

## India-Algeria Bilateral Brief

Diplomatic relations between India and Algeria were established in July 1962, the year Algeria gained independence from French colonial rule. Since then relations between the two countries have been cordial. India has supported the Algerian liberation movement since its inception. One of the primary forces behind the Algerian liberation struggle, the National Liberation Front (FLN), had its office in India in late 1950s and early 60s. After independence, both countries were part of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and shared developing country solidarity. Both countries have been supporting each other on issues at bilateral and multilateral levels.

### **Important bilateral visits**

2. There have been several high level exchange of visits by the leaders of the two countries.

### **Visits to India**

3. **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.

4. **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 3<sup>rd</sup> India – Africa Forum Summit Meeting, New Delhi, 29 October 2015; (xv) Dr. Salah Kehbri, Minister of Energy to attend 4<sup>th</sup> India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, New Delhi, 21 January 2016. (xvi) Minister of Energy Mustapha Guitouni participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to 1st February 2019. (xviii) Mr. Ahmed Benyamina, Special Envoy in Charge of International Security Issues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria visited India to participate in the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Counter Terrorism Financing “No Money for Terror” (NMFT) from 18-19 November 2022.

## **Visits to Algeria**

5. **Vice Presidents** : (i) Dr. Zakir Hussain, June/July 1964; (ii) Dr. Mohammad Hidayatullah, 30 Oct.-2 November 1979; (iii) Shri Hamid Ansari with spouse Smt. Salma Ansari, 17-19 October 2016

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

7. **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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; (xx) Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Algeria from 15-17 September, 2021 and reviewed bilateral relations.

8. **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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SADR (iv) Shri Anand Sharma, Member of Parliament, from 18 to 19 and 21 to 22 May 1988 to participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polisario (v) 4 member Parliamentary delegation led by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, 1-3 February 2002.

9. We have a Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) to comprehensively address bilateral cooperation. It was established by an agreement in 1981 to deal with bilateral issues and issues of common interest. The 9<sup>th</sup> JCM was held on 25-26 May 2015 in Algiers. It was headed by then Minister of Commerce and Industry from India Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman and then Algerian Minister of Transport Boudjema Talai. The 10<sup>th</sup> JCM is scheduled to be held in India at the level of foreign ministers. Functional requirements are covered by regular Foreign Office Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries. The 5<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) was held on 14 – 15 November 2018 in Algiers between Director

General (Asia-Oceania), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria and Joint Secretary (WANA), Ministry of External Affairs of India.

### **Bilateral trade**

10. Bilateral trade reached a peak of US \$ 2.9 billion per annum in 2018 and declined drastically to US\$ 1.5 billion in 2021 due to the impact of Covid-19 and import restriction strategies of Algeria arising from its forex crisis. The trade has rebounded by 24% in 2022 and reached US\$ 2.1 billion. Exports from India to Algeria during 2022-23 were US\$ 613 million. India's imports from Algeria during the same period were US\$ 1.5 billion. India's export to Algeria consisted rice, heterocyclic compounds, polyacetals etc. India's import from Algeria consisted largely of oil and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Indian exports	1299	968	732	935	613
Algerian exports	1622	1 520	657	625	1500
Total	2921	2 488	1 389	1 560	2113

### **Indian companies in Algeria**

11. The commercial relationship between India and Algeria has seen higher level of engagements in recent years. There are a number of Indian corporations operating in Algeria in both public and private sector. Shapoorji Pallonji International is executing various construction works for the Algerian government such as housing projects, construction of hospitals, stadiums etc; IRCON International Ltd. is executing a railway project for the Algerian railway company ANESRIF; Dodsai Engineering and Construction FZE is executing a construction project of gas pipeline for the Algerian hydrocarbon company Sonatrach; and Larsen & Toubro Limited is also executing hydrocarbon projects for Sonatrach. Another branch, Larsen and Toubro Transmission, is executing power transmission projects for the Algerian electricity company Sonelgaz. On 22 February 2022, Infosys Limited a major Indian Information Technology company and a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting and Intervalle Technologies, an Algerian IT company with more than 13 years of experience in IT banking sector, entered into a strategic partnership to address the needs of the banking sector in Algeria. Dr. Reddy's laboratories in Algeria organized a launching event with Alpha Rep Pharma on 17 and 18 February 2023, to boost cooperation between the two laboratories.

### **Participation in commercial events**

12. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations, FIEO participated in the 20th Edition of the International Trade Show for Food Production Djazagro from 5-8 June 2023 at SAFEX, Algiers with 26 Indian companies. Three Indian companies took part in the International Exhibition of Spare Parts, Equi Auto Algeria from 13 to 16 March 2023 at SAFEX, Algiers. Around 60 Indian companies participated in the International Pharmaceutical Exhibition Maghreb Pharma from 5 to 7 February 2023 in Algiers. Three Indian companies (M/s Vineet Polyfab Pvt. Ltd, M/s Saanika Industries Pvt. Ltd, M/s Prime Yarns) took part in the International Textile Show Texstyle Expo from 19 to 21 December 2022 at CIC Algiers. The Embassy of India in Algeria organised a Virtual Buyer-Seller Meet on 'Opportunities in Agri Sector', in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the Algerian Agency for the Promotion of Foreign Trade, ALGEX. Indian and the Algerian companies promoted win-win partnerships in the field of agricultural and processed food products between the two countries. A delegation led by the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) comprising 28 Indian companies participated in the 'Expo Electricity North-Africa', an International Exhibition on Electricity, Power and Lighting Technology, from 10-13 October 2022 at Safex Expo Centre, Algiers. The Embassy of India in Algeria organized a seminar to promote tourism and medical tourism to India on 7 July 2022. The seminar also had participants from Algerian travel operators, media persons, health-care experts and Algerian clinics such as the Pasteur Institute.

13. 47 Algerian businessmen participated in various important trade fairs, conferences and seminars in India, which are

- i. Reverse Buyer Seller Meet RBSM organized by FIEO from 11-12 January 2023
- ii. PLASTINDIA from 1-5 February 2023 at Mumbai
- iii. New Delhi World Book Fair from 25 Feb to 05 Mar 2023, New Delhi
- iv. International Gem & Jewellery Show from 1-3 April 2023 at Meridien Hotel
- v. CME Angiogenesis from 15 to 16 April 2023 at Taj Bangalore Airport Hotel, organized by Narayna Nethralaya Eye Foundation
- vi. India Steel Expo 2023 from 19-21 April 2023 at Bombay Convention Center
- vii. Advantage healthcare India 2023 from 26-28- April 2023, New Delhi
- viii. Global Surgeon Summit 2023 from 18-20 May 2023 at Vapi
- ix. INBRUSH Expo 2023 from 25-27 May 2023, at Chennai Trade Centre
- x. Security & Fire B2B Show for Security services from 18 - 20 May 2023 at Bombay Exhibition Centre
- xi. 4th World Congress on MIS and Endoscopic Spine Surgery from 15-18 June 2023 at Holy Spirit Hospital Mumbai
- xii. G20 Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in New Delhi from 13-15 July 2023
- xiii. IPHEX 2023 from 5-7 July 2023 at Hyderabad
- xiv. Poultry Tech seminar organized by Saife Vetmed Pvt Ltd. from 10-14 August 2023, Delhi
- xv. Think 20 Summit G20 from 31 July to 02 August 2023, Karnataka
- xvi. India's International Exhibition on Food and Beverage Trade and Retail Market
- xvii. 14th World Spice Congress, from 15-17 Sept 2023 at CIDCO Exhibition Centre, Mumbai
- xviii. UP International Trade Show from 21-25 September at India Expo Centre
- xix. Pharma tech Expo from 25-27 Aug 2023, at Ahmedabad
- xx. INMEX SMM India, from 04-06 Oct 2023, Mumbai
- xxi. INMEX maritime exhibition & conference India from 4-6 October 2023, Mumbai

- xxii. 15th International Railway equipment Exhibition from 12-14 October, 2023, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
- xxiii. iAutoConnect 2023, from 22-23 November 2023 at Dwarka, New Delhi

### **Cooperation during Covid-19**

14. India cleared commercial supply of Paracetamol and Hydroxychloroquine to Algeria in April and May 2020. EAM and AFM Boukadoum had a telephonic conversation on 25 January 2021 wherein they discussed commercial supply of Covid-19 vaccine. Subsequently, 50,000 doses of Covid-19 made in India vaccines reached Algeria on 1 February 2021 through Qatar Airlines.

### **Bilateral Agreements**

15. India has signed the following agreements with Algeria:

- (i) MoU between AIR and Algerian National Radio signed in the year 2015
- (ii) MoU between Doordarshan and Algerian National Television signed in the year 2015
- (iii) Space Cooperation Agreement signed between (ISRO) India and (Algerian Space Agency) Algeria on 19th September 2018 at Bangalore.
- (iv) Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders which came into effect on 01 October 2021

### **Cultural**

16. The 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated on 21 June 2023 at the iconic French garden of Jardin d'essai du Hamma. This is the second time that IDY was conducted in a well known public space. Around 200 yoga enthusiasts, of all ages and from different walks of life participated in the event.

### **Space Cooperation**

17. India and Algeria have signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of space sciences, technologies and application on 19 September, 2018. The Agreement has been ratified by both the sides and has come into force. This was signed during the visit of Director General of the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL) to ISRO headquarters, Bengaluru. During the visit Director General, ASAL had interactions with ISRO officials regarding specific areas of cooperation like crop forecasting application using satellite imagery; methodology for solar energy assessment; Bhuvan platform for Algeria; and disaster management systems. Earlier, India launched four satellites [3 micro (ALSAT-1B, ALSAT-2B and ALSAT-1N) and 1 nano] for Algeria on 26 September 2016, under a commercial arrangement by Indian launch vehicle PSLV C-35 from Sriharikota. The first ever Joint Committee Meeting for implementation of the space cooperation agreement between the two countries was held virtually on 17 March 2022. One of the important agenda items discussed during the Joint

Committee meeting was the request of Algerian Space Agency for capacity building and launching of their satellites.

### **Indian Community**

18. There are currently 3800 Indians working in various projects and establishments in the country, many of them technically skilled persons working on projects in remote areas. A large number of workers are semi-skilled and work as masons, carpenters, painters and welders. There are 13 Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Card holders and 10 Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in Algeria.

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12 October 2023