

## **Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.**

### **India-Algeria Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Algeria.
2. 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 movements 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.

#### **B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures**

3. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Algeria in recent years, especially in areas such as Textiles and apparel, Machinery and appliances, Petroleum products, Leather Products, Gems & Jewellery etc. Bilateral trade reached a peak of US \$ 2.1 billion per annum in 2022-23 and declined drastically to US\$ 1.0 billion in 2020-21 due to the impact of Covid-19 and import restriction strategies of Algeria arising from its forex crisis. Exports from India to Algeria during 2022-23 were US\$ 613 million. India's imports from Algeria during the same period were US\$ 1503 million. 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. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

**The Export-Import statistics as per India's Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows**

#### **The Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24**

**(US Dollar million)**

<b>S.No</b>		<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
1.	Export	611.02	594.74	703.25	613.83	848.16
2.	Import	1996.76	408.79	1004.23	1503.97	885.54
3.	Total Trade	2607.78	1003.53	1707.48	2117.80	1733.70

*(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)*

4. 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 Algerian 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; Dodsal 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.

5. 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.

5. 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.

6. The Embassy of India in Algeria organised a Virtual Buyer-Seller Meeton '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.

7. 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.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

- A range of bilateral agreement exist, which encompasses cooperation/ agreement in economic and technical cooperation, air services, agriculture and allied sector, cultural, bilateral investment promotion, health and medicine, oil and gas industry and Education Exchange, space cooperation

etc.

- 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.
- 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.

*Source:* [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)