

India-Ghana Bilateral Relations

India-Ghana relations have traditionally been warm and friendly based on solid foundation anchored in shared values and common vision. India opened its representative office in Accra in 1953, prior to Ghana's independence, and established full-fledged diplomatic relations with Ghana in 1957, immediately after it attained independence.

1. Political

Exchange of high-level visits: High-level visits have played a pivotal role in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Ghana.

Visits from Ghana

A. Presidential Visits:

- President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo visited India to participate in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi in March 2018.
- President John Dramani Mahama visited India to participate in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in October 2015.
- Other Presidential visits from Ghana to India include President Kufuor in August 2002 & April 2008 for 1st IAFS, President Rawlings in 1993, President Limann in 1981 and President Nkrumah in 1961.

B. Foreign Minister/Deputy Foreign Minister level visits

- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana Mr. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa visited India on March 17-18, 2025 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. He also had a bilateral meeting with EAM on the margins of the visit. Commonwealth Secretary General elect and former Foreign Minister Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey visited India on March 20-21, 2025 and met with EAM and other important stakeholders.

- Minister for Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, participated in the 9th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi (21-24 February, 2024) and also had a meeting with Hon'ble Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India.
- The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Mr. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong participated in the virtual session of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 November 2023.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey visited India for UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee Special meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi (27-30 October 2022).
- After the travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic were lifted, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, Mr. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong participated at the Raisina Dialogue (25-27 April, 2022).
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration for Foreign Office Consultations (28 August 2019);
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Mrs. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey for an official visit on 16-18 July 2018.

C. Other Ministerial visits

- Minister of Communications & Digitalisation, Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful participated in the Global Standards Symposium (GSS) & World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA 2024) in New Delhi (14 Oct 2024).
- Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry, Mr. Michael Okyere Baafi participated in the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024 in the virtual format, on the theme "*Trade for Development: Perspectives from Global South*".

- Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. John Ntim Fordjour, led a delegation from Education Ministry, to participate in the Education Knowledge Exchange Summit in New Delhi (14-21 February 2024).
- Deputy Minister for Ministry of Communication and Digitalisation, Ms. Pomaa-Boateng, led 17-member delegation and participated in the 'Knowledge and Technology Transfer' program at National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs of India (15-24 Nov 2023).
- Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Asei Seini Mahama took part in the 6th Edition of Advantage Healthcare in New Delhi (26-28 April 2023).
- Minister for Information, Mr. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, participated in the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi (2-3 March 2023).
- Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr. William Owuraku Aidoo attended the India Energy Week held in Bengaluru (6-8 February 2023).
- Deputy Minister for Energy, Ms. William Owuraku Aidoo attended the 5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi (18 October 2022).
- Defence Minister, Mr. Dominic Aduna Nitiwul participated at the India Africa Defence Dialogue and DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar (17-21 October 2022).
- Deputy Minister of Energy visited India for signing of MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (21-25 January 2020).
- Deputy Minister of Energy visited India for the 2nd Global Sigma Summit 2020 at New Delhi (9-11 January 2020);
- Minister of Lands and Natural Resources visited India for the Kimberly Process Plenary Meeting at New Delhi (18-22 November 2019).
- Minister for Railway Development visited India for the International Railway Equipment Exhibition in New Delhi (21-23 October 2019).

- Deputy Minister of Road and Highways visited India for the India-Africa Higher Education and Skill Development Summit at New Delhi (26-27 August 2019).
- Deputy Minister of Energy visited India for discussions with Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai (27-29 May 2019).
- Deputy Minister of Defence visited India for Aero India 2019 at Bengaluru (20-24 February 2019).
- Deputy Minister of Energy visited India for the 1st General Assembly of ISA at New Delhi (2-5 October 2018).
- Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources visited India for the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at New Delhi (29 September-2 October 2018).
- Deputy Minister of Trade visited India for the Informal Gathering of Ministers responsible for WTO at New Delhi (19-20 March 2018).
- Deputy Minister of Communications visited India for the International Business Expo at New Delhi (22-23 February 2018).
- Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for the World Sustainable Development Summit at New Delhi (15-17 February 2018).

D. Other visits

- Justice Patrick Kwamina Baiden from the Superior Court of Judicature of the Republic of Ghana attended the 1st Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid in New Delhi (27-28 November 2023).
- An 8-member Ghanaian Parliamentary delegation visited the Parliament of India Museum in New Delhi from 7-10 May 2023.
- Special Advisor to President of Ghana on Accra Initiative, Maj. Gen. Francis Adu-Amanfoh (retd), attended the 3rd Ministerial

Conference on Counter Terrorism Financing NMFT in New Delhi (18-19 November 2022).

- A five-member Parliamentary delegation led by the First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Hon'ble Mr. Joseph Osei-Owusu participated in Mid-Year Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) held in Assam from 6-11 April 2022. The CPA delegation was joined by other MPs for a Study Tour from 12-20 April 2022.
- A 7-member young MPs delegation visited India for the 2nd Session of the "Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme" of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) from 20-29 May, 2022.
- Speaker of Ghanaian Parliament, Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Mike Oquaye, accompanied by Minister of Food and Agriculture, participated in the Annual CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in March 2017.
- Two MPs, Hon'ble Mr. Kwaku Agyemin-Boateng and Hon'ble Mr. Theophilus Tetteh Chaie attended the 'Leader of the Future' Programme under IAFS in India from 13-20 March 2012.
- Hon'ble Mr. Cassiel Ato Forson, MP and Hon'ble Mr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, MP attended the 'Leader of the Future' Programme under India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in India from 23-30 April 2011.

Visits from India

A. Presidential/Prime Minister level visits

- President H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee visited Ghana from 12-14 June 2016.
- Prime Minister H.E. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Ghana from 8-9 November 1995.

These visits significantly enhanced the diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations.

B. EAM/MOS for External Affairs level visits/meetings

- EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar met President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the margins of the 77th UNGA high level week in September 2022 in New York.
- Minister of State for External Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. V. Muraleedharan, attended the Presidential Inauguration of President Akufo-Addo in Ghana on 6-7 January 2021, following his re-election in the December 2020 elections.
- Hon'ble Mr. M.J. Akbar, MoS for External Affairs, visited Ghana from 14-16 August 2017, to participate in the India@70 celebrations.
- President Akufo Addo addressed the '*Voice of Global South Summit*' hosted virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 January 2023. The summit was hosted by India, under the theme, "*Together for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust*".

C. Other Ministerial visits

- Minister of State for Defence, Hon. Mr. Ajay Bhatt, visited Ghana from 4-7 December 2023, to participate in the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Ghana.

D. Other visits

- Sh. Ramraj Narasimhan, Sr. Director, from the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) Secretariat, New Delhi, visited Ghana and held meetings with the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation (MoCD) and the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMeT) and High Commissioner from 16-17 September 2024.
- An Indian delegation from the Survey of India led by Sh. Hitesh Kumar Makwana, Surveyor General of India, participated in the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week 2024 in Accra from 19-23 May 2024.

- An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Sh. Anurag Sharma, MP, comprising of Members of Parliaments from Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Chairman, Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), Principal Secretaries, Senior Officers and Officials from 21 State Legislative Assemblies of India, visited Accra from 30 September to 6 October 2023, in connection with the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC).

Bilateral Mechanisms & Agreements:

Joint Commission (JC): An MoU to establish JC for Economic, Technical & Cultural Cooperation was signed on 9 November 1995 during PM's visit to Ghana. (An Agreement on Economic, Scientific & Technical Cooperation was signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India). An MoU for establishment of JC was signed on 13 June 2016 during the President of India's visit to Ghana. So far no JCM held.

Foreign Office Consultations (FOC): A Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was signed in August 2002. The 1st FOC was held in New Delhi in August 2019, 2nd FoC in Accra in July 2021, and 3rd FoC was held in New Delhi on 22 July 2022, and 4th round of FoC was scheduled to be held in Accra on 30th June 2025 which has now been postponed.

Joint Trade Committee (JTC): A Bilateral Trade Agreement was signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India. The 1st JTC meeting was held at Accra in September 1992, 2nd meeting was held in Delhi in January 2011. The 3rd JTC was held in New Delhi on 21 July 2022 and 4th JTC was held at Accra on 02 May 2024.

India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS): Ghanaian President Kufuor attended the 1st IAFS in April 2008 in Delhi. President Mahama participated in the 3rd IAFS on 27-29 October 2015 in Delhi.

Annual CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership: It has seen high level of participation from Ghana. Speaker of Ghanaian Parliament, accompanied by Minister of Food and Agriculture, participated in the 12th Conclave in March 2017. Minister

of Business Development led a delegation to the 13th Conclave from 25-27 March 2018. H.E. Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Ghana as Guest of Honour led a delegation to the 14th Conclave from 17-19 March 2019. The Minister of Railways, Hon'ble Mr. Joe Ghartey and the Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry addressed the 15th Conclave virtually from 22-24 September 2020. The 16th digital edition on 13-15 July 2021 was addressed by Trade and Industry Minister, Hon'ble Mr. Alan Kyerematan, as well as the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Deputy Minister of Energy and the Deputy Minister of Railways. The 17th Conclave held in New Delhi from 19-20 July 2022 was attended by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Hon'ble Ms. Mavis Hawa Koomson. The 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave was held in New Delhi from 20-22 August 2024. A delegation comprising of four Ministers- Hon'ble Dr. Stephen Amoah, Deputy Minister of Finance, Hon'ble Mr. Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon'ble Mr. Michael Okyere Baafi, Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry and Hon'ble Mr. Mohammed Hardi Tufeiru, Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture - attended the Conclave. Mr. Seth Seaneke, Deputy CEO of Ghanaian Food & Drug Authority (FDA) visited India from 19-22 August 2024, as Drug Regulatory Expert from Ghana, for discussion on issues pertaining to recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia and adoption of Janaushadhi Scheme in Ghana.

MOUs/ Agreements

- **Air Services Agreement:** The Agreement was signed on 25 January 1978. An MOU was signed on 07 December 2016. Accordingly, IndiGo has been designated as scheduled Indian carrier to operate.
- **Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP):** A Cultural Agreement was signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India. Cultural and Scientific Exchange Programme was signed on 5 August 2002 during President Kufuor's visit to India. A Cultural Exchange Programme for 2018-22 was signed on 18 July 2018 during Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey's visit to India.
- **MoU on cooperation between BIS and GSA:** It was signed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Ghana Standards Authority

(GSA) on 29 January 2013. A new MoU was signed on 18 July 2018 during Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey's visit to India.

- **MoU on Tomato Pilot Research Project between NRDC & CSIR:** It was signed on 18 February 2013 with funding from MEA. The project was successfully concluded in 2017.
- **Visa Waiver Agreement for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports:** It was signed on 13 June 2016 during President's visit to Ghana. It came into force from 1 June 2021.
- **MoU on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration:** It was signed on 13 June 2016 during President's visit to Ghana. The building has been completed and handed over to Ghana in March 2023.
- **MoU between Government of Ghana and TCIL (for MEA):** It is for participation in e-VBAB Network Project and was signed in August 2019. The e-Vidya Bharati (Tele-Education) component has been implemented since 2020.
- **MoU between IOC and Ghana National Petroleum Authority (GNPA):** An MoU for providing assistance and technical expertise in the implementation of Ghana's National LPG Promotion Policy was signed during the visit of Deputy Minister of Energy of Ghana who led a delegation to IOC on 21-25 January 2020.
- **MoU for Cooperation between the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP), India and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC):** It was signed in Accra on 02 July 2021 during the 2nd FOC.
- **Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy:** It was signed in Vienna on 22 September 2021 during the Annual IAEA Session.

2. Economic and Commercial Relations:

- India is among the top trading partners of Ghana and is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports. Ghana has surplus trade balance with India, mainly due to huge imports of gold by India which accounts for over 70% of total imports from Ghana. Ghana's main exports to India are gold, cocoa, cashew nuts and timber products. India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron and steel, ethyl alcohol beverages and spirits, cereals, made-up textiles etc. The trade figures for the last recent years are given in the table below:

(US\$ in millions)				
Year (Apr-Mar)	India's Export Ghana	to India's Import from Ghana	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2020- 2021	862.50	1,374.96	2,237.46	-512.46
2021- 2022	1,109.46	1,497.77	2,607.24	-388.31
2022- 2023	964.17	1,909.59	2,873.76	-945.42
2023- 2024	1,098.88	1,416.90	2,515.78	-318.02
2024- 2025	1,346.75	1,790.54	3,137.29	-443.79

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

- The exchange of business delegations in recent years has led to an increase in investments by Indian companies in Ghana. A number of Indian companies including Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Larson & Toubro, NIIT, Shapoorji Pallonji, as well as several pharmaceutical companies have established their presence in Ghana. Indian companies in SMEs sector and in agriculture sector are also increasing their presence in the country. According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Indian companies have invested in 818 projects aggregating to US\$ 1.92 billion between 1994 and September 2024. The FDIs in 2021 was US\$ 93.84 million in 25 projects, representing 7.61% of Ghana's total FDIs of US\$ 1,298.66 million in 271 projects. The

FDIs in 2022 recorded US\$ 32.48 million in 21 projects. In 2023, FDIs from India was US\$ 77.93 million in 13 projects while the FDIs from January to September 2024 was US\$ 16.08 million in 11 projects.

- India is among the top investors in Ghana, holding the 2nd place for investments in 11 projects (after China) and 5th by value of FDIs being US\$ 16.08 million (top 3 being Egypt, Spain, and China) during the January - September period of 2024 according to GIPC's most recent report. This constitutes 4.77% of Ghana's total FDI. These projects were in sectors such as: Manufacturing, Services, General Trading, Export Trade, Agriculture, Building and Construction, Tourism, and Liaison.
- The High Commission launched the India-Business Forum (IBF) in Ghana on 23 November 2020 to foster bilateral trade and investment. Mission organized two big business events, viz. India-Ghana Business Summit on 'Strengthening India-Ghana Business Relations Post-Covid' on 6 April 2022 in collaboration with Association of Ghana Industries and India-Ghana Pharma Business Summit on 'Managing the Economic Challenges in Pharma Business' in partnership with Ghana National Chamber of Pharmacy on 13 December 2022.

3. Development Partnership

- India has supported Ghana's development by extending assistance in developmental projects through concessional lines of credit (LoC) and grants. India has extended about **US\$ 450 million** of LoC and grants to Ghana for various projects. Some of the projects include Rural Electrification Project (2003), India-Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence for ICT (2003); Jubilee House Presidential Complex (2008); Komenda Sugar Plant (2016) and Elmina Fish Processing Plant (2016). Foreign Service Training Institute constructed with partial funding of US\$ 5 million LoC has been completed and handed over to the Foreign Office in March 2023.
- Grant assistance of US\$ 1 million was provided to upgrade the India-Ghana Kofi Annan ICT Centre in 2016. Another grant of US\$ 1 million was provided to rehabilitate the Jubilee House Presidential Complex in 2017.

- In addition to LoCs, India extended Buyers' Credit of US\$ 398.33 million for the Tema-Akosombo railway line in November 2016 and an additional US\$ 48.84 million for extension of the track to Mpakadan. On 22 November 2024, President Akufo-Addo inaugurated the Tema-Mpakadan Standard Gauge Railway Line (SGRL) and Diesel Multiple Unit trains (DMU) in Accra. The US\$ 447 million and 97.7-kilometre railway line project including a 300-metre bridge over the Volta River, is funded under Buyers' Credit of Exim Bank of India. The project is the first section of Ghana-Burkina Faso inter-connectivity project connecting Tema, Ghana's key port city, to Mpakadan, aimed at strengthening links with neighbouring countries.
- Other loans extended under Buyer's Credit are US\$ 158.62 for the Tamale-Walewale Road Project and US\$ 24.98 for establishment of Assembly Plant for agricultural machinery.
- As part of our capacity building programme, Ghana has benefited from India's assistance in human resource development through the optimum utilization of ITEC and ICCR scholarships and specialized training programmes conducted under India Africa Forum Summit decisions. During 2020-2021, Ghana utilised 23 Defence ITEC slots and 30 ICCR scholarships. During 2021-22, despite Covid-19 pandemic, Ghana utilised 39 Defence ITEC slots and 34 ICCR scholarships. In the year 2024, 164 Civilians, 109 Defence personnel have been trained in India under the ITEC programme. 35 scholarships under ICCR & 03 scholarships under AYUSH have been awarded to Ghanaians. Education Fair was held by TIES Global in collaboration with the Periyar Foundation (PAF), supported by HCI Accra, at Kumasi on 08 February 2024 and in Accra on 09 February 2024. 10 prestigious Indian universities and students from 15 Ghanaian schools participated in the fair.
- Ghana has also been a beneficiary of the Pan African e-Network, now called e-VBAB [e-Vidya Bharati (tele-education) & e-Arogya Bharati (tele medicine)] Project. Over **1600 scholarships** have been offered to the students of Ghana to pursue UG/PG/Diploma courses online e-VBAB scheme.

- Humanitarian assistance during Covid-19 pandemic: Indian assistance of 50,000 vaccines as grant was handed over to Ghana on 5 March 2021. Earlier Ghana received 600,000 Made in India Covishield vaccines on 24 February 2021 as part of Covax initiative. Subsequently, on 11 May 2022, one million Made in India Covishield vaccines were received by Ghana under Covax.

4. Cultural Relations:

- There is greater awareness of India in Ghana through Indian soap operas telecast by local television channels. The first 'Festival of India' in Ghana - 'Maitri' was organized from 25 January to 13 March 2017, in collaboration with Indian Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts of Ghana. The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated in Ghana annually since 2015. Important occasions such as Unity Day, Constitution Day, World Hindi Day, Pravasi Bharatiya Day, ITEC/Partnership Day, Swachhta Abhiyan campaign, etc. are celebrated regularly with the participation of the locals and Indian community. There are 14 Indian and regional associations in Ghana that work actively to promote different facets of India's cultural heritage by celebrating various regional festivals and participating in events organised by the High Commission for cultural promotion.
- A 7-member young MPs delegation visited India for the "Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme" from 20-29 May 2022. Prof. Johnson Nyarko Boampong, Vice Chancellor, Cape Coast University visited India under the Academic Visitors Programme of ICCR from 23 September to 02 October 2022.
- A cultural troupe from Ghana participated at the 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in February 2025.
- On 26 October 2024, HCI Accra in collaboration with various Indian Associations organised the India Fest 2024 at the Accra Sports Stadium. Stalls exhibiting regional products, cultural artefacts and cuisines were set up. Several other cultural events like Vishwa Hindi Diwas, Ayurveda Day, Unity Day were also organised during January-November, 2024.

Indian Community: There is a sizeable Indian community in Ghana numbering over 15,000. Some of them have been in Ghana for over 70 years. Some families are now the fourth generation in Ghana and most have acquired Ghanaian citizenship. Several expatriates are also working for MNCs and prominent local Ghanaian businesses as skilled workers. The Indian community is served by a Hindu Temple, a Gurudwara, and a Hindu Monastery, (the latter founded by a Ghanaian convert to Hinduism). ISKCON Temple (mostly run by Ghanaians) and Art of Living Centre are also active. The Indian Association of Ghana is the oldest association, which also has a community centre that organizes Indian festivals and cultural programmes. Indian Association make generous contributions to local community development projects and donations to charitable causes.

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