Janaushadhi Scheme in Lebanon.

- viii. Amb Ibrahim Assaf, Head of Political & Consular Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Arab Foreign Ministers' (IAFMM) Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting on 30-31 January 2026 in New Delhi.

### **MOUs/Agreements**

The MOUs/Agreements with Lebanon are as follows:

- i. Air Service Agreement (Signed in 13 March 1958)
- ii. Air Service Agreement (Signed in 19 September 1964)
- iii. Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income of Enterprises Operating Aircraft (Signed in 22 February 1968)
- iv. Cultural Exchange Agreement (signed in 7 April 1997, ratified in February 2000, which is automatically renewed every 5 years).
- v. MoU for an Educational Exchange Programme (signed in 30 June 2013, valid for 5 years, to be automatically renewed every 5 years).
- vi. MoU on student exchange programme between Delhi University and Lebanese University (Signed on 4th March 2021)
- vii. Lebanon signed the International Solar Alliance ISA Framework Agreement on 27 August, 2024.
- viii. MoU signed between Lebanese National News Agency (NNA) and Asian News International (ANI) on 24 April, 2025.
- ix. MOU signed with Ministry of Health on 26 November 2025 for Renovation of Qana Government Hospital as a Quick Impact Project.
- x. MOU signed with Ministry of Youth & Sports on 21 January 2025, for reconstruction of two mini-stadium for sports facilities at Nabatieh and Bekaa as Quick Impact Project.

### **India's Humanitarian Assistance:**

- i. India provided \$ 1 million (\$500,000 in 2014 to Lebanon Humanitarian Fund and \$500,000 in 2016 to Lebanon Response Fund) as part of India's commitments made at the Pledging Conferences on Syria held in Kuwait in 2014 and 2015.
- ii. In the aftermath of tragic explosions of August 4, 2020 at Beirut Port, Government of India provided 58 MT of medical, food and relief supplies to Lebanon on August 14, 2020.
- iii. On 22 December, 2020, Government of India made a donation of office equipment to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- iv. Government of India donated 05 motorbikes each to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Beirut Governorate during the visit of Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV&OIA) from 1-4 October 2022.
- v. Government of India donated a 45KVA generator set to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon in December 2022.
- vi. The Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment camp was held from 26 January to 15 February 2023 at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Beirut during which 322 artificial limbs were provided and fitted to 294 handicapped persons.
- vii. India has gifted 33 tons of medicines comprising of a wide range of pharmaceutical products, including cardiovascular medications, NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), anti-inflammatory agents, antibiotics and anesthetics to Lebanon in 24 October 2024. Health Minister of Lebanon Dr. Firas Abiad, received the 1st consignment on 24 October 2024.

viii. A consignment of essential medicines is scheduled to be sent by India to Lebanon shortly.

### Quick Impact Projects:

In the past few years the following QIPs have taken place:

| QIP's No. | Project Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Implementing Agency                                               |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/2019-20 | Provision of Generator set at Burghuz village in South of Lebanon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Indian battalion at UNIFIL in association with local municipality |
| 2/2019-20 | Upgradation of Sardar Patel Complex for sports and Culture at Kawkaba village in South Lebanon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -do-                                                              |
| 3/2019-20 | Renovation of Mahatma Gandhi Park at Eblel Saqi municipality in South Lebanon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | -do-                                                              |
| 1/2020-21 | Provision of Hanger for New Garbage Dump & Garbage Pressing Machine at the Kafar Chouba Village, South Lebanon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -do-                                                              |
| 2/2020-21 | “Construction of Furnishing of Red Cross Building in Chebaa Village, South Lebanon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | -do-                                                              |
| 1/2021-22 | Construction and Furnishing of Reception Cabin at the Mrusti al Shouf entrance of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR)                                     |
| 2/2021-22 | Supporting the reforestation of one hectare area within the SBR with planting of 800 small seedlings (one year old)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR)                                     |
| 1/2023    | Provision of 180KVA Generator set for electricity supply of MOFA building                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants                         |
| 5/2025    | 5 QIPs namely 1. Providing of solar panels for the villages of Halta & Dharjat; 2. Establishment of Computer Training Labs for the village of El Fardiss; 3. Purchase of water pumps for supplying water to homes in the villages of Rachaya Al Foukhar and Kaffar Couba; 4. Up-gradation of community hall seating in Halta village; and 5. providing garbage bins for villages of El Fardiss & El Hebbariye, are under implementation. | Indian battalion at UNIFIL in association with local municipality |

### ITEC

The Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation [ITEC] programme has been popular in Lebanon since its inception in 1964. India offers 75 slots to Lebanon for various training programmes under ITEC. Defence ITEC Slots are also offered to the Lebanese side every year. The Embassy of India, Beirut organised ITEC Days on 15 September 2025 which was attended by senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigration (MOFA&E), Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), various other Government officials and a large number of ITEC Alumni.

### Economic and Commercial Relations:

Bilateral Trade:

Despite the disruptions due to Israel-Hezbollah conflict, the Mission continued to interact closely with the business community including organizing business seminars to promote bilateral commercial ties. Furthermore, several Lebanese companies participated in trade fairs in India and were able to engage in productive meetings that led to various trade opportunities. Lebanon's imports from India stood at US\$ 337 million in 2025, as compared to US\$ 323 million in 2024. India is the 11th largest import source for Lebanon.

Main exports from India are Chemicals, Pearls, precious stones and metals, machinery, textile articles, plastic, etc., and imports from Lebanon are base metals and articles thereof, miscellaneous manufactured articles, etc. There is considerable potential of expanding trade and investment between the two countries. Mission has undertaken more than 15 Business events during last financial year.

Some Lebanese companies like M/s Khatib and Alamy, Future Pipes and Dar Al Handasah have businesses in India. An Indian company OEG has been operating two power plants in Lebanon in association with its partners. A.N. Boukhather SAL (ANB Holdings) has set up a plant to assemble 2 wheelers, adding local design features to market it in Lebanon. Recently, an investor from Lebanon (Al Nabeel Foods) has shown interest to set up a humus making factory in India. A Lebanese company, Benta Pharma has established its entire production line based on Indian machinery. Recently, Choueiry Group has signed a contract with Hinduja Group for bring Ashok Leyland Trucks to Lebanon.

On 24 February 2025, the Embassy organised a Seminar on “Promotion of Use of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)”. DDG, UIDAI; Head of International Business, NPCL; Head of TCS-Middle East shared their presentations in the event. Lebanon’s Ministers of Social Affairs Hanine Sayyid, Youth & Sports Dr Nora Bayrakdarian, Administrative Development Dr Fadi Makki & IT Kamal Shahade also spoke during the Event.

On 25 March 2025, the Embassy organised a Multi-sectoral Business Seminar in Beirut to foster stronger India-Lebanon trade ties; the seminar consisted of a panel discussion moderated by Ambassador Sheikh and attended by MP Ali Osseiran, President of the Lebanese-Indian Parliamentary Friendship Committee; senior officials of various Ministries, prominent businessmen & Indian diaspora.

On 22 May 2025, the Embassy organised a Webinar with Federation of Indian Exports Organization (FIEO) on promotion of commercial ties between India and Lebanon.

On 30 September 2025, Embassy organised a seminar titled ‘Promotion of Tourism and Business in India’ in which Lebanon’s Tourism Minister Laura El Khazen Lahoud was the Chief Guest and MP Ali Oseirran, president of Lebanese-India Parliamentary Friendship Committee was the Guest of Honour. The event was attended by a large number of prominent business community of Lebanon.

On 1 October 2025, Embassy organised an exhibition of items under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme for the Lebanese business community.

On 19 November 2025, Embassy also organised a vibrant Tourism and Business Seminar bringing together key voices from India and Lebanon to strengthen bilateral ties. The event was attended by Lebanese Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Nora Bayrakdarian, MP Neemat Frem, several senior officials and CEOs.

On 11 December 2025, the Embassy hosted a seminar on “India’s electoral system and the role of technology, including EVMs”. The event featured a presentation by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of ECI Shri Maneesh Garg.

## **Culture**

The Lebanese people have traditionally admired Indian music, films, cuisine, etc. An increasing number of them are also interested in Yoga. The Embassy organizes yoga classes once a week at the Chancery premises which is well attended by Lebanese yoga practitioners and members of Indian Diaspora. There has been a large and enthusiastic participation in the public events organized by the Mission by the Mission to celebrate the IDY since 2015. The Embassy of India, Beirut celebrated the 12<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga in Beirut on 21 June 2026 with great enthusiasm, bringing together a large number of participants from across Lebanon including Tourism Minister Ms Laura Lahoud as Chief Guest and MP & Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs & Emigrants Dr. Fadi Alameh as Guest of Honour. The 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was also celebrated by the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) in UNIFIL in South Lebanon with enthusiastic participation from peacekeepers representing several nations.

The renowned Lebanese-American author-painter- philosopher Khalil Jibran was a close friend of Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. A bust of Tagore based on the portrait painting by Khalil Jibran, presented by ICCR was installed at Jibran Museum in Bsharre, North Lebanon in September 2025. The Mission celebrated the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Tagore at Khalil Gibran Museum, Bsharri on 7 May, 2026 where his bust was installed last year.

Books on India were also donated to various schools and universities and Bharat Corners were set up.

The Promotion of Cultural Ties with the Diaspora (PCTD) event held in July 2025 in Beirut had performance by 15 member ICCR-sponsored Amaiza Group, led by Ms. Nitisha Nanda and saw a large participation by Indian diaspora. Various cultural activities organized by the Mission in cooperation with universities and other local partners are extremely popular.

Embassy also organised Viksit Bharat Run of 3 km on 26 September 2025 which was attended by a large number of Indian Community, Lebanese nationals and friends of India; Sports & Youth Minister Dr. Nora Bayrakdarian was the Chief Guest.

## **Lebanese-Indian Friendship Fora:**

The Embassy works closely with several local organizations, most notably Lebanese-Indian Friendship Parliamentary Committee [LIFPC], headed by a senior Parliamentarian H.E. Mr. Ali Osseiran and the Association for Development of Lebanese-Indian Relations [ADLIR], in further strengthening people-to-people contacts and cooperation in diverse sectors.

**July 2026**