

## **India-Egypt Bilateral Relations**

India and Egypt, two of the world's oldest civilizations, have enjoyed a history of close contact from ancient times. Ashoka's edicts refer to his relations with Egypt under Ptolemy-II in 3rd century B.C. In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and Saad Zaghloul shared common goals on the independence of their countries, a relationship that was to blossom into an exceptionally close friendship between President Nasser and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, leading to a Friendship Treaty between the two countries in 1955.

### **Political Relations**

2. The joint announcement of establishment of diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level was made on 18 August 1947. Both countries have cooperated closely in multilateral fora and were the founding members of Non-Aligned Movement in 1961.

3. Since 1980's, there have been regular high-level bilateral visits between India and Egypt. President Hosni Mubarak visited India in 1982, in 1983 (NAM Summit) and again in 2008. High level exchanges with Egypt continued after the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and then President Mohamed Morsi visited India in March 2013. After the new government led by President Sisi took over in June 2014, President Sisi visited India for the third India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi in October 2015. President Sisi also paid a State visit to India in September 2016. President Sisi paid his 2<sup>nd</sup> State Visit to India in January 2023; he was invited as the Chief Guest of India's 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations. President Sisi visited India again in September 2023 to participate in G20 Leaders' Summit.

4. There have been five Prime Ministerial visits from India to Egypt since 1980's: Shri Rajiv Gandhi (1985); Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao (1995); Shri I. K. Gujral

(1997); Dr. Manmohan Singh (2009, NAM Summit); and Shri Narendra Modi (2023). During the State Visit of PM Modi in June 2023, an agreement was signed upgrading bilateral relations to Strategic Partnership. During the visit, PM Modi was also conferred with the 'Order of the Nile' - the highest civilian award of Egypt.

5. In addition, Prime Minister Modi and President Sisi have also met on the sidelines of UNGA, New York in September 2015, and on the sidelines of 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit at Xiamen in September 2017. Against the backdrop of Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza, PM Modi also held a telephonic conversation with President Sisi on 28th October 2023. In November 2024, PM Modi and President Sisi had an interaction on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil and in October 2024, on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in Russia. President Sisi called PM Modi on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and conveying Egypt's solidarity with India in countering terrorism.

6. **Institutional mechanisms:** There are several mechanisms of bilateral institutional dialogue at different levels.

Bilateral Mechanisms:

- **Foreign Office Consultations:** The 13<sup>th</sup> round of Secretary-level FOC was held in New Delhi on 5 December, 2024.
- **Joint Committee Meetings (JCM) held at the level of Foreign Minister.** The 7<sup>th</sup> JCM held in New Delhi in **March 2018**, with an Egyptian delegation led by FM Shoukry.
- Joint Defence Committee (JDC)
  - **10<sup>th</sup> edition** of JDC held in New Delhi in July **2024**.
  - **9<sup>th</sup>** JDC held in Cairo in November **2019**.
  - **8<sup>th</sup>** JDC held in New Delhi in December **2018**.
- Joint Trade Commission (JTC) and Joint Business Council (JBC)
  - **6<sup>th</sup> Joint Trade Commission** meeting held in September, 2024
  - **5<sup>th</sup>** Joint Trade Commission meeting and **5<sup>th</sup>** Joint Business Council

meeting held in Cairo in July **2022**

- **Joint Working Groups (JWG)**

- 4<sup>th</sup> round of Joint Working Group on **Counter Terrorism** was held in Cairo on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.
- The First Joint Working Group on **New and Renewable Energy** was organized virtually in March 2025.
- 1<sup>st</sup> JWG on **Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries** held virtually on 25 October **2022**.
- 1<sup>st</sup> JWG on **Health & Medicine** held virtually on 11 April **2022**.
- 1<sup>st</sup> JWG on **Drugs & Pharmaceuticals** held virtually on 14 March **2022**.
- **JWG on Trade and Investment** held via videoconference on 3 March **2021**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> ISRO-NARSS JWG** held in Cairo in November **2017**.
- **1<sup>st</sup> JWG on Cyber Issues** held in New Delhi in December **2016**.
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> JCM on S&T** was held virtually in October 2021, focusing on agriculture, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and renewable energy. The 4<sup>th</sup> JCM on Science and Technology held in New Delhi in April 2017.

7. **Other high-level visits and Interactions:**

There are regular high-level interactions between the two sides.

- **Minister of Culture of Egypt and Head of Supreme Council of Media Regulations of Egypt**, attended the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai in May 2025.
- In March 2025, **Egyptian Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Mr. Hassan El-Khatib** visited India to speak at the Raisina Dialogue. During the visit, he met the Indian Commerce and Industry Minister, Mr. Piyush Goyal, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog and several companies from CII and FICCI.

- EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar had several telecons with Foreign Minister Dr. Badr Abdelatty in the recent months, most recent being in the aftermath of Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.
- India also invited Egypt as a 'Guest Country' during our Presidency of G20 in 2023. Multiple Egyptian delegations at official as well as Ministerial level traveled to India during this period to attend various G20 tracks. President Sisi participated in the Leaders' Summit in September 2023.

## **Economic Relations**

8. Egypt has traditionally been one of India's most important trading partners in the African continent. The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the MFN clause.

9. Bilateral trade touched a new high of USD 7.26 billion in FY 2021-22, registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21 (Source: DGCIS). According to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), India is the 6<sup>th</sup> most important trading partner for Egypt in FY2024-25. **For the FY 2024-25, overall bilateral trade was US\$5.2 billion** (US\$3.84 billion exports to Egypt and US\$1.3 billion imports from Egypt).

10. Bilateral mechanisms such 'Joint Trade Committee' (JTC), 'Joint Business Council' (JBC) and 'Joint Working Groups' are in place to facilitate trade and economic relations between India and Egypt. The Mission also assists in organizing various fora for commercial collaboration. Consequently, hundreds of Indian companies have visited Egypt to participate in various trade fairs etc. Special efforts have been made to remove 'Non-Tariff Barrier' that led to the inclusion of India in the list of accredited countries which can supply wheat to Egypt. In December 2024, around 45 Indian companies participated in 'Food Africa Cairo 2024' showcasing their products including basmati rice and spices. In December 2024, Indian companies under the aegis of National Small

Industries Corporation (NSIC) participated in Turathna Handicrafts Exhibition organised by Egypt's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA). In March 2025, 45 Indian companies joined the Egyptian and other African companies at the India-Africa ICT Expo during 6-7 April 2025. 20 Indian startups were also part of this important 2-day event. An important fertilizer delegation visited Egypt in April 2025 to strengthen bilateral fertilizer trade and investments.

11. Around **55 Indian companies** have invested in various sectors in Egypt with a combined investment exceeding **US\$ 4 billion**, and providing direct and indirect employment to approximately 38,000 Egyptians. Several of the Indian companies also have additional investments in the pipeline worth US\$ 700-800 million. Egypt has received Indian investments upwards of US\$ 175 million in FY 2023-24. In December 2022, Indian IT Company, Tech Mahindra established its First Global Delivery Center in Egypt. In March 2023, Egypt also launched the 1<sup>st</sup> production line of "Hepatitis B and Pentavalent" vaccines, with a capacity of 100 million doses annually, in cooperation with 'Serum Institute of India' (SII). In April 2024, Micromax began the manufacturing of feature phones in Egypt with ToT agreement with KMG; the production will soon step-up to smart phones, smart watches etc. as well. Renewable energy companies ReNew and OCIOR have also signed MoUs worth US\$ 8 billion, and US\$ 4 billion respectively with Egyptian Government for setting up of green hydrogen plants, and are in the process of negotiations.

12. Egyptian investments in India are to the tune of US\$ 37 million which include ElSewedy Group (smart electrometers); KAPCI Coatings (car paints), Modern Waterproofing Group / Bitumode (waterproofing membranes and protection boards for construction industry) and 700 Apps (I.T Services).

13. **The grants-in-aid and capacity development projects include:** Pan Africa Tele-medicine and Tele-education project in Alexandria University, Solar

electrification project in Agaween village and Vocational Training Centre for textile technology in Shoubra, Cairo, which have been completed. An IT Centre in Al Azhar University, CEIT, is also operational since February 2019 and has trained over 1500 students. There are ongoing discussions between C-DAC and Dar al-Iftaa to establish an IT CoE in Dar al-Iftaa as well. Ramping up the cooperation in the field of higher education, Egyptian El-Sewedy group has signed an MoU with Amity University in June 2023; courses in machine learning, AI, robotics and quantum mechanics began in September 2023. 700 students have already enrolled in the course. Over 1500 Egyptian officials have benefited from the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and other Indian training programmes, for which India has allocated 200 ITEC seats per year for Egypt.

## **Defence Relations**

14. Egypt and India enjoy cordial defence relations. After a brief hiatus due to Covid pandemic, numerous defense delegations (including aircraft and naval ship transits) have visited Egypt since June 2021. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, visited Egypt November 2021 which was reciprocated by the visit of an Egyptian delegation led by Commander of Air Force (equivalent to our Chief) Air Marshal Abbas Helmy in July 2022.

15. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during his visit to Egypt, in September 2022, called on President Sisi and held bilateral discussions with Egyptian Minister of Defense Mohamed Zaki. An MoU on Defence Cooperation was also signed during the visit, which is a milestone in bilateral ties. In May 2023, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande also visited Egypt. Secretary (Defence Production) visited Egypt in April 2025, along with Heads of HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to take forward bilateral defence industrial collaboration.

16. Most of the current defence cooperation is determined by Joint Defence Committee (JDC) activities. Starting in 2006, nine JDC meetings have been held alternately in either country, followed by exchange activities. The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of JDC was held in Cairo in November 2019. 10<sup>th</sup> JDC was held in New Delhi from 29 July to 2 August 2024.

17. **Bilateral Exercises:** The first ever IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, 'Desert Warrior', was held in Cairo in October 2021. For the first time, an Indian Air Force contingent (with 3 Su-30MKI and 2 C-17) also participated in 'Tactical Leadership Programme' (TLP) of Egyptian Air Force held in June-July 2022. On 8 May 2023, the Indian and Egyptian Air Forces conducted a joint exercise at an Egyptian airbase, aimed at strengthening military cooperation between the two countries. India also participated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the multilateral Tri-service exercise 'Bright Star-2023', led by US CENTCOM and the Egyptian Army, held in August 2023. A bilateral Air Force Exercise with 4 RAFALE aircraft of IAF also took place on 21-26 June 2024, in Egypt. IAF-EAF participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Leadership Programme in 2024 at Cairo West Airbase, Egypt. The Egyptian Navy participated in the Multilateral Indian Naval Exercise MILAN-2024 in February 2024. The third edition of Exercise Cyclone, a joint exercise between Special Forces of India and Egypt, was held in February 2025. The Egyptian delegation also participated in Aero-India 2025 in February 2025.

18. **Ship & Aircraft Transits:** Egypt continues to be a major transit hub for Indian aircrafts and naval vessels enroute/returning from overhauls as well as military exercises in European region and Atlantic. In past few years, a number of Indian Air Force air-crafts and Indian Navy ships have visited/transited through Egypt.

## **Cultural Relations**

19. **Cultural Symbols:** The cultural linkages between India and Egypt are evident from the legacy of Indian leaders celebrated in Egypt: Three streets in Cairo are named after Indian leaders namely, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Zakir Hussein. In India, Gamal Abdul Nasser Marg in Delhi is named after the late President of Egypt. There are three busts of Mahatma Gandhi in Egypt: at the Supreme Council of Culture, Cairo, a bronze bust at the Bibliotheca, Alexandrina, and one at the Al-Horreya Park, Cairo. The Baron Empain Palace in Cairo also known as Le Palais Hindou ('The Hindu Palace'). Built in 1905, it is a distinctive and historic mansion by Alexandre Marcel, a French architect inspired by the Hindu temples of Odisha in East India.

20. The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) has been promoting cultural cooperation between the two countries, through regular activities such as holding Kathak, Hindi, Urdu and Yoga classes; seminars; film shows; exhibitions and participation in local cultural activities. In its outreach activities, MACIC also organizes India Day(s) in Egyptian Governorates and universities on a regular basis. In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, MACIC also screens Indian films monthly at venues like Hanager Theater, Cairo Opera House, and Cinema Culture Palace, reflecting the popularity of Bollywood among Egyptians.

21. MACIC has been organizing "Glimpses of India" painting competition for Egyptian children for the last 28 years. The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Glimpses of India" painting competition was organized from 20 October to 13 November 2024 for Egyptian school children of 17 Governorates of Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Egypt. 22,572 Egyptian school children from 1427 schools participated with great enthusiasm, creating amazing paintings on a wide array of themes centered around India and its art and cultural heritage. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India highlighted the "Glimpses of India" Painting Competition in 'Mann Ki Baat' programme (December 2024) and expressed his admiration for all the young participants, stating that their creativity deserves boundless praise.

22. After Covid-19 induced hiatus, in December 2021, an 11-member cultural troupe, 'Anveshana Society for Performing Arts' visited Egypt in December 2021. This ICCR sponsored troupe performed at Ismailia, Port Said, at India-Bangladesh Maitri Diwas celebrations at Baron Palace in Cairo and at Sayed Darwish Theatre, Alexandria. In mid-August 2022, ICCR sponsored Kathak troupe also visited Egypt and performed in various locations in Egypt. In September 2022, a Qawwali troupe from India participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of International Samaa' festival for Spiritual Music and Chanting. India was invited to participate in the festival as a Guest of Honor, alongside Canada. In February 2024, a 'Chhau' dance group also visited Egypt and performed at various locations across Egypt.

23. In the run up to 75<sup>th</sup> Indian Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, MACIC organized various events as a part of AKAM celebrations. The Embassy also illuminated the iconic Cairo Tower (which is the tallest tower in North Africa) with Indian National Flag in the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021. This was the first time ever that Cairo Tower had been lit with Indian tricolor. The Embassy also organized various activities as part of AKAM celebrations, including 'Bollywood Music and Dance Evening', Cycle Rally, tree-plantation drive, Makar-Sankranti celebration etc. Mission's Republic Day reception, hosted on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, was attended by Egypt's Minister of Culture Dr. Nevine Youssef El-Kilani, Minister of Public Enterprises Dr. Mahmoud Esmat, as well as Minister of Civil Aviation Mohamed Abbas Helmy, in addition to over 300 dignitaries. Mission's Republic Day reception, held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, was graced by Egypt's Minister of Communications & IT Dr. Amr Talaat as the Chief Guest.

24. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between India and Egypt was celebrated for a year commencing from 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The Government of Egypt released a postage stamp to commemorate the event. The Embassy also organized a Photo Exhibition on India-Egypt relations, followed by

a reception for dignitaries on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The 76<sup>th</sup> National Day reception was held in Cairo on 26 January, 2025, graced by H E Dr Amr Talaat, Minister of Communication and Information Technology as the chief guest representing the Prime Minister of Egypt.

25. Yoga has gained immense popularity in Egypt. The International Yoga Day was celebrated with much vigor in 2024; yoga events were held in Alexandria, Hurghada, Luxor, Minya etc. in run-up to the IDY celebrations held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 in Al-Horreya Park in Cairo.

26. Mission organized a "Yoga at Iconic Place" contest, in which Egyptians participated enthusiastically. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the growing popularity of Yoga in Egypt during the IDY 2024 celebrations in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, on 21 June 2024. He specifically referred to 'Yoga At Iconic Places' contest and appreciated young Egyptian men and women for sharing Yoga poses at famous tourist locations like Pyramids, Sphinx, etc. Hon'ble PM also referred to the growing popularity of Yoga in Egypt and commented that large number of Egyptians were doing Yoga along Red Sea and Nile River during his Mann Ki Baat, on 30 June 2024.

27. The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture organized 'Tagore - Mahfouz Caricature' Exhibition on 8 May 2024 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indian Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, in collaboration with the 'Fayoum Caricature Museum' and 'Egypt Cartoon Blog'. A total of 117 caricature entries featuring the world's two great Nobel Laureates were received from Cartoonists from across the globe. The 9<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day 2024 was celebrated on 28 October 2024 with a virtual session on Ayurveda by an expert showcasing the benefits of adopting this ancient Indian practice.

28. MACIC has taken initiative to promote Kabaddi in Egypt and hosted an 'India-Egypt Friendship Kabaddi Tournament' in cooperation with 'Egyptian

Kabaddi Federation' at Helwan University Club on 30 July 2024. A total of 12 teams (both men and women) participated in this tournament.

### **Indian Community**

29. At present, the Indian community in Egypt numbers at over 6000, most of whom are concentrated in Cairo. There is presence of small Indian communities in Alexandria, Port Said and Ismailia. A majority 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 2,000 Indian students are studying in Egypt, in Al Azhar University, in addition to Ain Shams Medical University and Cairo University. A growing number of Indian students are coming to Egypt to study Medicine.

### **Miscellaneous**

30. **Tourism exchanges and flight connectivity:** In the year 2023, 59,024 Indian tourists visited Egypt and 15,909 Egyptian tourists visited India. The mission regularly organizes tourism promotion events to promote inbound tourism to India from Egypt. Egypt Air operates direct flights between Delhi and Cairo and Delhi and Mumbai.

31. **Track-2 Diplomacy:** The mission has been expanding its reach covering think-tanks. In June 2023, India Foundation and ECFA delegations deliberated on global, bilateral, and regional issues with a special focus on Egypt as part of the India-WANA Conference. In June 2024, a seven-member delegation from ORF visited Cairo to hold the 1st Track-2 dialogue with ECES.

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