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INDIA EGYPT RELATIONS

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi will be the keynote speaker at the Republic Day celebration in January 2023, which makes him the first President from the Arab Republic of Egypt to be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day.

Recently, Egypt released a postage stamp to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with India in 2022.

Historical background

- 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 modern times, **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Saad Zaghloul** shared common goals on the independence of their countries
- **Exceptionally close friendship** between Gamal Abdel Nasser and **Jawaharlal Nehru**, leading to a **Friendship Treaty between the two countries in 1955**.
- Both countries have cooperated closely in multilateral forum and were the **founding members of Non-Aligned Movement**.

Economic relations

- The India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement has been in operation since March 1978 and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause.
- Bilateral trade has increased rapidly in 2021-22, amounting to 7.26 billion registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21.
- India's exports to Egypt during 2021-22 period amounted to US\$ 3.74 billion, registering a 65% increase over the same period in FY 2020-21.
- At the same time, Egypt's exports to India reached US\$ 3.52 billion registering an 86% increase.

- During this period, India was 3rd largest export market for Egypt, 6th largest trading partner and 7th largest exporter to Egypt.
- India's import from Egypt is dominated by products such as mineral oil, petroleum, fertilizers, inorganic chemicals, cotton, etc.
- Items exported from India to Egypt include bovine meat, iron and steel, light vehicles, and cotton yarn.

Egypt's Investments in India

ElSewedy Group (smart electrometers), KAPCI Coatings (car paints), Modern Waterproofing Group (waterproofing membranes and protection boards for the construction industry), and 700 Apps are among the Egyptian companies that have invested US\$37 million in India (I.T Services).

India's Investments in Egypt

More than 50 Indian companies have made investments totalling more than \$3.15 billion in Egypt's various industries. TCI Sanmar, with the largest investment of US\$1.5 billion, Alexandria Carbon Black, Kirloskar, Dabur, FLEX P. FILMS, Godrej, Mahindra, and Monginis are all significant Indian investors in Egypt. Indian businesses operate in a variety of industries, including apparel, agriculture, chemicals, energy, and transportation. In total, 35,000 Egyptians are employed directly and indirectly by these businesses. In the energy and telecom sectors, Indian firms like L&T and Sterling & Wilson have also completed projects in Egypt. The majority of these Indian businesses, including TCI Sanmar, also have future investments planned.

India's wheat export

- The Russia-Ukraine conflict has threatened Egypt's wheat supply, which is 80% imported from Russia and Ukraine.
- Egypt announced the addition of India to the list of accredited countries that can supply wheat to Egypt in April 2022, putting an end to a long-pending Non-Tariff Barrier.
- Despite the fact that India's ban on wheat exports made the shipment difficult to complete, India cleared an initial shipment of 61,500 metric tonnes of wheat for Egypt in May 2022.

Defence Relations

- Courses — Both sides offer courses on a regular basis, in which Egyptian officers are given training in India and Indian defence officers are trained in Egypt.
- Exercises —
 - Egypt participated in the **Multinational Training Exercise** for friendly African countries held at Pune in March 2019.
 - The first ever IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, **Dessert Warrior**, was held in October 2021.
 - The first ever Special Forces exercise "**Cyclone 1**" between India and Egypt planned in Jodhpur in January 2022 stands postponed.
- Egypt has shown interest in **acquiring arms produced by India**, including the **Akash missile** systems capable of intercepting hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25-km.

Cultural Relations

- The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) has been fostering cross-cultural cooperation between both the countries.
- MACIC frequently hosts India Days in universities and governorates throughout Egypt. A recent “India Day” was held on November 16, 2021, at the Command & Staff College in Cairo.
- For the past 25 years, MACIC has held a painting competition called “Glimpses of India” for children in Egypt. A delegation of 12 Indian artists attended the competition’s Silver Jubilee celebration in October 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic prevented the competition from taking place in 2020 and 2021.
- **Sawt-ul-Hind’, Embassy’s flagship Arabic magazine** for the past six decades, reached a milestone in July 2017 with the publishing of its 500th edition, depicting the strong bond and vibrant cultural exchanges between the two countries.
- Yoga is extremely popular Egypt.

Indian community-Diaspora

- The Indian community in Egypt currently numbers around 3200 people, the majority of whom live in Cairo.
- There are also a few families in Alexandria, Port Said, and Ismailia.
- Around 400 Indian students study in Egypt, the majority at Al Azhar University (around 275 students), with the remainder at Ain Shams Medical University (around 80 students) and Cairo University.



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