



सत्यमेव जयते

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Accra**

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2022

As part of the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, High Commission organised many events in Accra as well as other regions in Ghana. Events ranging from Political, commercial, development partnership and cultural including the diaspora were arranged depicting India in Ghana. During the period, High Commissioner also traveled to Sierra Leona, Bono East and Western region to take forward multi-sectoral engagements at various levels. HC interacted with media on many occasions to share Indian policy and various ongoing programmes to strengthen bilateral ties.

POLITICAL

To celebrate Republic Day, as well as India-Ghana partnership in the year 2022 as both are members of UNSC, HC hosted Cabinet and Deputy Ministers at India House. A great opportunity as strong pillars of South-South brotherhood in this important body in 2022.

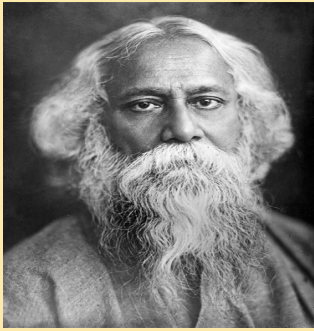


Hon. Dakoa Newman, Member of Parliament of Ghana called on High Commissioner and discussed possibilities to strengthen bilateral ties in several important areas .

Visiting Western Region of Ghana High Commissioner hosted Hon. Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah, Regional Minister for follow up on issues discussed during his last visit to the Region .



Quote of the month



“The small wisdom is like water in a glass: clear, transparent, pure.

The great wisdom is like the water in the sea: dark, mysterious, impenetrable.” -

Rabindranath Tagore



ATL MARATHON

The ATL Marathon is Atal Innovation Mission’s flagship innovation challenge, where schools identify community problems of their choice and develop innovative solutions in the form of working prototypes. The last edition of Marathon witnessed 7000+ innovations, the top 300 of them got internship opportunities with top companies of India, prizes and certificates from AIM, NITI Aayog.

ATL Marathon 2021 will adopt 4 strategy areas mentioned in the document – Healthcare & Nutrition, Education, Energy & Transportation, Social Inclusion.

POLITICAL

Calling on Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah Bonsu, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of Ghana, in Kumasi High Commissioner discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.



High Commissioner visited Bono East Region of Ghana, where he was warmly welcomed by Regional authorities.

Beginning official engagements of his visit to Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner called on Hon. Kwasi Adu Gyan, Regional Minister to discuss ways to bring India closer to the Region.



Hon. Amidu Issahaku Chinnia, Deputy Minister for Water & Sanitation of Ghana called on High Commissioner to discuss issues of cooperation with India.

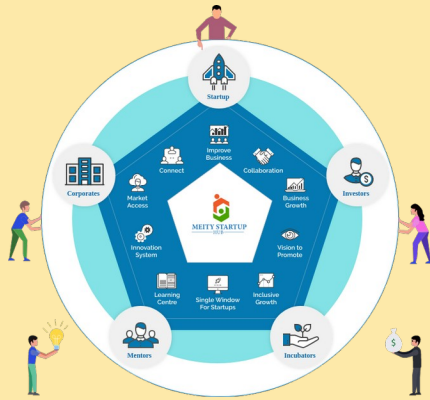
The DG of Ghana TVET Service and his team called on High Commissioner and discussed Various aspects of cooperation in skill development, priority area of India-Ghana engagement.



In honour to High Commissioner’s visit, Hon. Regional Minister hosted, India & Bono East Round Tables. The event was attended by political, traditional, business, health, educational, socio-cultural & media authorities from the Region .



Quote of the month



MEITY STARTUP HUB

The India is home to one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems with close to 8000 tech startups, making it the 2nd largest startup ecosystem in the world. Hence, innovation and entrepreneurship is the emerging focus area that is being aggressively promoted to give fillip to the Indian economy. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is leading and facilitating a gamut of Innovation and IPR related activities across the country towards expansion of this ecosystem.

In order to facilitate MeitY's vision of promoting technology innovation, start-ups and creation of Intellectual Properties, a nodal entity called 'MeitY Start-up Hub' (MSH) has been setup under its aegis. MSH will act as a national coordination, facilitation and monitoring centre that will integrate all the incubation centres, start-ups and innovation related activities of MeitY.

VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE

During visit to Sierra Leone, High Commissioner met with Hon. Mamadi Gobehe Kamara, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Sierra Leone and discussed whole range of issues of bilateral cooperation.



High Commissioner visited eVBAB (tele-education & tele-medicine) Learning Center established with assistance from India at Fourah Bay College in University of Sierra Leone in Freetown to discuss operational issues.



Calling on Sierra Leone Defence Minister Hon. Brig Gen(Rtd) Kellie Conteh, High Commissioner discussed defence & security cooperation and participation in DefExpo2022 & India-Africa Defence Dialogue2022 .



Interacting with Hon. Timothy Kabba, Sierra Leone Mineral Resources Minister, High Commissioner urged assistance to Indian businesses & investors seeking to avail opportunities in the country.



High Commissioner called on Hon. Dr. Edward Hinga Sandy, Trade & Industry Minister of Sierra-Leone to discuss cooperation with India and Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme.



PRAVASI BHARATIYA ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC SAMPARK

The Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRABHASS) is an initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to develop a database and a virtual platform to bring on board the Global Indian S&T Community to address the Indian societal challenges / problems.

The vision of the portal is to serve as a National Digital Platform to effectively collaborate with Global Indian S&T Community for collectively promoting inclusive growth in India, strengthening the Indian innovation ecosystem and contributing towards nation building. The specific objectives include encouraging Indian Diaspora to help solve challenges being faced by India, thereby making an impact on society at large, not just within India but also in a wider context globally.

Through PRABHASS the scientific Diaspora can continue to work together and collaborate with Indian scientists through discussion fora and for value R&D projects, trainings, webinars, fellowships, etc. aimed at addressing the identified challenges and problems through S&T interventions.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Ghana receives one million Covishield Made In India Covid-19 vaccines through COVAX facility.

High Commissioner handed over to Ghana Police Chief UV goggles for traffic police donated by Dr Agarwal's Clinic, a premier Indian health facility in Accra. High Commissioner also used the opportunity to discuss police training assistance from India.



During visit to Western Region of Ghana, High Commissioner visited mining town Tarkwa, renowned for gold & manganese mining, and discussed with municipal authorities cooperation with India.



High Commissioner visited the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT) in Tarkwa and commended its authorities for initiatives to develop linkages with universities in India and assured all support especially in the area of capacity building . High Commissioner along with the Vice Chancellor of UmaT, also inaugurated 'India Corner' at University with donation of books on various aspects of India.



G.O.I INITIATIVES

SABKA VIKAS MAHA QUIZ



The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed to the ideals of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas” to build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov has launched the “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series, on 1st March 2022. This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes, all hosted at Quiz.MyGov.in.

“Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz series” aims to sensitize the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives. The government has been working to ensure basic necessities to all citizens of the country through various programs and schemes for the holistic welfare of all citizens, especially the poor and marginalized sections of society.

This includes yojanas that resulted in the unprecedented number of houses built (PM Awas Yojana), water connections given (Jal Jeevan Mission), bank accounts (Jan Dhan), direct benefit transfer to farmers (PM KISAN), or free gas connections (Ujjwala) and many more lifechanging interventions for the poor.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

High Commissioner commended Indian community in Ghana while inaugurating its school development project for a distant settlement in Western Region as part of Amrit Mahotsav.



During his visit to Western Region of Ghana High Commissioner visited Adamus Resources Gold Mining Project to get first hand knowledge of this important sector of the Ghanaian economy.

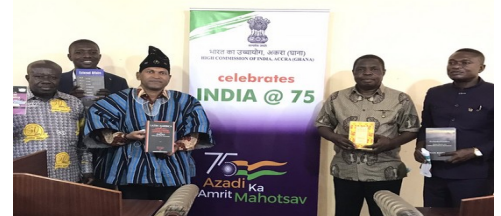


During visit to Western Region of Ghana, High Commissioner visited Nzulezu Stilt Settlement, UNESCO World Heritage site, and discussed with authorities cooperation with India in heritage conservation .



Calling on Omanhene of Techiman Traditional Area, Oseadeyo Akumfi Ameyaw IV, High Commissioner reiterated India’s commitment as development partner of Ghana especially in capacity building.

High Commissioner inaugurated ‘India Corner’ at College of Health in Kintampo in Bono East Region of Ghana by donating several books on various aspects of India.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



STAND-UP INDIA SCHEME

The objective of the Stand-Up India scheme is to facilitate bank loans between 10 lakh and 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise. This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities or the trading sector. In case of non-individual enterprises at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or Woman entrepreneur.

Stand Up India scheme caters to promoting entrepreneurship amongst women, SC & ST category i.e those sections of the population facing significant hurdles due to lack of advice/mentorship as well as inadequate and delayed credit. The scheme intends to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to these underserved sectors of the population in starting greenfield enterprises. It caters to both ready and trainee borrowers.

Stand Up India Scheme also envisages extending handholding support to the potential borrowers.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Visiting renowned Kintampo & Fuller Waterfalls in Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner discussed possible cooperation with India in tourism.

High Commissioner visited Center for National Culture in Techiman and discussed cultural exchanges with India and Bono East Region.



Interacting with media in Bono East Region of Ghana High Commissioner briefed them on developments in India especially India@75 celebration & its significance for the Region.



Visiting College of Health, Health Research Center & Hospital in Kintampo in Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner discussed training assistance from India to these important institutions in priority areas of education & health



During his visiting to Boabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary in Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner discussed cooperation with India in conservation of natural habitat & endangered species.



High Commissioner interacted with alumni of Indian scholarships from Bono East Region of Ghana and urged them to help in India outreach efforts in the Region.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



SAMRIDH to boost 300 startups

Know eligibility, duration and investment

SAMRIDH SCHEME

The Government of India provides various kinds of benefits in the form of initiative and financial support in order to push the startup ecosystem. Because of this support many citizens are inspired to start their own business so the ministry of electronics and information technology has come up with the MeitY SAMRIDH Scheme so that all those software startups who have brilliant solutions and proof of concept for their product can get financial support.

Through this scheme a platform will be provided to startups so that they can enhance their product and secure investment in order to scale their business. The existing and upcoming accelerators will be provided support for extending their services. The government is going to provide a funding upto Rs 40 lakh to startups under this scheme according to their current valuation and growth stage through accelerators.

The accelerators are invited to apply online to become partners with MeitY and provide a startup accelerator program of 6 months every year. This scheme will support around 300 tech startups through about 40 cohorts.

In Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner also visited Nkoranza Technical Institute & discussed capacity building from India .



BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Addressing 'India Business Event' in Techiman, Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner highlighted enormous synergy between Indian MSMEs businesses and agric & rural development in the Region.



Interacting with Progressive Cashew Association of Ghana during his visit to Bono East Region High Commissioner discussed assistance from India to this important sector of regional & also national economy.

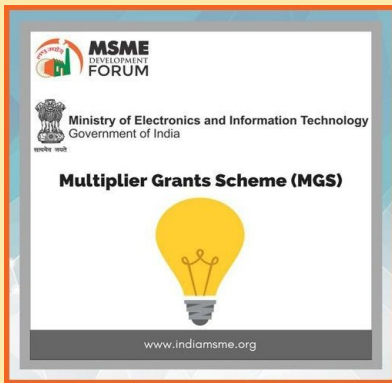
During his visit to Bono East Region of Ghana, High Commissioner visited Agro-processing businesses (Kingdom Exim, Ghana Nuts, Gyan Jomo, OBA Pack, WAAF Agro) with assistance from India.



Newly elected President of Association of Ghana Industries & his team called on High Commissioner and discussed cooperation in strengthening bilateral economic ties.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



MULTIPLIER GRANTS SCHEME (MGS)

This Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) started the Multiplier Grants Scheme (MGS). This scheme aims to encourage collaborative Research & Development (R&D) between industry and academics/institutions for the development of products and packages. Under the scheme, if the industry supports the R&D of products that can be commercialized at the institutional level, the government shall provide financial support which will be up to twice the amount provided by industry. MGS promotes and expedites the development of aboriginal products and packages. The government grants would be limited to a maximum amount of INR 2 crores per project and the duration of each project could considerably be less than 2 years. It would be INR 4 crores and 3 years for industry associations.



Addressing virtual Buyer & Seller Meet for marine products from India organised in association with MPEDA, High Commissioner urged businesses to avail growing market opportunities in Ghana & the Region .



Addressing Digital Session by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Business Opportunities between India & Ghana, High Commissioner underlined huge synergies for businesses from both the countries to work together.

Opening online Buyer & Seller Meet for plastic products organized in association with Plexconcil, High Commissioner highlighted enormous opportunities for businesses from both the countries to work together .



INDIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURE

High commission of India celebrated Republic Day at India House with flag hoisting, address by High Commissioner, cultural performances with enthusiasm & fervor of Indian community.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



DRONE SHAKTI

The The government of India launched Drone Shakti, as voiced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2022. This new initiative is designed to motivate the startups to introduce diverse applications for drones, including drones-as-a-service (DaaS). Furthermore, the finance minister also stated that the government would encourage the use of drones by farmers. Sitharaman focused on the farmers' use of these drones to survey the lands and spray insecticides along with digitising land records. Besides, the government also asserted to stand in full support of the drone technology startup in India. It recently flagged off 100 Kisan Drones in diverse parts of the country to spray pesticides and more. In order to promote the made-in-India drones, the government of India banned the import of drones with immediate effect. This however exempts the import of drones for research and development, defence, and security purposes, as per the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

INDIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURE

While celebrating Republic Day of India at India House in Accra, young Indians showcased diverse Indian culture by performing patriotic songs & beautiful cultural dances.



Interacting with media on Republic Day of India, High Commissioner highlighted ethos of India's Republic, journey of 75 years since independence & its significance for old & close friend Ghana.



High Commissioner awarded winners of essay competitions organised to celebrate Netaji@125 & Aurobindo@150 during Republic Day celebration.



HCI, Accra celebrated Makar Sankranti traditions with kite flying at India House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INITIATIVES



ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

Launched Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was setup in 2016. Towards this end AIM has taken a holistic approach to ensure creation of a problem-solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, private and MSME sector. All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed systematically using real-time MIS systems and dynamic dashboards. AIM is also currently having its programs reviewed by third party agencies for ensuring continuous improvements..

INDIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURE

India National Tourism Day was celebrated in Accra showcasing the immense & diverse potential of tourism in India.



In light of Amrit Mahotsav, High Commission of India, Accra organised Blood Donation Drive in collaboration with Ghana National Blood Service.



Members of High Commission of India commemorated Martyrs Day in Accra with tributes to Mahatma Gandhi & pledging for peace & non-violence.



Rekindling the spirit of sportsmanship among its staff, the High Commission of India, Accra celebrated Sports Day to commemorate the Amrit Mahotsav celebration.



To commemorate Amrit Mahotsav, Community & Friends of India in Ghana celebrated National-Youth-Day with High Commissioner paying tribute to Swami Vivekanand, highlighting his life message urging youth for Action & Compassion and awarding winners of essay competition.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INITIATIVES



Pm Kusum Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) Yojana was launched by the Government of India to increase the income of farmers and provide sources for irrigation and de-dieselising the agricultural sector. The PM-Kusum scheme got administrative approval in March 2019 and guidelines were prepared in July 2019. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for setting up solar pumps and other new power plants across the country.

The PM-KUSUM scheme of the Government of India is one of the largest initiatives in the world to provide clean energy to more than 3.5 million farmers by solarising their agriculture pumps and allowing farmers to up to 10 GW distributed solar projects. The scheme plans to set up 30.8 GW of solar capacity by December 31, 2022, through the financial assistance of INR 340.35 billion (US\$4.65 billion).

INDIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Addressing Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebration, High Commissioner thanked diaspora & friends of India in Ghana for bringing the two countries together and awarded prizes to essay competition winners & grants to community associations.



Amrit Mahotsav was commemorated with Rangoli drawing by community artists at the High Commission of India, Accra on the occasion of Makar Sankranti & Unity-In-Creativity .

Celebrating Amrit Mahotsav with the spirit of Swachhbharat at the High Commission of India, Accra .



Celebrating Amrit Mahotsav, High Commission of India-Accra organized Health Walk highlighting importance of Fit-India

Inaugurating pongal celebrations, High Commissioner commended Ghana Tamil Association for showcasing vibrant Tamil culture as part of Amrit Mahotsav .





Who said “Saare Jahan se Acha Hindustan Humara”?

- A. Mohammad Iqbal
- B. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C. Lala Lajpat Rai
- D. Subash Chandar Bose

Please mail your responses by 1st April, 2022

info.accra@mea.gov.in

1st five successful responses will receive interesting information material about India.



SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY PARK SCHEME

The Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme is a 100 percent Export Oriented Scheme for the development and export of computer software, including export of professional services using communication links or physical media

This scheme is unique in its nature as it focuses on one product / sector, i.e. computer software. The scheme integrates the government concept of 100 percent Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Export Processing Zones (EPZ) and the concept of Science Parks / Technology Parks, as operating elsewhere in the world.

Architecture

The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Ranganatha, a form of the Supreme God, Maha Vishnu, located in Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India. Constructed in the Hindu architectural style, the temple is glorified by Alvars in their Divya Prabhanda and has the unique distinction of being the foremost among the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to The Supreme God Vishnu.



Festivals

Chhath is an ancient Hindu festival historically native to the Indian subcontinent, more specifically, the Indian state of Bihar along with West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand. It has become popular with the Nepali hilly community in the recent years, thanks to the influence of southern immigrants. Prayers during Chhath puja are dedicated to the solar deity, Surya, to show gratitude and thankfulness for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request that certain wishes be granted.



VINDALOO

Vindaloo or vindalho is an Indian curry dish, which is originally from Goa, based on the Portuguese dish carne de vinha d'alhos. It is known globally in its British Indian form as a staple of curry house and Indian restaurant menus, and is often regarded as a fiery, spicy dish. The traditional recipe uses pork, but alternative versions have been prepared with beef, mutton, prawns, chicken, and vegetables.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg pork (shoulder or leg), cut into large cubes
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 3 small garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric (turmeric powder)
- 1 teaspoon red chili powder
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree (Tomato paste)
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar (see notes)
- 1/2 teaspoon white sugar
- 1 cup water
- Salt to taste
- Coriander (cilantro) leaves, chopped, to garnish



PREPARATION

- Place pork in a large bowl. Add vindaloo paste. Toss to coat. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for at least an hour or overnight if possible.
- Meanwhile heat oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onions, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2-3 minutes or until soft and translucent.
- Add garlic, and fry, stirring, for one minute or until fragrant.
- Add ground turmeric, red chili powder, tomato paste (tomato purée), tomatoes and vinegar. Sauté, stirring, for 2-3 minutes or until the tomatoes are mushy.
- Add pork and sugar. Season with salt. Stir to combine. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes. Pour in water. Stir to combine.
- Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium. Cook, covered, for about an hour or until pork is cooked through and sauce is thick. Add more water if needed while cooking.
- Garnish with chopped coriander (cilantro) leaves if you like.