

**Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division,
DGCI&S, Kolkata- Dated: 20/12/2023**

India-Tunisia Bilateral Relations Report

(Prepared based on MEA’s November, 2023 official Report)

A. Introduction

India has traditionally maintained cordial and friendly relations with Tunisia since establishment of diplomatic relations in 1958. The first resident Indian Mission at the level of CDA was established in Tunisia in 1963 and was raised to the Embassy level in 1976 with the first Resident Ambassador in 1978. The Tunisian Embassy in New Delhi was set up in 1981. Tunisian leaders have expressed admiration for India’s democracy and its leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and India’s freedom struggle has served as an inspiration for Tunisia. Bilateral relations of the two countries are built on shared values including secularism and rule of law. Both the countries cooperate extensively on the international fora including the UN and other multilateral agencies.

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

2. As per the official trade figures of Department of Commerce, GoI, India accounts for (consumes) almost 50% of Tunisia’s global phosphoric acid exports. India exports a wide range of products viz. automobiles, electrical items, cotton, mechanical engines, organic chemical products, rubber, rice, coffee/spices etc. Indian Exports to Tunisia increased by 47.4% during the calendar year 2021 compared with 2020. The main products that India imported from Tunisia were Phosphoric Acid, Phosphonates, Scrap Aluminum etc. Indian imports from Tunisia have increased significantly from 2020 to 2021 and till 2022 (Jan-Oct) as is observed in table below.

A calendar year-wise account of Bilateral Commodities trade in goods from 2017 till 2022 (Jan-Oct) between India and Tunisia is given below: -

The export-import statistics for the last six years as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank are as follows:

Export-Import Statistics from 2017 to 2022

(US Dollar Million)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Jan– Oct)
Indian export	299.810	315.19	351.16	296.81	418.8	446.23
Indian Imports	103.903	79.86	93.86	71.51	169.5	235.19
Total (Exports and Imports)	403.713	395.05	445.02	368.32	588.3	681.42

[Source: DoC, Ministry of Commerce & Industry]

3. Recently a three-member IIFT delegation under IAFS programme consisting of Government functionaries and Chambers of Commerce functionaries imparted a week-long training course in Tunisia on international trade law and trade negotiations to members of Tunisian export organizations. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in-charge of Economic Diplomacy inaugurated the course along with senior government officials from Ministry of Trade.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:

4 Several Agreements and MoUs have been signed between India and Tunisia in the following areas:

- a. Indo-Tunisian Trade Agreement,
- b. Agreement on Friendship and Technical, Economic and Scientific Cooperation
- c. Cultural Agreement
- d. Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation
- e. Agreement on Scientific and Technology Cooperation
- f. Extradition Treaty
- g. Protocol of Cooperation between Diplomatic Institutes of the two countries
- h. Agreement in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises
- i. Air Services Agreement and Cooperation Agreement between Tunisia Radio and All India Radio

5. MoUs signed between the two nations are in force in areas such as: Utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Agriculture, Tourism, Cooperation in Communication & Information Technology, Cooperation in the field of Handicrafts, Agreements on Judicial Cooperation, Cooperation in Youth Matters, Bilateral Trade and Investment, Establishment of Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratory in Tunis and Establishment of India-Tunisia Centre for Innovation (ICT).
