

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

India-Ghana 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 Ghana.

2. India-Ghana relations have traditionally been warm and friendly resting 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.

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

3. India is among the top trading partners of Ghana and is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports. Ghana has a positive trade balance with India, mainly due to huge imports of gold by India which accounts for nearly 80% 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 & steel, ethyl alcohol to increase India's global exports to US\$ 400 billion in 2021-22, the target of US\$ 1.1 billion for Ghana was achieved. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

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

Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24

(in US\$ million)

Year	India's exports to Ghana	India's Imports from Ghana	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
2019-20	617.42	1773.55	2390.97	-1156.13
2020-21	862.50	1,374.96	2237.46	-512.46
2021-22	1109.46	1497.77	2607.23	-388.31
2022-23	964.17	1909.59	2873.76	-945.42
2023-24	1098.88	1416.90	2515.78	-318.02

(Source: Department of Commerce, Government of India)

4. 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. According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Indian companies have invested in 870 projects with total investment of US\$ 2.22 billion between 1994 and 2021. India's FDIs in year 2021 was US\$ 93.84 million in 25 projects, (i.e. 7.21% of Ghana's total FDIs of US\$ 1.3 billion in 271 projects) which dropped to US\$ 32.48 million in 21 projects in 2022. In 2021-22 the trade was US\$2.60bn and was US\$2.87bn in 2022-23. India is one of the largest investors in Ghana. Indian companies had invested over US\$1.7bn in Ghana over 730 projects in diverse sectors including construction, manufacturing, trading, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, services, tourism, etc.)

5. The High Commission launched the India-Business Forum (IBF) in Ghana on 23 November 2020 to foster bilateral trade and investment which was launched by the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Robert Ahomka-Lindsay inaugurated the Forum. 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 in partnership with Ghana National Chamber of Pharmacy on 13 December 2022.

D. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :

- There have been regular Ministerial level visits from Ghana to India. Dr. S. Jaishankar, EAM called on President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo on the margins of the 77th UNGA high level week in September 2022 in New York. President Akufo Addo participated in the 'Voice of the South Summit' which was hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 January 2023 (Virtual Session).
- After the travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic was lifted, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong participated in Raisina Dialogue from 25-27 April, 2022. Deputy Minister for Energy William Owuru Aidoo attended the 5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi on 18 October 2022. Defence Minister Dominic Aduna Nitiwul participated at the India Africa Defence Dialogue and DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar from 17-21 October 2022. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey visited India for UNSC Counter Terrorism Committee Special meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi on 27-30 October 2022. Maj. Gen. Francis Adu-Amanfoh (retd), Special Advisor to President of Ghana on Accra Initiative attended the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Counter Terrorism Financing NMFT from 18-19 November 2022 in New Delhi. Hon. Asei Seini Mahama, Deputy Minister of Health, took part in the 6th edition of Advantage Healthcare in New Delhi from 26-28 April 2023. Hon. William Owuraku Aidoo, Deputy Minister of Energy attended the India Energy Week held in Bengaluru from 6-8 February 2023. Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, Minister for Information participated in the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on 2-3 March 2023.
- A five-member's Parliamentary delegation led by the First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament 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 Bilateral Trade Agreement was signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India. Accordingly, a JTC was established. The 1st JTC meeting was held in Accra in September 1992. The 2nd meeting of the JTC was held in Delhi on 20-21 January 2011. The 3rd meeting of the JTC was held in New Delhi on 21 July 2022 chaired by Joint Secretary (FT-Africa) on the Indian side and by the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Micheal Okyere Baafi on the Ghanaian side.

- 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 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 2 July 2021 during the 2nd FOC.
- **Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy:** It was signed in Vienna 22 September 2021 during the Annual IAEA Session.
- Capacity building is a strong pillar of bilateral cooperation and Ghana has been benefiting from India’s assistance in human resource development through optimum utilization of ITEC and ICCR scholarships and specialized training programmes conducted under IAFS 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 2022-23, Civilian ITEC courses were resumed and Ghana utilized 80 Civilian and 48 Defence ITEC slots, and 33 ICCR slots.
- Ghana has also been beneficiary of Pan African E-Network, e-VBAB [e-Vidya Bharati/Tele-Medicine & e-Arogya Bharati)] Project. A MoU was signed between Ghana and TCIL on 26 August 2019 for participation by Ghana in the e-VBAB project to provide good quality, affordable and effective tele-education and tele-medicine services through specially developed web-based platforms. Ghana was the pilot country to roll out the project which has been implemented since 2020. More than 600 Ghanaian students enrolled for various under graduate/post graduate courses for the academic session in 2021 in prestigious Indian universities. An eVBAB (e-learning) Center at KNUST in Kumasi was inaugurated on 13 December 2021 by the Regional Minister of Ashanti Region Simon Mensah. For 2022 academic session, 925 Ghanaian students have been accepted.
- There is a sizeable Indian community in Ghana numbering around 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.

Prepared based on MEA’s Report.