

GSA Showcases Trade Facilitation Role at Global Expo/Tourism Fair and CII India–Africa Business Conclave



Ghanaian delegation including Hon. Sampson Ahi and Rashid Pelpuo, Mr. Kofi Debrah and Hannah Ampomah Mensah at the global expo/tourism fair and CII India-Africa business conclave

The GSA has participated in the just-ended Global Expo/Tourism Fair and the 20th CII India–Africa Business Conclave, both held in India, between August 21 and 30, 2025.

Participation in the Global Expo/Tourism Fair

The Global Expo/Tourism Fair, organised by the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), brought together leading Indian businesses

and investors eager to explore trade and investment opportunities in Ghana and across Africa.

Participating businesses cut across diverse sectors, including textiles and garments, electronics, agro-processing, lubricants, green energy projects, and automobile products.

At the GSA exhibition stand, companies unfamiliar with the Ghanaian business environment, were guided through detailed procedures on trade facilitation, importation requirements,

conformity assessment, and the critical role of standards and quality assurance in accessing Ghana’s market. This engagement was particularly important in assuring potential investors of Ghana’s robust quality infrastructure.

The Expo was chaired by the Vice President of Zimbabwe, Hon. Constantino Chiwenga, who underscored the importance of Africa–India trade relations in his opening remarks.



Following the fair, GSA was hosted at the SGCCI headquarters, where Mr. Paresh Bhatt, CEO and Strategist for International Business, emphasised the keen interest of Indian businesses in investing in Ghana. Discussions centred on:

- Importation procedures and mandatory product testing at GSA laboratories.
- The upcoming Import Certification Scheme, which will streamline processes for exporters and importers.
- Opportunities for capacity building of GSA technical and support staff in collaboration with Indian manufacturers and research institutions.

Mr. Bhatt reaffirmed SGCCI's commitment, stating, "We are grateful to have you here to guide our businesses in

trading with Ghana. We see Ghana as a gateway to Africa."

As part of SGCCI's hospitality, the GSA delegation was taken on factory visits to companies engaged in textile production, lubricant manufacturing, car battery assembly, and agro-processing. These visits provided first-hand insight into production lines that could potentially be replicated or extended to Ghana.

Participation in the 20th CII India–Africa Business Conclave

The GSA also took part in the CII India–Africa Business Conclave, held in New Delhi from August 27–29, 2025, under the theme: "Co-creating a Shared Future."

The Ghanaian delegation included:

- Hon. Sampson Ahi, Deputy Minister of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry (MoTAI)

- Hon. Rashid Pelpuo, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment
- Hon. Joseph Nelson, Western Regional Minister
- Hon. Ebenezer Aidoo, MCE for Ahanta West Municipal Assembly
- Hon. Nana Ebba, MCE for Wassa Amenfi East Municipal Assembly
- Mr. Kofi Yeboah Debrah, Ag. Head of Public Relations, GSA
- Mrs. Hannah Ampomah Mensah, Marketing Department, GSA

The delegation received strong diplomatic support from Mr. Julius Oteng, Acting High Commissioner of Ghana to India, and Air Commodore George Kweku Arko-Dadzie, Head of Defence at the Ghana High Commission in India.

The three-day conference brought together policymakers, business leaders, and investors from across Africa, including



Hon. Sampson Ahi, Deputy Minister of MoTAI addressing stakeholders

delegations from South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Uganda, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Namibia, and The Gambia.

Ghana played a visible role in three major panel discussions which took place on the second day of the event.

The first discussion was on the topic **‘Harnessing Critical Minerals for Sustainable Future’** – Ghana was represented on the panel by Hon. Joseph Nelson, Western Regional Minister. The panel discussion focused on the pivotal role of critical minerals in advancing sustainability. It was emphasised that minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements were essential for clean energy technologies and advanced manufacturing, including renewable energy systems and electric vehicles.

Hon. Nelson, in his remarks, highlighted that while these resources held great promise, their extraction posed environmental, geopolitical, and ethical challenges. Addressing these challenges through innovative practices, strong regulatory frameworks, and international cooperation, were identified as crucial for long-term sustainability.

The discussions further underscored India’s growing focus on Africa’s critical minerals sector as part of its strategy to secure essential resources. It was noted that India’s engagement in this area supported its electric vehicle (EV) industry, contributed to the global clean energy transition, and fostered sustainable development and economic growth for both Africa and India.

The second panel discussion, which Ghana took part, was on **‘Driving Africa’s Future with Affordable and Sustainable Mobility Solutions’**, and was represented by Hon. Sampson Ahi, Deputy Minister of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

The session on Africa’s Mobility Sector and Electric Vehicle (EV) Collaboration emphasised that the continent’s mobility sector was poised for significant expansion. Panellists observed that despite this potential, high costs, limited charging infrastructure, and the absence of enabling policies, posed considerable challenges to scaling up.

India’s experience was presented as a scalable model for Africa. It was highlighted that India’s electric two-wheeler segment had grown by 36% in 2023, supported by strong national initiatives such as the FAME-II scheme and robust battery-swapping networks. India was also making strategic investments in lithium sourcing and cell manufacturing, areas that were identified as ripe for Indo-African collaboration.

The discussions focused on collaborative models for EV manufacturing, affordable transport innovations, urban logistics, and the adoption of sustainable fuels such as CNG and ethanol blends.

Speaking on behalf of the Ghanaian delegation, Hon. Ahi, remarked: “Africa’s future in mobility depends on how quickly we can adopt sustainable and affordable transport solutions. India’s



Rashid Pelpou, Minister of Employment and Labour Relations making a point at a panel discussion

example shows us that with the right policies and investment in critical minerals, Africa too can lead in EV adoption and localised manufacturing. Ghana stands ready to partner in creating an enabling ecosystem for this transition.”

The third panel discussion that Ghana participated in was on the topic ‘Advancing the Next Generation for Equitable Development of Human Capital’ and was represented by Hon. Dr. Abdul-Rashid Hassan Pelpou, Minister of Labour, Jobs and Employment. The session on Africa’s Youthful Population and Workforce Development highlighted that Africa’s young demographic had presented a significant opportunity to drive long-term growth and innovation. Panellists emphasised, however, that there had remained an urgent need to scale up education, skills training, and

entrepreneurship support across the continent.

The discussion drew on insights from the CII Centers of Excellence and explored avenues for India–Africa collaboration in developing workforce readiness, vocational training systems, digital literacy, and leadership development.

The focus was on building inclusive ecosystems that had equipped young people with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive in an evolving global economy.

Speaking on behalf of Ghana, Hon. Pelpou stated that “Africa’s youthful population is our greatest asset, but only if we prepare them with the right skills and opportunities. Partnerships with India in vocational training, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship can help us unlock this potential and build a workforce that

is globally competitive, yet locally impactful.”

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, launched the India–Africa Conclave on Partnership in 2005. Since its inception, it has evolved into one of the most prominent platforms for dialogue and collaboration between Africa and India. To date, it has hosted over 10,000 African and 8,500 Indian delegates, including 500+ senior ministers and several African Heads of State.

The 20th edition of the Conclave provided a strategic platform for advancing Africa’s development agenda while highlighting the India–Africa partnership’s role in integrating regional and global value chains. Key

sectors highlighted included Agriculture and Food Processing, Defence, Digital Partnerships, Financial Services, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure, Power and Energy,

Quality Ecosystems, and Capacity Development.

In addition to business conferences, B2B meetings, and exhibitions, this year's

event introduced product launches showcasing the "AAA" approach of Indian businesses to Africa: Affordable, Adaptable, and Appropriate.



