



## India-Algeria Strengthen Defence Ties

**For Prelims:** [Non-Aligned Movement \(NAM\)](#), [International Organizations and Agreements](#), [Bilateral Relations](#), [Economic Cooperation and Trade](#), [Geopolitics of Africa](#)

**For Mains:** India's Foreign Policy, Globalization and Trade Relations, Economic Development Strategies, Regional Cooperation in Africa, Political Relations and Diplomatic Engagements

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chief of Defence Staff of India visited Algeria, leading to the conclusion of a significant **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on defence cooperation between India and Algeria.

- This agreement is aimed at strengthening strategic interests and military ties between the two nations.

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### What are the Recent Development in the India-Algeria Relation?

- **Significant Visit:** The recent visit coincided with Algeria's **70<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of its revolution on 1st November, marked by military parades and ceremonies, highlighting Algeria's historical and political heritage.
- **Strategic Cooperation:** India re-established its **defence wing in Algeria** and encouraged

Algeria's reciprocal establishment in India.

- Emphasizing India's role as a "**Vishwa Bandhu,**" or **global partner**, CDS highlighted India's readiness to share defence experiences and expertise.
- **Integrated Defence Statement:** The Integrated Defence Staff commented that the MoU would strengthen mutual understanding, laying a foundation for long-term collaboration in various sectors.
  - The discussions included India's advancements in defence manufacturing under '[Make in India](#)' and '[Make for the World](#),' offering Algeria potential avenues for collaboration.
  - CDS reiterated India's support for peaceful conflict resolution globally, mentioning that India has reinstated its defence wing in Algeria and expressed support for Algeria's defence wing in India.

## What are the Significant Areas of India-Algeria Relationship?

### ▪ Diplomatic Relations:

- India and Algeria established diplomatic ties in **July 1962**, the year Algeria gained independence from French colonial rule.
- India also supported Algeria's liberation movement. Both countries joined the [Non-Aligned Movement](#) post-independence, maintaining solidarity on international issues.

### ▪ Bilateral Trade:

- Bilateral trade between India and Algeria **peaked at USD 2.9 billion in 2018**, later dropping to **USD 1.5 billion in 2021** due to [COVID-19](#) and Algeria's import restrictions.
- Trade rebounded in 2022, **growing 24% to USD 2.1 billion**, with India's exports reaching **USD 848.16 million** and imports **USD 885.54 million in 2023-24**.
- Major exports include [rice](#), [pharmaceuticals](#), and granite, while imports focus on [petroleum oils](#), [LNG](#), and calcium phosphates.

### ▪ Bilateral Agreements:

- India and Algeria have signed several agreements to foster cooperation:
  - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between [All India Radio \(AIR\)](#) and **Algerian National Radio was signed in 2015**.
  - A **Space Cooperation Agreement was signed in 2018**, facilitating the use of satellite technology for applications such as crop forecasting and disaster management.
  - A **Visa Waiver Agreement** for holders of diplomatic and official passports took effect in **October 2021**.

### ▪ Cultural Engagement:

- The **10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY)** was celebrated on **21st June, 2024**, in Algeria at the well-known **Jardin d'Essai du Hamma garden**. The event attracted over 300 yoga enthusiasts of diverse ages and backgrounds.

### ▪ Space Cooperation:

- The **India-Algeria Space Cooperation Agreement**, signed in 2018, covers joint efforts in space science, technology, and applications.
- Algeria's space agency discussed satellite applications, such as crop forecasting and disaster management, with [ISRO](#), and India launched four **Algerian satellites in 2016**.
- A **Joint Committee** Meeting in 2022 furthered cooperation, with Algeria requesting support for satellite capacity building.

### ▪ Indian Community:

- Approximately **3,800 Indians** are currently residing in Algeria, working in various sectors.
- Many are technically skilled and employed on projects in remote areas, while others work in semi-skilled roles such as masons, carpenters, painters, and welders.
- The community also includes **13 Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)** cardholders, **10 Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)**, and 15 Indian students.

## Algerian Revolution

- The Algerian War, also known as the War of Independence or the Algerian Revolution, occurred from **1954 to 1962 between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN)**.
- The conflict was marked by **guerrilla warfare**, maquis fighting, and extensive use of torture, making it a significant decolonization struggle.

- It escalated into a **civil war among different communities within Algeria and had lasting repercussions in metropolitan France**, ultimately leading to Algeria's independence.

## Non-Aligned Movement

- The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** emerged during the Cold War to maintain independence from the **U.S. and Soviet Union**.
- The concept originated at the **1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia**.
- The first NAM Summit was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1961.
- As of April 2018, NAM has 120 members: 53 from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 2 from Europe (Belarus and Azerbaijan).
- Founding leaders include **Josip Broz Tito, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kwame Nkrumah, and Sukarno**.

## Why Does Algeria Matter to India?

- **Strategic Partnership:** Algeria's strategic location in the [Maghreb](#) and its historical alignment with India in the **Non-Aligned Movement** provide a solid foundation for a multifaceted partnership, allowing both nations to collaborate on international issues of mutual interest.
- **Energy Security:** With Algeria possessing vast [hydrocarbon reserves](#), India can diversify its energy sources and reduce reliance on a single region, thereby enhancing its energy security and stabilizing its energy imports.
- **Economic Collaboration:** The recent economic reforms in Algeria, including the **withdrawal of restrictive investment rules**, present **significant opportunities for India to engage in trade**, invest in infrastructure projects, and promote capacity development that benefits both economies.
- **Healthcare Cooperation:** India's advanced **pharmaceutical industry** can play a pivotal role in supporting Algeria's healthcare system, fostering medical tourism, and implementing telemedicine programs that enhance the capabilities of Algerian healthcare workers.
- **Security Cooperation:** Given the regional instability and security threats, India and Algeria can strengthen their defense ties through joint counter-terrorism initiatives, enhancing bilateral relations and contributing to regional stability and security.

## What are the Major Challenges in India-Algeria Relations?

- **Political and Socio Economic Issues:** Algeria's internal political instability and socioeconomic challenges can hinder consistent diplomatic engagement and mutual initiatives.
- **Limited Regional Cooperation:** The inactive state of the [Arab Maghreb Union](#) limits regional collaboration opportunities, affecting India's engagement strategy in the region.
- **Knowledge Deficit:** A lack of awareness about each other's cultures and political contexts can hinder deeper bilateral relations and cooperative efforts.

## Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

- **Establishment:** Founded in 1989 in Marrakech, after a treaty signed by five Maghreb states.
- **Member States:** Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.
- **Goals:**
  - Strengthen the independence of member states.
  - Safeguard the assets of member states.
  - Cooperate with other regional institutions.
  - Engage in international dialogue.
- **Economic Importance:** The region possesses significant reserves of oil, gas, and phosphate, serving as a transit center to southern Europe.

## Way Forward

- **Enhanced High-Level Engagements:** Increasing frequency and depth of political visits can strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration on international issues.
- **Focus on Economic Diversification:** Promoting joint ventures in non-hydrocarbon sectors can reduce Algeria's economic vulnerability while providing Indian businesses with new opportunities.
- **Cultural Exchange Programs:** Initiating programs to promote cultural understanding and knowledge sharing can bridge the gap between the two nations, fostering goodwill and trust.

### **Drishti Mains Question**

Q. "Examine the implications of the recent defence cooperation MoU between India and Algeria in strengthening their strategic partnership amid evolving regional dynamics."

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### **Prelims**

**Q. Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world? (2024)**

- (A) Algeria and Morocco
- (B) Botswana and Namibia
- (C) Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana
- (D) Madagascar and Mozambique

**Ans. C**

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