



सत्यमेव जयते

**High Commission of India
Accra**

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

Website:
www.hciaccra.gov.in



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

Important Contacts

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

Business & Education:
com.accra@mea.gov.in

Media & Information:
info.accra@mea.gov.in



January 2021

During the month, High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram, visited Eastern Region of Ghana. The visit was undertaken to strengthen traditionally warm and friendly bilateral relations and to explore the possibility of fortifying the economic and commercial relations. High Commissioner had interactions with various Government dignitaries in the region to discuss cooperation in: community development, education, R&D & training, etc. and capacity building in: medical, urban planning, economic policy initiatives, etc. This month also witnessed the visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India, who visited Ghana to participate in the Presidential Inaugural Ceremony of President - elect H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akkufu-Addo.

Political



On the occasion of Republic Day of India, High Commissioner along with Ghana's National Security Minister, Parliamentary Affairs Minister & Energy Minister launched India-Ghana Dialogue



Calling on Dassebre Prof. Emeritus Oti Boateng, Omanhene of New Juaben Traditional Area High Commissioner discussed cooperation with India in area of community development.

Quote of the month



Be the servant while leading. Be unselfish. Have infinite patience, and success is yours.

Swami Vivekananda



Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana : The Scheme was launched on 8th April 2015. Under the scheme a loan of upto Rs. 50,000 is given under sub-scheme 'Shishu'; between Rs. 50,000 to 5.0 lakhs under sub-scheme 'Kishore'; and between 5.0 Lakhs to 10.0 Lakhs under sub-scheme 'Tarun'. Loans taken do not require collateral. These measures are aimed at increasing the confidence of young, educated or skilled workers who would now be able to aspire to become first generation entrepreneurs; existing small businesses, too, will be able to expand their activities. As on 31.03.2019, Rs. 3,21,722 crores sanctions (Rs. 142,345 cr. – Shishu, Rs. 104,386 cr. Kishore and Rs. 74,991 cr. – Tarun Category), in 5.99 crores accounts.



High Commissioner with Hon. Kwakye Darfour, Regional Minister and they discussed range of issues of cooperation between India & the Region.

High Commissioner discussed with Hon. Mayor Isaac Appaw-Gyasi of Koforidua, Capital of Eastern Region of Ghana cooperation with India in several areas especially capacity building in urban planning.



UNOWAS Head & SRSB Mohamed Ibn Chambas visited India House and discussed with High Commissioner several issues of cooperation between India and West Africa in general and India & Ghana in particular.



Education

Visiting All Nations University in Koforidua High Commissioner interacted with several faculty members trained in India & urged them to build further linkages with Indian universities.



Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

Exclusively for Senior Citizens
Plan No. 842 UIN: 512G311V01

PENSION SCHEME EXTENDED TILL MARCH 31, 2023

The 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) has been launched by the Government to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions, as also to provide social security during old age. The scheme is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and open for subscription upto 31st March, 2023. PMVVY offers an assured rate of return 7.40% per annum for the financial year 2020-21 for policy duration of 10 years.

Shramev Jayate Yojana

Shramev Jayate Yojana also known as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram was launched by PM Narendra Modi on October 2014 to support the 'Make in India' campaign for encouraging the manufacturing sector. This scheme is an initiative for the development of Indian industries. It also aims to expand government's support for imparting skill training to the workers.



Visiting Eastern Regional Hospital in Koforidua High Commissioner offered assistance from India in area of capacity building of health practitioners especially in the wake of the pandemic.



High Commissioner interacted with Indian Scholarships Alumni from Eastern Region of Ghana encouraging them to promote India in the Region.

High Commissioner interacted with Indian Council for Cultural Relations Scholarship Awardees from Ghana prior to travel to India to pursue higher studies.



High Commissioner at Koforidua Technical University discussed possibilities to establish university to university links with India for faculty exchanges & joint research.

Developments / Achievements

→ Cabinet approved the investment proposal of Rs. 5281.94 crore for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Power Project

→ Cabinet approved procurement of 83 Light Combat Aircrafts (LCA) 'Tejas' from HAL for Indian Air Force.

→ In the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive which started in India on January 16, more than 15.37 lakh beneficiaries have been vaccinated across India so far.

→ FDI in India rose by 13% in 2020, as inflows declined in major economies due to pandemic: UN

→ International Monetary Fund projects 11.5% growth rate for India, making it the only major economy to register double-digit growth in 2021.

→ Indian Railways has launched Freight Business Development Portal that will enhance Ease of Doing Business in India.

Media



Interacting with media persons from Eastern Region of Ghana High Commissioner briefed them on developments in India especially covid vaccination drive & efforts to strengthen bilateral ties further.



High Commissioner interacted with the listeners of 94.5myfm in Koforidua on several possibilities to bring India and Eastern Region of Ghana closer to each other.

Interacting with Mr. Dave Agben, Chief Editor of Ghanaian Times, High Commissioner highlighted diverse aspects of India-Ghana relations and immense opportunities to strengthening those further



Dr. Wale Okediran, Secretary General, Pan-African Writers Association visited India House & discussed with High Commissioner boosting ties between literary communities of India & Africa.



DigiLocker is a flagship initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) under Digital India Corporation (DIC). DigiLocker aims at 'Digital Empowerment' of citizen by providing access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet. The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016 notified on February 8, 2017 vide G.S.R. 711(E).

Benefits to Citizens

- 1. Important Documents Anytime, Anywhere!*
- 2. Authentic Documents, Legally at Par with Originals.*
- 3. Digital Document Exchange with the consent of the citizen.*
- 4. Faster service Delivery Government Benefits, Employment, Financial Inclusion, Education, Health.*

Culture



High Commission of India celebrated 72nd Republic Day of India with National Flag hoisting, High Commissioner's address, cultural performances & enthusiastic participation by the Community. High Commissioner also recognized contribution of senior diaspora members with awards.

Business



High Commissioner hosted India-Eastern Region Round Table in Koforidua and discussed issues to strengthen Indo-Ghanaian ties at Regional level with political, business & social leaders of the Region.

Covid-19 Vaccination Drive

Covid-19 Vaccination in India

COVID-19 Vaccination in India Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the pan India rollout of Covid-19 vaccination drive on January 16, 2021, with the two vaccines – Covishield produced by Serum Institute of India and other one Covaxin by Bharat Biotech. In phase 1, health workers are being vaccinated followed by people above the age of 50 years.

#Vaccine Maitri

India has so far supplied 'Made in India' Covid-19 vaccines - Covidshield and Covaxin medicines to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, the UAE, Brazil, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Algeria, Kuwait and South Africa. Supplies made under grant amount to 56 lakh doses and commercial supplies amount to over 100 lakh doses.



Interacting with Regional Chapter of Association of Ghana Industries High Commissioner assured all support from India to businesses in Eastern Region in order to strengthen India-Ghana Economic Ties.



High Commissioner visited Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, country's premier agricultural research institution, at Tafo & discussed with authorities cooperation with India in R&D and training.

High Commissioner witnessed an important technological feat of laying raker pile foundation for Volta River rail bridge for Tema-Mpakadan Rail Project executed by Indian company Afcons Infrastructure with Indian credit



High Commissioner visited manufacturing facilities of Intravenous Infusions Ltd. & Maagrace Garments Industry Ltd. in Koforidua

High Commissioner visited Akosombo Hydroelectric Power Plant, the most important energy facility in the country, to explore strengthening of India-Ghana energy cooperation



Visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs to Ghana on 6-7
January 2021

**VRKŚĀSANA (The Tree
Posture)**



Vrkṣa means tree. The final position of this āsana resembles the shape of a tree, hence the name.

Technique

→ Stand with feet 2 inches apart.

→ Focus on a point in front.

→ Exhale, bend the right leg and place the foot on the inside of the left thigh. The heel should be touching the perineum.

→ Inhale and extend the arms up and join the palms.

→ Stay in the position for 10 to 30 seconds and breathe normally.

→ Exhale and bring the arms and right foot down.

→ Relax and repeat the asana by bending the left leg.

Benefits

Improves neuro-muscular coordination, balance, endurance and alertness.



During the visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. V. Muraleedharan at Indian Community Reception at India House, Parvasi Bharatiya Divas was celebrated, Indian Community Forum Ghana was launched.



High Commissioner hosted Dinner at India House in honor of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan with participation by several Ghanaian political & socioeconomic leaders.

Various issues of strengthening India-Ghana relations further were discussed during call by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs on newly reelected President of Ghana.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs attended the swearing in ceremony of the re-elected President of Ghana, H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo



Which of the following is the National Bird of India ?

- a. Parrot
- b. Peacock
- c. Sparrow
- d. Duck

Please mail your responses by 1 March, 2021

info.accra@mea.gov.in

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



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2001) on 9 January by India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

The decision to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was taken in accordance with recommendations of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora set up by GoI under the chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi. The then Prime Minister of India, Late Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, received the report of the Committee at a public function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 8th January 2002, and announced the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9 January 2002. The day was chosen to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.



Amar Mahal Palace

This museum is housed in the Amar Mahal Palace, built in 1862 in a unique, French-chateau style of architecture. Located atop a hill overlooking the Tawi river, 4 rooms of the palace have been converted into art galleries and historic museums, depicting the royal history of Jammu. The star of this museum is the golden throne of Jammu, weighing a whopping 120 kgs, all pure gold.



Kalbelia Dance

The Kalbelia dance is a dance form that is associated with a Rajasthani tribe of the same name. The dance form consists of swirling, graceful movements that make this dance a treat to behold. The movements associated with the Kalbelia also make it one of the most sensuous forms of folk dance in India. The Kalbelia dance is generally performed for any joyous celebration and is considered to be an integral part of the Kalbelia culture.



- Adai Dosa -

Adai is made of lentils and rice. It is usually prepared for breakfast and is protein rich and healthier



Ingredients

- 1 Cup Pigeon Pea (Tur dal)
- 1/2 Cup Bengal gram (channa dal)
- 1/4 Cup Black lentils (Urad dal)
- 1 tbsp Green chilli
- 2 Red chilli
- 3 Ginger
- 1 small bit Asafoetidaed
- Salt as Oil for making adai
- 1/4 tsp Ingredients to add to the batter: Onion
- 1 finely chopped Curry leaves
- Few Coriander leaves

PREPARATION

● Soak rice and dal together for 4-5 hours. Grind it coarsely along with red chili, green chili, ginger, hing and salt. The batter should not be thick or watery.

● Add, finely chopped onion, few tender curry leaves, chopped Coriander leaves to the batter. Adai batter is now ready.

Method:

Heat a griddle and pour a ladle of batter and spread it in circular motion. Drizzle to tsp. of oil around the adai. Once cooked, flip it over to the other side and drizzle another tsp of oil around the adai. After both sides are cooked well, remove from griddle and serve it hot with chutney.