

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 Directorate 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 for 12.11.2025 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 of exports of Ghana. Ghana has a positive trade balance with India, mainly due to huge imports of gold by India which accounts for nearly 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 & steel, ethyl alcohol and made up textiles etc. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as under:

Export-Import statistics from 2020-21 to 2024-25

(USD million)				
Year	India's exports to Ghana	India's Imports from Ghana	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
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
2024-25	1346.75	1790.54	3137.29	-443.79

(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. 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 USD 1.92 billion between 1994 and September 2024. The FDIs in 2021 was USD 93.84 million in 25 projects, representing 7.61% of Ghana's total FDIs of USD 1,298.66 million in 271 projects. The FDIs in 2022 recorded USD 32.48 million in 21 projects. In 2023, FDIs

from India was USD 77.93 million in 13 projects while the FDIs from January to September 2024 was USD16.08 million in 11 projects. India extended Buyers' Credit of USD 398.33 million for the Tema-Akosombo railway line in November 2016 and an additional USD 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 USD 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 neighboring countries.

5. 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 USD16.08 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.

6. The High Commission launched the India-Business Forum (IBF) in Ghana on 23rd November 2020 to foster bilateral trade and investment which was launched by the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Robert Ahomka-Lindsay who inaugurated the Forum. The Mission organized two big business events, viz. India-Ghana Business Summit on 'Strengthening India-Ghana Business Relations Post-Covid' on 6th April, 2022 in collaboration with Association of Ghana Industries and India-Ghana Pharma Business Summit in partnership with Ghana National Chamber of Pharmacy on 13th December, 2022.

D. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:

➤ India and Ghana have signed multiple Agreements/ MoUs in diverse areas including trade promotion, cooperation in science and technology, defence, IT, tourism, space, health, traditional systems of medicine, culture, etc.

➤ 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).

➤ Minister for 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.

➤ 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 Def Expo 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 Oppong 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 Ocher 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 Program was signed on 5 August 2002 during President Kufuor's visit to India. A Cultural Exchange Program 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 on 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 programs conducted under IAFS decisions. During 2020-2021, Ghana utilized 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 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.
- 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 organized

during January-November, 2024.

- 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 in Ghana. The Indian Association of Ghana is the oldest association, which also has a community centre that organizes Indian festivals and cultural programs. Indian Association make generous contributions to local community development projects and donations to charitable causes.

Prepared based on MEA's Report.