

Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Anil Trigunayat at the Indian Community Reception in Amman in honour of H.E Shri Pranab Mukherjee , the President of India , Amman October 10,2015

Shri Pranab Mukherjee , Hon'ble President of India

Your Royal highnesses

Your Excellency the Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Dr Abdullah Ensour

He Mr Atef Tarawneh, Chairman of House of Representatives

Hon'ble Ministers

Lord Mayor Akel Biltaji

Hon'ble Senators and Members of Parliament

Members of the Indian delegation

My compatriots and Friends of India ,

It is indeed a special honour and privilege for me to welcome Hon'ble Rashtrapati Ji on behalf of this august gathering. This is one of the most important visits from India and a milestone in the history of our modern day bilateral relations of over 65 years since we established diplomatic relations in 1950.

Sir, during my courtesy call on you prior to leaving for Amman, You had told me that Jordan is a very important country and had promised to pay a visit. I am privileged that your State visit is taking place during my term as your Ambassador. In fact your visit acquires the greatest significance since this is the first ever visit by an Indian President to Jordan. I am so grateful to you for kindly agreeing to grace the occasion and spare some time with us despite your extremely busy schedule from the moment you arrived in Amman this afternoon. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the distinguished guests for joining us today who are individually and collectively engaged in promoting and nurturing the Indo-Jordan ties. Ahlan Wahsahlan.

Sir, If I may I believe that you are an institution and inspiration for all of us . Even your political opponents attest to and acknowledge it. Those of us in the Ministry of External Affairs and in the Government of India know very well of

your indefatigable youthful energy and often talk about you as a workaholic. I remember an incident when you were the Finance Minister in 2008 and co-chairing the Joint Commission with Saudi Arabia and I was JS (Gulf) in the Ministry. While we had gone a couple of days earlier you only reached Riyadh past midnight before the talks. I recall telling you that perhaps we could brief you next morning but you said why not now and you sat through till 2am in the morning. That personally was also a great lesson for me. Many of us have in our own ways learnt a great deal from you.

Sir, when you greeted PM Modi recently on his birthday, in his response, he said it all stating "Dear Rashtrapati ji, One learns so much from your wisdom & insight." And that holds true all across.

Jordan is an oasis of peace, security and stability in this turbulent region and the credit goes to its great people and the leadership of his Majesty King Abdullah. Jordan is also a beacon of hope and probably a model of democracy for the region despite the spectre of extremism and terrorism gaping at it from not too far. Our bilateral relations have grown from strength to strength and diversified over the decades. Your visit is the highest testament to the importance we attach to Jordan.

Sir, today to welcome you we have the key members of the Indian community and above all the real friends of India of whom many have been educated in Indian universities. Several of those present are from the Jordan-India Friendship Society (JIFS) that was revived last year and has been doing a great job in promoting Indo-Jordan relations. We are honoured to have HRH Princess Wijdan al Hasehmi who has a filial connection with India as her daughter is married to an Indian and lives in Chennai. She is also the Patron of JIFS. We are also honored by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Rym Ali who very kindly accorded her Royal Patronage to the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga and gave her precious time for an event that was a great success. Similarly the Indian Women Association has been engaged in promoting good will through their charity initiatives.

Although the Indian community is only about 10000- though small in numbers compared to the Gulf countries but qualitatively they compete and contribute immensely. We have Indian companies that through their enterprises in Textiles, IT, Phosphates, infrastructure and energy especially in renewable and shale oil sectors have not only contributed to bilateral trade and investment but also generated remarkable employment opportunities for

Jordanian youth. India has been Jordan's 4th largest partner and we have set up a target of UD\$ 5 bn by 2025 from the current \$2bn. Similarly we are probably the largest investors in Jordan especially in the textiles and fertiliser sector . Indian projects be it Abdoun bridge in Amman by L&T or the JIFCO phosphoric Acid project by IFFCO & JPMC or for that matter Aqaba Port terminal by Afcons , have become the landmarks of Indian expertise and enterprise in Jordan . But we are yet to realise our bilateral potential and we are working towards that end. Your visit and your leadership will further boost our enthusiasm.

On behalf of all of us, it is my great pleasure and honour to request the Hon'ble President of India to share his vision with us .