

Egypt–India Pharmaceutical Industry Forum

Tuesday the 12 of January 2026

EBA was represented in this forum by Mrs. Dalia Youssef, Division Director of International Relations & Membership Affairs of EBA

Participants

- Dr. Ali El Ghamrawy Chairman of the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA)
- Mr. Raja Bhanu: Director General of Pharmexcil (Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India) - leading the Indian delegation
- H.E. Mr. Suresh K. Reddy India's Ambassador to Egypt
- Representatives of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India
- Indian and Egyptian pharmaceutical industry leaders and private sector representatives
- Distinguished delegates and invited guests

1. Opening and Welcome

The meeting commenced with opening remarks welcoming all distinguished participants. The Director General of Pharmexcil extended greetings to the Government and people of Egypt, emphasizing the importance of the forum in strengthening the long-standing Egypt–India partnership in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

2. Context and High-Level Engagement

Reference was made to the recent visit of:

- H.E. Shri J. P. Nadda, Honourable Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (10 November 2025), and H.E. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Honourable Minister for Health, Government of India,
- during which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening healthcare and pharmaceutical cooperation.

3. Overview of India's Pharmaceutical Capabilities

Key highlights presented included:

- India's position as the world's largest supplier of generic medicines by volume and third-largest pharmaceutical producer globally.
- Pharmaceutical exports reaching approximately USD 30.4 billion in FY 2024–25, representing 9.4% growth.

- Indian medicines supplied to over 200 countries, with the highest number of US FDA–approved manufacturing facilities outside the US.
- Strong capabilities in generics, biosimilars, vaccines, complex injectables, and novel drug delivery systems.

4. Egypt’s Pharmaceutical Market and Strategic Importance

The Egyptian pharmaceutical sector was highlighted as:

- The largest pharmaceutical market in Africa and the Middle East, valued at approximately USD 7.5 billion.
- Accounting for more than 27% of the African pharmaceutical market.
- Achieving over 91–95% self-sufficiency in generic medicines.
- Supported by a strong industrial base of over 179 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, biotechnology plants, API facilities, and medical device factories.

Egypt’s achievement of WHO Maturity Level 3 for pharmaceutical and vaccine regulation—the first in Africa—was acknowledged as a major milestone.

5. Bilateral Trade and Investment

- Indian pharmaceutical exports to Egypt grew by nearly 57% in FY 2024–25, reaching approximately USD 210.83 million.
- Egypt currently accounts for around 1.6% of its total pharmaceutical imports from India, indicating significant untapped potential.
- Over 60 Indian companies are already operating successfully in Egypt, with more than 60 factories in operation.
- Three Indian companies are currently in advanced discussions to establish new pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in Egypt.

6. Manufacturing, Technology Transfer, and Vaccines

- Participants acknowledged the successful technology transfer agreement for vaccine manufacturing, signed in June, and the groundbreaking ceremony held in December.
- Egypt’s ambition to become a regional vaccine manufacturing hub for Africa was strongly supported.
- Opportunities for joint ventures, contract manufacturing, and phased localization in oncology, biosimilars, vaccines, and complex formulations were discussed.

7. Regulatory Cooperation

- Appreciation was expressed for reforms by the Egyptian Drug Authority, including CTD adoption and e-submissions.
- The need to further streamline approval timelines and increase reliance on approvals from stringent regulatory authorities (US FDA, EMA, MHRA, WHO) was emphasized to accelerate patient access.

8. Egypt as a Regional Gateway

- Egypt was highlighted as a strategic export hub due to its:
- Geographic advantage
- Preferential trade agreements with Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Gulf
- Advanced logistics and manufacturing infrastructure

Participants agreed that Egypt offers Indian companies both a strong domestic market and a gateway to regional and global markets.

9. Success Stories and Future Opportunities

- The success of Hetero and other Indian pharmaceutical companies operating in Egypt was cited as a model for future investments.
- It was noted that an Egyptian company is establishing an advanced manufacturing facility in Hyderabad, India, reflecting reciprocal confidence.
- Additional collaborations were noted in hospital projects, cultural centers, and non-pharmaceutical manufacturing investments.

10. Conclusions and Way Forward

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding that:

- The Egypt–India pharmaceutical partnership goes beyond trade and is based on trust, technology transfer, and shared health security goals.
- Future cooperation should focus on local manufacturing, joint ventures, regulatory alignment, and regional export strategies.
- The forum should serve as a starting point for structured, long-term collaboration between public and private stakeholders.

11. Closing

The speakers thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare for the benefit of both nations and the wider region.