

## Bilateral Brief: India-Niger

Niger is a landlocked country sharing borders with 7 other countries in the Sahara – Sahel region of West Africa. It is a proclaimed secular state. Niger has mineral resources like Uranium, Gold, Iron ore, Phosphate, Lithium, Natrum, Oil and Gas. India and Niger have maintained cordial relations. 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, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, visited Niger on 20-21 January 2020 for inauguration of the 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 3rd India Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi.

#### 3. The major visits from Niger to India:-

2022	Mr. Alkache Alhada, Minister of Commerce and Mrs. Gourouza Magagi Salamatou, Minister of Industry & Youth entrepreneurship visited New Delhi to attend the 17 <sup>th</sup> CII- Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth partnership held on 19-20 July, 2022.
2019	Mrs. Amina Moumouni, Minister of Energy, visited India from 30 July-3 August 2019 to attend the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Standing Committee Meeting in New Delhi.  Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development along with a 33 member delegation participated in the 14th 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	President Issoufou Mahamadou participated in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi in March 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
2017	Mr. Seydou Sadou, Minister of Trade and Private Sector Promotion and Mr. Saidil Mohamed Moctar visited India in March, 2017 for attending the 12th CII Exim Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership.
2015	President Issoufou Mahamadou visited India from 27-30 October, 2015 with a high powered delegation comprising six Ministers, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, to participate in the 3rd 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.

## Trade

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

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

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
India's <b>Exports</b> to Niger	94.84	73.60	87.03	91.62	83.83
India's <b>Imports</b> from Niger	0.65	0.90	4.12	15.99	119.50
<b>Total trade</b>	<b>95.48</b>	<b>74.50</b>	<b>91.15</b>	<b>107.61</b>	<b>203.33</b>

7. The main items exported from India to Niger include Rice, Cotton, Pharmaceutical products, Engineering goods, electrical appliances, cotton fabrics, garments, processed cereals/food items, Sugar, Sugar confectionery, Construction material, artificial jewellery etc. The main items being exported from Niger to India are Gum Arabic, Resins and other Vegetable saps and extracts, semi-precious stones, Oil seeds (Sesame), misc. grains, goat skins. etc.

## Development Partnership

8. A grant of US\$ 35.484 million was extended for construction of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in September 2018. The centre was inaugurated by EAM in January 2020. 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 AU Summit in July 2019 in Niamey. India has also provided humanitarian assistance, medicines, vaccines and grants for computers and equipment purchases to Niger.

9. India has extended US\$ 96.54 million as lines of credit (LOCs) for various projects which are all now completed. These are:

- (1) US\$ 17 million in 2006 for procurement of buses, trucks, tractors, flour mills, motor pumps, etc.;
- (2) US\$ 20 million in 2008 for (a) rehabilitation of 6 power stations; (b) purchase of 3 power transformers; (c) rehabilitation and erection of transmission lines;
- (3) US\$ 34.54 million in 2013 for solar electrification of 90 villages (50+40) and 7MWp Solar photovoltaic power station at Malbaza.
- (4) US\$ 25 million in 2014 for supply of Potable Water for Semi-Urban and Rural Communities through 500 borewells.

10. In addition, projects totalling US\$ 131.50 million have been approved for Niger from the LoCs extended to ECOWAS Bank for Investment & Development (EBID). These are as follows:

- (1) US\$ 10 million for electrification of 50 villages through Solar Photovoltaic Systems in the regions of Dosso, Tillabery and Tahoua;
- (2) US\$ 39.70 million for Solar electrification of 250 rural communities;
- (3) US\$ 56.70 million for upgrading and extension of Potable Water Supply Networks in cities of Maradi, Dosso and Diffa;
- (4) US\$ 10.50 million for Electrification of resettlement sites under the Resettlement Action Plan of the Kandadji Dam and upgrading of the Power Distribution Network Project in the dam area;
- (5) US\$ 14.60 million for Agriculture & Irrigation Project for the Resettlement Sites of the Kandadji Dam's Resettlement (Phase 2) plan (*assigned - tba*)

## Capacity Building

11. Niger has been making good utilization of the 156 ITEC slots and 5 ICCR slots earmarked for the country. ITEC courses in the physical mode remained suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22. For 2022-23, 156 ITEC slots have been allocated to Niger and 77 were utilized. Three ITEC defence slots were utilised in 2019-20, 2 in 2020-21, 7 in 2021-22 and 5 in 2022-23. 5 ICCR scholarships were utilised by Niger in 2019-20, 3 in 2020-21, 4 in 2021-22 and 4 in 2022-23. 5 ICCR scholarships have been made available for Nigerien students in 2023-24, and out of them, 3 have already been joined for the courses in Indian Universities. Nine Nigerien diplomats have undergone training in regular courses at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) from 1995 to 2023.

## Indian Community / Indian Investment

12. The situation in Niger has deteriorated significantly as the military overthrew the regime of the democratically elected President on 26 July 2023. Consequently, Niger closed its airspace from 26 July to 3 September 2023 and land borders until further notice. As per available data, collected during the evacuation process until August 2023, there were approximately 383 Indians registered with the Embassy in Niger. In fear of attack by ECOWAS countries, many countries evacuated their nationals from Niger to their homeland, and approximately 200 Indians travelled from Niger. They are largely engaged in trading, hospitality and service sectors. Some Indian investments in Niger are: M/s Airtel Cellular Services, M/s EuroWorld International, Jai Mata Di Trading, M/s Satguru Travels, M/s Qualis Beverages.

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**(Updated on 06 October 2023)**

## Useful Resources

- Mission's Website: <https://indembniamy.gov.in/>
- Mission's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiainNiger>
- Mission's Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/indiainniger>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpAL5Cu-rzz2z9Lbu50WpWw/featured>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/embassyofindianiamey22/>