

India-Algeria Relations

The diplomatic relationship between India and Algeria was established in 1962, the year Algeria gained independence from colonial rule. Since the beginning, the relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial. Both countries have been supporting each other on vital issues at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Important bilateral visits

- Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M.Hamid Ansari visited Algeria from 17 to 19 October 2016 accompanied by Mrs Ansari, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, 4 Members of Parliament and seniors officials.
- Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi visited Algeria in 1973 to attend the NAM Summit,
- Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Algeria in June 1985.
- President of Algeria Chadli Bendjedid visited India in 1982, 1983 and 1987.
- President Bouteflika of Algeria visited India on 24-29 January 2001 as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations.
- EAM visited Algeria in 2000 and Minister of P&NG visited Algeria in 2007. Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Jitin Prasad visited Algeria in May 2011 as Special Envoy of PM.
- Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs visited Algeria on 17-18 April, 2013 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Algerian independence and to mark fifty years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Algeria.
- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (IC) of Commerce & Industry led Indian delegation for the 9th Session of the India-Algeria Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) for Economic Trade, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation held on 25-26 May, 2015 in Algiers. Algerian delegation was led by Mr. Boudjema Talai, Algerian Minister of Transport.
- Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State for Agriculture visited Algiers from July 11-13, 2015 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for delivering invitations for IAFS-III to be held in October 2015 in New Delhi to the Algerian President Bouteflika and the Foreign Minister Lamamra respectively.
- Minister of Trade Bakhti Belaib participated in the 3rd India-Africa Trade ministers' meeting in New Delhi, India on 23 October 2015.

- The Minister of Commerce Bakhti Belaïb, represented Algeria, on 27 October 2015 in New Delhi in the proceedings of the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the 3rd India-Africa Summit.
- Minister of Maghreb Affairs, the African Union and the Arab League Abdelkader Messahel represented Algeria in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit Meeting held in New Delhi on 29 October 2015 on behalf of President Bouteflika.
- Dr Salah Khebri, Minister of Energy attended the 4th India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference in New Delhi inaugurated on 21 January 2016 by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas(I/C), Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas, K.D.Tripathi attended 15 International Energy Forum(IEF) Ministerial meeting on 27 and 28 September 2016.
- The 5th round of India-Algeria FOCs was held in New Delhi on 7 May, 2015. The Indian side was led by Shri Sandeep Kumar, JS (WANA), MEA.
- India-Algeria Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in 2008. Two Young Algerian Parliamentarians visited India in March, 2013 under the “Leaders of Future” programme. Mr. Ali Melaghsou, MP from the ruling party FLN, visited India from 8-15 March, 2014 under this programme.
- Mr Hamid Saidani, Senior Journalist of “Liberte” who was nominated to represent Algerian media in IAFS III Familiarization visit arranged by XP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs for IAFS III, participated in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s interaction with African journalists on 23 October 2015.
- The President of the Algerian Forum of Heads of Enterprises, Mr. Ali Haddad who was appointed as Vice-President of the India-Africa Business Council represented the African Continent in the 3rd meeting of this council that was held on 23 October 2015 in New Delhi during 3rd India-Africa Trade Ministers Meeting.

Bilateral Agreements

India has signed the following agreements with Algeria:

1. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement-Not ratified and still not operational
2. Phytosanitary Agreement.
3. Veterinary Sanitation Protocol Air Service Agreement
4. Agreement between Press Trust of India and Algerian Press Service
5. Agreement on Cooperation in Small and Medium-scale Enterprises
6. Cultural Exchange Programme

7. MoU of Foreign Office Consultations
8. MoU between AIR and Algerian National Radio, and a MoU between Doordarshan and Algerian National Television

Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral trade between India and Algeria had shown significant growth from US\$ 55 million in 2001 to US\$ 3.33 billion in 2011. In 2015 it came down to US\$ 1.556 billion, mainly due to fall in international oil prices coupled with fall in Algeria's hydrocarbon exports to India and various measures taken by Algerian to curb imports due to falling revenues of the government. India's exports to Algeria in 2015 were US\$ 1.114 billion and imports from Algeria was US \$ 0.442 billion. There still remains a potential for further expansion of our exports as the imports from India constituted only 2.16% of Algeria's total imports of US 51.501 billion in 2015.

The following table provides statistical figures of India's trade with Algeria over the previous 10 years: (US\$ million)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16 (30 Sept)
Indian exports	423	442	755	805	772	1084	1101	1305	1196	1114	668
Algerian exports	651	958	1287	265	1565	2307	1067	815	626	442	547
Total	1074	1400	2042	1070	2337	3391	2168	2120	1822	1556	1216

Major import items from India: Frozen bovine meat, chickpeas, milk powder, rice, spices, cashew nuts, Automobiles spare parts, agricultural and industrial machinery and equipment, pharmaceuticals, mobile phones and accessories and cosmetic products.

Majors export items to India: Oil, gas, lubricants and phosphate.

Indian companies in Algeria:

Public Sector: Engineers India Ltd., and IRCON International Ltd. are executing projects related to their respective fields.

Private Sector: L&T, KEC International and Kalpataru are active in power transmission sector. Other companies like Vijay Electricals, an Indian company manufacturing power transformers, Dodsai Engineering and Construction FZE, Construction company Shapoorji Pallonji and. Indian pharmaceutical companies like Zydus Cadila, Dabur, Sun pharma, Cipla, and Hetro Drugs are present in Algeria. Pharmaceutical

companies like Pharmaccess are executing EPC projects for Algerian companies.

Recent bilateral events

India participated at the 48th Algerian International Fair on the invitation of the Government of Algeria, as “Guest of Honour” country which coincided with 9th JCM on 27 May 2015. The Indian Pavilion entitled “Salaam Namaste” was set up up in collaboration with FICCI where more than 70 Indian companies participated in the Fair. Mr. Abdelmalek Sellal, Algerian Prime Minister inaugurated the Indian Pavilion on 26 May 2015 alongwith Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry by lighting the ceremonial lamp and also witnessed together the performance of the Rajasthani Cultural Troupe.

A symposium on the topic “India- Algeria Trade Relations- Challenges and Opportunities ahead” organised by Embassy of India was held on 03 March 2016 at Hotel Hilton, Algiers which was attended by more than 60 persons including eminent Algerian and India Businessmen, senior officials from Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Ministry of Commerce.

13 Indian companies showcasing a wide variety of Plastics Machinery and Plastic raw materials, packaging materials participated in “Plast and Printpack Alger 2016” Exhibition which took place in Algiers from 5-7 April 2016 at Safex(Exhibiton Centre), Algiers.

The Embassy of India participated in International Bazaar in Hotel Hilton on 21 May 2016 by putting up a stall for promotion of Indian Tea,

A 13 member CAPEXIL (Chemical and Allied Products exports promotion council) delegation from India comprising of Indian businessmen from Ceramics, granite, printed books, glass beads, rubber conveyer belt companies visited Algeria from 27th to 31st August 2016.

A Buyer-Seller Meeting(BSM) was organised by Plastics Exports Promotion Council(Plexcouncil) of India on 7 November 2016 in Algiers

Twenty five Pharmaceutical companies participated in the annual Maghreb Pharma expo held from 8 to 10 November 2016 in Algiers.

Cultural

- 2nd India-Arab Cultural Festival was held in Algiers from 20-27 November 2014. In addition to a 16-member contemporary dance troupe and a 9-member kathak dance troupe sponsored by ICCR,

artisans, a calligrapher and a Quran reciter also participated in the festival. An Indian photograph exhibition was inaugurated simultaneously. An Indian Food Festival was also organized in collaboration with Hotel Hilton which ran concurrently with the cultural festival. Four Bollywood movies sent by India were shown at national cinematheque during this period. The festival was spread over seven other major cities and towns of Algeria.

- The performance of the famous Rajasthani “Sapera” Dance Group was witnessed and applauded warmly by the Algerian and international dignitaries during the inauguration of 48th Algerian International Fair from 26 May-2 June 2015, The Indian Pavilion “Salaam Namaste “ in the Fair attracted thousands of visitors from 27 May-02 June 2015, who also enjoyed the performances of 7 member Rajasthani Sapera Dance Group and 3-member Puppet Group especially arranged for the occasion through ICCR.
- A 13-member Bhangra and Gidda Dance group performed on the occasion 61st Anniversary of Algerian Revolution to appreciative audience in places like Bord Bou Arreridj, Setif, Mila, Constantine and Algiers from 1 to 05 November 2015.

Indian Community

Indian Diaspora in Algeria is very small. There are about 3770 Indians working in various projects and establishments serving the country, most of them technically skilled persons working on projects in remote areas. Only a handful of Indians live in the capital city of Algiers including some country heads of companies.

Useful resources

<http://indianembassyalgiers.org/>
<https://twitter.com/indiainalgeria>