

## **Brief on India – Ghana Bilateral Relations**

### **Political Relations**

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.

**Exchange of high-level visits:** The first ever State Visit of President of India to Ghana on 12-14 June 2016, helped further strengthen bilateral ties between India and Ghana. (*The only other earlier VVIP visit from India to Ghana was that of the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on 8-9 November 1995.*) Shri V Muralidharan, MOS for External Affairs visited Ghana from 6-7 January 2021 for participating the Presidential Inauguration of President Akufo-Addo who got reelected in the Presidential elections held in December 2020. Earlier Shri M.J. Akbar, MOS visited Ghana from 14-16 August 2017 for India@70 celebrations in Ghana.

**From the Ghanaian side,** President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo visited India to participate in the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA) held at New Delhi on 11 March 2018. Earlier President John Dramani Mahama visited India to participate in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) on 27-29 October 2015. [*Earlier Presidential visits from Ghana to India include President Kufuor in August 2002 and April 2008 (for 1st IAFS); President Rawlings in 1993; President Limann in 1981; and President Nkrumah in 1961.*] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, paid an official visit to India on 16-18 July 2018.

In addition, there have been regular *Ministerial visits* from Ghana to India. The visits since 2018 include: Deputy Minister of Communications for International Business Expo by Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council at New Delhi (22-23 February 2018); Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation for World Sustainable Development Summit at New Delhi (15-17 February 2018); Deputy Minister of Trade for Informal Gathering of Ministers responsible for WTO at New Delhi (19-20 March 2018); Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources for Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at New Delhi (29 September-2 October 2018); Deputy Minister of Energy for 1st General Assembly of ISA at New Delhi (2-5 October 2018); Deputy Minister of Defence for AERO INDIA 2019 at Bengaluru (20-24 February 2019); Deputy Minister of Energy for

discussions with Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai (27-29 May 2019); Deputy Minister of Road and Highways for India-Africa Higher Education and Skill Development Summit at New Delhi (26-27 August 2019); Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to co-Chair Foreign Office Consultations on 28 August 2019; Minister for Railway Development for International Railway Equipment Exhibition (IREE 2019) in New Delhi (21- 23 October 2019); Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for Kimberly Process Plenary Meeting at New Delhi (18-22 November 2019); Deputy Minister of Energy for 2nd Global Sigma Summit 2020 New Delhi (9-11 January 2020); Deputy Minister of Energy to sign MOU with Indian Oil Corporation (21-25 January 2020).

Parliamentary interaction: A six-member Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Alex Tetteh Djornobauh, MP participated in EvalFest2020 organised by Evaluation Community of India from 12-14 February 2020 at New Delhi.

### **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 Coop was earlier signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India.) A new MoU for establishment of JC was signed on 13 June 2016 during President of India's visit to Ghana.

**Foreign Office Consultations (FOC):** A Protocol on FOC between the MEA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana was signed on 5 August 2002. The 1st FOC was held in New Delhi on 28 August 2019 which was co-chaired by Secretary ER on Indian side and Dy Foreign Minister Charles Owiredu on Ghanaian side. The 2nd FOC was held in Accra on 2 July 2021 which was co-chaired by Secretary ER and Dy FM Kwaku Ampratwum Sarpong.

**Ghana-India Parliamentary Friendship Association (PFA):** An informal group has been established by the members of the Ghanaian Parliament.

**Joint Trade Committee (JTC):** A Bilateral Trade Agreement was signed on 12 October 1981 during President Limann's visit to India. Accordingly a JTC 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.

**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 & 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. Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, Vice President of Ghana led a delegation as Guest of Honour at the 14th Conclave from 17-19 March 2019. The Minister for Railways Hon. Joe Ghartey and Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry addressed the virtual edition of 15th Conclave from 22-24 September 2020. The 16th edition was also held virtually on 13-15 July 2021 and was addressed by Hon. Alan Kyerematan, Trade & Industry Minister, Dy Foreign Minister, Dy Minister of Energy and Dy Minister of Railways.

**Air Services Agreement:** The Agreement was signed on 25 January 1978. An MOU on this was signed on 7 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 & Scientific Exchange Programme was signed on 5 August 2002 during President Kufuor's visit to India. A CEP for 2018-22 was signed on 18 July 2018 during Foreign Minister Botchwey's visit to India.

**MoU on India-Ghana Kofi Annan Center of Excellence in IT (KACEIT):** It was signed on 5 August 2002 during President Kufuor's visit to India. New MoUs were signed on 30 March 2011 to

extend 0.86mn\$ for technical assistance and in June 2016 to extend additional 1mn\$ during President's visit to Ghana.

**Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPPA):** It was signed on 5 August 2002 during President Kufuor's visit to India but was not enforced and finally annulled by Indian side.

**MoU on Urea Fertilizer Plant Joint Venture:** It was signed on 6 July 2010 for plant cost of 1.2bn\$ (52% GOG 48% RCF). It was expired in 2014.

**MoU on cooperation between BIS & GSA:** It was signed on 29 January 2013 but was expired. A new MoU was signed on 18 July 2018 during FM 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.

**Visa Waiver Agreement for 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 FSI & MOFA:** It was signed on 13 June 2016 during President's visit to Ghana.

**MoU between IOC and Ghana National Petroleum Authority:** An MoU for providing assistance and technical expertise in the implementation of Ghana's National LPG Promotion Policy was signed during visit of Deputy Minister of Energy of Ghana who led a delegation for study tour to IOC on 21-25 January 2020.

**MoU between Government of Ghana and TCIL (for MEA):** It is for participation in e-VBAB Network Project and was signed in 2019.

**MoU for Cooperation between the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership, 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.

### **Development Partnership**

India has been supporting Ghana's development by providing assistance in developmental projects through provision of Lines of Credit (LoC) and grants. (*In the past Ghana was one of the nine West African countries under the India's TEAM 9 initiative launched in 2004.*) Till date, India has extended about US\$450 million of concessional credit and grants to Ghana for various developmental projects. Among the important projects are the Rural Electrification Project, 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). LoC agreements of US\$ 150 million for Agriculture Mechanization and US\$ 30 million to upgrade Potable Water Supply System in Yendi were signed in April 2019 and are currently under implementation. Foreign Service Training Institute is also being established through a LoC funding of US\$ 5 million and an additional LoC of US\$ 2.06 million for expansion of the project has also been approved. Grant assistance of US\$ 1 million was provided to

India-Ghana Kofi Annan ICT Centre in 2016. In addition to concessional credit through LoCs India extended Buyers' Credit of US\$

398.33 million for the Tema-Akosombo railway line in November 2016 and added later US\$48.84 million for extension up till Mpakadan.

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

the last year (2020-21), despite covid pandemic, Ghana utilised 21 Defence ITEC slots and 50 ICCR scholarships. Earlier during 2019-2020 Ghana utilised 64 civilian ITEC slots, 46 Defence ITEC slots and 32 slots under IAFS and 8 ICCR scholarships.

Ghana has also been beneficiary of Pan African E-Network, e-VBAB [Tele- Education (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 is under implementation since 2020. More than 600 Ghanaian students have enrolled for various under graduate/post graduate courses for the academic session 2020-21 in prestigious Indian universities.

**Humanitarian assistance during Covid-19 pandemic:** *Indian assistance of 50,000 vaccines as gift grant was handed 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.*

### **Commercial Relations**

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, cashewnuts and timber products. India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron & steel, ethyl alcohol, beverages & spirits, cereals, made-up textiles etc. The trade figures for the last few years are:

(in US\$ million)

<b>Year</b>	<b>India's exports to Ghana</b>	<b>India's Imports from Ghana</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Balance of Trade</b>
2016-17	682.27	1938.54	2620.82	-1256.27
2017-18	635.78	2710.05	3345.83	-2074.27
2018-19	717.33	3763.41	4480.74	-3046.08
2019-20	617.42	1773.55	2390.97	-1156.13

2020-21	862.50	1374.96	2237.46	512.46
2021-22(Apr 21-Nov 21)	736.56	1069.51	1806.07	-332.95

**(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. According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Indian companies have invested in 737 projects with total investment of US\$ 1736 million between 1994 and 2019. In 2018, registered Indian projects numbered 18 with an FDI value of US \$510.7 mn and India was second both in terms of number of projects and monetary value of investment. Indian investments cover varied sectors including construction, manufacturing, trading, pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, services and tourism etc.

The High Commission of India launched the India-Business Forum (IBF) in Ghana on 23 November 2020 at Accra to foster bilateral trade and investment and the Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry of Ghana, Hon. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay inaugurated the Forum.

### **Socio-Cultural Relations**

There is greater awareness of India in Ghana through Indian soap operas telecast by local television channels. First 'Festival of India' in Ghana – 'Maitri' was organized from 25 January – 13 March 2017, in collaboration with Indian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts of Ghana. As part of India@70 celebrations a Odissi dance troupe visited Ghana in August 2017. During the two-year long celebrations of Gandhi@150, a series of events were held since 2 October 2018, including donations to 'Gandhi Ward' of 37 Military Hospital and juvenile correctional home of James Camp Prison, a 'peace walk', a painting competition, a 'cycling march', planting of 175 saplings in two primary schools in Accra, live streaming of narration of 'Gandhi Katha', and release of Special Commemorative Postage Stamp by Ghana Posts on Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019. 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 Day, ICCR Day, Swachta Abhiyan campaign, etc. are celebrated regularly with the participation of the Indian community. A ten-member cultural troupe from National Commission on Culture of Ghana participated at the 33rd Annual Surajkund International Crafts Mela in February 2019. India@75 celebrations were launched in Accra on 12 March 2021 with presence of Speaker of Ghana Parliament, Chief Justice of Ghana, Foreign Minister and other dignitaries from the Government of Ghana. Several events as part of India@75 celebrations are being organised regularly.

### **Indian Community in Ghana**

There is a sizeable Indian community in Ghana numbering around 10,000. Some of them have been in Ghana for over 70 years. Some families are now 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 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 Associations make generous contributions to local community development projects and donations to charitable causes. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated regularly in January. Indian Community Forum (ICF) Ghana, a platform for coordinating community activities, was launched during MOS(VM)'s visit to Accra in January 2021. More than 1500 Indians stranded in the region due to Covid-19 pandemic were repatriated by chartered flights from Accra to India during May- August 2020.

December 2021