

## INDIA - GHANA RELATIONS

NEWS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a five-nation tour, arrived in **Ghana on a two-day State visit.**

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

#### High-Level Visit and Recent Developments

- **First PM Visit in Decades:**
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2024 visit marks the **first visit by an Indian PM to Ghana in nearly 30 years**, signalling a renewed strategic engagement.
- **Recognition by Ghana:**
  - PM Modi was awarded Ghana's **highest state honour** – *The Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana* – recognizing his **global leadership and contribution to India–Ghana ties**.
- **Comprehensive Partnership:**
  - Leaders agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a **Comprehensive Partnership**, broadening the scope of cooperation across multiple sectors.
- **MoUs Signed:**
  - Four MoUs were signed during the visit, focusing on **cultural exchange, traditional music, and institutional collaboration**.

#### Historical and Diplomatic Linkages

- **Anti-Colonial Solidarity:**
  - India and Ghana share a **legacy of anti-colonial struggle** and cooperation in promoting the interests of the **Global South**.
- **Early Engagement:**
  - India set up a diplomatic office in Accra in **1953**, four years before Ghana's independence in 1957, making it one of India's earliest missions in Africa.
- **Shared Multilateral Platforms:**
  - Both countries are **founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** and collaborate in the **Commonwealth, G77, and India-Africa Forum Summit**.
- **Institutional Mechanisms:**
  - Joint Commission (established in 1995), Foreign Office Consultations (since 2002), and Joint Trade Committee (since 1981) form the backbone of structured dialogue.



### Economic and Trade Relations

- **Strong Trade Linkages:**
  - Bilateral trade stood at **USD 3 billion in 2023–24**, with **India among Ghana's top trading partners**.
- **Positive Trade Balance for Ghana:**
  - Ghana enjoys a trade surplus, largely due to **gold exports**, which make up over **70% of India's imports from Ghana**.
- **Pharmaceutical Exports:**
  - India is a **major supplier of affordable generic medicines**, vital to Ghana's healthcare sector.

## **Investment Cooperation**

- **FDI Footprint:**
  - India is among the **top investors in Ghana**, with **\$1.2 billion** invested across:
    - **Agro-processing, mining, ICT, manufacturing, and construction** sectors.
- **FDI Ranking:**
  - In 2024, India ranked **2nd in number of projects (12)** and **8th by value** among all foreign investors in Ghana.

## **Development Partnership**

- **Credit and Grant Support:**
  - India has provided **USD 450 million in concessional loans and grants** for Ghana's infrastructure and capacity development.
- **Flagship Projects Include:**
  - **Kofi Annan ICT Centre of Excellence (2003)**
  - **Jubilee House Presidential Complex renovation (2017)**
  - **Komenda Sugar Plant and Elmina Fish Processing Plant (2016)**
  - **Tema-Mpakadan Standard Gauge Railway Line (inaugurated in 2024)**

## **Capacity Building and Human Resource Development**

- **Digital Learning and Health:**
  - Over **1,600 Ghanaian students** benefited from **e-Vidya Bharati** and **e-Arogya Bharati**, offering Indian expertise in **tele-education and telemedicine**.
- **Pan-African e-Network:**
  - Ghana is a beneficiary of India's initiative to digitally connect African nations to Indian universities and hospitals.

## **Sectoral and Strategic Cooperation**

- **Key Agreements Signed In:**
  - **LPG Distribution**
  - **Peaceful uses of nuclear energy**
  - **Standards collaboration (BIS and Ghana Standards Authority)**
- **Air Services Connectivity:**
  - An **Air Services Agreement signed in 1978**, supplemented by later MoUs, ensures better **people-to-people and business movement**.

## Humanitarian Support

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Support:**
  - India provided **50,000 vaccines as a grant** and over **1.6 million doses through the COVAX facility**, strengthening health diplomacy.

## Indian Diaspora and Cultural Ties

- **Strong Diaspora Presence:**
  - A vibrant Indian community of **over 15,000 people**, with some families living in Ghana for more than **70 years**.
- **Cultural Engagement:**
  - Rooted in a **1981 Cultural Agreement**, India–Ghana cultural ties include **yoga, Indian cinema, music, and education**.

## Strategic Significance of Ghana for India

### 1. Regional Gateway and Influence

- Ghana serves as a **gateway to West Africa**, offering strategic access to the **ECOWAS** region.
- Its **democratic stability and regional influence** make it a valuable partner in India's **Africa engagement strategy**.

### 2. Economic and Resource Security

- Ghana is important for securing **critical raw materials** like **gold, bauxite, and cocoa** to support Indian industries.

### 3. Maritime Security and Defence

- Located near the **Gulf of Guinea**, Ghana is key to **India's maritime security, shipping lanes, and anti-piracy efforts**.
- Defence cooperation with Ghana can help India **expand defence exports and training initiatives** in Africa.

### 4. South-South Cooperation and Goodwill

- India's projects in **electrification, water, infrastructure, and skill development** align with its **South-South Cooperation policy**, creating **long-term goodwill**.

### 5. Vaccine Diplomacy and Health Sector:

- India plans to help **develop a vaccine hub in Ghana**, aligning with its role as a **global pharmaceutical leader** and expanding **healthcare outreach** in Africa.

### 6. Multilateral and Diplomatic Alignment

- Ghana **supports India's permanent membership in the UNSC** and collaborates with India in **NAM, Commonwealth, and G77**.

## Way Ahead

- **Strategic Depth in Africa:**

- Strengthening India–Ghana relations will help India **expand its influence in West Africa** and serve its **global leadership ambitions**.
- **Focus Areas for Expansion:**
  - Future cooperation may deepen in **energy, security, education, digital innovation, health, and investment**.
- **Global South Leadership:**
  - Ghana is a vital partner in the **Global South**, reinforcing India’s position as a **responsible development partner and democratic power**.

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