

India-Algeria Relations

Political Relations

The political relationship between India and Algeria was established in the same year Algeria gained independence i.e., 1962. Since the beginning, the relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial. Both countries have been consistently supporting each other on vital issues at bilateral and multilateral levels. Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi visited Algeria in 1973, Shri Rajiv Gandhi Visited in June 1985 and the President of Algeria Chadli Bendjedid visited India in 1982, 1983 and 1987. President Bouteflika visited India on 24-29 January 2001 as the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Celebrations. Besides these visits many Minister-level and official-level visits were undertaken by both the countries. The latest visit by an Indian Minister was by Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Prasad from 4-6 May 2011 as a Special Envoy of Prime Minister to deliver an invitation to the President of Algeria for the Second India Africa Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral trade is showing a positive trend; it has grown from US\$ 55 million in 2001 to US\$ 3.4 billion in 2011.

Bilateral trade figures for the last seven years are given below:

	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Indian exports	83.00	219.00	288.68	422.00	444.00	755.00	805.00	763.75	1084.75
Algerian exports	67.00	37.41	140.00	651.00	1550.00	1287.00	265.00	1443.74	2307.05
Total	150.00	256.41	428.68	1073.00	1994.00	2042.00	1070.00	2207.49	3391.80

Value in US\$ millions

Note: Indian goods in fairly substantial quantities are also known to enter the Algerian market after being repacked/re-routed in a third country (UAE, France, Tunisia etc.), figures of which are not available.

India's PSUs Telecommunications Consultations India Ltd., Engineers India Ltd., and IRCON International Ltd., have been in Algeria and executing their project works. The other Indian companies KEC International, Kalpataru, Gammon India Ltd., and Gulf Jyoti International, a subsidiary of Jyoti Structures Ltd. have secured new projects in power transmission during 2010. Another Indian company Dodsai Engineering and Construction FZE is executing an LNG train project worth US\$ 250 million. A construction company Shapoorji Pallonji has establishing its office in Algeria and executing a construction project in Setif. The Indian Pharmaceutical companies Sun Pharmaceuticals, Mission Viva Care, Zydus Cadila and Famy Care are having their presence in Algeria. Projects and Development India Ltd., is providing consultancy in project management and engineering services for Sonatrach-Oman joint venture for production of urea. An Indian Business Forum in Algeria (IBFA) was set up in July 2010. The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and the Indian Oil Corporation signed term contracts with Sonatrach, the national oil company of Algeria, for supply of Saharan crude oil to the tune of US\$ 1.5 billion during 2010. The GAIL India Ltd. made spot

purchases of LNG from Algeria during 2011 and is negotiating with Sonatrach for supply of natural gas on term contract basis. An Indian pharmaceutical company "Hetero Drugs" signed a partnership agreement with an Algerian company in December 2010 for manufacture of oncology medicines in Algeria.

Bilateral Agreements

India has signed the following agreements with Algeria:

1. Double Taxation Avoidance agreement in January 2001 to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital with a view to promote economic cooperation between the countries. It is yet to be ratified by the Algerian side.
2. Phytosanitary agreement signed in January 2001 to establish cooperation in the field of quarantine and protection of natural vegetation, to protect the cultures of their respective countries against diseases and destructive agents susceptible of being transported by vegetal and vegetal based products for consumption or reproduction.
3. Veterinary Sanitation Protocol signed in January 2001 to enhance cooperation between the veterinary authorities of the two countries to facilitate commercial exchanges (import, export and transit) of the animals and animal based products and to preserve their respective territories from eventual epizootie, parasitic diseases of animals and zoonosis infections for human beings.
4. Air Service agreement signed in 2000 to improve connectivity between the two countries.
5. Agreement between Press Trust of India and Algerian Press Service signed in October 2003 to promote cooperation and professional interaction between the two countries.
6. Agreement on cooperation in Small and Medium-scale Enterprises signed in October 2003.
7. Cultural Exchange Programme signed in October 2003 to strengthen the cultural relations between the countries. It is being renewed for the period 2008-2010.
8. MoU of Foreign Office Consultations was signed in October 2000.
9. A Parliamentary Friendship Group with India in Algerian Parliament was formed in April 2008.

Bilateral assistance/cooperation

Government of India had committed an assistance of US\$ 1 million as humanitarian assistance for the victims of the earthquake, which struck Algeria in May 2003. Medicines worth half a million US dollars were handed over in April 2004 and the balance in the form of construction steel for the houses for the victims was handed over in October 2006. Indian Space Agency launched the Algerian Satellite Alsat 2A into the orbit in July 2010.

Government of Algeria appreciated in writing for the support of India to remove Tipaza (a historical site about 100 kms from Algiers) from the danger list of the World Heritage Committee during UNESCO meeting in August 2006.

ITEC and Other Trainings

Algerian Government officials in service have been regularly utilising the ITEC training programme. Around 150 Algerian officials have undergone trainings in various Institutes in India under this programme since 1999. Every year the Embassy organizes a Lunch programme to bring together the ITEC alumni. The Algerian Government has found the ITEC trainings imparted to their officials very useful. The Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats offered by the Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs is also utilised by the Diplomats of the Government of Algeria.

Algerian Government also shows interest in sending their Defence personnel to the courses organized by the Centre for UN Peace Keeping in India. The Algerian defence personnel regularly participate in the courses every year.

Algerian students have also shown interest in joining Indian Universities under the Africa Scholarship scheme and Cultural Exchange Programme scheme.

Cultural

Under the Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries cultural troupes of both countries exchange their visits. Algeria sent their cultural troupe 'Djemawi Africa' to India during the India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008. Algeria sent another 32-member ballet troupe to India in December 2010. A 9-member Algerian classical music group participated in the India-Africa Forum summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

Indian Films are very popular among the Algerian people. Indian films are lent by the Embassy. The Algerian Embassy in New Delhi, the Directorate of Film Festival and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting jointly organised the first ever film festival of Algeria in New Delhi in September 2006. An Indian Film Festival was held in Algeria in September 2010.

A 10-member Bharatnatyam classical dance troupe visited Algeria in March 2011 and gave performances in Skikda and Algiers. Another 14-member Rajasthani folk dance troupe visited Algeria from 10-18 July 2011 and gave their scintillating dance performances in Skikda, Tlemcen, Sidi Bel Abbes and Oran.

India participated in the "Tlemcen Cultural Capital of the Islamic World". In this festival, India week was held from 23 to 26 November 2011. Besides a photographic exhibition on Islamic heritage of India and bollywood film shows on Islamic themes, a seven-member Sufi Kathak group a Koran reciter and an Arabic Calligrapher displayed their performances.

Indian Community

Indian Diaspora in Algeria is very small. There are approximately 2500 Indians working in various projects and establishments in the country, most of them in remote areas.

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