

## 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
<b>Indian exports</b>	1305	1196	1115	920	928	1299
<b>Algerian exports</b>	815	626	259	510	918	<b>1622</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2120</b>	<b>1822</b>	<b>1374</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1846</b>	<b>2921</b>

**Major import items from India:** Spare Parts (CKD) meant for the Assembly Industries, Chickpeas, Semi whitened Rice and Parboiled Rice, Specific Serums, Boned Frozen bovine meat, Polyethylene terephthalate, Pneumatics for tractors, Antibiotics and Granites (blocks).

**Major 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. 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.

### **Cultural Relations**

There has been a Cultural Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Algeria since 1976. During the bilateral visit of the Algerian Foreign Minister to India from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019, the cultural exchange programme was further renewed for 2019-2021. An Algerian dance troop participated in the Africa festival 2018 held in India from 24-25 May 2018.

### **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 10 OCI Card holders and 10 PIOs in Algeria.

### **Useful Resources**

Website: <http://www.indianembassyalgiers.gov.in/index.php>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainAlgeria/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/indiainalgeria>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvFtvKI8gxx4qKOjysmuM2w>

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**September 2019**

**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 Ibrahimi, Minister of External Affairs and Mrs. Ibrahimi, 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. Abderkane 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. (xvii) Foreign Minister, H.E. Abdelkader Messahel paid an official visit to India from 30th January 2019 to 1st February 2019. (xviii) The Algerian Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, H.E. Mr. Cherif OMARI, visited India on 7 September 2019 to participate in the UNCCD conference of Parties.

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**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.

India has signed the following agreements with Algeria:

- Cultural Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria signed in 1976
- MoU of Foreign Office Consultations signed in the year 2000
- 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
- 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.
- Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) was signed for 2019 – 2021 on 31st January 2019.
- Agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports between India and Algeria on 31st January 2019.

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