

India-Egypt

Why in News?

- ✎ Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi will be the chief guest at Republic Day in January 2023.

Highlight

- ✎ **75 years of Diplomatic Ties:** Year 2022 is of particular significance since it marks the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Egypt.**
- ✎ Egypt has been invited as a '**Guest Country**' during **India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.**
- ✎ He will be the first such guest since 2020, as plans for guests in 2021 and 2022 were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Area of Cooperation between India and Egypt

Areas

Historical Understanding

- Description
- o India and Egypt are two of the **world's oldest civilizations** which have enjoyed a history of close contact from ancient times.
 - o **Ashoka's edicts** refer to his relations with **Egypt under Ptolemy-II.**
 - o In modern times, the countries' relationship flourished under President Nasser and Prime Minister Nehru, who were close friends; both countries signed a Friendship Treaty in 1955.

Diplomatic Relation

- o India and Egypt share close political understanding based on a long history of contacts and **cooperation in bilateral, regional and global issues.**
- o Both countries have cooperated closely in multilateral fora and were the **founding members of Non-Aligned Movement.**

Economic Ties

- o Egypt has traditionally been one of **India's most important trading partners in the African continent.**
- o **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 the last ten years.
- o **Bilateral trade has expanded rapidly in 2021-22**, amounting to 7.26 billion registering a 75% increase compared to FY 2020-21.
- o India is the 3rd largest export market for Egypt, 6th largest trading partner and 7th largest exporter to Egypt.

Defence Relations

- o Egypt and India enjoy **cordial defence relations.** There was close **cooperation between the Air Forces, with efforts at jointly developing a fighter aircraft in the 1960s.**
- o Egypt regularly provides **transit facilities to IAF and IN aircraft** ferrying to/ from Russia, Europe and the USA.

Cultural Connect

- o **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.
- o **'India by the Nile' festival:** It is a cultural festival celebrated annually in Egypt. It brings the essence of India through classical, contemporary, performing and visual arts, food and popular culture in a language that amalgamates diverse cultural and artistic strands.

Diaspora

- o The Indian community in Egypt currently numbers around 3200 people, the majority of whom live in Cairo.
- o There are also a few families in Alexandria, Port Said, and Ismailia.
- o 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.