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BILATERAL RELATIONS

INDIA - GHANA

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INTRODUCTION

India and Ghana share warm, friendly, and historically rooted relations based on common democratic values, shared experiences of colonialism, and a common commitment to South-South cooperation. India established its representative office in Accra in 1953, even before Ghana attained independence, and established full diplomatic relations in 1957 immediately following Ghana's independence. Since then, the relationship has progressively matured across political, economic, development, cultural, and people-to-people spheres.

The bilateral dynamic received transformative momentum with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s State Visit to Ghana on 2–3 July 2025—the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the nation in three decades. During this historic visit, India and Ghana elevated their ties to a Comprehensive Partnership, exchanging four pivotal MoUs covering cultural exchange, standardisation, Ayurveda and traditional medicine, and the formalization of a Joint Commission mechanism. Building rapidly on this foundation, India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar undertook a milestone visit to Accra in October 2026, further deepening institutional ties by signing new agreements in agricultural research and academic capacity-building, while anchoring Ghana's aspirations for closer integration with the BRICS bloc.

Today, India and Ghana share a robust development partnership valued at over USD 450 million in concessional credits and grants, powering vital infrastructure like the Tema-Mpakadan Railway Line alongside robust capacity-building initiatives under the ITEC and ICCR frameworks. As the partnership moves forward, the two nations continue to explore new strategic horizons in critical minerals, maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, digital public infrastructure (including FinTech integrations), and defense cooperation. Standing together in multilateral forums, India and Ghana remain firmly committed to championing the priorities of the Global South, advancing sustainable development, and reforming international governance institutions.



HISTORY

India and Ghana share historical ties rooted in their common experience of colonial rule and their parallel struggles for freedom and national development. India opened its representative office in Accra in 1953, before Ghana became independent, reflecting India's early engagement with the emerging African nation. Ghana achieved independence in March 1957, and India established full diplomatic relations with Ghana in the same year. Since then, the relationship has been based on shared democratic values, South-South cooperation and mutual support in international forums.

The early years of diplomatic relations were strengthened through high-level political contacts and cooperation in Ghana's nation-building process. Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, visited India in 1961, while subsequent Ghanaian leaders also visited India. India and Ghana developed cooperation in areas such as economic development, technical assistance, education and capacity building, reflecting India's broader engagement with newly independent African countries.
During the 1980s and 1990s, bilateral relations became increasingly institutionalised through agreements covering economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. An Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed in 1981, while a Cultural Agreement was also concluded in the same year. In 1995, during Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Ghana, the two countries agreed to establish a Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, providing a regular mechanism for reviewing bilateral relations.

The relationship continued to develop through the 2000s and 2010s, with increasing cooperation in development partnership, trade, investment, education, culture, science and technology. Ghanaian President John Kufuor visited India in 2002 and 2008, while President John Dramani Mahama visited India for the 3rd India–Africa Forum Summit in 2015. President Pranab Mukherjee's state visit to Ghana in June 2016 further strengthened political and economic ties.
A significant new phase began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Ghana on 2–3 July 2025, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ghana in three decades. During the visit, India and Ghana decided to elevate their relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership, expanding cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture, digital technology, infrastructure, defence and security, energy, health, capacity building and development cooperation. Four MoUs covering culture, standards, Ayurveda and traditional medicine, and a Joint Commission mechanism were also exchanged.

The 2025 visit marked an important milestone in the evolution of India–Ghana relations from historical and political solidarity to a broad-based contemporary partnership. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, South-South cooperation, sustainable development and the priorities of the Global South. India also reiterated its support for Ghana's development through infrastructure, capacity building, digital public infrastructure, health, pharmaceuticals and skill development, providing a stronger foundation for future bilateral cooperation.

INDIANS AND INDIAN CULTURE IN GHANA

Ghana is home to a sizeable Indian community of more than 15,000 people, with some families having lived in the country for more than 70 years and several now representing the fourth generation. Many members have acquired Ghanaian citizenship, while others work in multinational companies and prominent Ghanaian businesses as skilled professionals. The Indian community has therefore become an important bridge between the two countries and contributes to Ghana's economic and social development.

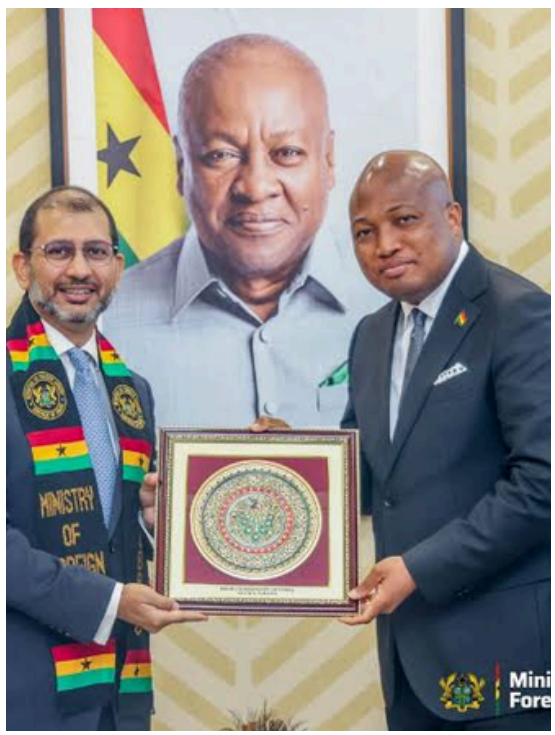
Indian cultural traditions are maintained through community institutions and religious centres. The community is served by a Hindu temple, Gurudwara and Hindu monastery, while ISKCON and the Art of Living Centre are also active in Ghana. The Indian Association of Ghana, one of the oldest Indian community organisations in the country, operates a community centre that organises Indian festivals and cultural programmes and also supports charitable and local community-development activities.

Indian culture is also promoted through educational and cultural activities organised by the Indian mission and community organisations. The High Commission of India in Accra has supported events such as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and World Hindi Day, bringing together members of the Indian diaspora, schools, teachers and students. Such activities help promote Indian languages, traditions and cultural awareness among the wider Ghanaian population.



ECONOMIC TIES

India and Ghana have developed strong and expanding economic relations, with India emerging as one of Ghana's important trading partners. Bilateral trade reached an impressive US$6.5 billion in 2025–26, with India's exports focusing on manufactured goods and imports from Ghana driven by high-value commodities. Ghana's exports to India are dominated by gold, which accounts for more than 70% of India's imports from Ghana, along with cocoa, cashew nuts and timber products.



India's major exports to Ghana include pharmaceuticals, agricultural machinery, transport vehicles, electrical equipment, plastics, iron and steel, cereals, textiles and other manufactured products. Indian companies have established a significant presence in Ghana across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, automobiles, engineering, construction, agriculture and information technology. Major Indian companies operating in Ghana include Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Larsen & Toubro, NIIT and Shapoorji Pallonji.



Investment is an important pillar of the economic relationship. According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA), Indian companies have registered over 950 projects with a cumulative economic and development footprint exceeding US$12 billion. Indian investment has contributed to employment generation, industrial development and technology transfer in Ghana, while Indian small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural companies actively drive local value-addition.

The economic partnership has gained further momentum through business forums and institutional cooperation. In 2025, the High Commission of India in Accra organised business conclaves bringing together government officials, industry leaders, investors and entrepreneurs from both countries.

INVESTMENT

Investment is an important pillar of India–Ghana economic relations. According to the **Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA)**, Indian companies invested in **over 950 projects amounting to an aggregate development and capital footprint exceeding US$12 billion**. Indian investment has contributed to Ghana's industrial and economic development, with companies operating in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, automobiles, engineering, construction, information technology, agriculture and manufacturing.

Several major Indian companies, including Tata, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Escorts, Larsen & Toubro, NIIT and Shapoorji Pallonji, have established a presence in Ghana. Indian small and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural companies are also increasingly exploring opportunities in the Ghanaian market. This growing business presence has helped strengthen employment, technology transfer and commercial links between the two countries.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ghana in July 2025, both countries welcomed the growth of Indian investment in Ghana. The Prime Minister stated that Indian companies had invested approximately US$2 billion across around 900 projects, and the two sides agreed to deepen cooperation in trade and investment. **Following Dr. S. Jaishankar's strategic diplomatic engagements in October 2026**, they also identified new opportunities in critical minerals, energy, infrastructure, FinTech, agriculture and digital technology.

India and Ghana have also sought to improve the business environment through greater institutional engagement and business-to-business cooperation. The elevation of bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Partnership in 2025 has provided further momentum to investment cooperation, while both governments are encouraging Indian companies to participate in Ghana's development and economic transformation.

Future investment cooperation has significant potential in renewable energy, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, agriculture, infrastructure, digital services, critical minerals and skill development. India has also offered to share its experience in UPI and digital public infrastructure, while Indian companies are expected to play a growing role in Ghana's industrial and technological development.
Indian investment in Ghana has also supported the development of local industries and supply chains, particularly through manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and engineering projects. Indian companies have contributed to employment generation, skills development and the introduction of technology and management expertise in the Ghanaian economy.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Technical cooperation is an important component of India–Ghana development partnership, with capacity building and human-resource development forming its core. Ghana has benefited from India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme through training opportunities for government officials and professionals in areas including information technology, agriculture, management, renewable energy, finance and other specialised fields. Ghana has also utilised defence training slots under ITEC, strengthening professional and institutional capabilities.

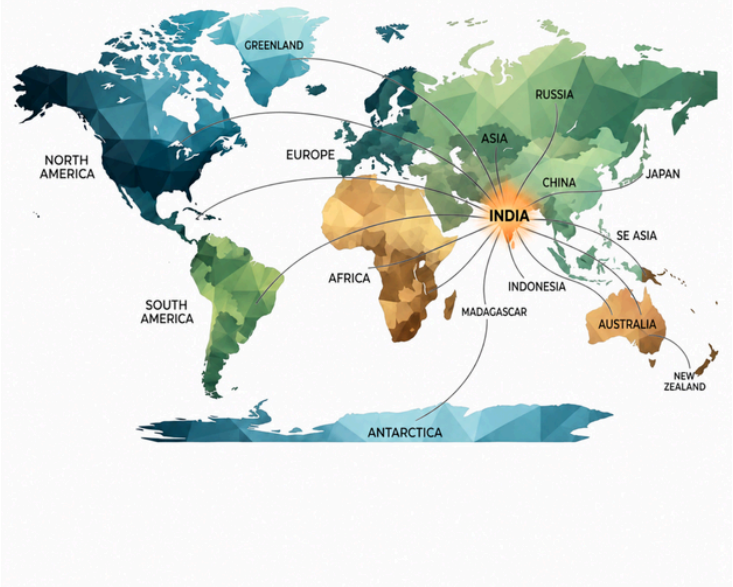
India's technical assistance extends beyond training to the establishment of institutions and technology-based capacity-building initiatives. A notable example is the India–Ghana Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE) in Accra, established with Indian assistance. India has also supported Ghana through e-ITEC and digital learning initiatives, enabling Ghanaian professionals to access Indian expertise and training remotely.

Education and scholarships are another important part of technical cooperation. Ghanaian students and professionals have benefited from ICCR scholarships and specialised training programmes, while India has continued to expand opportunities for Ghanaian officials and students to acquire technical and professional skills in India. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2025 visit, India and Ghana agreed to double ITEC and ICCR scholarships for Ghana and initiate work towards establishing a Skill Development Centre for vocational education.

Technical cooperation is also expanding into newer areas such as digital public infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, renewable energy, cyber security, defence training and critical minerals. India's development partnership is based on Ghana's identified priorities and emphasises sharing Indian expertise and experience for sustainable capacity building. This approach has strengthened India–Ghana relations as a partnership focused on mutual benefit and long-term development.
India has also supported Ghana through cooperation in agriculture, healthcare, education and information technology, helping strengthen local institutional capacity. Indian expertise and training programmes have provided Ghanaian professionals with practical knowledge and skills that can contribute to national development and public-service delivery.

The two countries are increasingly focusing technical cooperation on digital transformation, renewable energy, skill development and modern agricultural practices. This expanding cooperation reflects India's approach of sharing technology, expertise and institutional experience according to Ghana's development priorities.

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