



High Commission of India

Trinidad & Tobago

(concurrent accreditation: Grenada, Dominica, Montserrat)



High Commission of India handed over medical aid to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago



On behalf of the people and Government of India, H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago handed over the medical consignment to the people and Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Amery Browne, Hon. Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs received the consignments at a virtual ceremony on November, 23, 2020. Minister Browne was accompanied by Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) were present at the event. Minister Browne expressed his deep appreciation of India's timely support to TT in this time of Coronavirus pandemic even though India itself is fighting against this huge challenge. The Minister noted that even though the ceremony is brief and simple, it is a valuable one. High Commissioner underlined that the relationship between India and Trinidad and Tobago is on a solid foundation and during this time of COVID-19 pandemic, India has made special efforts to express solidarity with her friends across the globe. Following up on Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's telephonic conversation with his counterpart on 30th April this year, the medical supply including much-needed paracetamol, HCQ and protective gears have been supplied for the use of the government and people of TT during these trying times.

High Commission of India hosts VBSM with TPCI



On 24 November 2020, to promote trade and economic cooperation between India & T & T, Grenada & Dominica, the HCI organized a VBSM in collaboration with the TPCI and SATT. The VBSM was addressed by H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India and Mr. Rajiv Diptee, President of the SATT. Mr. Sandip Das, DDG of TPCI introduced the Indian suppliers participating in the virtual meet. At the virtual platform, the following Indian suppliers gave feature presentations: **(i) Ramdev Food Products Pvt. Ltd (ii) Capital Ventures Pvt. Ltd (iii) Anmol Industries (iv) Surya Foods & Agro Ltd (v) Euro India Fresh Foods Ltd (vi) Senso Foods Pvt. Ltd (vii) Sonya Foods.** High Commissioner outlined that India is one of the global leaders in the F & B sector. He said India, one of the world's fastest growing economies can be a potential source market for quality Food & Beverage at low cost for T & T. Also, there is a potential demand for food processing in T & T and India can be the ideal trading partner in the F & B sector. High Commissioner also mentioned that India's food processing industry is estimated to be around US\$67 billion which employs about 13 million people directly and about 35 million indirectly. High Commissioner said India has an excellent technological advantage in the F & B sector which produces quality processed foods when exported to countries worldwide. The HCI and the TPCI remain committed to act as a bridge between business of the Caribbean and India for stronger commercial linkages.

High Commission of India welcomes the Hon. Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar to the Diwali celebration at MGICC



The High Commission of India Trinidad and Tobago welcomed the Hon. Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar to the Diwali celebration at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Corporation on Thursday 12th November 2020. The leader of the opposition and former Prime Minister was greeted by His Excellency Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago. The Honourable Mrs. Persad-Bissessar was taken on a tour of the complex after which there was a cultural programme. His Excellency on speaking of the former Prime Minister said, "We consider her as India's daughter, Bharat Ki Beti. She has made us proud of her successes and achievements." The High Commissioner concluded his greetings by reiterating the Institute's sole purpose with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible." His Excellency mentioned that in living with that Gandhian spirit, the doors of MGICC will remain open for all Trinbagonians irrespective of faith and ethnicity. It will serve as a useful meeting point for people, ideas, minds, and cultures. India a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual society will be represented at MGICC since it will serve as a useful meeting point for people, ideas, minds and cultures.

High Commission of India celebrated Constitution Day at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation



The High Commission of India celebrated Constitution Day on 26th November, 2020 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Corporation (MGICC). Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Seepersad was the keynote speaker. A presentation was done by Mr. Nizam Mohammed; Former Speaker of the House of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Bishnu Ragoonath; Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine also gave his remarks on this occasion. The High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu spoke on how India's constitution came into being and is one of the longest written constitutions in the world. He said, "the spirit of the constitution rests in its preamble. The preamble not only talks about the basic structure of the constitution but also the responsibility of the state to ensure the fundamental tenants of a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic, Republic to ensure justice, social economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation." To view the full videos from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, kindly visit the website to learn more on the Preamble, India's Constitution, India's struggles for freedom and the Chief Architect of the constitution Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Ansa gets approval to buy Bank of Baroda



ANSA Merchant Bank Ltd (AMBL) has received regulatory approval from the Central Bank of T&T (CBTT) to proceed with the acquisition of the Bank of Baroda. A filing on the T&T Securities and Exchange (TTSEC) WEBSITE AMBL noted: We hereby inform the Commission that the approval of the CBTT was granted on the November 20, 2020. We shall provide an update on the completion of the transaction following the fulfilment of the conditions precedent under the share purchase agreement (SPA).” On December 11, 2019, AMBL announced the acquisition of 100 per cent of the shareholding of Bank of Baroda (T&T) Ltd. by virtue of a share purchase agreement entered into by AMBL (an 82.5 per cent subsidiary of ANSA McAL Ltd) and Bank of Baroda (in India). The AMBL advisory noted that the company was subject to the fulfilment of the certain condition’s precedent under the SPA and the approval of the CBTT. The approval granted by the CBTT and the subsequent fulfilment of the conditions precedent under the SPA would allow AMBL to do all aspects of commercial banking. In its December 2019 advisory, AMBL chairman A. Norman Sabga explained that under the agreement AMBL agreed to purchase 525,597 ordinary shares representing 100 per cent of the total issued and outstanding shares held in the bank of Baroda T&T Ltd. He noted that BroadSpan Capital and Singhi Advisers were exclusive advisers to ANSA Merchant for the transaction. Once the transaction was completed Sabga had said that the “combined strengths of ANSA Merchant Bank Ltd. and this commercial banking entity will greatly enhance the scope of the ANSA’s banking and financial services to include all aspects of retail banking as well as corporate and investment banking services, asset financing, investment services and wealth management.

Read more:

<https://www.guardian.co.tt/business/ansa-gets-approval-to-buy-bank-of-baroda>

India’s Commerce Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal invites the global investors to invest in India



The Union Commerce and Industry, Railways, and Food & public distribution Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal has invited the global investors to invest in India, taking benefit of the huge domestic market, and conducive business environment in the country. In his Keynote Address today at Conference 'India: Drivers of Change' organized by the Bank of America, he said that the country offers fair value for their investments. Mr. Goyal said that India is being seen as a trusted partner in the global value chains. He said that India has a transparent system and open democracy. India is targeting to achieve rightful place in the comity of nations. He said that the Government is working as a team, breaking departmental silos. Mr. Goyal said that there are large business opportunities in the country. Bold decisions are being taken to empower the businesses to think big and bold, and explore uncharted territories and businesses, he added. Talking about November 12, 2020 cabinet decisions, Mr. Goyal said that approval has been given to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in the 10 key sectors for Enhancing India’s Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports – Atmanirbhar Bharat. He said that the PLIs announced earlier for the telecom, APIs and medical devices have got encouraging response. The incentives will help India in becoming strong, self-sufficient, self-reliant, and meeting our domestic needs as well as for exporting. The Minister said that the government will do the handholding for these sectors over the next 5 years. He also mentioned about other initiatives for various other sectors like cluster development and logistics support. On the Viability gap funding scheme for the social sectors, he said that it will bring in private investment in the social sectors.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/mr-piyush-goyal-invites-the-global-investors-to-invest-in-india>

Good opportunity for India to export sugar; reconsidering extension of export subsidy: Govt



According to Food Secretary Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, the government is reassessing the extension of sugar export subsidies as India has a strong opportunity to sell the sweetener on the global market in the 2019-20 season that started this month between November and April. To minimize surplus stocks and help cash-starved sugar mills direct sugar payments to farmers, India, the second-largest sugar-producing country in the world, had to offer export subsidies over the last two years. As per official data, sugar mills exported 5.7 million tonnes of sugar compared to the mandatory quota of 6 million tonnes set for the 2019-20 season (October-September). Mr. Pandey said, "The production in Thailand is set to decline this year, while the processing in Brazil will only begin in April 2021. India has strong export opportunities from now until April. "This is the opportunity that the industry has to consider taking, given that India is expected to have a bumper sugar production this year, we are doing our best," he added. According to official sources, the Ministry of Food is working on a cabinet approval proposal to expand the current sugar export policy to approximately 6 million tonnes for the 2020-21 season. Food Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal said on October 30, the government was not considering expanding the export subsidy scheme, but after several rounds of consultation with stakeholders and policymakers, sources said, a fresh thought was given to the proposal. Industry experts say India needs to export more than 5 million tonnes of sugar this year to ensure that domestic prices do not drop below production costs and make it hard for mills to compensate cane farmers on time.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/good-opportunity-for-india-to-export-sugar-reconsidering-extension-of-export-subsidy-govt>

PM Modi Highlights: PM says govt left no stone unturned to make India a global destination; invites investors.



PM Modi Highlights: PM Modi said that the BRICS Summit's theme of global stability, shared security, and innovative growth is not only important but far-sighted. PM Modi Highlights: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that India is a firm supporter of multilateralism and is firmly committed to UN values. PM Modi spoke on global stability, shared security, and innovative growth at the 12th BRICS Summit. He further said that the theme of the Summit is not only important but far-sighted. He underlined that India believes that UN Security Council reforms are very necessary and expect support of BRICS partners. Hosted by Russia's President Vladimir Putin, the event witnessed discussions around intra-BRICS cooperation and key issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system, measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy and people to people exchanges. In today's meeting, PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping once again came face to face after the SCO Summit. India is set to host the next BRICS meeting in 2021. Meanwhile, PM Modi will today also address the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum at around 6:30 pm. There are a lot of things that are moving in the right direction for the markets. Of course, the market is a preview of what we can see in the economy and it has already told us because of the good performance that the economy will be good.

Read more: <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/pm-modi-live-india-china-brics-summit-trade-energy-regional-cooperation-multilateralism-atmanirbhar-import-export/2130048/>

Indian data centre industry attracts \$396 million investments in 2020: Report



The Indian data centre industry has attracted nearly \$396 million in PE and strategic investments so far in 2020, according to an Anarock-Mace report on November 19, 2020. Navigating the India Data Centre Lifecycle – Trends & Perspectives. “The Indian data centre industry has attracted close to USD 977 mn in PE and strategic investments since 2008, of which nearly 40 per cent or approx. USD 396 mn were infused between Jan-Sept 2020 period alone,” the report said. According to the report, India will see a major growth in the data centre industry driven by increased data consumption and policy incentives. “India currently has 126 third-party data centres (colocation or hyperscale) spanning 7.5+mn sft, and a cumulative IT Power Capacity of 590+ MW,” as per the report. Anuj Puri, Chairman, Anarock Group said: “While India has been seeing a massive digital thrust since 2014, the current government’s data localization policy has paved the way for hyperscale data centres to handle the increasing data consumption.” “Hyperscale facilities have clear advantages over smaller colocation centres as they can cater to the huge domestic data warehousing demand creating operating efficiencies and thus, pass on cost benefits to their customers. Smaller colocation facilities will need to reassess their competitive position and may need to repurpose to ensure survival,” Puri said. Data centres will also become one of the most preferred forms of alternative real estate asset with the focus shifting to large hyperscale developments. Approximately, \$9.5 billion of capital is in various stages of being announced, committed or waiting to be committed into Indian data centres, the report said. “Data centres as alternative real estate assets providing yield income to large infrastructure investors, and the creation of large platforms between operators.”

Read more:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/indian-data-centre-industry-attracts-396-million-investments-in-2020-report/article33132496.ece>

India to offer production linked incentives to boost manufacturing



As per the National Industrial Classification, there are 24 subcategories in the manufacturing sector. These categories include beverages, food products, textiles, chemicals, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, furniture, computer and electronic products. India’s manufacturing sector has posted strong growth over the past few years. The sector’s Gross Value Added (GVA) at current prices was estimated at US\$ 397.14 billion in FY20—a 0.3% Y-o-Y growth. The electronics sector lags behind competing countries in terms of pricing by 8.5-11% due to lack of adequate infrastructure, domestic supply chain and logistics; high cost of finance; inadequate power; limited design capabilities and focus on R&D by the industry; and inadequacies in skill development. Therefore, with an aim to develop core components and create an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally and India to be among the top three hubs of global mobile manufacturing, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Government of India announced the ‘Production Incentive Scheme’ (PLI) in March 2020 for large-scale electronics manufacturing. The scheme proposes production-linked incentives to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components including assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP) units. The scheme will extend an incentive of 4-6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments to eligible companies for a period of five years after the defined base year.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/blogs/india-to-offer-production-linked-incentives-to-boost-manufacturing>

The government of India is committed to the welfare of Farmers and Agriculture is its top priority - Agriculture Minister Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar



The Agriculture Minister Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Railways Mr. Piyush Goyal and Mr. Som Prakash MOS Ministry of Commerce & Industries interacted with the representatives of Farmers Organizations of Punjab on 13th November 2020 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. At the outset, the Agriculture Minister cordially welcomed the representatives of Farmers Organizations of Punjab and briefed about the reforms made in the agriculture sector to empower the farmers. It was emphasized that agriculture is always on the top priority for Government of India to boost rural economy. He mentioned that the Government is taking several measures for the welfare of farmers with a specific focus on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The new Farm Acts would not only provide freedom of choice to the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative price but also safeguard the interest of farmers. During the interaction, the Ministers also informed the representatives of farmer Organizations that procurement of farm produce on MSP and the Mandi system will continue as before. The new Farm Act will encourage Mandis to provide better services to the farmers. The representatives of the farmers' unions expressed their views on new Farm Acts. The farmer's representatives were also apprised with other initiatives taken by the Government such as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations aiming towards income enhancement of farmers and creating employment opportunities for youth in rural areas.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/government-of-india-is-committed-to-the-welfare-of-farmers-and-agriculture-is-its-top-priority-agriculture-minister-mr-narendra-singh-tomar>

Cabinet approves PLI Scheme to 10 key Sectors



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in the following 10 key sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports – Atmanirbhar Bharat. The PLI scheme will be implemented by the concerned ministries/departments and will be within the overall financial limits prescribed. The final proposals of PLI for individual sectors will be appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by the Cabinet. Savings, if any, from one PLI scheme of an approved sector can be utilized to fund that of another approved sector by the Empowered Group of Secretaries. Any new sector for PLI will require fresh approval of the Cabinet. The PLI scheme across these 10 key specific sectors will make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiencies; create economies of scale; enhance exports and make India an integral part of the global supply chain. The Prime Minister's clarion call for an 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' envisages policies for the promotion of an efficient, equitable, and resilient manufacturing sector in the country. Growth in production and exports of industrial goods will greatly expose the Indian industry to foreign competition and ideas, which will help in improving its capabilities to innovate further.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/cabinet-approves-pli-scheme-to-10-key-sectors>

India Data Centre industry attracts \$396 million investments in 2020



The Indian data centre industry has attracted nearly \$396 million in PE and strategic investments so far in 2020, according to an Anarock-Mace report -- Navigating the India Data Centre Lifecycle – Trends & Perspectives. “The Indian data centre industry has attracted close to USD 977 mn in PE and strategic investments since 2008, of which nearly 40 per cent or approx. USD 396 mn were infused between Jan-Sept 2020 period alone,” the report said. The report analyses various under-construction projects and capital invested or committed towards the industry. According to the report, India will see a major growth in the data centre industry driven by increased data consumption and policy incentives. “India currently has 126 third-party data centres (colocation or hyperscale) spanning 7.5+mn sq ft, and a cumulative IT Power Capacity of 590+ MW,” as per the report. These third-party centres are owned/operated primarily by 53 players, while the capacity is concentrated among the top 12 players who operate 95 per cent of the total IT power capacity in the country. The country will see an addition of at least 28 large hyperscale data centres over the next three years, the report said. “These will span over 16+ mn sq. ft. with at least 1,400+ MW of IT power capacity, equalling nearly 0.6 mn sq. ft. and 50 MW per facility on an average per hyperscale data centre,” it added. Upcoming supply of data centres is likely to be concentrated on Tier-1 cities, especially after the 5G rollout. However, increased data consumption will also be beneficial for Tier-2 cities which will generate demand for smaller colocation facilities. The supply is expected to be “concentrated amongst Mumbai and Chennai, followed by NCR and Hyderabad also getting a fair share of interest.”

Read more:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/>

India has seen a landmark achievement in the space of digital health initiatives



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s eSanjeevani, the national telemedicine initiative, has completed 8 lakh consultations today. This is fast emerging as a sought after and popular means of seeking health care, especially during the COVID times in order to avoid physical contact while still benefitting by quality services. Over 11,000 patients are seeking health services on a daily basis in 27 States/UTs. eSanjeevani is also facilitating some states as a model that can serve patients throughout the year, especially in the far flung and remote areas. The top ten States which have registered highest consultations through eSanjeevani and eSanjeevani OPD platforms are Tamil Nadu (259904), Uttar Pradesh (219715), Kerala (58000), Himachal Pradesh (46647), Madhya Pradesh (43045), Gujarat (41765), Andhra Pradesh (35217), Uttarakhand (26819), Karnataka (23008), Maharashtra (9741). eSanjeevani’s both variants of telemedicine namely - doctor to doctor (eSanjeevani AB-HWC) and patient to doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) are consistently growing in terms of users on both sides i.e. patients / health workers on the one end and doctors on the other. eSanjeevani AB-HWC was launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in November 2019 and it is to be implemented at 1,55,000 Health and Wellness Centres under Govt. of India’s Ayushman Bharat Scheme in ‘Hub & Spoke’ model by December 2022.

Read more:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/health-ministrys-esanjeevani-completes-8-lakh-consultations>

FORTH COMING EVENTS IN INDIA:



<https://www.cii.in/index.aspx>



<https://www.tpci.in/eventdefault/mega-virtual-buyers-sellers-meet-on-ceramics-vitrified-tiles/>

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