

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCIS, Kolkata.

India - Egypt Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication of Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report for 22.10.2025 depicting the Embassy of Egypt.

2. 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, a relationship that was to blossom into an exceptionally close friendship between President Nasser and Prime Minister Nehru, leading to a Friendship Treaty between the two countries in 1955.

3. India and Egypt share close political understanding based on long history of contacts and cooperation in bilateral, regional and global issues. 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. The year 2022 is of particular significance since it marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relation between India and Egypt.

4. President Sisi paid his 2nd State Visit to India in January 2023; he was invited as the Chief Guest of India's 74th Republic Day celebrations. He was accompanied by Minister of Communication and Information Technology Amr Talat, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Planning Dr. Hala el-Said, Minister of Electricity and RE Dr. Mohamed Shaker. President Sisi held a delegation level talk with Prime Minister Modi on 25 June 2023. A Joint Statement highlighting elevation of bilateral relations to Strategic Partnership was also issued on this occasion. During the visit, 5 MoUs were also signed in the domains of cyber security, IT, culture, youth matters and broadcasting. A commemorative stamp was also issued to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt. He also met President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu during his visit.

5. PM Modi, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid his first-ever State Visit to Egypt from 24-25 June 2023. On 24 June 2023, PM Modi was warmly welcomed by Egyptian PM Madbouly at the airport, where he received a ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour. Thereafter, PM held a discussion with senior Ministers in Egypt's Cabinet who constitute part of the "India Unit" (headed by PM Madbouly). Then, PM had a community interaction with the Indian diaspora and friends of India. On 25 June 2023, PM paid tributes to Indian soldiers at the Heliopolis War Graves Cemetery who sacrificed their lives during WW-I. Thereafter, PM was warmly received by President Sisi at the Ittihadia Palace. The two leaders held restricted talks and subsequently signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement. 3 MoUs (in the fields of agriculture, Competition law and antiquities) were also exchanged during this visit. PM was also

conferred with Egypt's highest civilian award the "Order of the Nile." In the afternoon, PM was seen off by PM Madbouly at Cairo airport.

6. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari visited Egypt from 28th November to 2nd December 2021. In July 2022, Air Marshal Mohamed Abbas Helmy led a delegation to India and held meetings with our Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Naval Staff. CAG of India, Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu participated in the 14th Knowledge Sharing Committee (KSC) Steering Committee Meeting held in Cairo, Egypt on 12-14 September, 2022. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Egypt from 18-21 September 2022 and held meetings with President Sisi as well as the Minister of Defense General Mohammad Zaki and an MOU on Defence Cooperation between two countries was also signed. EAM Dr. S Jaishankar visited Egypt from 14-16 October 2022; he called on President Sisi and held delegation-level talks with FM Shoukry and discussed growing cooperation in various fields. Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Bhupendra Yadav also visited Egypt, for CoP-27 from 6-20 November 2022. Egypt's Minister of Communication and Information Technology Amr Talat visited India from 8-12 January 2023 and held meetings with Indian Ministers, business community etc. to strengthen technological cooperation between India and Egypt and attract Indian investments. Egypt is invited as a Guest country during our G20 Presidency and from their side, Finance Minister, Egypt attended G20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Bengaluru in February 2023, Foreign Minister attended G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi in March 2023, Planning and Economic Development Minister attended G20 Development Ministers' meeting in Varanasi in June 2023. Grand Mufti of Egypt Dr. Shawki Allam Allam visited India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Program from 1-5 May 2023; he praised India "for providing equal rights to all faiths.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

7. 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 Most Favored Nation clause and the bilateral trade has increased more than five times in last ten years. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is as under:

Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as follows :

Export-Import statistics from 2020-21 to 2024-25 between India-Egypt

(US Dollar Billion)

S.No		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1.	Export	2.26	3.74	4.11	3.52	3.41
2.	Import	1.89	3.52	1.95	1.16	2.15
3.	Total Trade	4.15	7.26	6.06	4.68	5.56

(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

8. Bilateral trade expanded rapidly in 2021-22, amounting to 7.26 billion registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21. India's exports to Egypt during this period amounted to US\$ 3.74 billion, registering a 65% increase over the same period in FY 2020-21. Egypt's exports to

India reached US\$ 3.52 billion registering an 86% increase over the previous year. According to the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), India was the 6th largest trading partner, 5th largest import source and 11th largest export destination for Egypt in 2021-22. The top Indian imports from Egypt were Mineral Oil/Petroleum, Fertilizers, Inorganic Chemicals and Cotton and main items of export to Egypt from India were Buffalo Meat, Iron & Steel, Engineering Products, Light Vehicles and Cotton Yarn. During FY 2024-25, according to DGCIS data base, the bilateral trade has reached nearly USD 5.56 billion, with USD 3.41 Billion exports from India and USD 2.15 billion imports from Egypt to India.

9. 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 events 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.

10. 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 1st 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.

11. Egyptian investments in India are to the tune of US\$ 37 million which include El Sewedy 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).

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :

➤ Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Egypt for cooperation in the fields of defense, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.

- Technical cooperation and assistance have been a major part of our bilateral relationship. Since 2000, over 1600 Egyptian officials have benefited from ITEC and other programs like ICCR and IAFS scholarships. We have also organized a special course for Egyptian diplomats and a special course for LAS diplomats in 2019 at FSI. In addition, Egyptian and LAS diplomats also participate in Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, which India organizes at FSI.
- In the field of scientific cooperation, ICAR and the Agricultural Research Center of Egypt are working in the field of agricultural research. 'Science & Technology' cooperation is implemented through biennial Executive Programs and Scientific Cooperation Program between CSIR(India) and NRC(Egypt).
- Space is an emerging vertical of cooperation between India and Egypt. Joint Working Group meetings and discussions between ISRO and NARSS (National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences) have been held, since an MoU was signed in 2008. With Egypt having established EgSA (Egyptian Space Agency) in 2019, both sides have agreed on drafting a new MoU to include EgSA and cover other developments in the sector.
- Egypt signed the ISA framework agreement as a founding member in March 2018 and ratified it in January 2019. Egypt has also supported ISA, being granted Observer Status in UNGA in mid-October 2021.
- Egypt and India enjoy cordial defense 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 in 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. 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 Defense 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 (Defense 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 the bilateral defense industrial collaboration. Most of the current defence cooperation is determined by Joint Defence Committee (JDC) activities. Starting from 2006 till date, nine JDC meetings have been held alternately in either country, followed by exchange activities. The 9th meeting of JDC was held in Cairo in November 2019. 10th JDC meeting was held in New Delhi from 29th July to 2nd August 2024.
- Most of the current defense cooperation is determined by Joint Defense Committee (JDC) activities. JDC meetings have been held alternately in either country, followed by exchange activities. In addition, the following activities also contribute to defense cooperation. 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-30 MKI and 2 C-17) also participated in 'Tactical Leadership Program (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 1st 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 during 21-26 June 2024, in Egypt. IAF-EAF participated in the 8th Tactical Leadership Program 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.

➤ Indian Navy Ships undertake port calls at Egyptian ports. INS TABAR (a Talwar class guided missile frigate) made a port call in Alexandria port in late-June 2021 and again in September 2021 during its return journey to India. Ships of First Training Squadron of Indian Navy (IN Ships Tir, Sujata and CGS Sarathi) called on the Red Sea Naval port of Safaga, Egypt in May 2022 as part of their five nation Overseas Deployment. Further, INS Tarangini called on at Alexandria Naval base in May 2022 and INS Kochi visited Port Safaga in late-Jun 2022 with Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet onboard. In July 2022, INS Tarkash made a port call at Alexandria. INS Tarangini executed a port call at Port Said in the month of Oct. 2022 during its return journey to India. INS SUMITRA made a port call at Safaga during 31 Dec 2022- 3 Jan 2023. INS SUMEDHA made a port call at Port Said on 16 March 2023

➤ DSSC and NDC courses are offered on a regular basis, in which Egyptian officers are given training in India and Indian defense officers are trained in Egypt. Delegations from NDC, War Colleges and CDM also undertake study tours on a regular basis to Egypt.

➤ The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) has been promoting cultural cooperation between the two countries, through regular activities such as 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 the run up to 75th Indian Independence Day on 15th 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 15th 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 19th 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 26th January 2024, was graced by Egypt's Minister of Communications & IT Dr. Amr Tala at as the Chief Guest.

➤ 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 21st June 2024 in Al-Horreya Park in Cairo. 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.

➤ 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. 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.

Source:www.mea.gov.in