



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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India-Egypt Defence Co-operation

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What's in News?

India and Egypt signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation.**

News Summary:

- This was signed by Defence Minister who is in a two day visit to Cairo
- During the (bilateral) meeting, both sides discussed steps to strengthen defence ties and reached a consensus to enhance conduct of joint exercises and exchange of personnel for training, especially in the field of counter-insurgency
- They also exchanged views on regional security and acknowledged the contribution of India and Egypt to peace and stability in the world
- India invited Egypt to the **India-Africa Defence Dialogue and Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' conclave**, scheduled to be held as part of 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18 to 22, 2022.
- Egypt is one of the largest investment destinations for India in the region with an existing Indian investment of USD 3.15 billion.
- Moreover, to bolster defence cooperation between the two countries, a team of the Indian Air Force arrived in Egypt on June 22 to participate in a **bilateral 'Tactical Leadership Programme' with the Egyptian Air Force.**
- There was close cooperation between the Air Forces, with efforts at jointly developing a fighter aircraft in the 1960s.
- IAF pilots had also trained Egyptian pilots from the 1960s until 1984.
- Other Defence Exercise between the two nations include –

1. Egypt participated in the **Multinational Training Exercise for friendly African countries** held at Pune in March 2019.
2. The first ever **IAF-EAF Joint Tactical Air Exercise, Dessert Warrior**, was held in October 2021.
3. The first ever Special Forces exercise "**Cyclone 1**" between **India and Egypt** planned in Jodhpur from 8th – 22nd January 2022 stands postponed.
4. Egyptian Navy participated in **Multilateral Indian Naval Exercise MILAN-2022**

India-Egypt Relations:

- 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.
- The joint announcement of establishment of diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level was made on 18 August 1947.

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- Both countries have cooperated closely in multilateral for a 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

Economic Relations:

- The **India-Egypt Bilateral Trade Agreement** has been in operation **since March 1978** and is based on the Most Favoured Nation clause and the bilateral trade has increased more than five times in last ten years.
- **Bilateral trade** has 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.
- At the same time, Egypt's exports to India reached US\$ 3.52 billion registering an 86% increase.
- During this period of 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, Light Vehicles and Cotton Yarn.
- India was 3rd largest export market for Egypt, 6th largest trading partner and 7th largest exporter to Egypt.