

India-Niger Relations

Bilateral relations between India and Niger are cordial. In the past, our bilateral cooperation was mainly limited to the multilateral fora. India had provided some economic assistance in areas of health and agriculture. Bilateral activities gained momentum after our Mission in Niamey was opened in May 2009. Niger opened its Embassy in New Delhi in November, 2011 and the first resident Ambassador of Niger to India assumed charge in January, 2012.

India's trade with Niger stood at USD 125.18 million during 2012-13, with Indian exports to Niger being USD 56.13 million. The main items being exported from India to Niger included cereals & other edible items, pharmaceuticals, cotton, electrical machinery & equipment, apparels and footwears. India imported mainly mineral fuels, mineral oils & products of their distillation, bituminous substances and mineral waxes. Potential areas of our bilateral economic cooperation include infrastructure, transport, energy, mining, ICT, health and agriculture. The total trade for the period April-Dec 2013 is USD 69.04 of which India's exports are USD 68.53

The table below shows the trade between India and Niger [in USD million] :

Year	Indian exports to Niger	Indian imports from Niger	Total trade
2009-10	37.90	0.25	38.15
2010-11	47.08	10.47	57.55
2011-12	88.07	0.15	88.22
2012-13	56.13	69.05	125.18
2013-14 (Apr-Dec 2013)	68.53	0.51	69.04

The source of data is Department of Commerce, Government of India.

An LoC of USD 17 million was extended to Niger in July, 2005, under NEPAD for 'procurement of buses, trucks, tractors, flour mills and motor pumps etc.' Another LoC for USD 20 million was extended under TEAM 9 for 'power supply and electrification' in July 2008. Both these LoCs have been utilized.

Two LOCs have been extended in June, 2013, for electrification of 30 villages using photovoltaic system (US\$9.84 million) and setting up of a solar plant of 5 MW capacity (24.70 million). Another LOC of USD 25 million for Drinking Water for semi-urban and rural communities has been approved by Ministry in January 2014.

India provided a relief package of basic medicines to Niger in September 2005 towards assistance for the humanitarian efforts for the food crisis. Indian experts visited Niger in 2006 to ascertain the requirement for computerization of Niger's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Mines & Energy and Dry-land Agricultural Research. Technical assistance was provided to Niger in ICT and agriculture sectors. Government of India later supplied 100 computers and 100 printers, worth Rs.67 lakh in 2012 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Niger for capacity building.

India granted financial assistance of USD 1,00,000/- to Niger in August 2010 to help it tide over the ongoing food crisis. A cash grant of Euro 86452/- was also disbursed to help the Government of Niger towards purchase of two television cameras for the National Television of Niger for use at the investiture ceremony on April 7, 2011, for the newly elected President of the Republic of Niger.

India offers training to Niger in human resource development under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) etc., and also under the decisions taken at first and second India Africa Forum Summits (IAFS). During 2010-11, all ten ITEC training slots earmarked to Niger were utilized. Fifteen other Nigerien nationals were sent for training to India under other schemes including India Africa Forum Summits, Special Agriculture Scholarship, K.V. Raman Fellowship, etc.

In 2011-12, 36 ITEC and 63 IAFS training slots were utilized. Two candidates were sent to India under 'Special Agricultural Scholarship Scheme'. Two Nigerien journalists were also sent to India on familiarization visit organized by XP Division in August, 2011. ITEC Slot for Niger for 2012-13 were increased to 120 and 109 slots were utilized. During 2012-13, 42 slots under IAFS were availed by Nigeriens. In 2013-14, 135 slots were provided under ITEC, out of which 134 slots were utilized. Two candidates were sent to India under 'C.V. Raman - Special Agricultural Scholarship Scheme' in 2013-14.

There have been several ministerial visits from Niger to India. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger visited India in March, 2005 and in April & August 2006. High level government and commercial delegations participated in the CII-EXIM Conclave on "India-Africa Project Partnerships" held in March and November 2005 and in October 2006 in New Delhi, and in May 2006 in Accra. Shri Anand Sharma, the then Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs met the then Prime Minister of Niger in March 2007 in Accra during his visit to Ghana to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ghana's Independence. Various issues of mutual interest were discussed in these meetings.

The Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, Her Excellency Ms. Takoubakoye Aminata Boureima, visited Hyderabad to participate in the ITU-World Telecom Development Conference (WTDC-10) from 24th May to 4th June, 2010. The Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Madame Aminata D. Maiga Toure, participated in the “India-LDC Ministerial Conference” held in New Delhi on 18-19 February, 2011. H.E. Mr. Foumakoye Gado, Minister of Mines and Energy, visited India from 26th to 30th June, 2011. H.E. Mr. Mamadou Diallo, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research visited India to attend India-Africa Science and technology Ministerial Conference from 1-2 March, 2012. During 2012-13 H.E. Mr. Foumakoye Gado, Minister of Energy and Petroleum visited India to participate in International Seminar on Energy Access, held in New Delhi from 9 to 10 October 2012. A five-member delegation comprising senior government officials and leading importers of pharmaceuticals in Niger attended Reverse Buyer Seller Meet coinciding with 64th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress during 7 to 9 December 2012 at Chennai. A 16-member delegation from Niger attended the 9th CII EXIM Bank India-Africa Conclave held in New Delhi from March 17-19, 2013. The delegation was led by Mr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse, Minister of Plan, Territory Planning and Community Development. Mr. Omar Hamidou Tchiana, Minister of Mines and Industrial Development and Mr. Saley Saidou, Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector were also part of the delegation. The delegation also included Senior Government officials, Vice President of Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Handicrafts of Niger and businessmen. The Minister of Water Resources and Environment of Niger, Mr. Issoufou Issaka, visited New Delhi from 14-16 June, 2013, on the invitation of WAPCOS to sign MOU for PMC for “Potable Water Project”, an LOC project (US\$25 Million) under consideration with GOI. An 11-member CII trade delegation, led by Joint Secretary (West Africa), visited Niamey from 28 to 30 May 2012. The delegation held meetings with the Prime Minister and several other Ministers of the Government of Niger. A Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between CII and Nigerien Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts was also signed.

Visits in 2014:

Mr. Alma Oumarou, Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector of Niger, accompanied by Ms. Zada Mariama, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector; Mr. Bonzougou Adoulaye, Technical Advisor and Mr. Moussa Mossi, Director General of the Promotion of Private Sector visited India to participate in the 10th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 9-11 March 2014. Mr. Alma Oumarou also addressed the Conclave.

Mr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse, Minister of Plan, Land Management and Community Development of Niger accompanied by Mr. Yakoubou Mahaman Sani, Director General of Investment, Ministry of Plan visited India from 13-14 March 2014 for signing the EXIM Bank's Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement of USD 25 million for potable water for semi-urban and rural communities in Niger. The agreement was signed on 14 March 2014 in New Delhi.

There are about 70 Indian nationals residing in Niger. Only a few stay with their families. They are mostly engaged in trading and hospitality related business.

Useful Resources

For more information and latest updates please visit
Embassy of India, Niamey website:

<http://www.indembniamey.org/>

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