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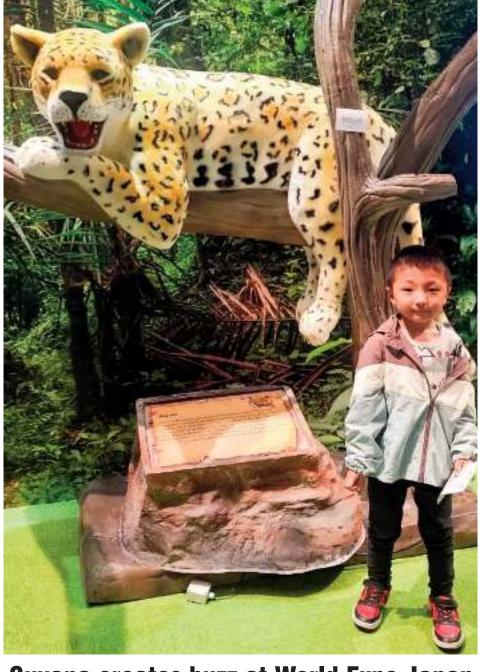
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Kite flying on agenda for Easter in Guyana

There are a few elements that define Easter in Guyana: The ever-popular Hot Cross Buns, colourful handmade kites, and opportunity to spend time with family, all contributing to an authentic Guyanese Easter. From families who see the occasion as a time to strengthen bonds, to those who observe its significance, and those for whom the day is part of our identity, Easter holds varied meanings for everyone. Yet, above all, it is undeniably a Guyanese celebration, one where our unity and heritage shine brightly and soar high. Thousands are expected to gather across Guyana to raise their kites in unison this Easter weekend. The Botanical Gardens, the National Park, and the seawalls are expected to be popular spots for families seeking to reconnect with each other, as well as with their heritage. As long as kites continue to rise into the sky, and people flock to 'the seawalls', Easter will remain a vibrant tradition in the heart of every Guyanese. Whether the holiday is a time for family, fun, or religious observance, one fact remains: Easter in Guyana is unlike any other. So, Happy Easter to Guyanese everywhere, whatever the holiday means to you!





Guyana creates buzz at World Expo Japan

GUYANA made a remarkable impression during the opening day of the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, which drew an estimated 22,000 visitors to the national pavilion on Sunday, April 13. Being held under the theme, "Sustainability through Innovation: Guyana's Low Carbon Journey," Guyana is showcasing its vision for a sustainable and inclusive future. According to a press release, the Guyana booth has quickly become a highlight of the expo, captivating audiences with an immersive display that brings to life the country's pristine rainforests, rich biodiversity, and world-class eco-tourism offerings. Here, a child poses in front of one of the exhibits at the Guyana booth.

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Scarborough SW candidate is a doctor, man of faith and family

Dr. ASM Tarun is running for Member of Parliament from Scarborough Southwest. He completed his medical degree from the University of Dhaka and completed his residency from the University of Manitoba. In his medical career he successfully runs six primary care clinics and a specialist centre. His community involvement and accolades include being a medical team leader in Rohingya Refugee Camps during the COVID 19 Pandemic, founding president of the Bangladeshi Physicians and Dentists Association Canada, Director of Canada-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce, as well as a member of Rotary Club of Toronto Danforth. Outside of academia, medical practice, and business pursuits, he is a man of faith, family, freedom, and fiscal responsibility.

As a frontline healthcare worker, Dr. ASM Tarun witnessed the overburdened healthcare system in Canada and believes the Conservative Blue Seal plan which aims to certify qualified foreign trained doctors and nurses amidst the healthcare staff shortage in Canada will help our healthcare system.

Advance Polling starts on April 18th and runs till April 21st. Election Day is on April 28th. Make sure to get your votes in during Advance Polling or the day of election.

Email:

shafi.ca2024@gmail.com





Who is Dr. Tarun:

- Compassionate Family Physician and health care leader
- Lives & works in Scarborough Southwest
- Successful business owner of 6 primary care clinics and a specialist centre
- Founding President-Bangladeshi Physicians and Dentists Association Canada
- Director-Canada Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce
- Medical team leader in Rohingya Refugee Camps during COVID 19 pandemic
- Member of Rotary Club of Toronto Danforth
- Advocate for Family, Freedom and Fiscal Responsibility



PRESIDENT ALI'S LEADERSHIP STYLE EARNS GLOBAL INNOVATION RECOGNITION





\$10B ONE-OFF NIS PAYOUT FOR 25,000+ SENIORS WHO MISSED PENSION REQUIREMENTS



CAPE FEES GONE, FIRST 8 CSEC SUBJECTS FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS - GOV'T TO FUND NATIONAL EXAMS FOR THOUSANDS



PRESIDENT ALI MEETS GRIEVING LINDEN FAMILIES, PLEDGES TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO FATAL INCIDENTS

PAGE 2

PAGE 2

PAGE 2

\$10B ONE-OFF NIS PAYOUT FOR 25,000+ SENIORS

has Ali major transfer cash senior citizens did not meet the receive an NIS pension. minimum contribution • The payments will will see a total of nearest NIS office to requirement to qualify for a pension under the National Insurance Scheme (NIS).

At least \$10 billion will be disbursed to support more than • 550 25,000 senior citizens across the country. The initiative targets • 600

President Dr. Irfaan persons who turned 60 announced years old on or before one-off December 31, 2024, but for made fewer than the 750 who contributions required to

- tiered be contributions:
- 500 to \$260,000 to 599
- contributions: disbursements \$390,000

contributions: has \$520,000

• 700 to \$650,000

"This based **over \$10 billion being** ensure they receive the on the number of **placed into the hands** payment. of over 25,000 of during a live address.

> He noted begin 699 as the NIS already of the pension threshold.

the necessary data for many eligible 749 individuals. Those who contributions: have not yet submitted their information are measure encouraged to visit the

The initiative fulfils 549 our senior citizens," a promise made by the contributions: President Ali stated government to provide additional support to that elderly citizens who could contributed immediately, workforce but fall short



Pensioners reacting to the announcement

CAPE FEES GONE, FIRST 8 CSEC SUBJECTS FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS **GOV'T TO FUND NATIONAL EXAMS FOR THOUSANDS**

accessibility, all Caribbean Advanced This Secondary Certificate This initiative, set to typically take effect this year, to secondary schools across entry, the nation.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali charges. unveiled the landmark

In a significant move decision during a visit to bolster educational to the West Demerara the SecondarySchool, stating Government of Guyana that the government will has announced a new now cover the expenses policy that will fully fund for up to eight CSEC the examination fees for subjects per student. represents Proficiency Examination substantial investment candidates of \$700 million by the and cover the cost of government, that will up to eight Caribbean alleviate a considerable Education financial burden on (CSEC) families, as the cost year, I bring good broadens the scope of was made during a live by subjects per student. for these examinations news to all parents. financial will benefit students in G \$ 4 6, 5 0 0, both public and private encompassing subject, and Dr. well as late registration and private schools,"



The initiative will apply to students in both public and private schools

"Starting this amounts The government will beyond the previous House, emphasising the (CXC), approximately cover the full cost of income-based subsidies, government's dedication certification for students **CSEC** administrative fees, as student in public secondary school exit President Ali said.

This new measure This **examination** ensuring that a wider to supporting students seeking fees for at least eight range of students can pursuing subjects for every access these crucial studies. examinations without **no child is compelled** school, offering a range initial financial barriers to limit the number of academic, vocational,

of their subjects.

Further expanding circumstances secondary Advanced Proficiency **initiative**," he affirmed. Examination (CAPE). announcement

"I will ensure that completing for a significant portion of CSEC subjects they and technical subjects.

write on account the financial of the government's their parents. And commitment to post-this initiative goes education, beyond CSEC. It President Ali, announced would also include the complete waiver the CAPE students, of all fees for students and they too will sitting the Caribbean benefit from this

CAPE, administered the Caribbean assistance broadcast from State Examinations Council to advanced higher education or specialised training after secondary

PRESIDENT ALI MEETS GRIEVING LINDEN FAMILIES, PLEDGES TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO FATAL INCIDENTS

President Irfaan Ali visited the grieving families of two young men killed in separate confrontations with Linden. police in Ronaldo Peters, 21, died on April 6 after reportedly sustaining injuries in an encounter with law enforcement. while Keon Fogenay lost his life the following day prayers because all nations. "I've spoken during protests triggered of us want the same to the leadership of and Minister of Legal by Peters' death.

During a heartfelt **peaceful** meeting at Watooka President Ali said. House, President expressed Ali condolences to families and assured Responsibility the community that has initiated a full interference," be addressed. "First of incidents, which will be emphasising



President Ali reaching with the griving families

The his announced that the **be** the Office of Professional investigated, community at large mechanism comprising The President also state has my love and several Caribbean called for unity and calm the

thing—a just and the Guyana Police society," Force and to our regional partners. the

The President also stated,

within the community, dedication urging protestors to transparency and justice. and refrain from violence and destruction of property. Bharrat Jagdeo also consequences **infrastructure.** That would be no "cover-up" said. does not help the in the investigation. "I situation... I want to assured them again that the officers involved sit with you and come that the People's in both incidents are up with meaningful **solutions**," he stated.

General Attorney Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, reaffirmed government's President This incident will commitment to an independently impartial investigation free during his "Issues in (OPR) from any bias or the News" programme. "Our government has their concerns would investigation into the President Ali assured, never been accused Progressive the of cover-ups. We do and the government and confirmed that all, to the families, independently supported government's not support police will not cover up appropriate you have my love by the Regional Security commitment to justice and prayers. The System (RSS), a regional and accountability.

Solve in the support ponce will not cover up appropriate action brutality or violence anything in relation would be taken following of the administration's **a**

to investigation, Vice President Dr. the outcome, the "There is no reason joined the conversation, be faced by those why we must destroy stressing that there involved," Dr Jagdeo

He further clarified



President Ali reaching with the griving families

underscoring are committed to investigation. full, impartial

Party under close arrest action <u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

President Irfaan Ali has issued a compelling call to global leaders prioritise equity and inclusion in the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI),emphasising its potential as a powerful resource for accelerating equitable growth, economic reducing disparities, and addressing critical global challenges.

Addressing the Berkeley Innovation Forum at Ames Centre Research recently, President Ali emphasised the rapidly approaching Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR),marked by human-AI collaboration. He cautioned against repeating the historical pattern



President Ali addressing the Berkeley Innovation Forum

industrial revolutions disproportionately developed benefited nations, urging that AI must be universally accessible, not controlled by a select few.

"The guiding idea that is needed for where AI is one that gives priority to equity

and inclusion over sustainable food system. profit and power," transformative potential non-military in healthcare, education, technologies, AI, he noted, offers data- and driven solutions for interdependent

President specifically detailed AI's capacity to revolutionise President enhanced agricultural role output, waste, and optimised improved supply chains. He also optimised in promoting smart sustainable economy for lower emissions and

On energy security, President Ali asserted. President Ali highlighted He stressed that AI's its crucial link to AI and development should be automation innovation. driven by the "common He stressed the need nations benefit from AI, a more balanced good", highlighting its to prevent barriers to digital stating and climate mitigation. that energy security innovation are for global challenges like technological progress pandemics and poverty. and sustainable energy Ali solutions.

Furthermore, food security through emphasised AI's critical in combating reduced climate change through modelling, energy underscored its role use, and support for practices. agriculture and circular He cited examples like models predicting extreme industrial weather and enhancing efficiency, a energy

positioning AI as a vital in AI for a developing action.

President Ali proposed a and technologically dedicated AI Investment empowered global Fund. He argued this **economy**," he is not just about equity urging but a strategic necessity embrace AI for a more for a balanced global equitable future. economy. "Investing

tool for monitoring and country is not just accountability in climate a matter of equity. It is a strategic To ensure developing imperative to create leaders



President Ali advocates for AI as resource to drive equitable development

partnering with major centre for research, was made by President technology companies artificial transform Institute of Applied and Science and Technology advancement.

The government is (IAST) into a leading the (AI) development,



President Ali advocates for AI as resource to drive equitable development

This announcement intelligence Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali during a community technological meeting in Canal No 2 Polder, West Bank (WBD), Demerara Region Three.

President Ali stated that the initiative aims to attract global startups Guyana, fostering environment where they can build and test cutting-edge technologies locally. This development will be driven by a combination of private sector investment and

government support.

"That's future we are talking Innovation Forum in **about**, **young people.** mid-January 2026. This This is a wave of will be the first time excitement," President emphasised.

Guyana to host NASA Forum

In other news, President Ali also Faculty Director of the revealed that Guyana Garwood Centre for

will host the Berkeley**the** Guyana NASA the Guyana hosts the forum.

The Berkeley **Innovation** Innovation Forum is an organisation led by Dr. Henry Chesbrough,

Corporate Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley. The forum provides members with insights into innovation challenges faced by companies worldwide, and facilitates sharing of experiences in addressing these challenges.

President Dr. Irfaan and Ali of Guyana has business models been honoured with drive the expansion of the prestigious Global Guyana's markets. The Leadership Award for University of California, Open Innovation (2024) Berkeley, by the University of acknowledged Dr. Ali's California, The award celebrates documented strategies individuals demonstrate exceptional and inspiring leadership accepted the award academic, during across professional, community particularly who champion open ongoing innovation and achieve Innovation Forum 2025. significant positive global impact.

The Guyanese Head distinguished of State was selected of past for this esteemed including to utilising technology Obama,

innovative specifically Berkeley. well-researched and who in this critical area.

President special a or ceremony held at the domains, NASA Ames Research those Centre, as part of the Berkeley

This accolade places President Ali among a cohort recipients, luminaries recognition due to his such as former United steadfast commitment States President Barack renowned



UC Berkeleu honours President Ali with Global Leadership Award

investor Warren Buffett, and numerous other influential global leaders and diplomats. The impressive list of previous awardees spans decades and includes figures like Galo Plaza (President of Ecuador & UN diplomat, 1967), Sun Fo (2nd Premier of the Republic of China,

Zulfikar Chairman of Bank of the Berkshire 2007), Yuan Tseh Lee (Nobel Laureate, Taiwan, Leadership 2011), Janet Yellen (Chair of US Federal Reserve, 2014), Pranab Mukheriee (President of India, 2015), Barack Obama (President of the United States, 2016), Paul Jacobs (Chairman Executive Chairman of QUALCOMM, 2017), John Chambers

Ali (Immediate (President of Chairman of Cisco, marks (World Bank Chief & (Secretary-General of sustainability, Hathaway, Taiwan, 2023).

The Award

Past for Open Innovation another Pakistan, 1973), Sadako 2018), Francesco Starace significant international Ogata (Minister of Japan) (CEO, Enel Group, Italy, recognition for President to the United Nations, 2019), Michael Dell Ali. His prior accolades 1978), Miguel Echeverría (Chairman and CEO for visionary leadership (President of Costa Rica, of Dell Technologies, in environmental 2001), Tom Clausen 2020), Patricia Scotland stewardship, Commonwealth, security, and inclusive America, 2004), Warren 2022), and Dr. Mark economic growth further Buffett (Chairman of Liu (Chairman of TSMC, solidify his standing as a respected figure on the Global global stage.



UC Berkeley honours President Ali with Global Leadership Award

NORTHWELL HEALTH AND SUBRAJ FAMILY FOUNDATION INVEST IN GUYANA'S CARDIAC CARE



The gathering at the event

Guyana significant taken a step in \$209 million donation health from the George Subraj including Family Foundation. This Georgetown research.

has to heart disease.

The thanks to a generous from Guyana's public Public funding will support Hospital Corporation, Nicole Theriot. training, at Northwell Health in and the enhancement the United States. These representing of cardiac care at the trained professionals will Subraj Northwell Health Centre, then return to Guyana, the

of heart disease locally.

Frank Anthony, Vice **our co** President for the Centre Subraj said. for Global Health at donation Chairman of Northwell transformation, cardiovascular diseases, healthcare professionals CEO of Georgetown sector institutions, Corporation, the Rambarran, and U.S. Ali Public Ambassador to Guyana, the importance

Tony family

diagnosis and treatment investment in Guyana's and neart disease locally. healthcare sector. of cardiac care," reduce cardiovascular The announcement "Together, we are he stated. "Equally disease prevalence in the was made at a ceremony **investing in a first-of- important** at the Guyana Marriott its-kind study focused addressing the root in the Indo-Guyanese Hotel, attended by **on understanding the causes of heart** population. President Dr. Irfaan **causes and outcomes disease.**"

This of Ali, Health Minister Dr. of heart disease in

This investments Hospital aimed at improving Robbie medical care. President emphasized of accessible, affordable Subraj, local treatment for heart the disease, which has often and required costly overseas Foundation, care. "We need to addressing the region's equipped with advanced described the donation focus on improving high mortality rate due skills to improve the as a groundbreaking both the quality

Dr. community," Jauhar of Northwell private sectors is set to Health donation the importance of in Guyana, improving Northwell Health, Dr. is part of Guyana's addressing risk factors both treatment and Eric Cioe-Peña, Vice broader healthcare such as diet, exercise, prevention of heart with high blood pressure, disease across the nation. combatting will focus on training Health, Dr. Rajiv Jauhar, both public and private and diabetes, which are

accessibility modifiable and can help is Caribbean, particularly

This collaboration Rajiv between the public and highlighted transform cardiac care



Guyana gets \$209 million donation from Subraj Family Foundation

The signing of the MoU

The the Commercial Corporation commercial the between vears, aims to foster is a significant step in cooperation, information exchange, bilateral procurement

government Canadian goods and Canadian services in Guyana.

The agreement was (CCC) have renewed signed by Dr. Ashni their Memorandum of Singh, Senior Minister in Understanding (MOU) the Office of the President to enhance economic and with Responsibility for relations Finance, and Mr. Boris two Jacouty, Director of countries. The renewal Business Development, of the MOU, which will Infrastructure at CCC. be in effect for eight This renewed MOU facilitate advancing the strong relationship streamline the between Guyana and of Canada.

Canada's his remarks, Dr. Singh expressed Commissioner importance of Guyana, His Excellency the commitment of both providing access to renewed MOU Sebastien in strengthening ties reiterated between the two nations. support for Guyana's "This **renewed** development **MOU** represents stating that the two underscored a significant step countries must continue corporation's forward **our** to collaborate to identify commitment to Guyana's in efforts trade and investment development goals. "We ongoing to strengthen economic

and

ties

commercial

between Guyana and

Canada," he said. The

Minister also emphasised

the importance of greater

economic cooperation,

particularly encouraging

Guyanese businesses to

engage with Canadian

counterparts. He noted

that Canadian investors

have long contributed

to Guyana's economic

development.

the opportunities. He further are committed to

The signing of the MoU

High emphasised that the supporting Guyana's to MOU renewal highlights development Sigouin, nations to a long-term, Canadian expertise Canada's productive partnership. and Mr. agenda, representing

GUYANA, CANADA INK 8-YEAR

EXTENSION OF TRADE MOU

high-quality Jacouty, **products**," he said, CCC, adding that the renewed the MOU would help expand opportunities for both countries.

The original MOU was signed in April 2022 by Dr. Singh and Canadian Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade, and Economic Development, Honourable Mary Ng. Both parties are confident that this renewed agreement will continue to promote bilateral cooperation and foster mutual growth.

Residents in Region Ten are now emergency equipped tackle fire emergencies overall ongoing efforts to bolster fire station in Linden, damage and loss. firefighting capabilities approximately a twoin Guyana's remote hour journey, which can the initiative involves the communities.

Works, Bishop Juan

presided way of dealing with Ituni to operate the with the Neighbourhood over the handover, fires, especially when new fire tenders, "So, Democratic emphasising the critical **people work hard**, that in the case (NDC) or the Community role in their operation.

Kwakwani and Ituni will play in reducing lives," Minister Edghill you don't have to response stated, underscoring the look for something to times and enhancing urgency of having local coming from Linden community firefighting resources. following the official safety. He highlighted He stressed the need for but you, with the handover of new fire the significant challenge a swift response to all training that you tenders. The initiative is posed by the considerable fire incidents, regardless would receive, would part of the government's distance to the nearest of the cause, to minimise be able to respond

A key component of explained.

of role the new equipment save, and build their of an emergency, or another area, to fires," the Minister

The management be detrimental in time- training and employment and oversight of the fire Minister of Public sensitive fire situations. of local residents from tenders will be handled "It is not the best both Kwakwani and at the community level, Council



New fire tender for Kwakwani and Ituni

Development Council (CDC) taking a central

LOCAL CONTENT ACT A 'BRIDGE TO **SHARED PROSPERITY' - PRESIDENT ALI**

President Mohamed Ali has commended matter experts. The Guyanese, and essential summit's the organisers of the forum fosters discussion skills training. 2025 Local Content on Guyana's Local Summit for creating Content a strategic forum that with emphasis on supply "Collaborate, promotes networking, partnerships, and the continued development of local businesses.

Delivering the keynote address the summit's opening ceremony at the Guyana Marriott Hotel Kingston, Georgetown, President Ali described the event as "strategic purposeful", and highlighting its vital role in shaping Guyana's economic future.

Now in its third year, the summit has become a key annual gathering for policymakers, industry leaders, subcontractors,

Irfaan stakeholders, and subject job chain

Dr vendors, private sector procurement standards, Future Together." creation

Legislation, held under the theme representation of youth development, Build: Shaping Guyana's



Part of the gathering

Applauding the diverse turnout, President This year's event was Ali noted the strong Invest, and women.

of "One the I admire things this room about is its youthfulness and composition. You actually partnerships see forming—and, importantly, the strong, womandriven ambition. That is critical in building this new wave of development in our country," he remarked.

President emphasised that the Local Content Act has already directed over US\$1.5 billion into

Guyana's private sector through services linked to major oil and gas operations. He urged stakeholders to see the Act as a tool for empowerment rather than a limitation.

"Local Content legislation is not a barrier to development. It is a bridge to shared prosperity," he said.

Encouraging innovation, the President called on businesses to incentivise employeeadvancements technology in and "Let operations. your employees contribute to your success stories. If an idea works, give them a 20% share in that **success**," he advised.

The summit Ali featured a full day of panel discussions and presentations, covering achievements under the Local Content framework and exploring possible



President Ali addressing the summit

legislative updates. Industry leaders from ExxonMobil Guyana, Halliburton, SBM Offshore, and Baker Hughes were among those participating, sharing insights corporate strategies and opportunities for local enterprises.

GOVT ENGAGES BPO SECTOR AMIDST RECENT SETBACKS, **FOCUSES ON GROWTH AND TALENT**

back of operations by increasing difficulty in a major player and the attracting and retaining closure of another, the talent. This challenge government, recognising is largely attributed to the significant job the rapid proliferation creation potential of of job opportunities in the Business Process other burgeoning sectors Outsourcing convened a economy. sector, meeting with several to discuss its future Minister Singh and the prospects and address BPO representatives current challenges.

Senior Minister in the the Office of the President opportunities led the discussions new aimed at gaining a clients the sector's dynamics.

The primary concern job

Amidstrecent scaling engagement was the (BPO) within Guyana's evolving

Despite these companies headwinds, both acknowledged tremendous with Responsibility for expansion within the Finance and the Public sector. They highlighted Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, the potential to attract international to Guyana, deeper understanding of leading to the creation opportunities.



Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh meeting with some of the company representatives

and often serve as an further employment. important entry point into technology-driven Minister Singh outlined in various locations work environments. The several initiatives the nationwide. The Senior companies strong of numerous additional collaborate with the the BPO sector. These understanding of the Executive Officer of government to expand include the launch constant evolution the Guyana Office for voiced by the BPO Notably, BPO jobs are their presence across of targeted job fairs within the information Investment (Go-Invest), companies during the particularly appealing the country, secure more and public awareness communications.

In response, job expressed government intends to Minister desire to implement to bolster the

to the female workforce clients, and generate campaigns designed to highlight the available opportunities emphasised

technology sector. He stressed the necessity for the BPO model in Guyana to advance beyond telemarketing services towards a more sophisticated "contact centre" model, offering higher value-added jobs.

Minister reaffirmed Singh government's the unwaveringcommitment to close collaboration with the BPO sector to support its continued development expansion. He reiterated Guyana's attractiveness as a destination for BPO businesses.

Also present at the government's meeting was the Chief



The meeting with the representatives from the commercial banks

The government has pending requests. moved to inject US\$100

The decision was million into the local announced following a currency within the injection is intended to sector and the banking foreign exchange market high-level meeting on financial system, the provide immediate relief community to maintain in a bid to alleviate recent April 7, 2025, attended meeting pressures and ensure by Vice-President Dr. instances of temporary commercial banks operation of the foreign

FOREX MARKET GETS US\$100M LIFT FROM GOVT

commercial banks.

remains an adequate swift intervention. overall supply of foreign the timely settlement of Bharrat Jagdeo, Finance delays experienced by to meet outstanding exchange market. This

Minister Dr. Ashni Singh, some commercial banks demands for foreign proactive Central Bank Governor in fulfilling foreign currency as noted in a release commercial banks. W h i l e from the Ministry of acknowledging that there Finance, prompted the emphasised its continued

addressed to the system, allowing the smooth and efficient

Dr. Gobind Ganga, and exchange orders. These efficiently. The funds will intent to address any key representatives from "timing differences," be distributed across all potential

The commitment to working The US\$100 million closely with the private

measure more signals the government's disruptions and ensure a stable government financial environment.



<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u> KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

RECORD US\$422M INVESTMENT TO OVERHAUL



Signing of contract between GPL representative and the Kalpataru representative

In a move hailed as at "transformative", the signing System (DBIS).

This initiative, largest investment ever overhauling made in the Guyana energy sector. Power and Light's (GPL) infrastructure, to finally resolve the the whole system longstanding challenges will not work. We of inconsistent electricity [government]

Prime Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark evacuate it safely and Phillips,

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, conducted an inspection the ongoing construction of the critical Goedverwagting substation. This facility is a key component of the government's ambitious gas-to-energy project and will be responsible transmitting the generated power to consumers across the country.

According to information released by the Ministry of Works. the Goedverwagting substation is designed facility. This

the contract ceremony, government has signed emphasised the project's totalling significance, US\$422.2 million for that the government is the construction of vital building a "brand-new electrical transmission and state-of-the-art lines along the eastern transmission system, corridor of the Demerara- comparable to those Berbice Interconnected indeveloped nations.' He underscored that landmark this project represents the single a pivotal step in Guyana's

"If you don't have aims a proper backbone, supply across the nation. **producing all this** Minister power, and we have to speaking in a stable manner...

to where it is needed," substation Prime Minister Phillips new substation explained.

of US\$256.7 million, while Lot Two has been secured by Kalpataru for US\$156.5 million.

The project scope encompasses installation the of kilometers of 155 230kV double-circuit transmission lines and 167 kilometers of 69kV double-circuit transmission lines. Additionally, five new Trafalgar, Williamsburg, one-year timeframe. and East Berbice. The substation Phillips existing at Kingston will also that these undergo upgrades.

line will the Goedverwagting promising a remarkable across

to Williamsburg, ambitious Berbice. The 69kV line development. project has been divided will replace the current acknowledged at a combined cost Berbice substation. The has

a enhancement in GPL's which currently serves in output, particularly East crucial for into three lots. Power infrastructure along the criticisms of short-term 14,000 certificates for China has been awarded railwayembankment and decisions but affirmed new connections in Lots One and Three will also link to the East that Guyana currently



Signing of contract between GPL representative and the Power China representative

substations will be government anticipates **electricity**, **more than** Maurice constructed at strategic the entire project to be the demand," with commended locations: LBI, Enmore, completed within a swift these medium to long-government's decisive

Prime clarified supply. strategic significant interventions The new 230kV commitment to rectify highlighted in-progress electrical shortcomings, electricity

Minister to solidify the power the nation's escalating

Minister the

230,000 customers. future He noted that the He ministry's Inspectoral past Division issued nearly the past year alone, "adequate indicating rapid growth in housing, commercial ventures, and industrial activities. Minister Indar explained that the new transmission lines are essential to efficiently transport power generated at the upcoming Wales power station to the Goedverwagting substation.

GPL's Chairman Gajadhar term measures poised action in addressing energy needs. "Thev within have taken the bull align the Ministry of Public by the horns," he with the government's Works, Deodat Indar, remarked, praising the the significant investment connect the country's persistent substantial surge in as the foundation for demand a more resilient and DBIS, modern power grid.

GOEDVERWAGTING SUBSTATION PROGRESSING RANSMIT GAS-TO-ENERGY POWER



The minister conducting the site visit

receiving 230 kilovolts 375 (kV) of electricity directly (MVA) from the gas-to-energy each with a sophisticated voltage power will then switch yard capable of be stepped down to 69kV undergo a further using two substantial reduction in voltage as

Megavolt-Ampere transformers. weighing high- impressive 241 tonnes.

The power transformers, the electricity to 13.8kV, transmission. the voltage suitable for direct consumer use.

Significant progress the

the 69kV supply will cutting-edge technology undertaking. feed into two 60MVA from globally recognised

Notably, distribution to local Goedverwagting for 13.8kV switch gear at substation is one of three construction. the massive 375MVA underway at Wales, project,

Minister Indar's each companies Siemens and inspectionwas conducted weighing 59 tonnes. ABB, ensuring efficiency in the company of These will step down and reliability in power senior representatives from Kalpataru India, the the firm contracted the substation's various locations for such facilities being inspection underscores constructed to support the government's focus gas-to-energy on ensuring the timely has already been made project. Two additional and efficient completion at the site, with both of substations are currently of the gas-to-energy transformers and the two West Bank Demerara, expected to significantly 60MVA transformers further highlighting reduce electricity costs already in place. The the scale of this and improve energy substation will utilise national infrastructure security for Guyana.

UK AND GUYANA SIGN MOU TO BOOST DEFENCE COOP

Guyana United have their partnership signing the Memorandum (MoU) Understanding

was signed following way between President Dr. such

strengthened Ministry of Defence, the longstanding Right Honourable Lord described the United with Vernon Coaker, at the Kingdom as a strong and meeting were Senior a Office of the President on reliable partner, noting Minister within the of Shiv Chanderpaul Drive. that both countries are Office of the President

cooperation Defence Force (GDF) for democracy, the rule Service, the Honourable Gouveia. between the two nations. and the UK Ministry of law, and international Dr. agreement of Defence, paves the cooperation. for a high-level meeting collaboration in areas of as

President Lord

and the Irfaan Ali and the UK's strategic dialogue, and significant not only for Kingdom Minister of State in the joint capacity building. Guyana but also for the Ali wider region.

Also attending the Ashni Singh; Coaker's Cooperation, training, visit, describing it as Honourable Hugh Todd; Commissioner



Representative from the top sides at the meeting

Chief of Defence Staff, Guyana. Brigadier Omar Khan:

Lord

The MoU, signed bound by shared values, with responsibility for and National Security agreement reflect the at enhancing between the Guyana including a deep respect Finance and Public Advisor, Captain Gerry deepening of Guyanarelations UK Coaker reaffirm both countries' He Minister of Foreign was accompanied by commitment to working expanded welcomed the timing Affairs and International Her Excellency Jane together on shared the Miller, the UK High security priorities and to regional stability.

(LAMAT) has brought professionals life-changing healthcare March 31 to April 11. to over 1,700 Guyanese, including a two-month- mission, 1,721 patients old baby who regained received sight after a successful surgical, dental, and eye surgery.

hailed by President Dr. five Mohamed Irfaan Ali facilities: Georgetown as a powerful example Public Hospital, New of international Amsterdam and Port cooperation compassion. luncheon hosted at State the Cheddi Jagan Dental House, the president School. welcomed the U.S.

A two-week medical team, comprised of mission by the United Air Force and Army States Lesser Antilles medical personnel, who Medical Assistance Team partnered with local from

Over the course of the medical. care, and 480 surgeries The mission, was were performed across major health and Mourant Hospitals, West At a Demerara Hospital, and



President Ali and other officials with the LAMAT mission

Ali, the true impact marked a historic first went beyond numbers. for Guyana. highlighted the surgical procedure—an celebrating,"

"You've created story of a two-month- a powerful piece of old baby who can now history. That one see, thanks to a delicate act alone is worth But for President emotional moment that president told the U.S.

team. "This mission Dr. Frank left care—knowledge and while U.S. hope."

The local healthcare collaboration. workers and the cultural also acknowledged the to-military U.S. for embracing engagement Guyanese migrants who step toward now return home to cooperation, the contribute.

Health Minister progress.

behind praised the mission's **something even more** expanded reach into valuable than medical Regions Three and Six, Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission president Adrienne Galanek emphasized that the and senior military mission's real legacy officials reaffirmed their is the transfer of skills commitment to ongoing

This second LAMAT bridges built between mission to Guyana also the two countries. He marked the first militarybetween diversity and welcoming the two nations—a deeper mutual respect, and shared

GOVT TO CREATE LOW-ENTRY INVESTMENT VEHICLES SMALL BUSINESSES IN OIL & GAS SECTOR

Vice Bharrat Jagdeo opportunities establish vehicles specifically designed Guyanese press conference, specifically Dr. Jagdeo, who also larger Secretary of the People's investment avenues. Progressive Party (PPP), initiatives within the oil **about** now. small investors.

As strategy, government

President to create investment **in the future**," he new contractors already Jagdeo opportunities with stated, highlighting engaged. announced the entry points as low the significance of this government's plans to as GYD\$50,000 to undertaking. investment \$100,000. Dr. Jagdeo emphasised that the the growth of small planforshared prosperity for small core objective is to businesses, businesses enable small businesses to participate in the to directly benefit from streamline bureaucratic financial literacy and burgeoning oil and gas the nation's oil and processes, making it empowerment among industry. Speaking at gas prosperity, while easier to establish new citizens. The government serves as the General from these particular that the possibility of guarantee rates of return

revealed that three major that we are talking be explored. We

government also plans to focused on enhancing excluding ventures. Additionally, also intends to develop companies Dr. Jagdeo indicated mechanisms that will lower taxation rates for for people's investments. "It is a huge thing this business bracket will

Another intends of the key issues beyond the thousands of everybody

Bevond investment direct To further bolster opportunities, the PPP's the includes initiatives

"We have already made it clear that key people are going to something or get initiatives will be detailed and gas sector have been have some intense initiative outlined is get future cash grants more identified as suitable for discussions. We have increasing access to ...they can utilise the money," Dr. Jagdeo which is expected to be had those discussions government contracts for money in this fashion noted, suggesting that released to the public in of for a while but... small businesses, aiming too, because we want future cash grants could the near future, ahead the that would be one to expand participation people to own things, be channeled into these of the 2025 general and



Government intends to create investment opportunities with entry points as low as GYD\$50,000 to \$100,000

have the opportunity for must new investment vehicles. regional elections.

Dr. Jagdeo stated in Guyana to own that these comprehensive **their** in the PPP's manifesto,

President Irfaan Ali has unveiled a plan to enable Guyanese citizens to co-invest in national development projects, a key strategy in the government's pursuit of shared prosperity.

Speaking at a public meeting in Canal No. 2 Polder, President Ali stated that this wealth creation model aims to ensure all Guyanese benefit from the nation's economic advancement.

The President explained that these investmentopportunities will cater to various scales, allowing small, medium, and large-



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing residents at Canal No 2 Polder

scale citizens. and create these and national levels,"

participation **opportunities** that and promising higher will generate wealth returns for ordinary at the individual, "The next household, five years is to build community, region,

he affirmed.

Highlighting specific security, mentioned the upcoming significant every Guyanese will have National Guyana's widespread literacy campaigns to encourage responsible outlined his broader investment.

examples, President Ali Ali acknowledged the the number of fertiliser factory in of informal workers education, agriculture, Region Three, where currently outside the infrastructure, the chance to invest. Scheme (NIS). He digital services. "Our The future national gas announced a national message is filled with company will also serve plan to incentivise their substance. We are as another investment registration over the not here for seasonal vehicle, allowing citizens next five years, ensuring promises, we are to directly tap into they can access pensions here to build a future burgeoning upon retirement. "We where every citizen economy. To facilitate are going to find an can thrive," he said. this, the government avenue to help you intends to implement to get on the system. accompanied by several increased grants and That is what we are government ministers financial **about**," he stated.

President vision for a modern,

Addressing social inclusive, and prosperous President Guyana, emphasising development world-class Insurance healthcare,

The President was and officials at the Ali meeting.

With defences "One Health Project", ongoing backed by a US\$22 development. million from the World million grant from the health Pandemic Fund, aims to systems

signed by Dr. Ashni security. Singh, Senior Minister in the Office of the President the with Responsibility for proactive

against Conference healthcare

The project will The initiative, focus on improving which includes a US\$7 laboratory and workforce million loan and a US\$15 capabilities, enhancing surveillance for enhance the country's detection, strengthening capacity to prevent, One Health coordination, prepare for, and respond developing data-driven to health crises, such as surveillance, boosting the the COVID-19 pandemic. public health workforce, The agreement was and reinforcing border

Dr.Singhemphasised nation's

towards strengthening at the Arthur Chung expressed gratitude for noted, highlighting the in Centre. the World Bank's support alignment of the project interconnectedness of potential health crises, This milestone is a key during the COVID-19 with national health human, animal, and the country's rare joint Guyana has launched the moment in Guyana's pandemic, which played priorities.

eye Resident Representative, of Guyanese citizens. He occasions," Dr. Singh Guyana for its leadership address gaps identified



Signing of the agreement for the One Health Project

a crucial role in the government's management of the Development Doretti, World Bank safeguarding the health cited on multiple Bank,

Jaime Saavedra, successful Director of

Human Dr. Frank Anthony, also of the "One Health for expressed appreciation Project" and strengthens approach crisis. "The Guyana Latin America and the for the World Bank's Guyana's Finance, and Diletta and its dedication to example has been Caribbean at the World support and outlined workforce. commended how the project would

addressing

the in Guyana's pandemic response. He highlighted external evaluation of its pandemic preparedness, which has guided the project's development.

This announcement with coincided inauguration of a new College of Medical Sciences building at the University of Guyana. facility, The which accommodates 1,100 students across undergraduate 17 further programmes, Minister of Health, aligns with the goals healthcare

REGION TEN PARENTS RECEIVE NEWBORN CASH GRA

children.

The distribution exercise at the Linden Hospital Complex was spearheaded by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill. He spoke of the government's commitment to ensuring that newborns are wellequipped to benefit from Guyana's shared prosperity. "Every one of them must grow

announcement

by

made

Dorothy

in Region Ten, providing to get employment... to new parents to Guyana so that 15 for the initiative. Paula ensure the wholesome and 20 years from Peters, said that the development of their now, they will be grant would allow young men



Paula Peters

The government's **up with that hope young women who** special for her baby Newborn and with that sparkle will do great things daughter. Cash Grant initiative in their eyes knowing for Guyana," Minister Naraine, another parent, was officially launched that they will be able Edghill stated. New crucial financial support We are transforming expressed their gratitude

parents and her to do something



Ramrattan Naraine

Ramrattan expressed his happiness that the government is looking out for even the youngest citizens and indicated that the grant would go towards the child's needs. "I feel happy! It's very good and I would like to say thanks to the government. It will go towards the child," he exclaimed.

Edghill Minister the highlighted government's carefully considered approach to caring for Guyana's children, urging recognition of their



Government rolls out newborn grant in Linden

efforts to bring prosperity to cost the national January 2025.

\$100,000 The Newborn Cash Grant initiative is estimated

to all citizens. Regional treasury approximately Health Officer and CEO \$1.3 billion annually. of the Linden Hospital Over the past few weeks, Complex, Dr Gregory government ministers Harris, expressed have been actively rolling gratitude on behalf of the out the initiative across parents of the 164 babies various administrative successfully delivered regions to ensure a at the hospital since smooth and efficient distribution process.

NO. 1 DISPENSARY. DOROTHY BAILE

Residents Georgetown can look government is going forward to improved to spend \$55 million services to upgrade with the government's facility." The upgrades significant investment of are aimed at expanding which were previously several other health Lodge, Sophia, North posts across Guyana, \$235 million to upgrade the scope and quality of unavailable due to centres in Georgetown East La Penitence, significantly broadening two key facilities: the medical care available to structural limitations. that No. 1 Dispensary and residents in the capital He affirmed that the benefited the Dorothy Bailey city. health centre. This The

Anthony during a recent Health Centre, which has commitment sod-turning ceremony significantly enhanced accessible healthcare, held in Campbellville. Minister Anthony under the management commenced on a new detailed the financial of the Georgetown health centre at Canal commitment, stating, Public **government** Corporation. is expending \$180 Anthony highlighted the million to do back transformative impact underscored No. 1 Dispensary. of the upgrades at government's ongoing This are

of **[health centre]**. The

was follows the recent \$294 Minister million modernisation of Health Dr Frank of the Festival City the patient care and is now construction we Festival City, noting the efforts to modernise **upgrading** introduction of essential health

community in that upgrades, investment area is now receiving those in Agricola, East approach has resulted facilities across the "excellent care."

Furthering Rose, government's has Hospital No. 2 Polder on the West Minister Bank of Demerara.

Dr Anthony the Bailey services like X-rays, nationwide. He listed Bourda.

have

already Campbellville, Industry, healthcare access. from and Kitty. Over the past including few years, this proactive close to 380 [health] La Penitence, David in the construction of 25 country. We have Alberttown, new health centres and spent a lot of time



facilities The Dorothy Bailey Health Centre on South Road,

manage upgrading these facilities... to ensure that patients coming to us would get better conditions where they can wait and [receive] service," Minister Anthony emphasised, highlighting government's the focus on improving the patient experience at the community level.

<u>guyanese diaspora digest</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

EAST BANK D

Thousands residents along East Bank of Demerara will now benefit from established justice, thanks to the standing This Court. development, brings legal services closer to approximately 18,267



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall S.C, delivering remarks at the opening of Friendship Magistrate's Court

the Craig to Long Creek.

The newly improved access to addresses a long- Affairs, Mohabir Anil Friendship commissioned faced by residents who the Friendship Magistrate's previously had to journey commitment vital to courts in Providence Diamond/Golden or Grove. The facility will now handle a substantial portion of legal matters for 31 percent of the East Bank's population.

Already, the court commenced has operations, with over 200 cases assigned and hearings scheduled. \$449.6 million facility, constructed by Romano Builders Inc., is expanding equipped with a modern accessibility courtroom, magistrate's the

operation.

Attorney General of court and Minister of Legal nationwide.

of residents spanning from efficient and comfortable he stated, highlighting the ongoing expansion facilities court The court challenge Nandlall, SC, emphasised represents a key part of government's this expansion.

The new facility



An interior view of the Friendship Magistrate's Court

nation.

justice joins a growing list of across recently commissioned "**The** magistrate's courts, chambers, and living administration of including those in efficiency, all courts services for East Bank quarters for magistrates justice is crucial to Diamond/Grove, Port are now equipped with residents. and clerks, ensuring a civilised society," Kaituma, Mahaicony, advanced technological



Friendship Magistrate's Court

Ongoing construction testimony, eliminating projects in Soesdyke and the need for longhand La Parfaite Harmonie, evidence. along with plans for a court in Tuschen, of the Judiciary, Justice further demonstrate the Yonette government's dedication Edwards, hailed the to bringing justice closer court's opening as a to its citizens.

To

Vigilance, and Mahdia. systems for recording

Acting Chancellor Cummingssignificant step forward enhance in improving justice

HIGH COURT REJECTS RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT **FOR VOTER REGISTRAT**

- COU RT AFFIRMS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE WITHOUT PROOF OF ADDRESS



Court affirms constitutional right to vote without proof of address

dismissed a challenge (GECOM) reaffirming that citizens Joseph are not obligated to voter

to vote. Acting Chief citing concerns over must Justice Roxane George voters being registered at **construed** SC issued the ruling, abandoned properties or interpreted liberally framework for voter the upholding Article 159 of unknown locations. the 1980 Constitution, voter eligibility.

The legal was filed by Carol Smith-Joseph, Election Scrutineer of evidence to support Congress the National Registration **not to be located at** requirements. The High Court has Elections Commission's information," registration challenge prove they physically should require proof attempt to suppress the confirms that the only to vote," Dr Jagdeo live at the address listed of actual residency or a constitutional rights of requirements to register said, linking the legal their registration legitimate connection to citizens. the registered address,

However, that these claims were **securing** action unsubstantiated.

"The Chief has produced no said.

argued that describing the legal were struck down. as an

"The constitution Guyanese

always and **purposively** registration the **for** the rights, not depriving and

AG Nandlall further Reform **there** are **persons** repeatedly attempted to and PPP Не she discredited proposal to and current stated in her judgment. make the voter ID card disenfranchise voters.

> The as a voter in Guyana are challenge to a broader

be and being 18 years or participation. and older. It ensures the legal guarantees.

\mathbf{Dr} intentions

Jagdeo strongly criticised the 2020 elections. (Amendment) Act of **the address stated** referenced previous the PNCR, accusing Dr Jagdeo described 2022 and the Guyana **on their registration** efforts, including the the party of hypocrisy the series of court attempting to challenges

is trying to take public claims to ruling away people's right contrary. citizenship strategy to restrict voter

He also connected residency remains requirement push to the **purpose** inclusive, in line with the opposition's calls for which sets the criteria for Chief Justice ruled of advancing and country's constitutional biometric voting, arguing both efforts aim to limit Jagdeo access to the ballot. Dr applicant restricting rights," he slams Opposition's Jagdeo dismissed the opposition's narrative Following the court's of promoting electoral the People's National the contentions that noted that the PNCR has decision, Vice President reform, suggesting it General is rooted in unproven (PNCR). She contested who have been found tighten voter registration Secretary Dr. Bharrat claims of fraud during

by opposition as part of seeking to impose a registration processes. Attorney General mandatory in 1997 and residency requirement Represented by attorney Anil Nandlall, SC, legal challenges in 2019 about democracy and undermining democratic for voter registration, Dexter Todd, Smith- welcomed the ruling, and 2022, all of which the voters' list, APNU participation, despite

to curb the illegal trade individuals, especially and misuse of sirens, private vehicle owners, announced implement customs regulations. **Attorney** General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall S.C. revealed initiative during the Minister Court.

In a decisive move issue of unauthorised government has using sirens, a practice plans to legally reserved for stricter emergency services like stores. the Guyana Police Force, we will revise our Gyana Fire Service, and **customs regulations** importation of sirens, ambulances.

"We must stop the importation." the **illegal use of sirens**," commissioning of the stated. "These devices for immediate action, laws will establish tighter Friendship Magistrates' are intended for indicating that amended controls, preventing the authorised vehicles laws could introduce sale and distribution This action directly **only**, **yet they are** fines

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL SIRENS GOVT SET TO TIGHTEN CU STOMS REGULATIONS

Therefore, violators. control to

and

By targeting the **their** the government aims to disrupt the supply chain President Dr. Irfaan that fuels their illegal use. Nandlall Ali had previously called The review of customs driver's of these devices to addresses the rampant readily available in license suspensions for unauthorised persons.



The amended laws could introduce fines and driver's license suspensions for violators

GUYANA SIGNS THIRD DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME, COMMITS TO STRONGER LABOUR STANDARDS

its third Decent Work the region to discuss of the workforce. Country (DWCP). commitment highlights to foster social justice the government's focus and on advancing workers' enhancing social protection, and crucial topics creating fulfilling job as labour migration, opportunities for all strengthening citizens.

The Organisation's Conference

Programme innovative approaches This and share best practices sustainable economic progress.

The meeting covered social protection systems. formal developing relevant skills agreement was signed for the labour market, during the opening of improving occupational the International Labour safety and health, and (ILO) formalising the informal 13th Caribbean Ministers economy. Prime Minister Labour Meeting Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips Centre address, stressing the rapid (ACCC). The two-day urgency of addressing growth,

Guyana has taken a Work for Resilience: in the Caribbean's labour new job opportunities. membership stands at it a cornerstone of significant step toward Securing the Future landscape. He called for However, he highlighted promoting safe and of Caribbean Labour", a coordinated regional ongoing disparities in working provided a platform response to protect and employment

equity, the conditions by formalising for stakeholders across enhance the well-being including a unemployment rate

Signing of third Decent Work Country Programme

Prime at the Arthur Chung Phillips delivered a key acknowledged Guyana's of 32%. He also noted event, themed "Decent the growing challenges created thousands of 37.8%, and trade union

Minister and a high youth also unemployment rate economic that women's workforce occupational which has participation is low at

just 10%.

In response, initiatives, such enhanced access to free education, challenges. and wage increases to promote decent work Joseph and fair wages. Efforts expressed to address informal to the ILO for its employment, makes up 48-53% of the collaboration, labour force, include has contributed seminars, community positive developments outreach, and increased in industrial relations, labour inspections to occupational ensure compliance with and youth training. labour laws.

also emphasised the to safeguard workers' importance of improving and safety, making

resilience. economic With support from the government is ILO, the government 14.5% implementing strategic is modernising the as Occupational Health and training Safety Act to address programmes, expanded contemporary workplace

> Minister of Labour Hamilton gratitude which continued support and which safety, He called for stronger The Prime Minister regional cooperation rights and promote health economic stability in the Caribbean.

ORIGINS FASHION FESTIVAL BU

Tourism, Commerce rejected claims made broader commitment to York and supported with the ORIGINS: Guyana 2025. Fashion Festival was of Guyanese creatives.

According Ministry, conceptualised professionals

The Ministry of investment in Guyana's the potential for her video now circulating on what it called "distortions Industry fashion sector. This brand to participate. has initiative is part of a \$2.7

Marissa representative of Alex Wilson's team of Guyanese industry during which the goals being managed organisers were shared. At that discussions

billion for the festival's March public dissemination of contribute. known political allocated in 2024 and 26 launch, which was activists, alleging that \$3.6 billion budgeted for played at the Railway Courtyard event. She Wilson was also acknowledged based on her ideas rather and her team were in opening remarks. A than the collective vision initially contacted by a detailed proposal from to Graham, who is serving submitted on March the as Event Director for 31, outlining potential ORIGINS brand was the inaugural festival. areas of contribution. and A virtual meeting was However, as several of developed by a team held on March 13, 2025, those areas were already and and vision of ORIGINS local creatives, internal assembled to advance time, there was a mutual ongoing when Wilson government's understanding regarding released a misleading

social media.

The

and exaggerations," Ministry especially from someone Wilson's team later e x p r e s s e d of Guyanese heritage by Marissa Wilson New the creative industries, submitted a short video disappointment at the who had been invited to

The government remains committed to showcasing Guyana as a hub for creativity and culture, and ORIGINS stands as a flagship platform for local talent. Despite the controversy, preparations for the May event continue, driven by the vision and skill of Guyanese designers and industry professionals.



The festival is set to be a transformative experience, promoting couture like never seen before

Guyana's revolution is getting a Industry and Commerce



Sooknanan Elon, Green Tech Fund Judae. alongside a past winner of the Green Tech Fund Initiative.

green Ministry of Tourism, million-dollar push. The has launched the 2025 Tech Fund, Green offering up to \$1.2 million in grants to spark the stewardship. development of climatesmart technologies and Walrond business the sustainable practices. This initiative dedication entrepreneurs and small for a diversified and for businesses, driving green sustainable innovation and fostering "This administration opportunity a more environmentally is conscious economy.

The fund specifically designed "We projects businesses to support that enhance business embrace processes and **friendly** provide Guyana's commitment opportunities, a core in a greener, more fund, with proposals due environmental

GUYANA'S ECO-STARTUPS goal of this fund."

ION-DOLL

Minister Oneidge Mohamed Shazim emphasised Ibrahim, CEO of the must be registered with urged to explore this government's Small Business Bureau the SBB and submit opportunity by visiting to (SBB), highlighted the a detailed business the SBB's website or aims to empower local incentivising innovation transformative potential proposal outlining their contacting their office. future. "This is a unique includes committed to develop fostering a greener edge is economy," she stated, that encourage environmental and supplier quotations. and economic growth. to challenges and build eco- economic resilience," judges will select 12 practices he said. "Investing in winners, each receiving sustainable while maximising sustainable practices up to \$1.2 million. The solutions, aligning with e c o n o m i c is an investment SBB is managing the

prosperous Guyana." by August 31, 2025.

To qualify, applicants entrepreneurs. green solution. This This initiative represents to needs, cost analysis, a sustainable future, **cutting-** software solutions financial address cash flow projections, way in green innovation

A panel of expert

Entrepreneurs are equipment a significant step towards utilisation, empowering Guyanese statements, businesses to lead the



<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u>

NEW HIGH-TECH BUILDING TRANSFORMS MEDICAL EDUCATION AT UG



The new US\$4.7M College of Medicine

The University art building for its College where ushering in a new era positioned, not only of high-tech medical to deliver excellent Dr. Frank Anthony, for education. President Dr. health Irfaan Ali commissioned patients, but to be building's importance in professionals," the US\$4.576 million part of the research," its role in supporting highlighting the nation's growing demand for advanced in creating a world-class facility is important Martin, health education and education and healthcare for the continuation the building's impact also praised the facility. to excel in a rapidly research.

we want technologies Medical Sciences, **the country to be** medical training. care system.

cutting-edge educational **the** microbiology, anatomy, haematology, and biochemistry, as well as research and skills labs and modern classrooms. "We will also have to have labs that allow our students learn robotics "This is about a and AI," President Ali of Guyana (UG) has huge vision. This is added, underscoring the unveiled a state-of-the- about understanding integration of advanced

Minister of Health, to underscored addressing the increasing said. emphasising President Ali stated, need for trained medical the professionals. building's significance state-of-the-art Paloma of medical training on student capacity. "I Jaime Saavedra, World advancing medical field.

The facility boasts in Guyana, given am happy to say that Bank including health infrastructure allows us to take in Latin America and the

expansion of this building today, Human Development for specialised laboratories and the dire need about 40 per cent Caribbean, stated, "This



President Ali commissions US\$4.57M College of Medical Sciences Building at UG

the **trained**

UG's "**The** Chancellor, Mohamed-

health medical school," she he revealed, previous Vice constraints that limited Professor student intake.

highlighted a key funding partner, knowledge

facility symbolises government's relentless commitment advance health and education. It serves as a powerful testament to the transformative investments that we all have shared vision for a prosperous future for Guyana."

The new building, funded by the Guyanese additional of students in the government and the World Bank, marks addressing a significant leap in space medical education at UG, equipping future healthcare professionals The World Bank, with the tools and necessary

EARNING CHANNEL S - DISTRIBUTES TV BOXES FOR ENHANCED EDUCATION ACCESS



President Ali addressing the launch

Guyana The Learning Channel (GLC) has ushered in a new era of broadcasting with the launch of six innovative digital channels, accompanied by the distribution of GLC Digital Television Boxes. This initiative, unveiled in at the National Track and Intelligence Field Centre in Leonora, Region Three, aims to role," he stated.

bridge the digital divide Education, educational content.

transformative potential **the** of these new channels, She emphasised Guyana Digital to the nation's youth for ensuring artificial "In five years from environment, environment **be playing the lead** needs:

Minister

Priya and ensure widespread Manickchand, reiterated access to high-quality the GLC's mission to "make education President Dr. Irfaan available to everyone emphasised the equally outside of classroom." aligning them with initiative's commitment expanding access School and preparing to quality education, a future dominated by household can benefit digital technology and from innovative digital intelligence. learning experiences.

Director, GLC **now or less, your** Annieshaw Mohamed, children [will live] described the digital in a completely new upgrade as delivering an "a richer, clearer, that and more interactive is highly digitisd, viewing experience." **environment** The six new channels are which Artificial tailored to specific age will groups and educational

• GLC Junior (24- • GLC Discover (24- Potaro Road in Region **52):** Engaging content



Minister of Education Priya Manickchand with a parent, holding the digital box and her child

for preschoolers.

- GLC **Elementary** programs for primary
- students. • GLC Teen (24-48): Resources secondary students.
- history.

40): Science, industry, and career exploration.

(24-32): Educational • GLC Elevate (24-**36):** Adult education personal and development.

The GLC's signal and discussions for covers a vast area, reaching both urban and • GLC Plus (24-44): remote communities thus fostering Guyanese culture and across Guyana, including inclusive educational areas like 42 Miles up

Seven, Arakaka in Region One, and St. Cuthbert's Mission in Region Four. The channel is also accessible through cable providers ENET and Atlantic Cable, and analog television in various regions.

The distribution of GLC Digital TV boxes is crucial for ensuring that all households, especially with those televisions, can access the enhanced digital signals. This initiative guarantees that Guyanese can enjoy the clearer picture, improved sound, and expanded channel options offered by digital broadcasting,

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand inspected the progress

MINISTER MANICKCHAND INSPECTS PROGRESS ON PROSPECT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Construction at Prospect, East Bank accommodate Demerara Manickchand anticipated Priya of the US\$8.1 million area. project during a site visit, observing work in progress.

The

The significant educational facility will Technology Department specialised boast a comprehensive encompassing

1,000 a language laboratory, Department inspected the progress population growth in the training, the school home management. will feature a wellmodern equipped

a well- Furthermore, the along with a canteen Industrial school will include and adequate sanitary metal and Performing Arts students and staff.

expansive range of amenities, work, wood work, and facilities, a library actively underway on school, being built on including 25 classrooms, AutoCAD facilities, as for student research a new, state-of-the- approximately 6.12 acres a dedicated information well as a comprehensive and reading, and a art secondary school of land, is designed to technology laboratory, Home Economics designated sick bay for with student welfare. An (EBD). students, catering to and multiple science dedicated spaces for food administrative block will Minister of Education both the current and laboratories. To support and nutrition, clothing house essential offices future technical and vocational and textile studies, and such as the principal's office and a staff room, Visual facilities

From Despair to Hope...

Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy



"It's as though I'm stepping from razor blade to razor blade."

"It feels like my feet are under attack by fire ants."

"Like I'm walking on wet paint with rolled up socks,"

And you're in this type of pain all the time.

"It's relentless, keeping you up at night and preventing you from doing even the most mundane tasks. Things I used to take for granted, like wearing shoes, going grocery shopping. Two of my three children were getting married last year, I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to attend their weddings," shares Norah W.

Norah was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy in 2015, a degenerative condition affecting almost 5% of people over the age of 55

"My doctor sat me down and said, 'Norah I'm sorry to tell you this, but you have peripheral neuropathy. I'm going to prescribe you gabapentin to manage the discomfort but overall, neuropathy is untreatable.'

My first thought was, 'we can cure cancer but you can't stop my feet from hurting?' It felt like a cruel joke."

While neuropathy can be caused by a number of things including diabetes and chemotherapy, over 23% of neuropathy cases are classified as idiopathic, in layman's terms, the cause is unknown. This was the case with Norah.

"Basically every question I had was met with an 'I don't know.' It was depressing to say the least."

Eventually, Norah was forced to quit her job because the numbness had started to set in and prevented her from driving.

Fortunately for Norah, she would attend a health fair featuring TLC Medicine and the work they were doing to treat peripheral neuropathy.

"I thought it had to be a sham," Norah shares. "After so many specialists told me there was no hope, here was this acupuncturist saying she had a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy! I just had to call and I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am that I did."

Teresa Lau, founder of TLC Medicine, says that cases like Norah's are incredibly common. "Almost all of my neuropathy patients have been told at one point or another that there is no hope. I like to think I specialize in offering hope."

...with TLC Medicine

To quote the New York Times, "Chinese medicine proves itself where Western medicine fails."

"Acupuncture has been treating complicated, chronic conditions such as neuropathy for thousands of years," shares Teresa.

"I start with a foundation based on this time-tested science and my decade of clinical experience. I then tailor treatments based on a number of factors. This includes the severity of your neuropathy, how long you've had it, whether or not there are any underlying factors, things of that nature," explains Teresa.

"It's because of these personalized treatment programs that we're seeing such incredible results!"

Four months after treatment, Norah is back at work and thriving.

"Being back at work isn't even the most exciting part," exclaims Norah. "Not only was I able to attend my son's wedding, but I could walk down the aisle! It was the most magical moment and I have Teresa to thank for it. To think I might've missed that," Norah held back tears.

If you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its cause, it's time to call Teresa and the staff at TLC Medicine.

Call (416) 461-0581 to schedule your very own comprehensive consultation or visit TLC-Medicine.ca to take advantage of their new patient offer, a \$40 consult (normally \$240).



PRESIDENT ALI'S SILI FORGING FUTU

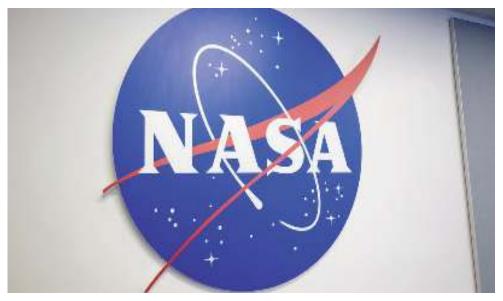
President Dr. Irfaan Ali, joined by First Lady Arya Ali and Minister Susan Rodrigues, recently toured top tech hubs in Silicoan Valley in Northern California, exploring collaboration opportunities for Guyana's future.

NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTRE

President Ali was briefed by Director Dr. Eugene Tu on the Vertical Motion Simulator—key to drone and aviation tech. He also viewed NASA's advanced supercomputer and its billion-pixel resolution data wall.









GOOGLE X

At Google X, the President met CEO Dr. Astor Teller to discuss innovative solutions and potential partnerships between Guyana and the Moonshot Factory.









GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

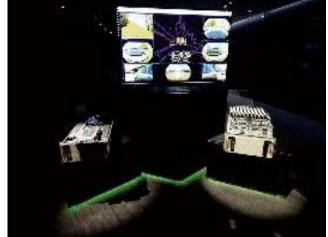
KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

N VALLEY TECH TOUR PARTNERSHIPS

Nvidia's Vice President Charles Wuischpard shared their vision for sovereign AI and opportunities in AI infrastructure and workforce development.











IBM HEADQUARTERS

President Ali engaged IBM's Jeff Welser on quantum computing and secure data systems, with interest in joint solutions tailored for Guyana.









MICROSOFT CAMPUS

At Microsoft, President Ali explored the company's vast tech ecosystem, identifying areas for future collaboration.









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<u>PROJECT NIVER NIPER I</u> KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

DREAMS REALISED AS 11 FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO NEW HOMES IN LETHEM

For mother of four, expressed having a property to call her own.

and pleased. I haven't day without having

Sharla **had a property to call** Hernandez and 10 other my own and this is the families, the dream of **first time**," she shared, homeownership became having previously lived a tangible reality as they in a property she was received the keys to caretaking. The security their newly constructed of owning her own two-bedroom homes in home brought immense Culvert City, Lethem. relief. "It is a very Hernandez, a single good feeling to have something to own, immense joy at finally and call it yours and you don't have that feeling where you "I'm very happy will be put out one



Feona Thomas after receiving the keys to her home

a place to go to," she added.

Hernandez opted Ministry's for the during supervision construction, which she found beneficial as a single parent. "The contractor was very cooperative," she noted, adding that she plans to move in immediately once utilities are connected.

Feona Thomas, a staff of the Lethem

than

communities.

more

Regional sentiments. "My kids 600 residents. to move in. My son is nine years old and he always asks 'Mommy when we are going to have our own home?' So, he is super excited," she said, expressing gratitude for the government's initiative.

Yimochi Melville, another beneficiary currently living in his father's home, echoed the excitement of having million in support per assigned based on the his own place. "It's home, partnering with strong response to the good to have my own commercial banks that programme. With the home. This is very offer \$2 million loans recent handover of 11 welcoming for me at a 3.5 percent interest homes, a total of 65 have and my family and we rate for the remaining now been completed. are excited about it," costs to landowners. he said.

Support

YURONG PARU GETS DOUBLE BOOST

- NEW HOMES AND RELIABLE WATER

Hospital a vision of President the keys during a and residing in staff Dr Mohamed Irfaan housing outreach in the quarters, shared similar Ali, aims to benefit region. He announced and I are very excited government provides \$1 awarded and contractors

The that 100 homes were



Sharla Hernandez and her children after receiving the keys to her new home

Minister of Housing The Lethem Housing and Water Collin Croal Programme, officially handed over



Yimochi Melville and his daughter after receiving their

Yurong Paru, Region Planning simultaneous recently officiated the the local significant step forward Region Nine. hinterland for the community.

The Programme, Housing spearheaded by Central Housing

Authority has received (CH&PA), provided 10 a major lift with the vulnerable families with arrival safe, sustainable, and of new homes and a completely free homes,

> emphasised the gapin hinterland regions, Region Nine. and stating, "Our goal is



Adding to to create thriving celebrations, Minister pipeline the \$23 million water enhancing their skills. supply system in Yurong Paru. This crucial the infrastructure 95% of the village.

Hinterland Services Community

This Director at GWI, Jailal, programme is about explained that Yurong **just** Paru previously relied economy homes; it's about a solely on a mountain aims to build 400 homes new system includes a across Regions One, drilled well, executed by the Seven, Eight, and Nine, regional contractor C&H Hinterland government's dedication with 120 slated for Engineering, and has to bridging the housing various communities in provided employment opportunities the villagers involved in installation Croal also commissioned and solar panel setup,

Recognising challenges of project maintaining hinterland has significantly boosted water systems, GWI, in Chairman, Bertie Xavier, marking a significant access, now collaboration with the lauded the projects for step towards sustainable reaching approximately Ministry of Amerindian their significant positive development Affairs. is



Water woes end for Yurong Paru with commissioning of new system

manage these systems. participation. Two CSOs from Yurong Paru have already been housing trained to oversee their initiatives village's new water a total infrastructure.

Regional training impact on residents' daily improved livelihoods. Service lives and commended

combined The and water represent government investment of Vice million in Yurong Paru,



Yurong Paru residents get new houses

SILICA CIT Y'S SECOND PI

President Ali has announced the partnerships. imminent launch of the second phase of the along the Soesdyke- city; it is going to hotels, ambitious Silica City project, specifically investments first inviting from Guyanese living in the diaspora.

Speaking community highlighted that this Miami, prioritises a rapid construction of of within two weeks, will with a focus on wellness, homes. focus on developing modern infractructure

Irfaan through private sector

and technology, and selfcufficiency

Silica City, located City is "**not only a** centres, envisioned as Guyana's incorporating energy- announcement and technologically facilities promoting diaspora involvement million. advanced urban centre, mental and physical in this transformative Silica aiming to house around well-being. The initial national project. meeting 15,000 families. The phase has seen a \$2.11

will expand herond investment of around as a modern and self-

Ali residential construction comprising and opens from

in Canal No 2 Polder, project, in collaboration billion investment in the project has already social amenities, such WBD, President Ali with the University of infrastructure and the seen the allocation as shopping centres, phase, set to commence high standard of living 110 young professional 3,800 acres of land condominiums, hotels, for The upcoming phase development, with an solidifying its position

professional homes, President Ali residential construction comprising 75 flat emphasised that Silica to include shopping housing units priced flat apartments, between \$25.2 million other and \$25.3 million, and Linden Highway, is **be a way of life**," amenities. President Ali's 35 elevated units ranging approximately sustainable saving technologies and a significant avenue for \$34.0 million to \$34.5

> Silica City is slated to include a diverse The initial phase of range of commercial and approximately apartment complexes, infrastructural and restaurants, further

\$2.11 billion. Significant sufficient urban centre. progress is being made The upcoming second the construction phase, with its focus on of the first 110 young diaspora investment, is expected to inject further capital and expertise into this groundbreaking development.



The initial phase has seen a \$2.11 billion investment

Guyana creates buzz with Low Carbon booth at World Expo 2025 in Japan



Visitors at the Guyana booth at World Expo 2025 in Japan

2025 is being coordinated and spear-

headed by the Ministry of Tourism, In-

dustry and Commerce, the Guyana

GUYANA made a remarkable impression during the opening day of the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, which drew an estimated 22,000 visitors to the national pavilion on Sunday, April 13.

Being held under the theme, "Sustainability through Innovation: Guyana's Low Carbon Journey," Guyana is showcasing its vision for a sustainable and inclusive future.

According to a press release, the Guyana booth has quickly become a highlight of the expo, captivating audiences with an immersive display that brings to life the country's pristine rainforests, rich biodiversity, and world-class eco-tourism offerings.

"Visitors have been particularly drawn to the pavilion's exhibits, which offer a comprehensive look at Guyana's innovative development path.

"A central feature of the booth is Guyana's internationally recognised Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS 2030). Through interactive presentations, the pavilion showcases key transformational projects such as the development of Silica City—a modern, climate-resilient development—and the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, a flagship initiative that will drive Guyana's transition to clean, renewable energy," the release said.

It added that the country's presence at the expo will feature an official National Day Celebration on April 27, where visitors will experience an authentic cultural showcase.

The event will feature traditional music, dance, culinary offerings, and creative works from Guyanese artistes.

Additionally, the release stated that Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, will deliver remarks at the April 27 event.

It was pointed out that Minister Walrond will also use the opportunity to highlight the country's growing portfolio of investment opportunities across key sectors.

Guyana's participation in Expo

Tourism Authority, and other stakeholders. The Guyana Office for Investment (Go-INVEST) is also a part of the delegation and will be present over the sixmonth period to address investment matters.

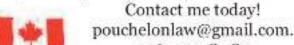
According to the release, the ministry was preparing for the expo for several months.

Held every five years, the World Expo is one of the largest global events, providing a platform for countries to share ideas and innovations that can shape a better future. Expo 2025 runs from April 13 to October 13 under the overarching theme, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives."

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<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u> KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

REGION THREE LAND APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE PROVISIONAL ALLOCATION LETTERS BY SEPTEMBER 2025



Another resident voicing her concerns with President Ali

President Ali announced that all **the lands in Wales.** for land in Region Three previously up to 2024 will receive under in La Grange.

President Ali stated backlog,

Irfaan we have opened up individuals who applied These lands in Wales, allocated the former provisional allocation administration following letters for their house sugar estate closures but lots by September 2025. later reclaimed by the The President made this current government in commitment during a 2020, will now benefit community meeting held approximately 3,000 to 4,000 families.

"You'll get that that the government letter of provisional is actively clearing the allocation and you emphasising will get to go see the that, "We will clear the development works backlog completely and the lot [where Region Three you will be placed.] because we have So, start saving for now built the roads, the construction of

your home," President has been allocated to manufacturing

significant investment providing housing in billion in compared to This aims homeownership Additionally,



A resident registering his confidence in the government's development agenda for Guyana

within relief for commuters.

the last four years, Looking ahead, the ongoing gas-to-healthcare, totalling nearly \$65 President Ali announced energy project in Wales, economic Region that bids are currently featuring a 300 MW for all citizens, urging Three, representing a being invited for a major 1,321 percent increase road link from Parika the to Goshen. By the end previous administration. of August 2025, the investment government will identify accelerate all bridges along the route for to Wales for bidding, thousands of residents. outlining a vision for a a four-lane road extending substantial \$28 billion from Parika to Goshen, eventually connecting to Bartica, Sandhills, Timehri. infrastructure project is envisioned to unlock tens of thousands of acres for agricultural expansion.

Further investments in Region Three include partnership, goal of developing a Ali emphasised

and these comprehensive Ali urged the residents. roads, highways, and industrial hub powered efforts aim to transform He highlighted the bridges in the region, by 600 megawatts of Guyana into a regional significant power projects within leader in energy, food the region. This includes security, education, and ensuring prosperity



President Ali's community meeting in La Grange, West Bank Demerara

in the region.

fertiliser plant to meet be significantly enhanced various agricultural with the construction of issues, of a steel production West Demerara Regional immediate action. aligning Hospital and another at with the government's De Kinderen. President

power plant, with plans them to look beyond for a second power plant race and politics towards national development. Healthcare services During the meeting, the establishment of a in Region Three will also President Ali addressed community instructing needs and the pursuit a new state-of-the-art relevant agencies to take

rising floodwaters, 300 families in Kwakwani, Region Ten, have finally found higher ground. The government fulfilled 2021 promise, allocating house lots in the new Kwakwani Housing Development Phase I, offering a lifeline

to residents who endured

repeated flooding along

the vulnerable riverfront.

After years of battling

Dixie Henry, a longtime waterfront resident, vividly described the hardships. "Floods meant struggling to get to work, inflated prices, and being **trapped indoors**," she life and sanitation.

Henry, alongside her children and mother, expressed immense relief. "Today, they've

FLOOD-WEARY KWAKWANI FAMILIES MOVE TO NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



The exercise in Kwakwani

kept their promise. "The constant water infrastructure for the

Neeta

recounted, highlighting I'm genuinely happy; pushed me to apply new development, with the disruption to daily this is a huge step for for land. I needed immediate work slated our community," she higher ground, a real to provide essential **home,**" she shared, amenities by year-end. Kerrsting looking forward to Minister Croal also echoed this sentiment. the independence of announced plans to The exercise in Kwakwani

building her own space. Minister of Housing applications who oversaw the land commitment to safe, sustainable "Today is about improving your lives. We're here to honour our promise the waterfront **residents,**" he stated.

The government has invested \$1.6 billion in

clear pending housing over \$50 million in steel and Water, Collin Croal most regions by mid-Residents

housing. home construction, the Surveys Commission. government distributed

across and cement vouchers. 2025, noting that 1,589 Central area were also distribution, emphasised lots have already been encouraged to finalise government's allocated in Region Ten. their land leases with To ease the burden of the Guyana Lands and



PRESIDENT ALI JOINS NAVRATRI OBSERVA

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali development, Dharma Sabha for changing world. Navratri, a significant nine-night

Dr institutions in national and joined Hindu devotees them to instill strong government's at the Ogle Sanatan values in a rapidly

pledged He festival government's support to

the upcoming urging implementation of the Wi-Fi initiative at the location, promising enhanced community connectivity.



President Ali joined devotees at the Ogle Sanatan Dharma Sabha

Highlighting this period of fasting and of spiritual,

social, the honouring the Goddess the Sabha, announcing Navratri's significance, reflection, prioritising political, and economic demonstration of unity President the commitment to President Ali encouraged collective well-being. awareness, linking the by joining the Navratri Ali emphasised the secure the land title devotees to deepen their He underscored the government's "Because observances crucial role of religious for the Ogle Mandir social conscience during interconnectedness We Care" grant to Ramadan.

principles of equity and support for the vulnerable.

Mohan Samwaru, President of the Ogle Sanatan Dharma Sabha, expressed the historic importance of President Ali's visit – the first by a sitting Head of State in over six decades. acknowledged He President's

HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES ACHIEVE HOMEOWNERSHIP

lots. The government has invested over \$1.4 billion in infrastructure **AS GOVT ACCELERATES HOUSING USH** Lethem.



The exercise in Region Four

Hundreds of families Chung programme the "Dream Realised" initiative.

allocated to applicants Ministry, during a major housing Rodrigues. drive hosted by the Rodrigues

Conference across Regions Four, Centre, Liliendaal. The Nine, and Ten are a lots are located in new step closer to owning housing developments their own homes, as the in Success, Felicity, government intensifies Chateau Margot, and Le its national housing Ressouvenir, along the under East Coast of Demerara.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, In Region Four, led the exercise alongside 1,600 house lots were Minister within the Susan Minister explained Ministry of Housing that the allocations are and Water at the Arthur part of a deliberate effort to clear the backlog of housing particularly Four Region housing.





Basmattie Nirmal receiving her land title at the exercise in Kwakwani

In Region Nine, applications, some 300 residents in those Lethem received house submitted before 2019. lot allocations, bringing "It's about delivering much-needed relief to **on our promise to the** families burdened by **people who have been** high rental costs. Zulaica waiting the longest," Griffith, a young mother to support housing in



Lot pulling exercise in Region Nine

rent every month-it was really hard," she said.

Minister Croal announced that 650 have already lots been allocated in the Tract CHPA Scheme, supported by \$365 million in partnerships with commercial banks. Expansion works are underway for a scheme extension and the new Culvert City area, which together will offer over 600 additional house

In Kwakwani, Region Ten, 13 residents received their land titles, ending years of uncertainty. Minister Croal said that land titles give families the financial power to secure loans and build or expand homes. To date, over 44,000 house lots have been allocated across all ten regionsbringing the government closer to its target of 50,000 before the end of its term.

income homes under Each residence will the Homestead Programme one bathroom, a patio, is rapidly progressing and a kitchenette. This is on track for completion initial phase is part of by July 22, officials a larger initiative to announced following a construct 500 homes site inspection.

The project, located in Yarrowkabra along setbacks, Soesdyke-Linden Croal Highway, aims to provide satisfaction with the affordable housing and project's advancement, to single mothers.

Water, and Croal, and Minister are very pleased within the Office of the with where we are Prime Minister with **right now,**" he stated. responsibility for Public "We have already Affairs, Kwame McCoy, awarded the first set visited the site to assess of contracts, valued the progress of the 20 by **at**

Construction 30 feet homes being built of the first 25 low- by DuraVilla Homes. government's feature two bedrooms, across 100 acres.

Despite minor Minister expressed economic empowerment e m p h a s i s i n g the concurrent Minister of Housing development of essential "We Collin infrastructure.

FIRST 25 HOMESTEAD HOMES SET FOR JULY HANDOVER

\$163 million, roads." internal Nine contractors are currently working on the 800-meter concrete road network.

The Ministry has also initiated the prequalification process for potential beneficiaries and is constructing a new well to ensure potable water access residents. The for government plans to replicate this model improving lives the nationwide, contingent homeownership. on the project's success.

Minister McCoy



Work ongoing on the houses

PPP/C commitment empowering are people to ensure Programme approximately highlighted the initiative they have a better collaborative

as a fulfillment of the life," he said. "We government to to **that** "We people."

The is effort

involving the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministries of Housing and Water, Agriculture, Human Services and Social Security, and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission. Each home will be equipped with coconut or breadfruit trees in the front yard and a 20 x 40 shade house in the government's will continue to be rear, enabling residents cultivate crops improving lives through that delivers to the for income and loan repayment. Solar energy Homestead integration will also a reduce electricity costs.

HAURARUNI HOUSING DEV

phase of infrastructure to deliver nearly 400 already been completed. development at the housing Hauraruni scheme along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, with significant investment of approximately \$1.5 billion.

This initial phase includes the construction of vital infrastructure such as roads and drainage systems to ensure the area is both accessible and resilient to flooding.

The government has The project covers 150 residential house lots. commenced the first acres and is expected Land preparation has and



An aerial view of Hauraruni housing development

Water, Collin Croal, confirmed the investment during a of three new housing he said, pointing to recent inspection of the areas being developed the government's Homestead Project at along the Soesdyke- commitment to inclusive Yarrowkabra.

infrastructure work communities. is ongoing, at a cost of about \$1.5 billion," Minister Croal stated.

to begin construction the relocation of the first 100 one-

bedroom specifically designed for roads, drainage, and young In addition, land will be made available for lot of work that is Minister of Housing individuals who wish to happening build their own homes.

Hauraruni is one **engage** Linden Highway as part development. "We have an of the government's area that has been broader vision to create identified where the sustainable residential

Minister Croal also outlined efforts to improve infrastructure Once infrastructure in existing settlements works are completed, along the highway the government plans corridor. These include regularisation informal settlements,

homes along with upgrades to professionals. utility services.

"We have the highway to persons,"

Minister Croal was joined during his inspection by Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with Responsibility for Public Affairs, Kwame McCoy, as well as technical officers from the Housing Ministry.

NDCS TO GET \$30M, MUNICIPALITIES \$50M IN GOVT SUBVENTION HIKE



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo addressing the local officials

Areas (LAAs) across million. Guyana. Neighbourhood Democratic an annual allocation General Municipalities will also and

The government has see a significant rise, announced a substantial with their subventions increase in subventions climbing to \$50 million for Local Authority from the current \$18

The announcement Councils was made by Vice (NDCs) will now receive President and PPP Secretary,

Arthur Jagdeo emphasised that governance, highlighting greater tangible improvements local issues and the that in the daily lives of be directed towards administrative luxuries.

"So we expect this money to be well spent...not to go and build buildings, etcetera, in the community," Jagdeo stated, clarifying infrastructure that repairs will be handled at the regional level. He specifically cautioned against spending on non-essential items like office upgrades.

Alongside of \$30 million, a six- Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, funding boost, Dr Jagdeo fold increase from the during an address to a stressed the critical previous \$5 million. gathering of councillors importance of service representatives and accountability for

Chung them to adopt a people- increased mixed communities.

from all 80 LAAs at local leaders. He urged underscored that the Conference Centre. Dr centred approach to resources necessitate submission of work these increased funds that citizens' concerns and responsibility at the Local Government and are intended to facilitate often revolve around local level. He indicated Regional Development these attitudes of local officials. subvention levels are a swift move towards citizens and should not Inclusivity was also a key likely to continue or even implementation of these message, particularly in increase in the future as enhanced resources. more responsibilities Jagdeo are devolved to local

government bodies. He also announced the rollout of 68 excavators nationwide to support NDCs with drainage and sanitation projects.

He set a twofinancial week deadline for the transparency plans to the Ministry of higher for approval, signalling



Local government officials at the event

GOVT OPPOSES GEORGETOWN TAX WAIVER PLAN, CITING ILLEGALITY

The central government has voiced strong opposition to the Georgetown Mayor and City Council's (M&CC) proposal to implement interest waivers on outstanding rates and taxes for properties.

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) General Secretary, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, during a press conference. labelled the initiative a **"con"** designed to exploit ordinary citizens channel funds towards the opposition.

followed a statement by

Vice President and



Historically been the office of the mayor and city

the waiver plan. In supports

City Councillor Alfred response, the General Mentore, who indicated Secretary clarified that Dr. Jagdeo's remarks his readiness to defend while the government fair

transparent measures he facilitate **again**," he stated.

drew attention to past billion. actions of the City Council, including an the attempt to grant an condemnation, Attorney unsolicited waiver to General and Minister the Guyana Telephone of and Telegraph Company Mohabir Anil Nandlall, (GTT).

that could to the City Council by closely Hall to rip people off its recovery, especially unconstitutional Dr. Jagdeo also annual budget of \$3 regulations.

Adding government's Legal Affairs, Furthermore, SC, asserted that the

highlighted the proposed tax waiver is an for the general populace, significant sum of \$6.7 attempt to illegitimately it firmly opposes any billion allegedly owed benefit a select group bribery or the People's National opposition operatives. favouritism. "Let me Congress" (PNC), the He emphasised that the make it clear that we dominant party within M&CC lacks the legal are not supporting the APNU coalition, authority to implement a scheme that APNU questioning why the such a waiver, deeming wants to put in City council has not pursued any attempt to do so given its much smaller in breach of financial



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has sharply criticised the discussions ongoing between opposition parties APNU and AFC to form a coalition, characterising their primary focus as "splitting spoils" rather than prioritising the

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Dr. Jagdeo stated that the two opposition entities appear more concerned with divvying up potential government

of

Guyanese

needs

citizens.

ON OPPOSITION COALITION TALKS

primary They can't win the presidential candidate. **elections**," Dr Jagdeo asserted, "but already acknowledged how they will split metrics for coalition up jobs, who will get negotiations what ministry."

His comments come opposition's in the wake of the AFC's approach lacks a genuine announcement that it has focus on public welfare. approved its conditions

positions than with for a coalition, including formulating a plan to a proposed 60-40 powerimprove the lives of sharing arrangement the populace. "Their favouring APNU and **concern** the nomination of AFC's is splitting spoils. Nigel Hughes as the

Dr. Jagdeo they are talking about necessity of establishing but contended that the current "They don't



Vice President and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party Civic (PPPC), Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

about people, and they don't talk about housing or water or generating external wealth... all they are concerned about is who gets what," he stated. highlighting the repeated emphasis on percentages and leadership roles within the potential coalition.

The APNU and AFC previously governed in coalition after winning the 2015 elections but were defeated by the PPP/C in 2020.

<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u>

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

OMNI HELICOPTERS BEGINS CERTIFICATION TO BECOME GUYANA'S FIRST LOCAL OFFSHORE ROTORCRAFT OPERATOR

Guyana's aviation local of a milestone as the Guyana's Guyana Civil Aviation industry. Authority (GCAA) has officially the certification process Helicopters is expected for Omni Helicopters Guyana Inc.

This crucial step paves the way for Omni commitment Helicopters to become employing and training the first locally certified Guyanese professionals rotorcraft air operator in across the country authorised critical to provide essential roles, offshore flight services pilots, for the rapidly expanding and oil and gas sector.

This directly

participation sector is on the cusp and expertise within aviation

> The anticipated commenced certification of Omni to significantly elevate local aviation expertise. The company's various operational including engineers, dispatchers, promises create initiative valuable aligns with opportunities



Omni Helicopters is currently certified by the Brazilian Aeronautical Authority

sector.

The employment Director General, Lt. initiate the thorough process moves forward, into Guyana's aviation and Col. (ret'd) Egbert Field, certification President Dr. Irfaan Ali's contribute to the long- A.A., and his team During this meeting, Helicopters vision for strengthening term, sustainable growth recently held a pivotal the

of Guyana's aviation meeting with senior representatives of Omni GCAA's Helicopters to formally GCAA

regulatory compliance relationship to ensure requirements that Omni that the highest Helicopters must meet. standards of safety, The GCAA emphasised quality, and overall safety operational excellence consistently upheld. the remain nonnegotiable cornerstones Omni Helicopters is of this undertaking.

The conducting offshore operations with attainment of a local AOC large helicopters.

process. the GCAA and Omni landscape. are clearly expected to maintain

outlined the stringent a close collaborative and aviation practice

It is noteworthy that significant currently certified by the Brazilian Aeronautical AOC Authority and already certification process is provides offshore flight known to be particularly services to the oil and demanding for operators gas sector in Guyana as a complex foreign air operator. The will mark a significant As the certification step in their integration

The government has reassuredbusinessesthat ongoing infrastructural developments, particularly US\$192.3 million Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau (Mahaica) four-lane road project, are designed to



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan **Edghill engages** stakeholders during consultation on the US\$192.3 million Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau four-lane road project

ROAD UPGRADES ENHANCE, NOT HARM BUSINESSES - MINIST

accessibility improve undermine livelihoods.

Minister during a stakeholder past projects emphasised commitment supporting growth. "The policy planned, direction operate and from government is that we support business by and development. \mathbf{or} **business**," he stated.

The minister and road safety, not to a cknowledged concerns regarding the of construction of medians Works, and road widening, but Juan Edghill, pointed to successful consultation, similar apprehensions raised, the were g o v e r n m e n t 's businesses thrived. He to explained that road business designs are carefully considering that traffic volume with flow, to ensure optimal **the** functionality.

The project, executed China Railway **business** First Group Guyana We Incorporated, includes don't do things to significant upgrades and **stifle** new construction along a 30.8-kilometer stretch,



Design for the US\$192.3 million Sheriff Street to Orange Nassau four-lane road project

kilometres dedicated to the construction widening the Belfield to bridges and culverts. Orange Nassau public road. Officials outlined plans for improved Minister strategically

with an additional 5.3 median openings, and

Furthermore. Edghill traffic light intersections, announced plans to placed connect Aubrev

Barker Road project to Enmore, facilitating access to a planned industrial zone. This initiative underscores the government's longterm vision of developing a modern road network that supports economic growth and enhances road safety.

He reiterated that these road upgrades are a vital component of Guyana's development strategy, aimed improving traffic flow and reducing travel ultimately times, benefiting both businesses and the wider community.

Drivers navigating the Soesdyke-Linden highway road within six months, as smoother rehabilitation continue to progress.

Minister of Public Works, Juan Edghill, during a site visit, confirmed the project is on schedule to deliver a smoother, safer, and more efficient travel experience.

The \$10 billion rehabilitation project, part of a broader \$30 billion upgrade funded by an Islamic Development (IsDB) Bank loan, aims to modernise

connecting measures. Highway can anticipate Georgetown to Linden. works reduced travel times, designated

significantly improved Upon completion, road include the construction These conditions users will benefit from of two new roundabouts, are designed to elevate surfaces, upgraded



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, engineers, and contractors during their site visit to the Soesdyke-Linden Highway

73-kilometer and enhanced safety for trucks, and the reconstruction of nine Key improvements bridges and six culverts. enhancements lighting, road quality, improve laybys connectivity, strengthen overall public infrastructure.

> Minister Edghill emphasised the critical importance of road safety urge everyone to slow workers

He announced plans to collaborate with the Linden Highway is a vital 2024.



The highway

during the construction a new, safer speed limit both commercial and phase, urging drivers for the construction private vehicles. Road to exercise caution and zone and implement users have expressed patience. "We must clear signage." "Our optimism about the down; current speeds operate safely with significantly are simply unsafe," vehicles travelling at minister Edghill stated. yehicles travelling at safety since construction

The Traffic Chief to establish transportation artery for

cannot project's potential to improve Soesdyke- began in September

<u>Guyanese diaspora digest</u> KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

PORT KAITUMA ROAD UPGRADES

to see the completion 24 major road projects within weeks, with current progress at 90%. The \$650.5 million initiative, which began last November, focuses on upgrading 2.7 kilometers of dirt roads to durable concrete surfaces, significantly improving accessibility and connectivity within the region.

The Ministry of

Kaituma, Public Works reported advancing steadily, Region One, is on track that the projects are with key areas such as



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill inspects road works in Port Kaituma, Region One

Telegraph Hill Road, Ranch Road, and the Teacher's Quarters Road nearing completion. The upgrades also encompass roads around the playfield, connecting the Catwalk to the power station, Kaituma Hospital, and School Road, among others.

This infrastructure development has generated employment, including is the hiring of a regional delivering supplier. quality concrete



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill inspects road works in Port Kaituma, Region One

committed highinfrastructure

Minister of Public Works, that enhances living Bishop Juan Edghill, standards and travel has assured residents experiences, with the local that the government projects expected to be to fully completed shortly.



The staff during the training

Commuters the Essequibo Coast in the coming months. 60-kilometre stretch will necessary for the wider are set to experience Minister of Public Works, be divided into sections, highway project to improvements, significant relief as Bishop Juan Edghill, with local contractors follow. the main road from announced the initiative utilising Supenaam to Charity following

along milling and repaving Sands. The nearly property will undergo extensive patchwork repairs that

MAJOR ROAD REPAVING PLANNED

couple of months, four-lane will be developed, explained milled, and repaved," Minister Edghill pledged on milling persistent machines for the work.

provided only temporary builds upon President including the awarding modern port at Charity, the entire road from along the Essequibo jobs. Supenaam to Charity Coast. Minister Edghill has taken a lift reconstruction immediate focus is **manner** that you and tourism. to residents of Lima land reclamation and seen before," Minister has invested over \$100

repaying, with have never, ever acquisition Edghill emphasised.

Beyond region is experiencing education, sports, and Since August 2020, growth in agriculture, infrastructure. Region Two has seen supported by a new ferry This announcement substantial development, service and plans for a

Dr. Mohamed Irfaan of 178 road construction facilitating direct trade "Within the next Ali's plans for a future contracts in December, with the Caribbean. highway creating numerous local The Parika stelling "Employment is also undergoing that the in Essequibo in a enhance trade, travel,

> The government billion in Region Two road since 2020, covering the sectors such as health,

Mahaica-Berbice region, Edghill, fueling an ambitious the plan to complete 1,000 u n w a v e r i n g transformed." roads by the end of commitment, across Region Five.

During a site visit four

underscored **the** urging witnessed in the past connecting urban centres rapid development.

billion to the Mahaica Public "The Guyana we communities same, government's fundamentally for

vears, stating, and remote hinterland

government investment Road, Minister of Public knew four years ago, Minister Edghill credited is rapidly reshaping the Works, Bishop Juan while geographically President Dr. Mohamed **is** Irfaan Ali's leadership driving unprecedented highway This \$53 billion expansion, addressing This massive contractors to maintain allocation, a cornerstone long-delayed projects. infrastructure initiative their accelerated pace. of Budget 2025, is part He also encouraged promises to dramatically Addressing community of a broader national residents to become boost connectivity and members, he emphasised strategy to modernise active participants in ignite economic growth the profound changes transportation networks, showcasing their region's



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill examining ongoing roadworks in Region Five

As the construction of the new four-lane high-span Demerara River crossing progresses towards its anticipated completion date of August 31, 2025, the government is actively productive exploring future uses for the existing floating bridge. One prominent option under consideration is relocating the current structure to Kwakwani.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, recently reminded reporters of

KWAKWANI EYED AS POTENTIAL NEW LOCATION FOR EXISTING DEMERARA BRIDGE



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill speaking with the media

the various possibilities being evaluated for the Edghill indicated that soon-to-be-replaced the option of bridging significant option being at Kurupukari using considered is utilising the existing Demerara the existing structure to Bridge is unlikely to connect the Essequibo be pursued. He cited islands of Leguan and the presence of rapids Wakenaam, potentially and rocks in that area challenges for residents that would make such a of those communities.

However, Minister Another the Essequibo River transportation as significant obstacles project unfeasible.

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST

NEW AUTOMATED SPEED CAMERAS ERATIONAL AC ROSS

ticketing system has of traffic laws across the email. Physical tickets been activated. Starting country. on April 7, this initiative marks a significant a advancement in the effort between the details. nation's efforts to curb Guyana Police Force speeding and improve and the National the system is now being road safety.

component of the successfully deployed the strategies. President Safe Road Intelligent technology. Automated Dr. Mohamed Irfaan System (SRIS) Project, speed cameras are Ali has reiterated the is now actively utilising now capturing vehicles system's importance, is ensuring impartial enhance convenience, connected to cloud- generated based These technologies are effectively detecting and registered contact details automatically ticketing at the Guyana Revenue fully automated and options for violations. To addressing the critical speeding

collaborative without Data infrastructure. manual intervention.

Drivers violations, Authority (GRA) are autonomous

Guyana's state-of- ensuring seamless and receiving violation the-art automated speed impartial enforcement notifications via SMS or are being delivered to The SRIS Project, the addresses of those registered

Data collected by Management utilised to develop The system, a key Authority (NDMA), has and refine road safety without and accountability as manipulation with expands.

The nature



The system uses advanced speed cameras and radar speed signs connected to cloud-based infrastructure

Payment or court now operational. system's contestation are the only

advanced speed cameras exceeding speed limits, emphasising its role enforcement, with no partnerships with MMG and radar speed signs and tickets are being in enhancing safety possibility of manual for direct fine payments or are active, and access via Guyana's infrastructure bypassing of fines. the GRA's "Padna" app is all Guyanese.

This initiative is

issue speedingrelated road fatalities, particularly with expanding Guyana's road networks. SRIS Project's The implementation signifies government's the commitment leveraging technology for public safety.

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

Prior to the launch, comprehensive awareness public campaign successfully educated drivers on the system's operation and compliance. Motorists are now urged to maintain responsible driving habits and adhere to speed limits, as the system aims to create a safer road network for



Ranks participating in Heavy-Duty Machine Operators trainina

employability of Joint Region Four. personnel, Services

In a collaborative (GPF) have launched a effort to enhance new skills development the skills and future training programme in

Over the the Board of Industrial six weeks, a cohort Training (BIT) and the of 39 police officers, Guyana Police Force comprising 38 males and

JOINT SERVICES OFFICERS TO RECEIVE **HEAVY-DUTY MACHINE OPERATOR TRAI**

one female, will undergo of the intensive to become certified Joseph Heavy-Duty Operators.

The themed capacity to Meet Future after leaving the force. vocational Demands in a Rapidly "This is the reason programmes offered by Evolving Environment', why I initiated this BIT. is spearheaded by BIT [programme]," and aims to equip the Minister stated, a significant role in the officers valuable skillsets that of national development the effectiveness of the Over the past four opportunities beyond employment their service within the programme builds upon training facilitated by BIT force.

The official launch understanding

with highlighting the necessity leading transformational expanding contribute to capacity and increasing training across Guyana. broaden their police force through years, more than 12,000 for such initiatives.

This signed

programme between the GPF and theoretical was attended by BIT in 2022. This and practical training Minister of Labour agreement facilitated Hamilton, the registration of police Machine who emphasised the officers and young importance of preparing individuals from various initiative, service men and regions in a diverse 'Enhancing women for their lives range of technical and

> BIT has played the technical and vocational individuals nationwide training have benefited from a memorandum of in various disciplines, with a notable 60



Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton at the launch of the BIT training

percent of participants being women. This latest collaboration underscores commitment of BIT and the GPF to empower Joint Services officers with in-demand skills for both their current roles and future career paths.

NATIONAL TOSHAOS COUNCIL **CONFERENCE SET FOR MAY 2025**

communities annual Toshaos Council (NTC)

from to 23, 2025. This event Pauline Sukhai, during Latchman across platform for discussions Guyana are preparing on the development and for the highly anticipated well-being of Guyana's National indigenous populations.

The announcement Conference, scheduled to was made by Minister take place from May 19 of Amerindian Affairs,



The National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference convenes leaders from the more than 200 Amerindian villages to directly engage the president and his cabinet on crucial issues

200 Amerindian will provide a crucial a community meeting in confirmed Akawini Village, Region conference dates and

> Minister urged Village Councils to is and consolidate priority States. projects, concerns, and requests. "Your Village elected Council has to hold a from **give them the level of** sole legitimate mandate to go there representing representative voices.

Vice-Chairperson dedication to this vital

further underscored Guyana's Sukhai commitment to extensive stressed the importance consultations with its of thorough community Amerindian population. engagement leading up She noted that this to the conference. She level of engagement unparalleled hold meetings with their many major countries, constituents to gather including the United

The NTC, comprising Toshaos Amerindian **meeting with you [to]** communities, is the body and to deliberate," she advocating for the rights told Akawini residents, of Guyana's first peoples. highlighting the need for The government has demonstrated its



The National Toshaos Council (NTC) Conference convenes leaders from the more than 200 Amerindian villages to directly engage the president and his cabinet on crucial issues

dialogue by allocating and integrated national fiscal plan to discussions. the conference.

This funding the unwavering commitment Guyana's to ensuring that the populations. voices of Amerindian communities are heard

into \$150 million in its national development support the hosting of conference will serve as a pivotal forum for substantial addressing key issues, underscores fostering collaboration, government's and driving progress for indigenous

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS UNDER TO STRENGTHEN SEXUAL OFFENCES LEGISLATION



Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud addressing the gathering

Public consultations are currently underway the government moves to update the Sexual Offences Act, with proposed amendments aimed at enhancing protections for victims and improving the handling of sexual violence cases.

Social Security inviting feedback sexual on the draft Sexual locally and abroad. Offences (Amendment) organisations, encouraged to submit seeking period.

The shared Vindhya Persaud during register. a symposium held Monday at the Umana Kim Yana to mark Sexual who Assault Month

the draft legislation is protection

Ministry of the creation of a national and is which would register disclosure. leading the process and individuals convicted of

The Bill 2024. Stakeholders, would be managed by follow including civil society the Commissioner of requirements are Police, and persons throughout information sentence," recommendations would be required to explained. during this consultation submit formal requests. update was under 18 and those with strengthen how sexual by Human mental disabilities would offences are reported Services Minister Dr. be excluded from the and investigated, with

contributed to

penalties

offences-both would be required to register upon these database **conviction** and reporting their she

The proposed However, individuals amendments also aim to targeted improvements Attorney-at-law to law enforcement and Kyte-Thomas, judicial procedures.

Minister Awareness the drafting of the described the draft as upgraded the iMatter aim to provide survivors nth amendment, said the "a very progressive mobile app, first with easier, more A major feature of bill outlines strict data piece of legislation" launched in 2021. The discreet access to help—

for foundation of the Sexual to trained counsellors Human Services and sex offender database, unauthorised access or Offences Act of 2010, and critical support which she praised for its services. It is currently " Offenders modern framework.

legal reforms, development.

available on Android, Supporting with an iOS version in



A section of the audience at the symposium

Persaud the government has protocols that builds on the app now connects users anytime, anywhere.

These enhancements

GUYANA SHOWCASES PEOPLE-CENTRED POLICIES AT INTERNATIONAL GATHERING ON SOCIAL JUSTIC

Guyana reaffirmed government. its strong commitment 148th Assembly of the principle," Union (IPU), where detailed under the for Social Development youth and Justice."

Delivering remarks at the Assembly, Minister 50,000 people-centred policies to healthcare People's Party/Civic

"Putting people to inclusive development first is not a sloganand social justice at the it is a governing Minister Inter-Parliamentary McCoy stated, as he Guyana's global leaders gathered advances in poverty theme eradication, housing, "Parliamentary Action healthcare, education, empowerment, and gender equity.

He noted that over low-income within the Office of the families have benefited Prime Minister, Kwame from subsidised housing McCoy, outlined a and land allocations, range of transformative, while universal access and implemented over the education has been past four years by the expanded, especially in Progressive hinterland and rural (PPP/C) areas. Technology, such



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy

as Starlink internet and McCoy gaps in service delivery. revenues

and human capital tourism, development, Minister and

highlighted telemedicine, has played Guyana's strategic use a key role in bridging of its natural resource to invest On job creation in areas such as ICT, agriculture, manufacturing.

programme, Învestment Network), governance, now includes men.

equality was underscored through legislative advancements presentation and the representation attention to the country's of women in leadership, dynamic approach to including nearly 40% of governance-where parliamentarians and development is measured more than half of judicial not only in GDP, but in officers.

Minister

S i g n a t u r e emphasised that social initiatives include a justice must go beyond 30,000-scholarship rhetoric. "Progressive the leadership 150,000 Young Coders fiscal responsibility initiative, and the WIIN can work hand in (Women Innovation and hand with inclusive which has already trained he said, calling on over 12,000 women and parliamentarians worldwide to advocate G u y a n a 's for a renewed social commitment to gender compact rooted in equity also and shared prosperity.

Guyana's dignity, opportunity, McCoy and justice for all.

MINISTER MUSTAPHA PRESENTS GUYANA'S AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY AT GLOBAL SUMM

Agriculture the region. Minister Zulfikar to addressing global agricultural challenges at the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4), where he virtually joined ministers and officials from around the world.

Minister Mustapha acknowledged country's rich agricultural resources, vet emphasised that Guyana is not immune to global challenges such as climate change, rising food prices, and food security issues that affect

Mustapha underscored of Guyana has been approaches Guyana's commitment working to ensure to

that "The Government a gricultural Mustapha said. "We've preserve meet



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha while participating in the UNFSS

traditional challenges," Minister mechanisms evolve integrated these systems strategies into policies nutrition. economic and climate action."

efforts to transform the **local** country's food systems. **products**," he said. The strategy focuses on food security, climate smallholder

that biodiversity **food** while generating income. The Minister

national also emphasised the that importance of publicpromote sustainable private partnerships in d e v e l o p m e n t, streamlining local supply improvedlivelihoods, chains and ensuring that health, farmers deliver fresh, **growth**, nutritious efficiently. "By working highlighted hand in hand with Guyana's Low Carbon the private sector, we Development Strategy aim to stabilise food (LCDS) 2030, which prices and increase aligns with national market access for agricultural

Empowering resilience, and financing remains a top priority,

with initiatives such as low-interest loans and tax incentives for agricultural inputs reduce financial burdens. "We aim self-sufficiency and to reduce our food import bill, particularly key commodities like poultry, corn, and rice," Minister Mustapha added.

The session featured discussions investment opportunities for food systems transformation, with Guyana joining 20 countries to explore scalable and sustainable solutions to global food security challenges.

<u>guyanese diaspora digest</u>

POLICY AIMS TO ALIGN WORKFO V = 1



Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand addressing the event

Guyana has unveiled transformative 10-Technical year Education Vocational and Training (TVET) policy, aiming to bridge the widening skills gap and fuel its rapidly evolving economy.

Developed collaboration with the World Bank, the initiative seeks

training Jaime modernise programmes, promote gender inclusion, and ensure equitable access emphasising to vocational skills.

single, national coordination government ministries, with the burgeoning industries.

for Human Development and aligns with the professionals across all we are searching complacency to ensure for and

praised the policy as importance of quality of work, plumbers, certain skillsets... we potential to deliver Guyanese. A cornerstone of high-quality, industrythe 2025-2035 policy relevant training. He Priya is the creation of a highlighted the policy's autonomous focus on equitable institution access, particularly for designed to streamline those who may not have governance and enhance completed secondary among education.

"The pace of this agencies, and the private economy is gigantic, sector. This strategic and that dynamic move aims to align growth creates a workforce development unique opportunity dynamic to ensure that our demands of Guyana's training programmes **are both high quality** underscored the severe World Bank Director **and highly pertinent** scarcity Latin America needs we see in sectors. She detailed the high and low for the policy's long-term

"transformative", post-secondary masons, and electricians, will have to, at some its education for all young a challenge shared

Manickchand sector.

Saavedra, stated, stressing the find engineers, clerks clerks of work, with by other government Minister of Education agencies and the private



Students from various institutions at the event

of skilled **in the**

the Caribbean, **industries**," Saavedra ministry's struggles to **engineers or even** effectiveness.

point perhaps to import skills before we grow out those skills if we are to grow the Guyana that we want to grow at the pace that we want to develop," Minister Manickchand explained.

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

Acknowledging the challenges leading to the policy's launch, Minister Manickchand e m p h a s i s e d that successful implementation is now paramount. She urged "Here in Guyana, stakeholders to maintain ministry, momentum and avoid

fishermen

administrative President Dr. Bharrat building for the Upper Jagdeo committed to Corentyne Fisherman building a completely Cooperative was commissioned by government makes Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha at **always** Number 79 Village, Minister promising to serve as emphasised, a vital hub for local the fisherfolk.

The constructed and outfitted sites and wharfs across building will provide the country. a centralised location various activities Officer, significantly enhancing the the fishing community.

Minister Mustapha sector, highlighted that the the

Upper Corentyne project originated from **get** a request to rehabilitate modern \$32M facility an existing dilapidated A new \$32 million structure. However, Vice Society new facility. "When this Minister a commitment, we deliver," Mustapha noting government's increased investment newly in modernising landing

Senior Fisheries commissioning and for Guyana's fisheries communities. reflecting



The commissioning of the building

commitment Mickale improving and crucial services, Amsterdam, stated that livelihoods of fisherfolk the ensuring the support available to comes at a critical time prosperity of coastal fishing licences from

Addressing government's key concern for local the

to fisherfolk, Minister the Mustapha reiterated government's the ongoing efforts to secure "We've Suriname. a had discussions at highest level

commitments so were made for 150 can purchase their licences to be issued gas Guyanese," he also explained. previous reneged, government committed to ensuring additions aim to create Guyanese fisherfolk have a comprehensive service the necessary permission centre for the fishing to operate freely.

also announced plans the Corentyne Coast are for further development expected to benefit from at the facility. "I've the new facility, which committed to the will serve as a central fisherfolk to upgrade point for accessing **the tarmac.** A **gas** resources and support. station will be built

that fisherfolk here. We'll establish Despite hardware store so agreements that fisherfolk can the **purchase** inputs," remains he revealed. These community.

Approximately 200 Minister Mustapha fisherfolk from along

SOLAR PANELS END YEARS OF DARKNESS FOR KURU KURURU RESIDENTS

Over 100 residents without celebrating the end of daily struggles. prolonged darkness government.

electricity, Maison

Residents This Denise Williams, initiative has brought mother of two, spoke much-needed light and of the challenges of relief to families who completing schoolwork endured years by candlelight. Diane

of Kuru Kururu are significantly easing their relying on neighbours charge his mobile phone. for brief access to shared electricity to iron school distribution, following the distribution moving accounts of the uniforms. Mothers like within the Office of the of solar panels by the hardships they faced. Wendy George and Prime Minister Kwame a Shondel Blair expressed McCoy profound gratitude for the the newfound ability to dedication to community perform nighttime tasks, development and allow their children direct before dawn.

independence. because...now referring to his previous homes can be connected

recounted reliance on others to

During Minister highlighted government's engagement to study without the with citizens. "We are early morning rush here to listen, learn, and utilise those Leon Thomas, who interactions lived without power for suggestions as part eight years, emphasised of the formulation the sense of newfound of our policies," he **"This** affirmed. Minister is a great help McCoy framed the solar I panel distribution as a won't have to do that crucial interim solution, anymore," he said, bridging the gap until all

to the national electricity programme grid, the term solutions.

a broader government government. initiative that is also of bringing electricity to hinterland communities in 47 Miles, 58 Miles, Great Ten, Falls, and Mabura Hill. the have also expressed immense business, allowing for ensuring that earlier preparation of community is forgotten. goods.

This significant

involves demonstrating the procurement of government's approximately 30,000 commitment to both solar panels, continuing immediate and long- an initiative that began under a previous PPP/C This distribution in administration but was Kuru Kururu aligns with halted by the APNU+AFC Public Works reliable Bishop Juan Edghill other has been instrumental facilitating in Region Ten, including distribution in Region reiterating government's Residents in these areas commitment to ensuring that even smaller gratitude hinterland communities for the ongoing solar are not disregarded panel programme. A 47 and receive the same Miles resident thanked essential benefits as the government, while other areas. This second mobile snackette phase of distribution operator noted the aims to address gaps positive impact on her in the initial rollout,



Residents of 58 Miles, Great Falls, and Mabura Hill receiving their solar panels from Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill



Born in India and settled in Scarborough-Woburn, he quickly established roots in the community by opening a rehabilitative clinic offering physiotherapy treatments.

Determined to expand his expertise, Muttukuru pursued further education at the National Academy of Osteopathy, earning a diploma in manual osteopathy. Over the past 23 years, his clinic has grown into a thriving full-treatment centre providing osteopathy, chiropractic care, and physiotherapy services.

Understanding the financial barriers many in his community face, Muttukuru has made it a priority to offer free rehabilitation clinics for seniors, youth, and refugees. He has also mentored newcomers, helping them navigate educational and career pathways, and has volunteered his time conducting sports clinics for local organizations.

Through his work, Muttukuru has witnessed firsthand the challenges affecting Scarborough residents, from rising costs of living to concerns over public safety. These experiences have motivated him to seek election as the Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Woburn.

"I am running for MP because I have witnessed the struggles of this community and heard the frustrations of its residents—especially after ten years under the Liberal government. Scarborough-Woburn deserves a strong voice in Parliament to tackle the critical issues affecting our community. Most importantly, they deserve a representative who will finally put Canada First, for a change."

Contact the campaign office at 1200 Markham Rd, unit 123 Scarborough ON M1H 3C3 Email: info@ready4reddy.ca ready4reddy.ca

EASTER JOY AT STATE HOUSE

resident Irfaan Ali hosted a lively pre-Easter celebration for children on the lawns of State House, featuring a fun-filled kitemaking activity. The event brought smiles and laughter as children created colourful kites and enjoyed the festive spirit. President Ali joined in the excitement, sharing joyful moments and Easter cheer with the young participants.

















GEORGETOWN'S ICONIC PARADE GROUND GETS A BRIGHT UPGRADE

The Parade Georgetown enhancement installation

Spearheaded by Minister Charles President Ramson Jr., the lighting Georgetown located venue, nestled the

cherished landmark in Middle Street, will have a infrastructure. of the new illumination, new floodlights. This the Beacon Football "bright upgrade," a key Club, whose members initiative of the Ministry regularly train at the of Culture, Youth and ground in the evenings, Sport, promises to will be able to extend extend the usability of their sessions into the the ground and benefit night, providing valuable numerous community extra time for practice and preparation.

Otis James, of the Football project at the centrally Association, commended government's

in both sporting and local sports. By day, the of the Parade Ground government's promises. historical significance, Parade Ground serves as contributes to the fact has received a significant an important space for that "at least 90% Gordon with school pupils. Now, with of clubs" under the Warrior'

historic between Waterloo and ongoing commitment GFA's purview now have who has a long and deep the early 1800s and later He facilities,



Floodlights have been installed at Parade Ground by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

a Carmichael Streets on to improving sporting access to lighted training connection to the Parade became a parade ground highlighting Ground dating back to for steeped direct positive impact on noted that the lighting the tangible results of the his primary school years, This "bright upgrade" the new lights represent a adds a new chapter to For veteran coach significant step forward. the ground's rich and 'Ultimate As the Beacon Football multifaceted Brathwaite, Club approaches its ensuring its continued illumination marks a The project future upgrades.

> holds a unique place nationwide, in Guyana's history, significant space, it once served as across Guyana. a site for the execution

British 40th year of training use and relevance for the at the iconic venue, the Georgetown community. development with the government's alongside hopes for broader commitment to enhancing recreational The Parade Ground and sporting facilities budgetary as documented by the allocations dedicated to National Trust. While ground improvements now a vibrant sporting and lighting systems

(Modifiedof enslaved people in **Newsroom Guyana**)



OVERHEAD AND ON TRACK

DEMERARA RIVER BRIDGE FRAMEWORK RISES AT PETER'S HALL

Work on the new Demerara River Bridge is picking up pace, with a key structural component recently installed at Peter's Hall. The massive girder—also called a linkspan—was lifted into place over the East Bank Demerara public road, marking a major milestone in the project.

To allow for this complex operation, the stretch of road from Red Road, Providence to the Republic Park entrance was closed temporarily from April 5 to 6. The installation was executed smoothly, signaling continued progress on this transformative national project.













Green Tech Fund offers grants to support innovation

THE Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, has launched the 2025 edition of the Green Tech Fund, offering up to \$1.2 million in grant funding per successful applicant.

According to a press release, the fund is designed to empower individuals and small businesses in developing climate-smart technologies and environmentally friendly business practices.

The fund is intended to support green innovation, improved business processes and sustainable business solutions, the release said, adding that as Guyana advances its commitment to sustainable development, this initiative seeks to foster innovation that contributes to environmental stewardship and business growth.

"This administration continues to incentivise innovation as part of our thrust to build a more sustainable and diversified economy. We hope to see more businesses adopting ecocentred and eco-friendly practices, while maximising economic opportunities, which is one of the primary goals of this fund," said Hon Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce was quoted as saying.

According to the release, Mo-

hamed Shazim Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer of the Small Business Bureau, said, "The Green Tech Fund provides an incredible opportunity for entrepreneurs to develop cutting-edge solutions that address environmental challenges while promoting economic resilience. By investing in sustainable business practices, we are paving the way for a greener and more prosperous Guyana."

To qualify, applicants must be registered clients of the Small Business Bureau. Each applicant will need to submit a detailed business proposal outlining their innovative green solution.

Proposals should include key components such as equipment needs, cost analysis, software utilisation or business process improvement, financial statements, cash-flow projections, and supplier quotations, the release said.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their ideas before a panel of expert judges. Twelve winners will be selected to receive up to \$1.2 million each in grant funding to bring their vision to life.

According to the release, the fund is being administered by the Small Business Bureau. The deadline for proposal submissions is August 31, 2025.







Conservative



SCARBOROUGH CENTRE-DON VALLEY EAST

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LET'S **EXPLORE MORE!**





"We are going to ensure that the calendar of activities will expand our tourism footprint and will bring more traffic into Guyana to ensure the hotel rooms are filled, to ensure that the bed-and-breakfast facilities are filled, to ensure that next year, collectively, we work on championing the prosperity for each other and of each other." H.E., Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-Opertaive Republic of Guyana.











Foundation of Guyanese Fashion www.origins.gy

May 2 - 5, 2025 Railway Courtyard, Lamaha Street



www.guyanatourism.com







