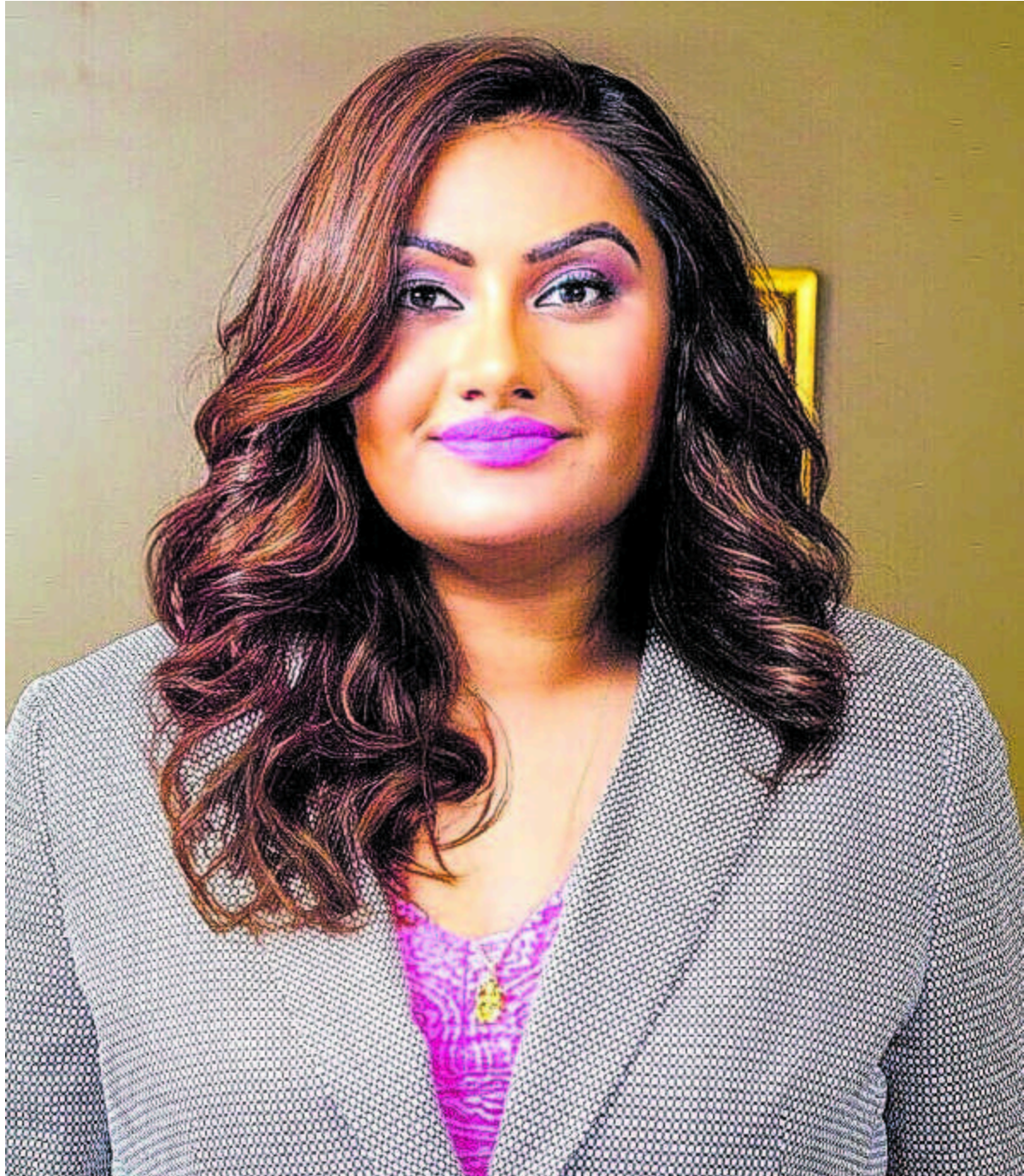


## Business groups excited by agreements between India, T&T



T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce chief executive officer Vashti Guyadeen

Business groups see the multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between T&T and India as having the potential to push meaningful transformation across key sectors, including health, agriculture, renewable energy, justice, education and trade.

T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) chief executive officer Vashti Guyadeen said the MoU on Pharmacopeial Cooperation opens the door to more affordable, high-quality generic drugs, potentially reducing national healthcare costs and improving access for underserved communities.

Guyadeen noted that the provisions for rural development and agriculture can facilitate the transfer of India's innovations in irrigation, agri-tech, and value chain integration—areas that have revolutionised its rural economy. These, she said, can be adapted to enhance food security and reduce the country's high food import bill.

“The commitment to capacity building through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, along with the integration of renewable energy solutions and digitisation of the education sector, further strengthens the foundation for sustainable socio-economic growth.”

Guyadeen shared her connection to India's development journey, having been a recipient of a Government of India-funded scholarship in the year 2000.

Point Lisas/Couva Chamber president Deoraj Mahase said the MOUs signed are welcome, especially considering the economy and the need for further growth and development.

Mahase pointed out that the donation of laptops, dialysis machines, ambulances, and prosthetic limbs is a step in the right direction, which will chart the path for further cooperation between both countries for their mutual benefits.

He said the MOUs also play a part in crime fighting.

“Forensics and justice building capacities are welcomed and should greatly assist in solving crime and improving the court process.”

It is anticipated Mahase said that further avenues will be pursued in trade development for various sectors in the business community, including manufacturing, imports, and exports.

Commenting on the opportunities, Fyzabad Chamber of Commerce President Angie Jairam said the grants for Quick Impact Projects (QIP's) and local agreements for funding of small-scale projects (\$50,000) should be beneficial to the SME'S and hope it impacts positively in community building, creating a better standard of living for citizens, once managed carefully and with policies of accountability.

“This visit by India's Prime Minister was not just ceremonial; it can be the catalyst for community development, capacity building, and long-term economic and social improvements across various sectors—education, health, infrastructure, energy, sports, culture, and others.”