High Commission of India, Port of Spain successfully facilitated the process of sending 59 stranded Indians in Trinidad and Grenada back to India. Thanks to cooperation of authorities in Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Curacao who also played an important part in making this initiative a success. Among the group was Bollywood playback singer Abhijeet Srivastava who was stranded Trinidad since March, 2020 when the borders were closed. The successful departure was arranged by the Indian High Commission and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. H. E. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India expressed his sentiments to the group that he and his High Commission’s team worked together in ensuring that this initiative pulled off very successfully.

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**TTMA CEO paid a courtesy visit to the Indian High Commissioner to discuss trade relations**

The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers’ Association (TTMA) CEO, Dr. Mahindra Ramdeen paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner. The meeting was very fruitful where matters of increasing trade between India and Trinidad and Tobago were discussed.

Read More: [https://twitter.com/AmbArunSahu](https://twitter.com/AmbArunSahu)

**Indian spices’ exports up by 23 percent to US$ 359 million in June says Assocham**

In the month of June 2020, India’s spices exports increased by 23 per cent to Rs 2,690 crore (US$ 359 million) from Rs 2,190 crore (US$ 292 million) in the same month last year, as per the data by Assocham. A study done by the chamber also pointed out that the demand for spices is increasing in domestic market leading to a sharp increase in their prices by almost 12 per cent in June whereas the headline CPI inflation was half that level. On the back of forex advantages, spices exporters raked in even better in domestic currency, with an increase by 34 per cent to Rs 2,721 crore (US$ 386.01 million) in June 2020 from Rs 2,030 crore (US$ 288 million) in the comparative month a year ago, the industry chamber said quoting official data. In June 2020, the country's exports stood at US$ 21.91 billion, as compared to US$ 25.01 billion in June 2019, exhibiting a contraction of 12.41 per cent, as per the data released by the Commerce Ministry. India mainly export pepper, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, coriander, cumin, celery, fennel, fenugreek, nutmeg, spice oils and mint products. The main importers include the US, UK, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, UAE, Iran, Singapore, China, and Bangladesh, among others.


**GOOGLE to invest US$ 10 billion in India**

GOOGLE plans to invest US$ 10 billion over the next five to seven years to help accelerate the adoption of digital technologies in India. Mr Sundar Pichai, who was born in the country and is currently chief executive officer of parent Alphabet Inc., made the announcement at the annual Google for India event via video conference. The outbreak of the coronavirus has pointed out the importance of technology for conducting business and for connecting with friends and family. He added, "This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy". The US$ 10 billion funds are expected to be invested in partnerships, operations, infrastructure, the digital ecosystem, and equity investments. Google will focus on several key areas: Providing affordable access and information for every Indian in their own language, including Hindi, Tamil, and Punjabi; Developing new products and services focused on India’s unique needs; Encouraging businesses as they continue or embark on their digital transformation; Utilising technology and artificial intelligence for social good, in areas like health, education, and agriculture.

Google was founded in 1998 in Silicon Valley and entered India six years later with offices in Bangalore and Hyderabad. During its initial years, the focus was on search services to provide help to people in finding relevant information on everything from Bollywood news to cricket scores, Mr Pichai said. Since then, the India business has grown into one of the company’s most important one. There are more than 500 million internet users in India, second only to China, with growth that has drawn all the American technology giants.

Read More: [https://www.ibef.org/news/google-to-invest-us-10-billion-in-india](https://www.ibef.org/news/google-to-invest-us-10-billion-in-india)
PM Modi interacts with IBM CEO Arvind Krishna

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with IBM CEO Shri Arvind Krishna via video conferencing on July 20, 2020. Prime Minister congratulated Shri Arvind Krishna for becoming the global head of IBM earlier this year. He mentioned the strong connect of IBM with India and its huge presence in the country, with over one lakh people working across 20 cities in the company. Talking about the impact of COVID on business culture, Prime Minister said that ‘work from home’ is being adopted in a big way and the government is constantly working towards providing infrastructure, connectivity and regulatory environment to ensure that this technological shift is smooth. He also discussed the technologies associated and challenges involved in the recent decision of IBM to make 75% of its employees to work from home. PM Modi appreciated the role played by IBM, in association with CBSE, towards the launch of AI curriculum in 200 schools in India.

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https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PMO=3&PRID=1639945

PM Modi addresses 15th India-EU Summit on July 20, 2020

PM Modi took part in addressing the 15th India-EU Summit via video conferencing on July 15, 2020. PM Modi said that new challenges in the economic world globally have surfaced in the post-COVID world and to solve this, democratic countries must come together. The Summit was aimed at further broad basing ties on a range of areas including trade, investment and defence, officials of the 27-nation bloc said. Our partnership is also useful for peace and stability in the world. This reality has become even more clear in today’s global situation, said PM Modi. Both India

World Bank, India Sign $750 Million Emergency Response Programme for MSMEs

The World Bank on July 06, 2020 signed a 750 million-dollar (about Rs 5,600 crore) agreement with the government for MSME Emergency Response Programme to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) severely impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. The programme will address immediate liquidity and credit needs of nearly 15 lakh viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs. This is the first step among a broader set of reforms that are needed to propel the MSME sector over time. The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary at the Department of Economic Affairs, on behalf of the government and Junaid Ahmad, Country Director (India) on behalf of the World Bank. Khare said that the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the MSME sector leading to loss of livelihoods and jobs. The government is focused on ensuring that abundant financial sector liquidity available flow to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and that banks which have turned extremely risk-averse continue taking exposures in the economy. "The project will support the government in providing targeted guarantees to incentivise NBFCs and banks to continue lending to viable MSMEs to help sustain them through the crisis," he said in an official statement.

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http://www.businessworld.in/article/World-Bank-India-Sign-750-Million-Emergency-Response-Programme-For-MSMEs/06-07-2020-294610/

Indian pharma industry capable of producing COVID-19 vaccines for entire world: Bill Gates

India’s pharmaceutical industry will be able to produce COVID-19 vaccines not just for the country but also for the entire world, according to Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates. A
and EU share universal values like democracy, pluralism, inclusivity, respect for international institutions, multilaterism, freedom and transparency said PM Modi.

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India e-commerce to grow 27 per cent; Reliance to capture half of online grocery sales: Goldman

According to a report titled 'Global Internet: e-commerce’s steepening curve’ published by Goldman Sachs, India’s e-commerce business is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 per cent to reach US$ 99 billion by 2024. It is projected that Reliance Industries would capture half of the online grocery sales through its Facebook. The COVID-19 pandemic has helped in doubling of penetration of e-commerce globally with categories such as consumer packaged goods driving as much as three years of penetration growth in three months. It said, "We forecast India e-commerce will reach US$ 99 billion by 2024, growing at a 27 per cent CAGR over 2019-24, with grocery and fashion/apparel likely to be the key drivers of incremental growth in our view". Online penetration of retail is expected to reach 10.7 per cent by 2024, versus 4.7 per cent in 2019. "The biggest near-term theme in India internet, in our view, is the foray of Reliance Industries (India’s largest market-cap company with presence across sectors such as energy, telecom, and retail) into e-commerce, and the company’s tie-up with WhatsApp for online grocery," it said.

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TN scientists bag national awards for making India superpower in harnessing ocean resources

Tamil Nadu, despite being battered by COVID-19 pandemic since February 2020 has reasons to rejoice as five Chennai based scientists have been honored by the Government of India for the exemplary contributions they have made to the society from the laboratories of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) which comes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. M A Atmanand, director, NIOT, a veteran in the field of deep sea technologies has been honored with the National Award of Excellence for the pioneering research and development work he has done that has helped India to establish itself as an emerging superpower in harnessing the hitherto unseen and unexplored depths of the ocean. Dr. Atmanand, through his industrious and perseverance works developed India’s first Remotely Operable Vehicle capable of undertaking missions up to 6 km to the bottom of the ocean. The work led by him and his team of technologists have helped India to think about drawing the vast deposits of gas hydrates from the deep bottom of the Bay of Bengal and Central Indian Ocean Basin. The country is on the verge of

Not in China but Chennai. Apple starts manufacturing of iPhone 11 in India

Economic and Commercial Newsletter, August 2020
In a major win for the GOI Aatmnirbhar initiative, Apple has started manufacturing of one of its flagship devices, the iPhone 11, at Chennai’s Foxconn plant. This is the first time Apple has manufactured a top-of-the-line model in India. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced the news on Twitter on July 24, 2020. Goyal wrote, “Significant boost to Make in India! Apple has started manufacturing iPhone 11 in India, bringing a top-of-the-line model for the first time in the country.” Prior to this, the Cupertino-based tech giant had started assembling the iPhone XR in India in 2019. In 2017, Apple had started the domestic manufacturing of the Apple iPhone SE 2016 in the Bangalore plant. Apple also has plans to make the iPhone SE 2020 in India in its Wistron plant near Bangalore. Earlier this month, Foxconn, which is a leading supplier for Apple has planned to invest up to $1 billion to expand its India factory where it assembles iPhone models. Pegatron — the second-largest iPhone assembler after Foxconn — was also reported to make some investment in the country and set up a local subsidiary in the coming future.

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Jamaica, India and the International Solar Alliance

Jamaica and India became partners in their common mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and taking affordable energy to every household, when Jamaica decided to ratify the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement in 2019 and become a full-fledged member of this inter-governmental organisation. The ISA is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform of solar-resource-rich countries for increased deployment of solar energy technologies to enhance recovering precious metals like manganese, cobalt etc which are present in the form of modules in the depth of Indian Ocean. The deep sea ocean technology or the mechanism to harness the precious resources from the bottom of the ocean, is a well-guarded and well protected technology which is possessed by a group of elite countries like the USA and Japan. Thanks to the pathbreaking R&D work done by Dr. Atmanand, the government is hoping to harness the precious elements and metals from the depths of the Ocean. Beach protection in areas vulnerable to tidal attack is another successful contribution by the NIOT under the leadership of Dr. Atmanand.

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India ranked 3rd most lucrative manufacturing locations among 48 countries

According to recent Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report by property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, India ranks third in the list of most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions. Rising one spot from its previous position, the report said that India is an upcoming manufacturing hub globally from an operating conditions and cost-competitiveness perspective. While from a baseline scenario ranking that looks equally at operating conditions and cost-competitiveness but does not consider impact from the current pandemic, India ranks third after China & USA. From a cost perspective, though, India is at 3rd position after China and Vietnam. However, in terms of risk scenario, India has acquired a 30th spot, after countries that present lower levels of political and economic risks. “At a time like this, India ranking amongst top-3 on the most suitable locations for global manufacturing comes as a shot in the arm for the country,” noted Anshul Jain, managing director (India and Southeast Asia), C&W. The annual Global MRI scores each country against 20 variables that are eventually clubbed into the three final weighted rankings that cover conditions, cost and risk. This year’s analysis includes the impact of COVID-19 on the global manufacturing sector and ranked countries by their projected ability
energy security and sustainable development. Boasting of 67 member countries and 86 signatories in total, the ISA provides a dedicated platform through which the global community, including governments, bilateral and multilateral organisations, corporates, industry, and other stakeholders, are contributing to help achieve the common goal of increasing the use and quality of solar energy in meeting energy needs in a safe, convenient, affordable, equitable, and sustainable manner. The ISA is also an effective instrument in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seek to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Although all the 17 goals of SDGs are inter-related, the goals of affordable and clean energy, climate action, and sustainable cities and communities are most relevant to the ISA.

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India can be among top-5 agri goods exporters with effective policies: Report

According to a report by the World Trade Centre, India can be among the top five exporters of agro-commodities by shifting its focus on cultivation and effectively handholding farmers. The Government has also introduced some reforms in the farm sector by permitting farmers to sell produce outside the regulated APMC markets, and relaxing the Essential Commodities Act, among others, which can help boost exports. The country ranked eighth with an annual agro export of US$ 39 billion in 2019, after the EU (US$ 181 billion), the US (US$ 172 billion), Brazil (US$ 93 billion), China (US$ 83 billion), Canada (US$ 69 billion), Indonesia (US$ 46 billion) and Thailand (US$ 44 billion), quoted the WTC report. The report added, "Through focused intervention in capacity-building, we can enhance our agro exports to surpass Thailand and Indonesia and become the fifth-largest exporter in the world". In order to achieve this, the first step is to re-orient the role of the government extension centres — the 715 krishi vigyan kendras across the country and to handhold farmers in growing those varieties of crops that have demand in the global markets, added report. "Having attained self-sufficiency in agriculture, we need to re-orient our extension services system, which was developed in the days of to restart their manufacturing sectors once lockdown measures are relaxed and business starts to return to normal.

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https://ibt.tpci.in/news_buzz/india-ranked-3rd-most-lucrative-manufacturing-location/

https://www.ciiagrotech-india.com

https://www.ciitradefairsin/CiiAgroTechIndia2020

http://www.immeindia.in/immeinterest.php

https://www.cii.in/Events.aspx
the green revolution that focused on attaining self-sufficiency in farm production," the report said. It further added that it is time we move towards growing quality food for the global markets rather than quantity.

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FORTH COMING EVENTS IN INDIA:

https://ficciglobiz.com/

https://re-invest.in/

https://www.indiamsme.org/registration-events

https://www.ciidigitalevents.in/Login.aspx?EventId=TELANGANA

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES FOR TRAVEL ON GANDHI CIRCUIT

On the occasion of celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Apostle of Peace, Indian Association of Tour Operators presents a list of 11 different suggested itineraries for travel on Gandhi Circuit are as below:

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Duration of Tour</th>
<th>Places Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>6 nights/7 days</td>
<td>Porbandar/Rajkot/Ahmedabad/Vadodara/Surat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>5 nights/6 days</td>
<td>Porbandar/Rajkot/Bhavnagar/Ahmedabad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TO CONNECT WITH COMMERCIAL WING

Contact:
Mr. Anand Mathai
Commercial Officer
Email: trade.pospain@mea.gov.in

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http://www.ficci.in/
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https://www.gandhi.gov.in/
https://www.indiaperspectives.gov.in/
http://dgftebrc.nic.in:8090/TradeDispute/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Itinerary Details</th>
<th>Destinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 nights/8 days</td>
<td>Porbandar/Rajkot/Bhavnagar/Ahmedabad/Surat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 nights/6 days</td>
<td>Delhi/Jaipur/Agra/Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 nights/4 days</td>
<td>Mumbai/Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 nights/3 days</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3 nights/4 days</td>
<td>Madurai/Kanyakumari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11 nights/12 days</td>
<td>Mumbai-Porbandar/Rajkot/Bhavnagar/Palitana/Ahmedabad/Vadodara/Surat/Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4 nights/5 days</td>
<td>Kolkata and Bihar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4 nights/5 days</td>
<td>Kolkata and Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3 nights/4 days</td>
<td>Delhi/Shimla/Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For any enquiry on booking tours as per the listed itineraries, travel agencies/tourists are requested to contact via E-mail the Indian Association of Tour Operators – i.e. IATO at: iato@airtelmail.in

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