

Bilateral Brief: India-Niger

Niger is a landlocked country in the Sahara – Sahel region of West Africa. It is a proclaimed secular state. Bilateral cooperation in the past was mainly limited to the multilateral fora. India established its Embassy in Niamey in May 2009. Niger followed by opening its Embassy in New Delhi in November 2011.

Bilateral Visits

2. The major visits from India to Niger:-

2020	In the first ever visit from India, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Niger on 20-21 January 2020 for inauguration of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey.
2015	Mr. G.M.Siddeshwara, Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, visited Niger from 8-10 July, 2015 as the Special Envoy of PM to personally handover the invitation for the 3 rd India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

3. The major visits from Niger to India:-

2019	Niger delegation led by Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development participated in the 14 th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in New Delhi from 2 to 13 September, 2019.
2018	Mr. Saidil Mohamed Moctar, Minister and Special Advisor to the President of Niger visited India in September, 2018 in connection with signing of the MoU for establishment of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey.
2018	President Issoufou Mahamadou participated in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance in March 2018 in New Delhi.
2017	Mr. Seydou Sadou, Minister of Trade and Private Sector Promotion and Mr. Saidil Mohamed Moctar visited India in March, 2017 for attending the 12 th CII Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership.
2015	President Issoufou Mahamadou visited India from 27-30 October, 2015 with a delegation comprising six Ministers, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, to participate in the 3 rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) held in New Delhi.

Bilateral Agreements

4. The following two Agreements were signed during visit of EAM to Niamey in January 2020: (i) Agreement for Protocol on Consultations; and (ii) Agreement for Establishment of Joint Commission.

5. Three other MoUs for (i) Setting up a Centre for Geo Informatics Application for Rural Development (CGARD); (ii) Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sector; and (iii) e-Vidya Bharti and Aarogya Bharti, are under consideration.

Trade

6. India has extended Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme to Niger with effect from 27 July 2017.

7. Bilateral trade [Source: DGFT/M(C&I)] during the last five years in US\$ millions is as follows:-

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
India's exports to Niger	78.22	80.16	81.24	120.21	94.84
India's imports from Niger	0.55	0.32	0.03	20.24	0.65
Total Trade	78.78	80.48	81.27	140.46	95.48
Percentage growth		2.16	0.98	72.82	-32.02

8. The main items of export to Niger during 2018-19 were rice, cotton fabrics, pharmaceutical products, woven synthetic fabrics, sugar confectionery, electric inverters, dumpers, printed books, generating sets and motorcycles. The main items of import from Niger during 2018-19 were gum Arabic, seeds, ginger and hide/skin of goats.

Development Partnership

9. India has extended lines of credit (LOCs) worth US\$ 96.54 million to projects in Niger, notably in the water, power and solar sectors.

10. An LOC project for solar electrification of 30 rural villages (number enhanced to 50 villages) at a cost of US\$ 9.84 million using photovoltaic system is nearing completion. An LOC project for setting up a solar photovoltaic plant of 5 MW (enhanced to 7 MW) capacity at a cost of US\$ 24.70 million covering 20 hectare area was completed in October 2018 and was inaugurated on 24 November 2018 by the PM of Niger.

11. A US\$ 25 million LOC project for Potable Water for Semi-Urban and Rural Communities involving drilling and construction of 500 boreholes is nearing completion.

12. An MoU for establishment of MGICC in Niamey with a GOI grant of US\$ 35.484 million was signed on 19 September 2018. The MGICC in Niamey was

inaugurated on 21 January 2020 during the visit of EAM to Niger.

13. In June 2019, GoI extended a grant assistance of US\$ 15 million to the Government of Niger for defraying part of the expenses towards hosting of the African Union Summit in July 2019 in Niamey.

Capacity Building

14. Niger has been making good utilization of the 160 ITEC slots and 8 ICCR slots earmarked for the country.

Indian community / Indian investment

15. There are around 150 Indian nationals residing in Niamey. They are largely engaged in trading, hospitality and service sectors. Some investments in Niger are: M/s Airtel Cellular Services, M/s Euroworld International, M/s Contec Global M/s Diamond India and M/s Satguru Travels.

(last updated 26 February 2020)

Useful Resources

- Mission's Website: <http://www.indembniamey.org/>
- Mission's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainNiger>
- Mission's Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/indiainniger>