



सत्यमेव जयते

**High Commission of India
Accra**

No. 9 Ridge Road
Roman Ridge
PO Box CT-5708,
Cantonments
Accra, Ghana

Website:
www.hciaccra.gov.in



**H.E. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram
High Commissioner**

Important Contacts

**Consular & Indian
Community issues
(Visa, Passport/OCI etc):**
cons.accra@mea.gov.in

**Business & Education
issues:**
com.accra@mea.gov.in
com1.accra@mea.gov.in

Media & Info issues:
info.accra@mea.gov.in



JULY-AUGUST, 2022

These months witnessed holding of 3rd Foreign Office Consultation and 3rd Joint Trade Committee meeting in New Delhi. The period also saw celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week (to commemorate 75th years of India's Independence) comprising cultural performances of Indian Cultural Dance Group in Accra and Kumasi, celebrations of 76th Independence Day of India and visit of Indian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Two B2B meetings on electronic and plastic items were held. During the period High Commissioner also called on important Ghanaian political leaders and other dignitaries.

POLITICAL

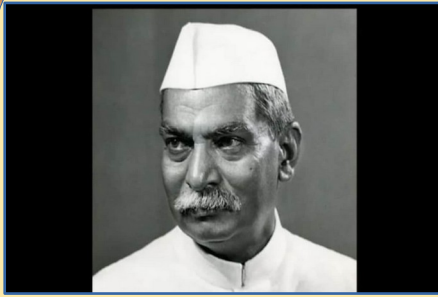
3rd Foreign Office Consultations co-chaired by Ghanaian Deputy Foreign Minister Hon Kwaku Ampratwum Sarpong & Mr Sevala Naik, Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs held in New Delhi.



The two sides reviewed bilateral ties and discussed ways to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries.



Quote of the month



“In attaining our ideals, our means should be as pure as the end”.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad



The UDAY scheme was launched on November 15, 2015, under the Government of India for operational and financial turnaround of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) owned by any state. This scheme was established with a vision to provide affordable and accessible 24×7 Power to all. UDAY scheme also aims in providing a solution for revenue-side efficiency as well as cost-side efficiency.

POLITICAL

Calling on former President of Ghana John Dramani Mahama High Commissioner briefed him on current developments in India & bilateral ties with Ghana and India@75 celebrations.



Culture/AMRIT MAHOTSAV

High Commission Of India_Accra launched a week long celebration of Amrit-Mahotsav which started with Bollywood Night ‘The United India’ by Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR) cultural troupe “Dance Era” at the National



AMRIT MAHOTSAV/Culture

G.O.I INITIATIVES



In November 2015, the Indian government introduced the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) to bring together gold held by households and institutions in the country and encourage its use for productive purposes, with an aim to reduce the country's dependency on gold imports. Through GMS, the government revamped and linked together the existing Gold Deposit Scheme and Gold Metal Loan Scheme; allowed investors to earn term deposits, along with security and interest earnings, on their gold investments. In addition, the scheme enabled investors to save on gold storage costs and benefit from GMS deposit returns and thereby, relieved the government from bearing the cost of borrowing. The scheme aims to encourage gold investments and unlock an estimated 25,000 tonnes of privately held gold stocks worth >US\$ 1.5 trillion, most of which is stored idle in lockers across the country.

On 15th August during the Independence Day celebration at India House in Accra, High Commissioner hoisted Tiranga, highlighted essence of Amrit-Mahotsav and awarded winners of India@75 quiz & essay contest.



The event featured colorful & energetic performances by community artists, school children & visiting Indian Council For Cultural Relations troupe "Dance Era".



G.O.I INITIATIVES



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

→ INR 375.25 crore was approved to 102 incubators under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) as on 30th July 2022. SISFS provides financial assistance to eligible recognized startups.

→ India gets elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

→ India delivered 3.3 tons of essential medical supplies to Sri Lanka.

→ The Government of India implemented 'One Nation One Fertiliser' plan under 'Bharat' brand. Under the 'One Nation One Fertiliser' plan, all fertiliser bags containing urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP), or NPK will bear the brand names 'Bharat Urea,' 'Bharat DAP,' 'Bharat MOP,' and 'Bharat NPK,'.

→ The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) budget was authorised by the Union Cabinet of India to be increased by Rs 50,000 crore (US\$ 6.29 billion) to Rs. 5 lakh crore (US\$ 62.96 billion), with the extra funds going to businesses in the hospitality and associated industries.

→ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, decided to extend the implementation period of PMAY-Urban until December 31, 2024 based on the request of states and union territories.

→ The government will offer an incentive of Rs. 120 crore (US\$ 15 million) to beneficiaries under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for drones and drone parts.

AMRIT MAHOTSAV / CULTURE

High Commissioner hosted National Day Reception on 15th August at India House in Accra which was attended by Ghanaian Chief Guest Trade and Transport Minister government and traditional leaders, businesses, socio-cultural & media authorities and diplomatic & Indian community.



As part of Amrit-Mahotsav week, Indian Council For Cultural Relations troupe "Dance Era" enthralled audiences with the Bollywood show 'The United India' at Centre for National Culture in Kumasi, the cultural capital of Ghana.



The High Commission of India Accra hosted Gurudev, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at India House in a Spiritual Evening with Ghanaian authorities, Diplomatic Corps & Indian community leaders.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 enhancing the existing provisions, mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North-Eastern States and tribal areas. The Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost-effective, time-bound air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from North East (including Assam), hilly and tribal regions of the country. All the airports in NER States including Assam are covered under the Scheme. The main objective of the Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 is to increase the share of air carriage in the modal mix for transportation of Agri-produce, which includes horticulture, fishery, livestock and processed products.



The Union Ministry of Power and Textiles have jointly launched an initiative called SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries). Under the initiative, Small and Medium Power loom units will be provided with energy efficient powerlooms, motors and rapier kits at no upfront costs by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power.

COMMERCE

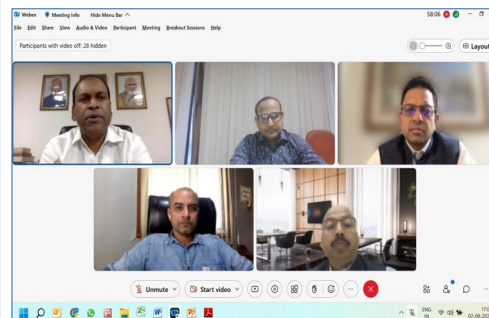
Hon'ble Union Minister Mr. Parshottam Rupala had a fruitful meeting with the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Ghana, H.E Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson; along with her delegation and discussed possible areas of cooperation between two countries.



The 3rd Session of India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of Ghana Ministry of Trade and Industry, Hon. Michael Baafi & Dr Srikar Reddy, India Commerce Ministry Joint Secretary. The Joint Trade Committee discussed strengthening bilateral economic ties further.



High Commission organised the virtual B2B Meet in association with ESC INDIA. While Addressing High Commissioner urged Indian businesses to avail increased opportunities post the pandemic in electronics & computer software sectors in Ghana.

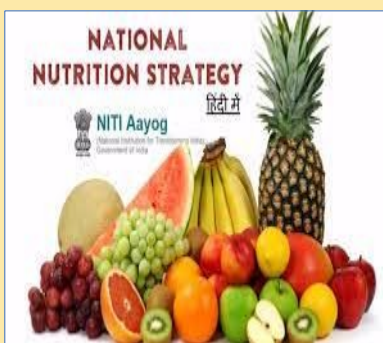


High Commission also organised Buyer-Seller virtual meet in association with Plexconcil. High Commissioner highlighted huge synergies to further strengthen increasing plastics exports from India to Ghana.

G.O.I INITIATIVES



The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Denotified/Nomadic/Semi Nomadic (SEED) communities was launched in February 2022 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. It aims to provide free competitive exam coaching to these students, to provide health insurance to families, to uplift clusters of these communities through livelihood initiatives, and to provide financial assistance for housing.



The strategy aims to reduce all forms of malnutrition by 2030, with a focus on the most vulnerable and critical age groups. The strategy also aims to assist in achieving the targets identified as part of the sustainable development goals related to nutrition and health.

EDUCATION

High Commissioner interacted with Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarships awardees before they travel to Universities in India & urged them to be long lasting Friends of India.



MEDIA

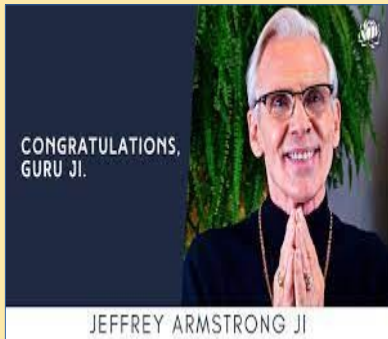
On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of India's independence, High Commissioner interacted with prominent media houses such as Daily Graphic, Ghanaian Times, Kantanka TV & Atinka TV and highlighted India-Ghana partnership especially in the context of India@75.



G.O.I INITIATIVES



Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a conditional maternity benefit scheme launched in 2010. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development as the centrally sponsored scheme. It was launched for pregnant and lactating women to improve their health and nutrition status to better-enable the environment by providing cash incentives to pregnant and nursing mothers.



Canadian scholar, Mr. Jeffrey Armstrong, has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021. The citation for the award states that it has been conferred upon Mr. Armstrong “in recognition of his outstanding contribution in the study/teaching/research in India’s philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilization, society, etc.

Inflation Hits 31.7% in July 2022

Ghana's consumer inflation accelerated to 31.7% annually in July from 29.8% in June, the Ghana Statistical Service announced Wednesday, 10 August 2022. The development means the inflation rate has exceeded the Bank of Ghana's target of between 6% to 10% for 11 consecutive months.

The inflation rate is the highest since December 2003 although the pace at which it increased slowed for the second month in a row.

The inflation rate was driven by Transport (44.6%); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (43.0%); Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (42.0%); Recreation, Sport and Culture (33.8%); Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (33.7%) and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (32.3%). All the six divisions recorded inflation rates higher than the national average.

Food inflation increased to 32.3% in July 2022, from 30.7% in June 2022 while non-food inflation also rose to 31.3% in July 2022, from 29.1% the previous month.

Similarly, inflation for locally produced items was 30.9%, whereas inflation for imported items was 33.9%.



G.O.I **INITIATIVES**



The Union Ministry of State for Housing and Urban Affairs has announced the 'Namaste Scheme' for cleaning sewers and septic tanks. NAMASTE (National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme is a joint venture between (i) The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (ii) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and (iii) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure (i) zero fatalities in sanitation works in India (ii) No sanitation workers come in direct contact with human faecal matter (iii) All sewer and septic tank sanitation workers have access to alternative livelihoods.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has planned creating 'AgriStack' – a collection of technology-based interventions in agriculture. It will create a unified platform for farmers to provide them end to end services across the agriculture food value chain.

eCedi to Boost Economic Activities

The electronic cedi (eCedi) currently being piloted by the Bank of Ghana will boost business operations and economic activities in the country, speakers at an MTN Mobile-Money stakeholder forum have said.

They stated that the introduction of the eCedi would bring opportunities to financial service providers to deliver better products and services, enhance digital payment and reduce the risks associated with cash transactions and the general exposure to cash.

The eCedi is expected to complement and serve as a digital alternative to physical cash and drive the cash lite agenda.



Chamber of Pharmacy visit to India for Pharmatech Expo 2022

A delegation of five (5) from the Ghana National Chamber of Pharmacy led by Mr. Anthony Ameka (CEO), visited Gujarat, India for the 13th Edition of PharmaTech Expo 2022 & LabTech Exp 2022.

The event was hosted by the Indo-African Chamber of Commerce & Industry from the 5th to 7th August 2022 at Helipad Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The event focused on the pharmaceutical machinery and equipment manufacturing sector and pharmaceuticals packaging, Lab and Analytical Instruments, pharmaceutical formulations, and Nutraceutical.



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S&P downgrades Ghana Ratings

On 5th August 2022, Standard and Poor's ("S&P") Global Ratings downgraded Ghana's foreign and local currency credit ratings from 'B-/B' To 'CCC+/C' with a negative outlook, due to intensifying financing and external pressures on the economy. In arriving at their decision, the credit rating agency considered: (a) the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe global shock of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Ghana and the consequent fiscal and external imbalances; (b) elevated gross financing needs in the face of International Capital Market hiatus (c) the limited commercial financing options; and (d) the credible steps taken by Government to fast-track fiscal consolidation and the passage of key revenue bills.



Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson led a Ghanaian delegation from the Ministry, including the Chief Director, Mr. Eric Kwesi Armo-Himbson and seven others. The delegation participated at the 17th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on "India-Africa Growth Partnership" held on 19-20 July 2022 in New Delhi.



Addressing the CII-Exim Bank Conclave

Meeting with Exim Bank of India



The Minister and officers from the Ministry of Fisheries had a meeting with the Exim Bank of India and discussed the way forward for operationalizing of Phase 2 of the Elmina Fish Processing Plant which was constructed with Govt. of India's Line of Credit of US\$ 21.72 million. They also shared views, ideas on how to utilize the balance amount left from the GoI Line of Credit

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Ghanaian delegation at JTC Meeting

Deputy Minister of Trade of Ghana, Hon. Michael Okyere Baafi, accompanied by Ministry official and Mr. Mickson Opoku, Ghana's Chief Trade Negotiator for AfCFTA and Head of Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral Trade at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, visited India for the 3rd India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) held on 21 July 2022. Joined by the High Commissioner, Mr. Kwaku Asamoah-Kyeremeh and officials from the Mission, the Ghanaian delegation held discussions with the Indian side co-chaired by Dr. Srikar K Reddy, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce with the India's High Commissioner to Ghana Mr. Sugandh Rajaram and officials from the Ministry. Discussions were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, reflecting the close and friendly relations between the two countries



Hon. Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry, has urged Indians to invest more in Ghana, especially in the manufacturing sector, to benefit from the opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). He said, Indian companies in the country had contributed immensely to Ghana's economy and also created jobs for the youth, India could still do more by taking advantage of the peaceful business environment in the country. The Minister made remarks at a reception in India House to mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence anniversary of India at the India House in Accra on 15 August 2022. The Minister and High Commissioner also raised a toast to the health and well-being of H.E. the President of Republic of Ghana, to the welfare and prosperity of the people of Ghana and to the enduring and friendship between India and Ghana.



Q. Which of the following places in India is famous for Chikankari work, which is a traditional art of embroidery ?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Lucknow
- C. Mysore
- D. Jaipur

Please mail your responses by 30th September , 2022

info.accra@mea.gov.in

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



Participate in the logo design contest for the 12th World Hindi Conference and stand a chance to win a cash prize of INR 75,000. the last date for submission of entry is 30th September 2022. More information can be accessed at : <https://mygov.in/task/logo-design-contest-12th-world-hindi-conference/>

Architecture

The Saracenic style of architecture, the Mysore Palace is a magnificent edifice located in Mysore in the state of Karnataka. Also known as the Amba Vilas Palace, it is the former palace of the royal family of Mysore and is still their official residence. Mysore Palace was built in the year 1912 for the 24th Ruler of the Wodeyar Dynasty and is counted amongst one of the biggest palaces in the country.



Musical Instrument



Shehnai is a musical instrument originated from the Indian subcontinent. It is made out of wood, with a double reed at one end and a metal or wooden flared bell at the other end. Its sound is thought to create and maintain a sense of auspiciousness and sanctity and, as a result, is widely used during marriages, processions and in temples although it is also played in concerts.



ROTI CANAI

Roti canai, also known as roti chenai, is an Indian flatbread dish found in several countries in Southeast Asia, It is usually served with dal or other types of curry, but can also be cooked in a range of sweet or savoury variations made with a variety of ingredients such as meat, eggs, or cheese.



INGREDIENTS

- 12 cups bread flour (1560 g)
- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 9 tablespoon unsalted butter (120g), melted
- 3 tablespoon sweetened condensed milk
- 3.75 cup water (930 ml)
- 3 teaspoon salt

PREPARATION

- Combine the flour and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre. Add the water and stir to combine. Use your hands to bring the dough together in the bowl. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 5 minutes or until smooth. Flatten the dough into a disc and cut into 8 equal portions.
- Shape each dough portion into a ball. Cover the remaining dough portions with plastic wrap. Brush the disc with a little melted butter. Roll into a log to enclose the butter . Coil the dough into a scroll shape. Flatten the scroll into a disc.
- Place a deep, heavy-based frying pan over medium-high heat and brush with a little oil . Cook 1 roti for 2 minutes each side or until puffed and golden. Transfer to a serving platter and cover with a clean tea towel to keep warm. Repeat with the remaining roti.

Incredible INDIA

