

India-Algeria Bilateral Relations

Political Relations

The diplomatic relations between India and Algeria were established in July, 1962, the year Algeria gained independence from French colonial rule. Since the beginning, the relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial. We have supported Algerian Liberation Movement. National Liberation Front (FLN) had its office in India in late 50s and early 60s. After Independence, we were part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and third world developing country solidarity. There had been regular high level exchange of visits by the leaders of the two countries. Both countries have been supporting each other on vital issues at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Important bilateral visits- Given at Annexure I

Bilateral Agreements- Given at Annexure II

Economic and Commercial Relations

Statistical Data of India's trade with Algeria over the last five years: (US\$ million)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (till September)
Indian exports	1305	1196	1115	920	928	1180
Algerian exports	815	626	259	510	918	1520
Total	2120	1822	1374	1430	1846	2700

Bilateral trade figures have shown a gradual increase during the recent years.

Major import items from India: chickpeas, milk powder, rice, spices, Automobiles spare parts, agricultural and industrial machinery and equipment (Tractors and Transformers), pharmaceuticals, mobile phones and cosmetic products.

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

Indian companies in Algeria:

Public Sector: Engineers India Ltd., IRCON International Ltd. and Telecommunications Consultant of India (TCIL) are executing projects related to their respective fields.

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

and Construction (EPC) projects for Algerian companies.

Recent bilateral events- Given at Annexure III

List of Cultural events- Given at Annexure IV

Indian Community

Indian Diaspora in Algeria is miniscule. There are about 5700 Indians working in various projects and establishments in 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. There are 9 OCI Card holders and 10 PIOs in Algeria.

December 2018

Annexure I (Part-I)

Visits to India

Presidents : (i) Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, April 1982; (ii) Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, 1983; (iii) Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, 1987; (iv) Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, as Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebration, 24-29 January 2001.

Ministers : (i) Trade delegation, 1967; (ii) Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Foreign Minister, July 1974; (iii) Mr. Hadj Haoussine, Vice Minister for Chemicals and Petro-Chemical Industries, 1-8 April 1985; (iv) Mr. Mohamed Aberkane, Vice Minister for Cooperation, 16-21 March 1986; (v) Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, Minister of External Affairs and Mrs. Ibrahim, 25-30 January 1988; (vi) Mr. Hachimi Nait-Djoudi, Minister for Transport and Telecommunications, 28 April to 1 May 1992 (vii) Mr. Ahmed Attaf, Foreign Minister, to attend the NAM Ministerial meeting, April 1997; (viii) Dr. Youcef Yousfi, Minister of Energy & Mines, 15-19 June 1999; (ix) Mr. Bakhti Belaib, Minister of Trade & Commerce (26 Member delegation), to participate in the G-15 Trade Ministers' Conference in Bangalore, 17-18 August 1999; (x) Dr. Abderrkane Mohammed, Health Minister, 26-28 September 2001; (xi) Mr. Abdelmalek Sellal, Minister of Transport, for the 8th session of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission, 8-10 October 2003; (xii) Mr. Taib Louh, Minister of Justice, to attend the 16th International Conference of Chief Justices at Lucknow, 7-13 October 2015; (xiii) Mr. Bakhti Belaib, Minister of Trade & Commerce (trade delegation), to participate in 3rd India-Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting and 3rd India-Africa Summit in New Delhi, 23 October 2015; (xiv) Mr. Bakhti Belaib, Minister of Trade & Commerce and Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Maghreb Affairs, the African Union and the League of Arab States, on behalf of President Bouteflika, to participate in the 3rd India - Africa Forum Summit Meeting, New Delhi, 29 October 2015; (xv) Dr. Salah Kehbri, Minister of Energy to attend 4th India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, New Delhi, 21 January 2016. (xvi) Minister of Energy Mustapha Guitouni participated in the 16th International Energy Forum Ministerial Meeting, in New Delhi, India, from 10 to 12 April, 2018.

Annexure - I (Part-II)

Visits to Algeria

Vice Presidents : (i) Dr. Zakir Hussain, June/July 1964; (ii) Dr. Mohammad

Hidayatullah, 30 Oct.-2 Nov. 1979; (iii) Shri Hamid Ansari with spouse Smt. Salma Ansari, 17-19 October 2016

Prime Ministers : (i) Smt. Indira Gandhi, NAM Summit, September 1973 (ii) Shri Rajiv Gandhi, June 1985

Ministers : (i) Shri Dinesh Singh, Commerce Minister, September 1967; (ii) Sardar Swaran Singh, Defence Minister, 27 May - 2 June 1970; (iii) Shri P. Ramachandran, Energy Minister, December 1978; (iv) Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals, 3-8 December 1974; (v) Shri Yashwantrao Balwantrao Chavan, Foreign Minister, June 1976; (vi) Shri A.B. Vajpayee, Foreign Minister, 25-26 June 1979; (vii) Shri Madhavrao Scindia, Minister of State for Railways, 21-23 April 1986; (viii) Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, Minister of Urban Development for 25th Anniversary celebrations of Algerian Independence, 3-7 July 1987; (ix) Shri R.L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, 10-12 October 1993; (x) Shri R.L. Bhatia, Minister of State for External Affairs, 19-22 January 1996; (xi) Smt. Kamala Sinha, Minister of State for External Affairs, 12-13 September 1997, (xii) Shri Omar Abdullah, Minister of State for Commerce, to co-chair the 7th session of India-Algeria Joint Commission Meeting, 24-26 June 2000; (xiii) Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister, 23-25 October 2000; (xiv) Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, to participate in the 17th Summit of the Arab League (as Observer), 20-23 March 2005; (xv) Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, 20-22 April 2007; (xvi) Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, as Special Envoy to PM, 4-6 May 2011; (xvii) Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, 16-18 April 2013; (xviii) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, for 9th Session of India-Algeria Joint Commission Meeting and to represent India as the "Guest of Honour" at the 2015 Algiers International Fair, 25-26 May 2015; (xix) Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State for Agriculture, as Special Envoy of PM, 11-13 July 2015.

Parliamentary delegations : (i) 7 Member Parliamentary Goodwill delegation led by Dr. C.D. Pande, 14-18 December 1965; (ii) High level delegation led by Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Member of Parliament, on the occasion of Fourth Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of Algeria, 3-7 July 1966; (iii) Smt. Prashawati Gupte, Member of Parliament, visited from 24 Feb to 2 March 1986 to participate in 10th Anniversary of SADR (iv) Shri Anand Sharma, Member of Parliament, from 18 to 19 and 21 to 22 May 1988 to participate in the 15th Anniversary of Polisario (v) 4 member Parliamentary delegation led by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, 1-3 February 2002.

Annexure II

India has signed the following agreements with Algeria:

- Air Service Agreement signed in the year 2000
- Phyto-sanitary Agreement signed in the year 2001
- Veterinary Sanitation Protocol signed in the year 2001
- Agreement between Press Trust of India and Algerian Press Service signed in the year 2003

- Agreement on Cooperation in Small and Medium-scale Enterprises signed in the year 2003
- Cultural Exchange Program signed in the year 2003
- MoU of Foreign Office Consultations signed in the year 2000
- MoU between AIR and Algerian National Radio signed in the year 2015
- MoU between Doordarshan and Algerian National Television signed in the year 2015
- Space Cooperation Agreement signed between (ISRO) India and (Algerian Space Agency) Algeria on 19th September 2018 at Bangalore.

Annexure III

- 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 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 along with Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.
- Pharmexcil organized India Pavilion at Maghreb Pharma, a pharma related exhibition held in Algeria from 29th September to 1st October 2015 at Hotel Hilton, Algiers. Pharmexcil participated with 22 Indian companies.
- A symposium on the topic “India- Algeria Trade Relations-Challenges and Opportunities ahead” organized 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 (Exhibitor 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.
- Three Algerian satellites (ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B and ALSAT-1N) were successfully launched by Indian launch vehicle PSLV C-35 from Sriharikota on 26 September 2016.
- Vice President of India paid a State Visit to Algeria from 17 to 19 October 2016.
- A Buyer-Seller Meeting (BSM) was organized by Plastics Exports Promotion Council (Plex-council) 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.

- A Two membered Algerian Delegation from Ministry of National Defence participated in AERO India 2017 exhibition which took place in Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru from 14 to 18 February 2017
- Seven Indian companies participated in Equip Auto Fair 27 February-3 March 2017 in Algiers as arranged by ACMA.
- Embassy of India in Algiers organized a marketing event/interaction for Algerian tourist operators and travel agents in the Embassy premises on 05 April 2017. More than 12 Algerian companies participated in the event. The embassy gave a presentation on Tourist Visa and facilities provided to group travel and other tourists from Algeria for tour operators.
- Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister held a telephonic discussion with Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel on 14 August 2017.
- Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel met on 23 September in New York on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, with EAM. EAM thanked Messahel for Algeria's support to Justice Dalveer Bhandari for the ICJ election.
- A 27 member FIEO Business delegation from India visited Algiers from 13 to 15 January, 2018 and participated in Business seminar and B2B meetings with their Algerian counterparts.
- Embassy of India, Algeria organized an interactive session on Tourism Promotion under the framework of Incredible India at the Embassy Premise on 22 April 2018.
- Five Indian companies participated in the International Agro Food Fair, Djazagro from 9th to 12th April 2018 in Algiers.
- A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) delegation visited to Algeria from 8 - 10 July 2018 where the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACI) and the CII, sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), on 8th July, to further boost economic partnership between both the countries.
- The Statutes of the Algerian-Indian joint venture Vijai Electricals Algerie, specializing in the manufacturing of high voltage transformers, were signed between the Algerian public-private company of Azazga, the Indian company Vijai electricals limited and the national electricity and gas company, Sonelgaz on 22nd July 2018.
- The Prime Minister of Algeria, Ahmed Ouyahia paid tributes to the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee by signing the condolence book on 20 August 2018 at the Embassy.
- Thirty Indian companies participated in the International Pharmaceutical Exhibition, Maghreb Pharma in Algiers from 17th to 19th September 2018.
- An agreement was signed between Algerian limited liability Company (LLC) LD Azouaou and Indian Group Mahindra & Mahindra LTD on 25th November in Tizi-Ouzou to create a joint venture to assemble farm tractors.
- The 6th FOC (Foreign Office Consultations) between the two countries on 14 - 15 November 2018 was held at Algiers where both the sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Annexure IV

- 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.
- On the occasion of 70th Anniversary of Independence of India:
- A 5-member Odissi dance group led by danseuse Radhika Samson visited Algeria from 16 to 21 September 2017. The group performed in Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Setif in front of large number of appreciative audience.
- A 10-member Rhytmosaic dance group led by Dr. Mitul Sengupta visited Algeria from 17 to 22 December 2017. The Group performed in Algiers, Constantine, Tlemcen and Oran in front of large number of appreciative audience.

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