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New Diamond Regional Hospital commissioned

DESIGNED to meet international standards and outfitted with 24-hour emergency and laboratory services, the new Diamond Regional Hospital was on Sunday commissioned by President, Dr Irfaan Ali.

Addressing a mammoth gathering of citizens, healthcare workers and other stakeholders, President Ali pointed out that the modern facility is among several massive investments that have been made to enhance the delivery of equitable healthcare across the country.

“This is no small investment. This is an investment not in walls and equipment. This is an investment in the people of Guyana, especially the people of the East Bank.

“This is an investment that will ensure our women and children, our elderly and our male folk all alike, have a level of treatment here that is not based on income, that is not based on your status, that is not based on where you’re from as level of service that is equivalent to any service you can pay for anywhere in Guyana,” he said adding:

The new hospital will see residents being able to access world-class health care with specialised services in internal medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics cardiology, mental health and psychology.

Featuring its own oxygen plant, water-filtration system, advanced diagnostics technology, 75 beds, three operating theatres and several intensive care units, the new hospital meets Chinese, British and American standards.



Education a right, not a privilege

What if education could adapt to their lives? That one question, posed by President Dr. Irfaan Ali, captured the benefits behind the Government of Guyana’s most ambitious higher learning initiative, the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL).

On Monday, as hundreds of graduates walked proudly across the stage at GOAL third graduation ceremony, President Ali called the programme a “revolution in education”, one that has reached far beyond campuses to touch kitchens, farming communities and remote hinterland homes.

“This is more than a graduating ceremony... This is a revolution in education and every one of you is living proof,” the President told the packed auditorium.

According to him, the programme not just as an academic initiative, but a movement that has shifted the national mindset around who gets access to education and how.

“We were not just thinking about degrees... we were thinking about doors,” Ali said.

“About access. About the thousands of talented Guyanese who, for one reason or another, had never been able to walk through the doors of higher learning.”

Since its launch, GOAL has reached over 30,000 citizens, with more than 70 per cent being women, many of whom juggled full-time jobs, parenting and caregiving while pursuing advanced degrees. The President asked the female graduates to stand, and the room rose nearly in full.

“This is what empowering women looks like,” Ali said, beaming. “It’s almost the entire room.”

“GOAL has brought the classroom into people’s homes, into their phones, into their routines... mothers and fathers, nurses and farmers, teachers, clerks, public servants, entrepreneurs, ordinary Guyanese with extraordinary dreams.”

More on Page 15

See our ad on Page 35

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**GUYANA IS
"REALISING ITS OWN PROGRESS,"
NOT JUST SEEKING IT - PRESIDENT ALI**

PAGE 2



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, and First Lady Arya Ali joined members of the judiciary, Cabinet ministers, uniformed ranks, and hundreds of citizens at the Albion Sports Complex in Region Six to commemorate Guyana's 59th Independence Anniversary.

ELECTIONS DAY
is September 1



FORMER RIVALS AND KEY FIGURES BACK PRESIDENT ALI'S RE-ELECTION BID - CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT SIGNALS GROWING CONFIDENCE IN PPP/C LEADERSHIP AHEAD OF SEPTEMBER POLLS

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PRESIDENT ALI'S LEADERSHIP "PUTS GUYANA IN EYES OF THE WORLD," - FORMER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT IVÁN DUQUE

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GUYANA IS "REALISING ITS OWN PROGRESS," NOT JUST SEEKING IT

- PRESIDENT ALI



His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivering his 59th independence anniversary speech at the Albion Sport Complex

At the celebration of Guyana's 59th Independence Anniversary, President Irfaan Ali declared that **the country is no longer just striving for development—it is realising it.** Speaking to a large audience at the Albion Sports Complex, he outlined a bold vision focused on inclusive growth, improved infrastructure, and investment in people.

"The oil beneath our seas may be the spark, but the energy is all the Guyanese people," President Ali said. **"From**

Lethem to Linden, from Anna Regina to Bartica, our One Guyana ambition ensures every citizen shares fairly in the nation's wealth—not by chance, but by deliberate policy."

He stressed that progress is tangible and widespread—from the Rupununi hinterland to the Berbice coast—driven by policies rooted in equity and inclusion. Looking ahead to 2025–2030, the President said the government will continue to build **"blocks of transformation"** across sectors.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Central to this vision is a massive infrastructure programme aimed at enhancing connectivity, trade, and quality of life. Investments will link regions, reduce economic constraints, and expand access to services.

"We are upgrading community infrastructure, building household equity, and

improving the quality of life for all Guyanese," President Ali said.

He highlighted upgrades in housing, health, and education, alongside the expansion of regional and international transport routes.

Agricultural and Energy Leadership

The President reiterated plans to make Guyana the

emerging role as a regional energy hub, leveraging oil and gas wealth to create jobs, value-added goods, and greater competitiveness.

Financial Transformation and Support for Traditional Sectors

President Ali announced plans for a comprehensive financial transformation, including a National Development Fund,



Hundreds of citizens at the Albion Sports Complex to commemorate Guyana's 59th Independence Anniversary

"food capital of the Caribbean" through large-scale farming, technology-driven production, and sector-specific training. He also underscored Guyana's

tax relief, expanded access to credit, and modernisation of the banking and payment systems. Special focus will be placed on empowering vulnerable

groups—women, children, and the elderly.

"We will continue to support our traditional sectors—rice, sugar, gold, bauxite, quarrying—while driving investment to add more value to our natural resources,"

he affirmed. Support will also be extended to manufacturing, small and medium enterprises, and industrial park development.

Security and Governance

Strengthening border security remains a top priority, with investments in maritime, aerial, and land surveillance technologies. The President emphasised a more service-oriented, community-led approach to policing, along with better training and living standards for security personnel.

Climate Resilience and Global Leadership

Climate resilience is **"key to national security,"** President Ali said, pointing to

expanded sea and river defenses, better drainage and irrigation, and climate-smart infrastructure. The Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 will position Guyana as a global leader in biodiversity and climate action. Plans also include establishing a global center of excellence for environmental research and education.

Moral, Civic, and Institutional Renewal

The President also highlighted the need for high-quality moral, religious, and civic education, and the transformation of government institutions to improve productivity, transparency, and governance.

"We must reduce bureaucracy, strengthen the judiciary, and ensure strong systems that secure the nation's resources for future generations," he said.

President Ali affirmed that the best days lie ahead, as Guyana moves from potential to realisation.

PEACEFUL BUT RESOLUTE

- PRESIDENT ALI REAFFIRMS GUYANA'S COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING ITS BORDERS

As Guyana celebrated its 59th Independence Anniversary, President Irfaan Ali delivered a powerful message of national pride and resolve, reaffirming the country's unwavering commitment to defending its territorial integrity while pursuing a peaceful and united path forward.

Speaking before a large crowd of citizens and uniformed personnel at the Albion Sports Complex in Region Six, President Ali made it clear that while Guyana seeks peace, it stands ready to defend its sovereignty against all threats—especially in light of continued aggression from Venezuela.

"We are not aggressors, we are protectors. But let

no one mistake our peacefulness for weakness in our sovereignty," President Ali declared. **"If our land is threatened, we shall rise—as one nation, one people, one destiny. We shall rise not in fear, but in fearless loyalty to the land that gave us birth and which we love unconditionally. We shall defend this nation with every beat of our hearts, every muscle in our body, every fiber of our souls. We will never waver, never falter, never surrender."**

President Ali reiterated that Guyana's borders were definitively established by the 1899 Arbitral Award, emphasising that its territorial rights are

legally and historically indisputable.

He said the Golden Arrowhead, proudly flying in every savannah, riverbank, village, and community, is a symbol of national defiance—defiance against historical injustice, foreign ambitions, and all who questioned the legitimacy of Guyana's independence and territorial claims.

Beyond matters of sovereignty, the President called for unity, vigilance, and shared purpose as Guyana looks ahead.

"Independence was never just a matter of geography or autonomy. It was a sacred promise—a pledge that the people of Guyana, regardless of race, religion, class, or

creed, would together build a future rooted in dignity, equity, and equality of opportunity," he stated.

He urged citizens to bridge religious, ethnic, and geographic divides and continue advancing together as a unified nation.

With the 2025 General and Regional Elections approaching, President Ali also made a strong appeal for a peaceful, performance-based campaign season.

"These elections must be about performance, competition of ideas, and vision—not empty rhetoric. After the ballots are counted, it must be about one government, governing for One



President Ali pledges unwavering defense of Guyana's sovereignty on Independence Day

Guyana," he asserted. **"Let these elections be marked by love, unity, strength of character, and dignity."**

He cautioned against divisive voices and misinformation, urging Guyanese to safeguard the democratic spirit that defines the nation.

Closing his address, President Ali pledged to continue serving

with dignity, pride, and trust, alongside the Government and the uniformed services. **"Let us hand our children not just sovereign land, but a strong, just, and flourishing nation,"** he urged. **"The work of building and defending Guyana belongs to all of us—and the best days are yet to come."**

GUYANA HEADS TO THE POLLS ON SEPTEMBER 1

- PRESIDENT MAKES OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

President Irfaan Ali has officially declared September 1, 2025, as the date for Guyana's General and Regional Elections, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's democratic calendar.

The announcement was made during his address at the 59th Independence Anniversary celebrations on May 26, held at the Albion Sports Complex in Region Six. President Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to a free and fair electoral process, assuring citizens that all necessary steps will be taken to uphold democratic principles.

He also indicated that a formal proclamation to dissolve Parliament will soon be issued—the constitutional first

step before national elections. According to Guyana's Constitution, elections must be held within three months of Parliament's dissolution, placing the September 1 date well within legal bounds.

This will be the first general election since March 2, 2020, a historic and controversial process marked by attempted electoral fraud and a prolonged five-month delay before the final results were declared. Those events triggered widespread condemnation and were linked to officials from the then APNU+AFC coalition and rogue elements within GECOM.

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) eventually assumed office on August 2, 2020, following a national recount that confirmed its victory. Since then, the administration has moved to strengthen the electoral framework, including amendments to the Representation of the People's Act (ROPA) to enhance transparency and prevent manipulation.

With the official date now set, Guyana

enters election mode, gearing up for a critical democratic exercise that will shape the country's leadership for the next five years.



President sets September 1 for Elections



President sets September 1 for Elections

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has confirmed its preparedness to conduct General and Regional Elections on September 1, 2025, assuring citizens of a smooth, credible, and constitutionally sound process.

In a statement,

GECOM AFFIRMS READINESS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 POLLS

GECOM addressed claims by opposition-appointed commissioners that the election date was arbitrarily set. The Commission clarified that the date followed standard procedures and constitutional guidelines.

The process was set in motion on May 23, when President Irfaan Ali consulted GECOM Chair, Retired Justice Claudette Singh, on the feasibility of holding elections within three months. Chair Singh then sought advice from Chief Election Officer Vishnu Persaud, who confirmed the existence of a draft

work plan projecting readiness by August 25, 2025. Based on this input, GECOM advised that elections could be held by September 1.

To support the process, the government has allocated over G\$7 billion to GECOM. These funds will facilitate the training of approximately 19,000 temporary election workers, a nationwide voter education campaign, and the procurement of essential election materials.

GECOM expressed confidence in its ability to deliver free, fair, and transparent elections as Guyana prepares for this pivotal democratic event.

JULY 14 IS NOMINATION DAY

As preparations advance for the September 1, 2025 General and Regional Elections, the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) has released critical deadlines for political parties and eligible voters.

Following approval of the updated election work plan at GECOM's statutory meeting on May 29, the Secretariat is now authorised to proceed with full-scale implementation of electoral activities.

Key Deadlines:
N o m i n a t i o n Day: July 14, 2025
Political parties must submit their Lists of Candidates using statutory forms available on GECOM's website: www.gecom.org.gy.

S y m b o l A p p l i c a t i o n s:
Deadline – June 22, 2025
Parties must submit applications for the allocation of symbols to allow adequate time for approval.

Claims and

Objections Period: June 16–20
To finalise the Official List of Electors (OLE), GECOM will conduct a brief, targeted **Claims and Objections exercise**. While continuous registration has been ongoing since **January 2023**, this legal exercise ensures the voter list is accurate and up to date.

During this period, voters may:

- Register** if they will be 18 or older by **June 30, 2025**;

C o r r e c t information on National Identification Cards;
Update name changes due to legal procedures;
T r a n s f e r registration due to change of address.

Important Voting Location Note:
GECOM reminds voters that if they have changed their residential address to a **different electoral district**, they must still vote at the **polling station linked to their previous**



The Peoples Progressive Party contingent on Nominations Day in 2020

address for this election, in keeping with the current electoral framework.

GECOM encourages all citizens and political stakeholders to comply with these deadlines to ensure full participation. The Commission remains committed to conducting elections with the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and inclusiveness.



A senior being assisted at a recent NIS outreach in Region Five

The Government of Guyana has officially commenced the NIS One-Off Payment Programme, delivering direct financial support to over 25,000 senior citizens who contributed between 500 and 749 times to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) but do not qualify for a pension.

The programme—announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali in April—was formally launched on Tuesday, June 3, by Senior Minister in the

NIS ONE-OFF PAYMENTS OFFICIALLY BEGIN, BENEFITTING OVER 25,000 – ELIGIBLE SENIORS TO RECEIVE UP TO \$650,000

Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr Ashni Singh.

To be eligible, individuals must:

- Have 500 to 749 NIS contributions on record
- Be 60 years or older by December 31, 2024
- Not be receiving an NIS pension

Depending on the number of contributions, eligible seniors will receive the following one-time payments:

5 0 0 – 5 4 9	contributions: \$260,000
5 5 0 – 5 9 9	contributions: \$390,000
6 0 0 – 6 9 9	contributions: \$520,000
7 0 0 – 7 4 9	contributions: \$650,000

This initiative addresses the long-standing challenge faced by individuals who narrowly missed the 750-contribution threshold required for a full NIS pension.

As part of Budget 2025, the government allocated \$10 billion to finance this programme, which forms part of a wider agenda to enhance the quality of life for Guyana's elderly population.

A dedicated website, <https://oneoffnis.gov.gy>, has been created for individuals to check their eligibility and apply online. Alternatively, application forms can be collected and submitted at NIS offices across the country.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Singh urged all eligible persons to apply as soon as possible to benefit from the programme.

“The government is committed to ensuring that those who have given their best years in service to the nation are treated with dignity, care, and respect,” he stated.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS: STRONGER LAWS PASSED FOR SAFER VOTES, SAFER STREETS, AND SAFER KIDS



Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs
Mohabir Anil Nandlall,
SC

Guyana's National Assembly has enacted four pivotal pieces of legislation aimed at strengthening democratic governance, improving public safety, and safeguarding children's rights. These new laws underscore the government's commitment to building a just, secure, and inclusive society.

ELECTORAL INTEGRITY BOLSTERED WITH AMENDMENT TO REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

To reinforce the electoral framework, Parliament passed an amendment to the Representation of the People Act (ROPA). The update formally includes a deputy supernumerary returning officer in the legal definition of election officials for polling sub-districts in Regions Three, Four, and Six—Guyana's largest electoral regions.



Minister of Agriculture
Zulfikar Mustapha

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, who introduced the bill, said the amendment closes a key oversight from the 2022 revision of the Act. **"The amendment is small but**

significant. We failed to include someone to deputise for the supernumerary returning officer, which this bill now corrects," he explained.

The measure is part of wider electoral reforms initiated after the disputed 2020 General and Regional Elections. Since 2020, several amendments have been



Minister of Local
Government and
Regional Development
Sonia Parag

made to ROPA and the National Registration Act to enhance electoral transparency and accountability.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Sonia Parag, noted the 2020 crisis revealed how loopholes were exploited—not due to legislative failure but manipulation by rogue elements.

"This amendment strengthens operations in our largest districts and reflects public input from wide consultations," she said.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha added that the amendment offers **"substantive clarification"** to Guyana's election law and reaffirms the legal structure for credible elections.

REGIONAL SECURITY STRENGTHENED WITH PASSAGE OF RSS BILL

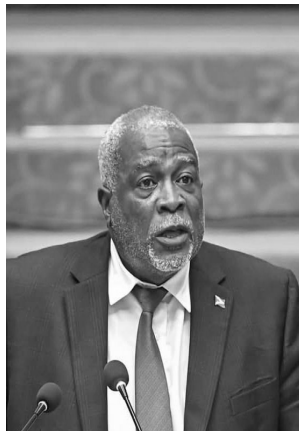
The Regional Security System (RSS) Bill 2025 was also passed, paving the way for Guyana to fully implement the treaty establishing the RSS—a regional alliance of Caribbean

nations focused on collective security, law enforcement, and disaster response.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, who presented the bill, emphasised that its passage aligns national law with Guyana's international commitments as a dualist state.

"Without this Bill, our service personnel would be operating in legal limbo when carrying out RSS duties. This legislation corrects that, offering them legal protection and operational clarity."

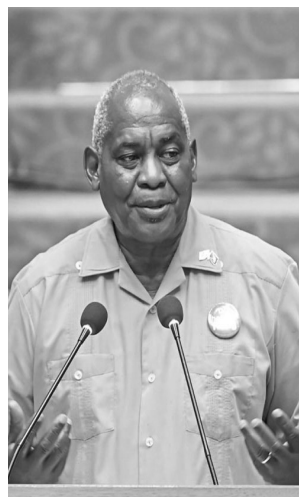
He further explained that the RSS is not symbolic but functional, with a proven track



Prime Minister,
Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark
Phillips

record of regional cooperation—from assisting in criminal investigations to humanitarian missions.

Key provisions of the Bill include enforcement of Articles 10 to 14 of the RSS Treaty, addressing matters such as jurisdiction, command structures, training, and coast guard operations. The legislation also allows foreign service personnel operating in Guyana



Minister of Home Affairs
Robeson Benn

under RSS mandates to retain jurisdictional protections, and vice versa.

"This Bill gives strength to our security, structure to our regional cooperation, and legal grounding to our commitments," Prime Minister Phillips stated.

CRIMINAL USE OF MASKS TARGETED WITH TOUGHER PENALTIES

To improve public safety, Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025, which makes it a criminal offence to wear a mask or disguise while committing a crime.

Attorney General Nandlall said the law addresses a concerning trend of offenders using masks to hide their identities during criminal acts.

"While masks have legitimate uses—such as for health, religious, or cultural reasons—they are increasingly misused in crimes. This bill makes it clear: anonymity is no shield for criminal behaviour."

The law treats mask-wearing during an offence as an aggravating factor, attracting stricter penalties—fines between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and prison terms ranging from one to five years.

Minister of Home Affairs Robeson Benn and Government MP Sanjeev Datadin supported the bill. Datadin said it empowers

law enforcement by providing enhanced legal tools to prosecute criminals who conceal their identities.

"This is about giving police the tools to deal with those who try to hide behind a mask," Datadin noted.

The measure is part of a broader legislative agenda targeting criminal justice reform, digital security, and natural resource governance.

GUYANA ENACTS INTERNATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION LAW UNDER HAGUE CONVENTION

In a major step toward advancing children's rights, Parliament passed the International Measures for the Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Bill. The new law gives effect to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Minister of Human



Member of Parliament
Sanjeev Datadin

Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya

Persaud, who tabled the bill, said it addresses cross-border custody and abduction disputes, ensuring the best interests of the child come first.

"This law reduces delays, defines which country's court has jurisdiction, and ensures timely, fair decisions," she explained.

The legislation applies to children from birth to age 18 and enables:

A Central Authority in Guyana to manage international child protection cases

The High Court to apply foreign law when appropriate

Enforcement of rulings from other Hague Convention countries

Structured cooperation with overseas judicial systems

This is the second Hague Convention-aligned law passed in recent years, further modernising Guyana's legal framework for child welfare.

"It's about protecting every child—no matter where they are," Dr. Persaud affirmed.

These legislative actions reflect a comprehensive strategy to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance public safety, and protect the most vulnerable—especially children. Together, they demonstrate Guyana's resolve to uphold the rule of law, promote justice, and build a safer, more resilient society for all.



GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME ONE-OFF PAYMENT

For persons over 60 years of age with
500-749 contributions.

To check eligibility and apply visit:
oneoffnis.gov.gy



FORMER RIVALS AND KEY FIGURES ENDORSE PRESIDENT ALI'S RE-ELECTION BID

CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT SIGNALS GROWING CONFIDENCE IN PPP/C LEADERSHIP AHEAD OF SEPTEMBER POLLS



President Ali with Dr. Richard Van West Charles, former PNC/R Central Executive member and government minister

With Guyana's General and Regional Elections set for September 1, 2025, President Dr. Irfaan Ali has received an unprecedented wave of endorsements from influential political figures—many of whom were once vocal critics or members of the opposition. The growing cross-party support signals rising national confidence in the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C) and President Ali's leadership.

Among the most high-profile endorsements is that of **Dr. Richard Van West Charles**, a former PNC/R Central Executive member and government minister, who now serves as Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela. In a video shared via President Ali's official Facebook page, Van West Charles



Lenox Shuman, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Leader of the Liberty and Justice Party

described the Head of State as the leader Guyana needs at this critical juncture.

"Over the last four years, we've witnessed the President's performance. He has worked assiduously to ensure inclusive

participation through the equitable use of resources from the petroleum and other sectors," he said. **Lenox Shuman, Leader of the Liberty and Justice Party (LJP) and former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,** also declared his support. Shuman, known for advocating Indigenous rights, praised the government's inclusion of Indigenous voices.

"I have witnessed genuine efforts to include and uplift Indigenous communities. I believe in continuity where progress is evident," he wrote on social media.



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo with Dr. Asha Kissoon, Leader of The New Movement, and her father and brother

Dr. Asha Kissoon, Leader of The New Movement (TNM) and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, added her voice to the growing chorus. Citing progress in job creation, infrastructure, healthcare, and youth empowerment, Dr. Kissoon said the PPP/C's emphasis on social justice and inclusive growth aligns with her own values.

She also commended President Ali's leadership during the Venezuela

border controversy, contrasting it with what she described as the Opposition's "partisanship and lack of unity."

"The PPP/C has not only promised progress—they've delivered it," she said. **"Unlike the APNU+AFC, which left a trail of electoral misconduct and broken promises, the PPP/C is building a future of inclusion, stability, and national unity."**

Shazaam Ally, founding member of The Citizenship Initiative (TCI) and former board member of the National Communications Network (NCN), announced he had joined the PPP/C. In a statement, Ally acknowledged past disagreements with the party but said the progress under the current administration has been undeniable.

"I've seen growing investment, empowered youth, and an engaged government. This move isn't about abandoning my

values—but living them," Ally wrote.

Another surprising show of support came from within the PNC/R's stronghold in **Region Four. Daniel Seeram, Regional Chairman and PNC/R Executive Member,** declared his support for the PPP/C after what he described as **"fruitful discussions and careful consideration."** His colleague, **Regional Vice Chairman Samuel Sandy,** also endorsed the current administration, citing

Guyana's unprecedented economic growth and strengthened global partnerships.

"The PPP/C is the only political movement with the vision and competence to unify

founder of the Small Miners Association, announced his endorsement of President Ali and the PPP/C.

Daniels, who joined the AFC in 2018, said his decision stemmed



Daniel Seeram, PNC Reform Member and Current Region 4 Chairman with President Ali and VP Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo

Guyana during this historic period of growth," Sandy stated.

Opposition Member of Parliament Geeta Chandan-Edmond made headlines when she publicly endorsed President Ali from the floor of the National Assembly.

"There is an attempt to silence me tonight—but I stand unshaken. I stand proudly with President Ali, with his vision, his leadership, and his commitment to Guyana. I fully and unapologetically endorse him for a second term. The work is not done—transformation is still on the way," she declared.

Chandan-Edmond, who earlier this year supported the government's trillion-dollar 2025 national budget, also emphasised her belief in bipartisan collaboration for national development.

"I dream of a transformational Guyana where our children rise not only as national leaders but as proud global citizens carrying the Golden Arrowhead with dignity," she added.

Support has also emerged from within the Alliance For Change (AFC). **David Daniels, AFC's Region Seven Chairman and**

from shared goals for economic diversification and small-scale mining development.

"It is just fitting that if I see that your vision and my vision align, then I will support you," he said. **"I represent that constituency of mining, and I will continue to represent that."**

He credited the administration's engagement with small miners and its broader push for economic transformation beyond oil and gas. **"My decision right now—joining President Ali and this government—will**



Opposition MP Chandan-Edmond

help small miners and the people I represent," Daniels added.

Ismail Muhammad-Al-Cush, AFC Councillor for Region Five and respected religious leader, also announced his endorsement of the President and the PPP/C, citing "internal



Samuel Sandy, Regional Vice Chairman and PNC/R member

AFC.

In a formal statement, Al-Cush declared: **"I hereby honorably detach myself from the AFC in order to preserve my dignity**



David Daniels, AFC's Region Seven Chairman and founder of the Small Miners Association

and integrity." He continued: **"I was privileged not only to witness the changes in Region Five but to be part of that transformation. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending to the voting population President Dr. Irfaan Ali and his team for a second term to ensure continued development, progress, and prosperity."**

He urged voters to unite behind the PPP/C and "trust the process" on E-Day 2025.

Outside the political sphere, support for President Ali continues to build. Popular entertainer and businessman Marlon 'Freedom Boss' Jacobs added his voice with a simple but impactful message: **"VOTE PPP/C."**

COLOMBIAN ASPHALT PLANT OPENS IN GUYANA - TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR



President Ali sees new plant as catalyst for regional disaster response hub

The landscape of the Linden-Soesdyke Highway has been significantly transformed with the official inauguration of the DROMINC Asphalt Plant, a major Colombian investment poised to strengthen economic ties between Guyana and Colombia and support Guyana's booming infrastructure sector.

The state-of-the-art facility was formally commissioned in the presence of President Irfaan Ali, former Colombian President Iván Duque, and Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, CEO of the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest). Senior representatives of DROMINC and members of Guyana's

private sector were also in attendance.

"This is not just about an asphalt plant. Today is about building a lasting relationship between two countries," President Ali said during his keynote address. **"You can now return home and tell your private sector not about propaganda or perception, but about reality—what Guyana truly offers."**

DROMINC, established in Guyana in 2024, specialises in asphalt mixtures, stone aggregates, and compaction services. Its strategic location along the Linden-Soesdyke Highway—an evolving development corridor—is expected to provide direct support to Guyana's rapidly expanding construction and infrastructure

sectors.

The President highlighted that this investment marks the



DROMINC Plant opens on EBD

beginning of broader regional collaboration, urging Colombian investors to look beyond traditional ventures and consider affordable housing solutions, precast infrastructure, and climate-resilient technologies.

He challenged foreign partners to position Guyana as a manufacturing and



DROMINC Plant opens on EBD

logistics hub for the Caribbean, particularly in disaster response, building materials, and green infrastructure.

"How do we get affordable concrete blocks and precast tiles made in Guyana into every single market in the Caribbean?" he asked. **"How do we integrate with local services to reduce costs and boost efficiency?"**

President Ali also emphasised that Guyana's growing appeal is rooted in its multi-dimensional development strategy, which addresses global challenges such

as food, energy, and climate security while strengthening regional trade. He praised former President Duque for his advocacy and support, calling him a **"true friend of Guyana."**

Highlighting major infrastructure initiatives—including the Linden to Lethem Road, the Corentyne River Bridge, and linkages to Region Seven—President Ali said the government is investing billions to transform Guyana's infrastructure and connectivity.

The President reiterated his administration's ambitious goal to attract three million visitors annually, supported by airport expansions, a growing tourism ecosystem, and a robust climate for investment and innovation.

Echoing these sentiments,

Reyes, a director on the boards of DROMINC, DROMOS Pavimentos, and Incominerias, shared that their initial visit to Guyana revealed much more than just investment opportunity—it revealed partnership potential.

"We are not here for a one-time opportunity," Reyes said. **"This plant is a demonstration of our long-term confidence in President Irfaan Ali's national vision. Under his leadership, Guyana has achieved extraordinary results."**

The new DROMINC facility not only reflects growing foreign investor confidence in Guyana's economy, but also underscores the country's emergence as a regional hub for innovation, sustainability, and cross-border trade.



DROMINC Plant opens on EBD

PRESIDENT ALI'S LEADERSHIP "PUTS GUYANA IN EYES OF THE WORLD," - FORMER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT IVÁN DUQUE

Former Colombian President Iván Duque has hailed President Irfaan Ali as a transformative leader who is positioning Guyana at the forefront of global interest through visionary and responsible governance.

Speaking at the inauguration of the DROMINC Asphalt Plant—a new Colombian investment on the Linden-Soesdyke Highway, Duque described President Ali as part of a **"new generation of leadership"** that is successfully blending rapid economic growth with environmental sustainability and long-term national planning.

"When I met President Ali, I understood that he not only represented



Colombia's Former President, Ivan Duque

a new generation of leadership for this country, but represented a person whose personal commitment is to put Guyana in the eyes of the whole planet," Duque stated.

He praised President Ali for attracting an unprecedented number of global leaders and investors to Guyana—not for ceremonial visits, but to build lasting partnerships.

"We have never seen so many heads of state from different parts of the world come to Guyana as we have seen during President Ali's term," Duque said. **"It's not just about speeches—it's about investment, trade, energy, and food security."**

Duque emphasised that Guyana has emerged as a key pillar in regional energy and food security under President Ali's leadership, citing a governance model rooted in fiscal prudence, strategic investment, and sustainability. **"Guyana doesn't take the easy route,"** he noted. **"It has managed its oil boom with responsibility—investing in the future while balancing growth**



President Irfaan Ali and Colombia's Former President, Ivan Duque at the inauguration ceremony of the DROMINC Asphalt Plant

and sustainability."

The former Colombian president also commended Guyana's infrastructure development, calling it a powerful enabler of innovation and opportunity. **"Infrastructure is the best way to shorten distances and empower citizens to transform their daily**

reality," Duque said.

Highlighting Guyana's internationally recognized Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), Duque declared: **"Green is the new oil. Guyana's carbon sink potential, if fairly priced, could match the economic value of its oil reserves—and that is fascinating."**

Duque concluded by

applauding the resilience of the Guyanese people and President Ali's efforts to foster an environment welcoming to foreign investment. **"Guyana is becoming a model for sustainable, inclusive development,"** he said, **"and President Ali deserves credit for leading that charge."**

DR. JAGDEO FORESEES DECISIVE PPP/C VICTORY IN 2025 ELECTIONS



General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, has expressed strong confidence in a decisive victory for the ruling party in the 2025 General and Regional Elections.

Speaking at a press conference at Freedom House, Dr. Jagdeo said the PPP/C's optimism is grounded in its extensive preparatory work and favourable internal polling.

"We'll win the elections handsomely—and it's because of the work we've done," he declared. **"We have a lot of polling done, and our polling stacks up extremely well."**

He revealed that the party has been preparing for the upcoming elections for nearly a year and is currently finalising its manifesto. Consultations are ongoing to refine the policy proposals gathered under various thematic areas.

In addition to a full manifesto, the PPP/C will also publish a series of smaller, issue-specific documents aimed at highlighting its accomplishments over the past five years.

"People will see some of these broad ideas in the documents that we already have, which we will circulate widely," Dr. Jagdeo said

PPP/C EYES MORE DEVELOPMENT POST-2025

Dr. Jagdeo was clear that the PPP/C's work is far from over. If re-elected, the party intends to accelerate Guyana's

transformation. He pointed to a range of future priorities, including addressing traffic congestion, improving road safety, and enhancing national garbage collection. Beyond infrastructure, he outlined a more inclusive development strategy that includes financial literacy and inclusion, the establishment of a development bank for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and opportunities for citizens to invest in state-led projects. He said these initiatives reflect the government's ongoing focus on digital transformation and efforts to reduce burdensome taxes.

OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA DISMISSED

Dr. Jagdeo also pushed back against opposition criticism of the government's infrastructure drive, labelling it **"short-sighted"**. He pointed to recent trends, such as the rapid exhaustion of the new PAL vehicle registration series—issued just three months after the previous PAK series—as evidence of growing prosperity and the urgent need for expanded infrastructure. **"Imagine if we had a policy like the opposition's—where all the oil money should be handed out and nothing invested in infrastructure,"** he said.

He underscored that while roads and bridges remain a priority, significant resources have also been directed to the social sector. Since

2020, he noted, there has been a cumulative increase of \$105 billion in public sector wages.

NO POLITICAL PROMISES FOR SUPPORTERS

Addressing claims that individuals now supporting the PPP/C were offered jobs or political incentives, Dr. Jagdeo categorically denied such accusations.

"None of the people who have come to us voluntarily has been offered anything—no position once we win the elections, nothing of the sort," he stated.

He said many former critics are now supporting the PPP/C because of its proven leadership, inclusive governance, and delivery

the party of hypocrisy in its recent calls to renegotiate the 2016 Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) with ExxonMobil.

He called the AFC's rhetoric disingenuous, noting the party's direct involvement in signing what he described as **"one of the most lopsided contracts in the country's history."**

"They are just conveniently saying this because it's a popular song now," he said.

Dr. Jagdeo referenced the Clyde & Co. report, which was commissioned by the APNU+AFC administration. The report revealed that ExxonMobil's own commercial advisor

In contrast, he outlined the PPP/C government's ongoing reforms to improve oil and gas governance. These include a new model PSA with increased royalties and reduced cost recovery caps, the introduction of a 10 percent corporate tax, the passage of a Local Content Law, and updated petroleum legislation.

RESPONDS TO AZZURDIN MOHAMED'S ATTACKS

Dr. Jagdeo also responded to public criticism from businessman and aspiring presidential candidate Azzurdin Mohamed and his family, particularly their claims that the "Because

grant is a key PPP/C manifesto promise aimed at supporting families and education.

"They didn't know that the \$11 billion they stole from the treasury is taxpayers' money too... That \$11B could fund one year of cash grant for all 200,000 kids in the country," Dr. Jagdeo said, referencing alleged financial misconduct by the Mohameds.

He expressed concern over what he described as selective outrage by segments of civil society and the media. While President Ali is often criticised for minor matters, serious allegations against Mohamed—including claims of gold smuggling involving 10,000 kilograms—are often ignored, he said.

Dr. Jagdeo also questioned Mohamed's credibility, referencing contradictory statements related to evidence of alleged tax evasion. He cited one instance where Mohamed claimed to have paid US\$1 million for a Lamborghini but later presented an invoice for only US\$5,000.

"This is someone who lies openly. He contradicts himself every time he opens his mouth," Dr. Jagdeo said.

He dismissed suggestions that the government is targeting Mohamed out of fear of his popularity. Dr. Jagdeo said the government will respond to anyone who launches unfounded attacks, whether they are from APNU, AFC, or Mohamed himself.



What was once a mud dam at the Charity Squatting Area is now being transformed into a concrete driveway, under the government's infrastructure development programme

on promises. He also criticised those seeking to discredit political converts, arguing that every citizen has a democratic right to change allegiance.

"We live in a free country... What I see is people coming to us because of the progress and leadership of the PPP to implement a national agenda."

AFC'S POSITION ON EXXONMOBIL AGREEMENT CALLED HYPOCRITICAL

Dr. Jagdeo also took aim at the Alliance for Change (AFC), accusing

prepared the Cabinet memorandum that justified the deal—an arrangement he described as **"almost criminal."**

He further highlighted the involvement of top AFC figures—Nigel Hughes, whose law office was listed as Exxon's local office, and Rafael Trotman, who signed the deal as Minister of Natural Resources. Dr. Jagdeo condemned the terms of the agreement, citing the lack of ring-fencing provisions, zero corporate tax, a meagre two percent royalty, and a secret US\$18 million signing bonus.

We Care" cash grant is a misuse of public funds.

He dismissed the allegations, stating the



Dr Jagdeo says new PAL series launch is evidence of progress

KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES LAUNCHES NON-STOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE NETHERLANDS

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has officially launched its non-stop service between Georgetown, Guyana and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The inaugural flight took off on June 4, 2025, marking the beginning of a twice-weekly schedule—Wednesdays and Saturdays—operated by an Airbus A330-200 aircraft.

The launch significantly boosts Guyana’s global connectivity, granting travellers seamless access to 21 destinations in the United Kingdom and over 140 other destinations via Amsterdam’s Schiphol

Airport—one of the world’s leading international hubs.

An official unveiling ceremony was held at Cara Lodge Hotel in Georgetown, where government officials, airline representatives, and diplomatic dignitaries gathered to celebrate the milestone.

President Dr. Irfaan Ali welcomed the service, calling it a gateway to **“one of the most prestigious hubs in the world.”** He described KLM not merely as an investor, but as a partner in Guyana’s growth. **“It is our duty to help you make your stay here successful,”**

he said, emphasising the government’s commitment to policies that ensure KLM’s sustainable and profitable operations.

President Ali noted that the flight will also support regional trade by enhancing product transport capacity. He called KLM’s entry **“a vote of confidence in our stability, our infrastructure, and our vision for the future.”**

With growing passenger traffic, the President revealed that Guyana is preparing to accommodate three million travellers annually by 2030. Plans for Terminal 2 at Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) are in their final stages, as the current terminal is already operating at capacity. The upgrade aims to transform CJIA into a major hub with regional connectivity within a 35-minute radius.

Dirk Buitelaar, KLM’s Regional Manager, described the new route as historic—marking KLM’s first non-stop flight to a South American country. **“This is more than just a new destination—**



President Ali at the inauguration of the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines twice-weekly service connecting the Netherlands to Guyana via St Maarten

it’s a symbol of connection between Europe and South America, commerce and culture, and most importantly, between people,” he said. He praised Guyana’s pioneering role in aviation and highlighted KLM’s commitment to fostering business, tourism, and diplomacy.

Dutch Ambassador Walter Oostelbos called the launch a **“major step”** in boosting Guyana’s connectivity with Europe, applauding the nation’s effective use of oil and gas development to attract global investment.



Business centre for PWDs commissioned in Region Six

Palmyra, Region Six, is now home to a transformative facility designed to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs). First Lady Arya Ali officially commissioned the Centre for Equity, Opportunity and Innovation—a first-of-its-kind business centre in the Caribbean that will provide direct employment to 120 PWDs, promoting financial independence and social inclusion.

The state-of-the-art facility includes five workstations for crafting and snack production, a retail space to sell products, a boardroom for training, a therapy room for wellness, a cafeteria, modern restrooms, and a large shade house managed by employees to enhance skill-building and income generation.

In her address, First Lady Arya Ali emphasised the significance of the

NEW CENTRE OPENS IN PALMYRA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

centre in removing long-standing employment barriers for PWDs. **“We are here to open a door to dignity and independence,”** she stated. **“The East Berbice-Corentyne region, known for rice and sugar, is now a frontier of inclusion.”** She affirmed that the centre, located in the Empower Guyana building, is not a token gesture, but a tool for empowerment. **“Inclusion isn’t a privilege in Guyana—it is a right,”** she declared.

She also highlighted the government’s expanding social protection programmes for PWDs, including cash grants and public assistance, and envisioned a future where persons with disabilities across Guyana have the opportunity to thrive. **“We are building a society where the child in Mahaica with a hearing disability can dream of being a coder, and the woman in Albion with limited mobility can own a business,”** she said.

To support the centre’s sustainability, she announced that several government agencies, including the Ministry of Education, have committed to



A section of the shadehouse at the business centre

purchasing goods and services produced at the facility.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, outlined broader developmental plans for Region Six and reiterated the PPP/C government’s commitment to improving the lives of PWDs.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, praised the initiative, noting the government’s track record of creating housing and economic opportunities for PWDs.



Guyana is currently serving a two-year term on the Security Council, from January 2024 to December 2025

On June 1, 2025, Guyana officially began its one-month presidency of the United Nations Security Council, marking a significant milestone in the country’s diplomatic journey. This is Guyana’s

third term as a non-permanent member, having previously served in 1975–1976 and 1982–1983.

Guyana’s presidency comes at a critical moment for global peace and security. The June agenda includes a full slate of mandated Council meetings, addressing key situations in Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Central Africa, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen. A meeting on Resolution 2334 concerning Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories is also scheduled.

A key feature of Guyana’s presidency

GUYANA ASSUMES UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY

will be a High-Level Open Debate on June 19, chaired by His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali. The debate, titled “Poverty, Underdevelopment and Conflict: Implications for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,” will include briefings by representatives from the United Nations, the African Union, and statements from Member States. The discussion aims to deepen understanding

of how poverty and underdevelopment fuel and result from conflict, building on previous Council debates and responding to the global rise in armed conflicts and the slow progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Another major event will be the annual Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on June 25. This session will include briefings by Virginia Gamba, Special

Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, followed by statements from Member States on the Secretary-General’s annual report.

Throughout its presidency, Guyana intends to spotlight several key national priorities: Conflict prevention and the security-development nexus, the impact of climate change on

peace and security, the protection of children in armed conflict, and the women, peace, and security agenda.

Guyana is currently serving a two-year term on the Security Council, from January 2024 to December 2025. Its presidency in June 2025 positions the country to advance global discourse on sustainable development, conflict prevention, and human security in a time of growing international challenges.

GUYANA'S FUTURE-READY HEALTHCARE SECTOR ATTRACTS STRONG EU INTEREST

Guyana's bold push to build a **"future-ready"** healthcare system is drawing significant attention from Europe. Thirteen health and pharmaceutical companies from seven EU member states recently participated in a three-day EU Health and Pharma Investment Mission at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown—an initiative under the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

The mission focused on strengthening investment ties and building sustainable partnerships in healthcare and pharmaceuticals. Organised by the EU Delegation in



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony addressing the health and pharmaceutical companies from seven EU member states

Guyana, it created valuable opportunities for European firms to explore Guyana's evolving medical landscape, understand its regulatory environment, and forge partnerships with local stakeholders. Activities

included business meetings, seminars, and field visits that showcased the country's expanding health infrastructure. Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony welcomed the initiative, highlighting Guyana's

drive to develop resilient health systems in response to lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic. **"COVID-19 exposed how vulnerable small nations are to supply chain shocks,"** he said. **"This mission helps us build stronger, more self-reliant systems."**

Dr. Anthony also pointed to the EU-Rwanda pharmaceutical partnership as a model, noting that Guyana and Barbados are leading efforts to create a similar regional ecosystem. He outlined plans to localise pharmaceutical manufacturing and regulatory systems to position the Caribbean as a hub for production

and distribution. This vision was also shared at a recent global health meeting in Kosovo, where Caribbean health ministers sought expanded international cooperation.

Guyana's appeal is bolstered by its impressive economic growth—63.3% in 2022 and 33.8% in 2023—fuelled by the oil and gas sector. The government is using this momentum to attract diversified investment, with healthcare as a key focus. Incentives such as tax breaks and tariff reductions are being offered to manufacturers and suppliers.

This mission follows EU Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen's announcement, in February, of a new programme to support pharmaceutical production in Guyana and Barbados. It includes regulatory cooperation, investment, and education partnerships.

Just days earlier, President Irfaan Ali unveiled a plan to make Guyana a regional hub for biopharmaceuticals and healthcare research, in collaboration with the EU, Rwanda, and Harvard University—targeting vaccines, oncology, genomic science, and AI diagnostics.

The EU's active engagement signals a deep commitment to Guyana's healthcare transformation and the Caribbean's broader health resilience.

The rising wave of resignations from the opposition Alliance For Change (AFC) and the People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R) reflects not just political realignment, but a flight from internal dysfunction, according to Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC.

Speaking during his weekly *Issues in the News* commentary, AG Nandlall said the opposition parties are grappling with **"confusion, incompetence, and political stagnation,"** which is driving members to distance themselves ahead of the September 1, 2025, General and Regional Elections.

"RUNNING FROM CHAOS" – AG NANDLALL ATTRIBUTES OPPOSITION RESIGNATIONS TO INTERNAL DISARRAY



Attorney Selwyn Pieters is backing President Ali for second term



James Bond, who has been a key figure in the People's National Congress Reform (PNC-R), has thrown his support behind President, Dr. Irfaan Ali

"These people are not just leaving—they're running from chaos," he declared. **"They no longer want**

to be associated with disarray and a lack of vision."

AG Nandlall noted

that the resignations have **"snowballed into a sustained movement"** away from the opposition coalition, with many defectors now openly endorsing President Irfaan Ali for a second term.

He rejected suggestions that the departures are motivated by political opportunism, asserting instead that the trend reflects a recognition of the PPP/C's leadership and developmental agenda.

"This is not about switching sides for convenience," AG Nandlall explained.

"It's about people choosing to be part of a transformation. The PPP has a clear, ambitious vision for Guyana, and people want to be on board."

The Attorney General also cited a **"repellent culture"** within the PNC/R as a key reason for the defections. **"No sensible political group would want to partner with what the PNC has become. It's not functioning as a rational or coherent political unit,"** he said.

He predicted the exodus will continue as elections approach. **"This will escalate."**

Intelligent, forward-looking people cannot stay in that environment. Those with courage are leaving—and many are embracing the PPP," AG Nandlall added.

Citing the government's record of delivering on jobs, housing, infrastructure, and national development, he concluded: **"People want to be on the side of progress. They see where the vision is coming from—and they're moving in that direction."**

GECOM WALKOUTS A TACTIC TO DERAIL 2025 ELECTIONS- AG NANDLALL

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, has warned that repeated walkouts by opposition-nominated Commissioners at the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) are part of a calculated attempt to derail preparations for the 2025 General and Regional Elections.

His warning follows the latest disruption, where Commissioner Desmond Trotman walked out of a GECOM statutory meeting just minutes after it began,

causing a collapse due to lack of quorum and stalling progress on critical agenda items.

During his weekly *Issues in the News* commentary, AG Nandlall described the walkouts as a **"deliberate strategy"** by the opposition to obstruct the electoral process. **"They don't wish to go to the elections, and that must have been the direction given to them by the political directorate,"** he stated.

He highlighted the contradiction between

the opposition leader's public claims of electoral readiness and the disruptive actions of his **"cohorts at GECOM."** AG Nandlall further accused opposition-aligned Commissioners of attempting to **"rig from inside"** the Commission and protect those previously implicated in the 2020 election controversy.

He specifically named Commissioners Vincent Alexander, Charles Corbin, and Desmond Trotman, accusing them of engaging in an

"irregular form of conduct" by deliberately attending meetings only to walk out, thereby denying quorum.

However, AG Nandlall emphasised that neither the Government nor GECOM would be held hostage by such tactics. He pointed to Article 226(5) of the Constitution, which allows for an automatic adjournment of up to two calendar days if members unreasonably withhold attendance. If quorum is still not achieved, any four members



GECOM

present, including the Chairperson, may lawfully constitute a meeting.

"This is what will have to be activated," he said, noting that this mechanism was used during the 2020 elections and even before. He added that the Constitution was

designed to counteract such obstruction.

"These repeated walkouts are not new to the Guyanese electorate, but just like in 2020, we will not allow the democratic process to be hijacked," AG Nandlall asserted.

'BECAUSE WE CARE' GRANT REACHES 205,000 STUDENTS ACROSS GUYANA



The Ministry of Education has successfully completed the nationwide rollout of the Because We Care school cash grant and uniform voucher, delivering \$55,000 to each of approximately 205,000 children across all 10 administrative regions.

This \$11 billion investment from the 2025 National Budget is aimed at easing the financial burden on families and helping children prepare for the new academic year.

The distribution was

executed in phases:

- **Regions 7 and 9:** May 1–16
- **Regions 2 and 5:** May 19–23
- **Regions 1, 8, and 10:** May 25–31
- **Regions 3, 4, and 6:** June 2–6

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand praised the smooth implementation, citing meticulous planning. **“No complaints about waiting time or people not getting their grant—it’s smooth because we put a lot of back work into it,”** she stated.

The financial disbursement varied by region, reflecting student population sizes:

- **Region 1:** \$797M for 14,491 students
- **Region 2:** \$706M for 12,844 students
- **Region 3:** \$1.53B for 27,830 students
- **Region 4:** \$4.3B for 80,210 students
- **Georgetown:** \$2.1B for 38,284
- **East Bank Demerara:** \$1.07B for 19,461
- **East Coast Demerara:** \$1.23B for 22,465
- **Region 5:** \$639M for 11,612 students
- **Region 6:** \$1.3B for

23,023 students

- **Region 7:** \$448M for 8,145 students
- **Region 8:** \$241M for 4,373 students
- **Region 9:** \$596M for 10,831 students
- **Region 10:** \$646M for 11,747 students

A ‘mop-up’ phase will be announced for those who missed their scheduled collection dates. Authorised representatives can uplift the grant on a parent’s behalf with valid identification for both parties.

The Because We Care grant, first introduced at

\$10,000 in 2014 under the PPP/C government, was reinstated in 2021 at \$19,000 and has increased yearly—reaching \$45,000 in 2024 and now \$55,000 in 2025 (\$50,000 cash grant + \$5,000 uniform voucher).

Beyond school essentials, families are using the grant to improve living conditions. **“Some parents with six or seven children are using it to build toilets, install water pumps, and make their homes more**

comfortable—all in the child’s interest,” Minister Manickchand noted.

With over 90% of parents typically collecting the grant, the programme continues to enjoy strong national support. **“We named it Because We Care because we couldn’t think of a more appropriate name,”** the Minister affirmed, reiterating the government’s commitment to every child’s success.



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Reg:\$5.99

4.99 lb

CELEBRATING 59 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE - A NIGHT OF PRIDE AND CULTURE



Thousands gathered at the Albion Sports Complex in Berbice to mark Guyana's 59th Independence Anniversary in a vibrant celebration of national pride. The highlight of the evening was the ceremonial hoisting of the Golden Arrowhead—an emotional and symbolic moment for all in attendance. President Irfaan Ali delivered a powerful address, reaffirming the nation's unwavering commitment to unity, democracy, and sovereignty. The night featured a dynamic showcase of cultural performances and concluded with a breathtaking fireworks display. It was a moving tribute to Guyana's journey from colonialism to modern transformation, brought to life by the unshakable spirit of patriotism.



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each



Cedar
Parboiled Rice
8 kg

14⁹⁹
each



Nestle
Peanut Punch
1 L

2⁹⁹
each



Star Mango or
Guava Juice
1,5 L

1⁹⁹
each



Rubicon
Sour Sop Nectar
1 L

1⁹⁹
each



Home Choice
Chicken Noodle
Soup 45 g

89¢
each



Spur Tree Pineapple
Scotch Bonnet Pepper
Sauce 148 ml

1⁹⁹
each



Grace
Browning
148 ml

1⁹⁹
each



Demerara
Gold Cane Sugar
6-7 lbs

7⁹⁹
each



Cedar
Vegetable Oil
2.84 L

6⁹⁹
each



Green Giant Niblets
Whole Kernel Corn
341 ml

2/\$3



Grace Sardines
in Tomato Sauce
Assorted 155 g

2/\$2



777 Traditional
Basmati Rice
8 lbs

6⁹⁹
each



Black River
All Purpose Flour
5 kg

5⁹⁹
each



Strongmor
Garbage Bags
40s

2⁹⁹
each



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Assorted
385 ml

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375 g

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lb as is

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Whole Salmon**



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lb as is

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3 PCS Bag**



89¢

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Sweet Potatoes**



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Store Hours
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Saturday 8 am to 9 pm
Sunday 9 am to 7 pm

TORCH, SHERATON HOTELS GLOW FOR GUYANA'S 59TH INDEPENDENCE IN QATAR

The iconic Torch Hotel and Sheraton Hotel in Doha were illuminated with the vibrant colours of Guyana's Golden Arrowhead, setting a stunning backdrop for

showcased the rich culture and beauty of Guyana on a global stage. The event attracted a distinguished guest list, including Qatar's Minister of Labour, Dr. Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh

Director of the Americas Department in Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were joined by Qatari officials, business leaders, diplomats, and members of the Guyanese diaspora to mark this special occasion.

Ambassador Safraz Ahmad Shadoo opened the evening with welcoming remarks and introduced the main speaker, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, whom he praised as **"a leader from the people, of the people, for the people."** President Ali, internationally recognised for his visionary leadership, spoke passionately about the meaning of Independence—emphasising the unity of Guyana's diverse peoples and the shared purpose



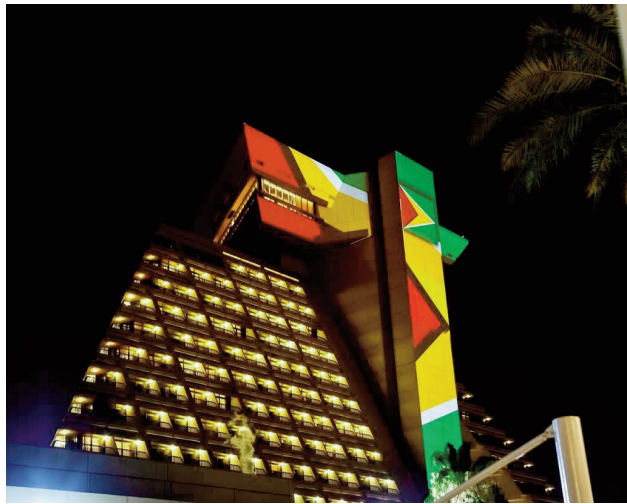
Scene from the brunch at State House

a unique Guyanese flair to the festivities. The celebration concluded with the traditional cake-cutting ceremony, attended by the dignitaries.

Event coordinator Dr. Julia Theresa Kanhai expressed gratitude to the Government of Qatar for their hospitality, the Embassy staff, and contributors also included artists Charlotte Lavelle and Danica

Hernandez, graphic artist Hasif Rasheed, and others who helped bring the event to life.

Guests enjoyed traditional Guyanese drinks like mauby and sorrel, and savored the national dish, Pepperpot. A live musical performance and gifted artworks symbolised the strengthening ties between Guyana and Qatar.



Sheraton Hotel in Doha

the Embassy of Guyana's celebration of the nation's 59th Independence Anniversary. This spectacular display

of the Embassy of Guyana's celebration of the nation's 59th Independence Anniversary. This spectacular display



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, virtually addressing the event

50,000+ HOUSE LOTS ALLOCATE - PPP/C EXCEEDS HOUSING MANDATE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Government has surpassed a major milestone in its housing agenda—allocating over 50,000 house lots nationwide, well ahead of its five-year target. This landmark achievement was confirmed by Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, during a two-day housing outreach held at State House, New Amsterdam, Region Six, on May 30–31.

The allocations reflect the government's commitment to making homeownership accessible to Guyanese of all income levels. The recent Region Six outreach alone delivered 1,800 house lots to residents in the Overwinning Housing Scheme, East Bank

Berbice.

"We've allocated 48,661 house lots over the last five years, and with 1,800 more issued in Region Six, we have officially exceeded our manifesto commitment—months before the end of our first term," Minister Rodrigues announced. She stressed that owning a home is **"one of the most important accomplishments in the lives of any person who is seeking to develop themselves and to provide a safe and secure future for their children."**

The impact of these allocations was evident in the jubilant reactions of new landowners. Shakira Fredericks, a 22-year-old, expressed her excitement about



Allottee selecting their house lot numbers

becoming a property owner, ready to embark on her home-building journey. **"It is a major achievement to have a land where you can start to build your life,"** she shared. Errol Madhal, who applied in 2021, conveyed similar elation, calling his new plot of land **"a very good start."** Colleen Hamilton described receiving her house lot as a **"dream realised,"** while Anjanie Awad, 35, found profound happiness in securing a transfer to be closer to her family, deeming it

"actually the happiest day in my life."

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, reaffirmed the government's goal of reducing the housing application backlog. While Region Four still has the highest demand,



Allottee selecting their house lot numbers

significant progress has been made elsewhere. In Region Six alone, over 4,545 house lots have been distributed since 2020. He also noted that the government heavily subsidises land costs to make the lots affordable



The recent Region Six outreach alone delivered 1,800 house lots

for ordinary citizens.

To date, 93 new housing areas have been developed across Guyana. These are equipped with basic infrastructure to facilitate immediate construction. The government has invested over \$240 billion in the housing sector since August 2020, which has also spurred job creation by engaging local contractors, suppliers, and transport services.

Complementing the house lot initiative is the steel and cement subsidy programme, designed to ease construction costs for new homeowners. During the Region Six outreach, 21 beneficiaries received vouchers under this programme. Hemwant Singh noted the voucher would enable his family to build a larger, more

comfortable home, while Timothy Seegobin expressed gratitude for the financial assistance, calling it the **"boost needed to start construction."**

The programme—an initiative of President Ali—has already injected over \$4 million into the region's economy. Homebuilders with projects valued at \$6 million or less receive steel and one sling of cement, while those building homes between \$6 million and \$25 million receive two slings of cement.

As demand continues to rise, the government remains proactive in acquiring new lands to expand its national housing programme and meet the growing aspirations of Guyanese families.



Residents gathered at the housing drive

‘Your gov’t has invested in you so you could enjoy a brighter future’: Ali to graduates

AS the latest batch of Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholars were conferred with their degrees, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali affirmed that the government has made this investment so as to ensure that Guyanese will have a brighter future.

The Head of State was, at the time, delivering the keynote address during GOAL’s third graduation ceremony, during which some 580 persons were conferred with Master’s Degrees from 10 universities.

“Your government has invested in you so that you will be successful. Your government has invested in you so that you will have a brighter future. Your government has invested in you so that you can have this proud moment today where you will all be earning master’s degrees in different fields, so that you can lift this country up and take this country forward,” President Ali declared.

He said that it was a proud moment for the nation, as it was not only a celebration of personal achievements but also the strengthening of Guyana’s future as the graduates represent a new addition to Guyana’s growing pool of qualified, capable, skilled men and women.

While the Head of State said that it served as a revolution in education, he reminded persons that it was not by accident, but rather it was as a result of leadership that believes in human development and investing in people.

Speaking directly to the graduates, President Ali said that Guyana is not the same country it was a decade ago, and is now one with a rapidly expanding economy and new emerging industries.

“But all that growth, all that opportunity, means nothing if we do not have the people ready to seize it. That is why GOAL matters, that is why you matter... because when we talk about development, we are not just talking about roads and bridges, we are talking about the engineers who can design that.

“When we talk about modern health care, we are talking about nurses and medical technicians who can deliver it. When we talk about digital transformations, we need the coders, the IT specialists, the data analysts,” he said.

Every sector in the country, Dr. Ali said, needs more qualified people, and, to this end, he told the graduates that they have stepped up to answer that call.

Guyana’s future rests in the human capital, the President said, adding that their skill, voice and passion are needed to build and lead the nation.

Dr Ali indicated that education is power, and is one of the greatest equalisers known to man, and as a result of the investment made by the Government of Guyana, that power is now more accessible than ever through free university education.

“When the noise settles on the outside, always remember on the inside that we invested in you because we believe in you,” President Ali affirmed.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh, disclosed that including the incoming 2025 cohort, the government has granted in excess of 39,000 scholarships through the GOAL platform.

This, he noted, represents almost twice the number of scholarships that they had committed to delivering when entering office in 2020.

Dr. Singh told the gathering that pursuant to President Ali’s instructions, the government has included in successive annual budgets, steadily increasing amounts of budgetary allocations and, in total, has allocated \$12.5 billion to GOAL.

“That represents an investment of approximately 312,000 Guyana dollars per student,” he iterated.

This year, some 2,000 persons will be conferred with degrees and certificates at several levels and in various fields.

The Finance Minister told the graduates that they are living in an era of opportunity in Guyana, and as such, the task is now theirs to use the education and skills they have acquired to position themselves appropriately to benefit from these opportunities.



Some of the GOAL Master’s Degree graduates

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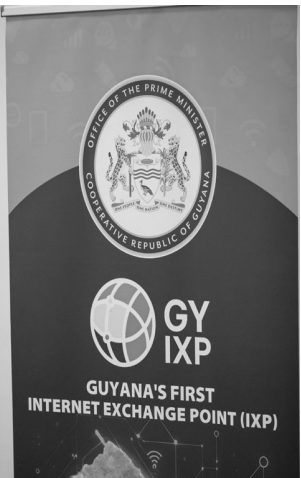
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FASTER, CHEAPER INTERNET FOR GUYANA AS FIRST IXP GOES LIVE

Guyana has taken a major leap in its digital transformation with the launch of its first-ever Internet Exchange Point (GYIXP), aimed at delivering faster, cheaper, and more secure internet access across the country.

Unveiled by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, the GYIXP was hailed as “a significant achievement in Guyana’s journey towards a more connected and digitally inclusive society.”

The GYIXP allows local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and content networks to



Guyana launches first IXP

exchange traffic directly within Guyana, rather than routing through international hubs like Miami. “Now, the routing is being done in Guyana,” the Prime Minister

explained, highlighting the improvement in speed, security, and cost efficiency.

By keeping local data traffic within the country, the IXP will significantly reduce latency, improve internet reliability, and lower bandwidth costs—key benefits for consumers and businesses alike. “GYIXP is expected to tangibly improve network performance, resiliency, and affordability—and, most importantly, lower the barriers to meaningful connectivity,” Prime Minister Phillips stated. Beyond improving internet quality,

GYIXP opens doors for economic growth and digital entrepreneurship. “It can revolutionise our digital landscape and exponentially increase opportunities in domestic content production and online business,” the Prime Minister added.

The launch is part of the government’s broader ICT agenda under the PPP/C administration, which has already delivered key advancements including liberalisation of the telecommunications sector, expansion of high-speed fiber networks to remote and hinterland regions



PM Phillips unveils GYIXP, calls it crucial for Guyana's digital future

(now 90% connected,) significant reduction in bandwidth costs, rollout of hundreds of WiFiGY sites and ICT hubs, and digital skills training and expanded e-government services

Housed at the University of Guyana, GYIXP is a product of collaboration between government, academia, and ISPs, supporting both digital sovereignty and national development.

Aligned with CARICOM’s Single ICT Space and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, GYIXP sets the foundation for a Digital Guyana. “This is just the beginning,” PM Phillips affirmed. “We will continue building a Guyana where every citizen has the opportunity for a progressive and prosperous life.”

Guyana is stepping up its utility infrastructure game. Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips, announced a new national policy setting strict standards for the transportation, storage, and installation of concrete utility poles.

The policy was unveiled at a Policy Implementation Workshop at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, attended by stakeholders from the Guyana Power and Light (GPL), the Ministries of Public Works and Housing and Water, as well as contractors and engineers. The goal: to adopt and implement a unified national framework for utility pole installation.

“This document



The Policy Implementation Workshop for the Adoption of the National Policy Guidelines for the Transportation, Storage, and Erection of Concrete Poles

holds all of us to a high standard,” Prime Minister Phillips stated. “We now have a standard from which we can demand consistency

in quality.” The policy responds directly to public concerns about the alignment and durability of utility poles. While Guyana has met its

NEW POLICY OUTLINES STRICT STANDARDS FOR CONCRETE POLE INSTALLATION

electricity generation goals, the Prime Minister acknowledged that transmission and distribution still face challenges—starting with the quality of physical infrastructure.

A major shift under the new policy is the elimination of the direct burial method for concrete poles. All installations must now use approved foundation systems, a move that aims to improve safety, stability, and longevity—particularly in varied soil and environmental conditions.

PM Phillips also stressed the need for

stronger accountability. He called for the establishment or reinforcement of an Inspectorate Department to certify all works before final payment. “It’s not just about setting rules – it’s about improving how we work together to ensure safety, reliability, and public confidence in our infrastructure,” he said.

Acknowledging ongoing public criticism over utility services, the Prime Minister noted: “We take the brunt of the criticism because we are elected to

serve, but we need our technical teams and contractors to meet these standards. If we do it right, positive perception will follow.”

PM Phillips urged all participants to contribute to refining the policy. The final document, built through consensus and technical expertise, will serve as a national benchmark for pole installation across both coastal and hinterland regions—laying the foundation for a more resilient and reliable utility network for all Guyanese.

STOP PAYING FOR "BAD ADVICE," CONSULT US FREE LABOUR MINISTRY TELLS BUSINESSES

The Ministry of Labour is calling on businesses to stop spending money on unqualified consultants and instead tap into the Ministry’s free legal expertise on labour matters. This message was delivered during a high-level meeting between senior Ministry officials and members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI).

Labour Minister Joseph Hamilton was direct: “I’ve heard companies act on advice from lawyers or HR consultants

that’s actually against the law,” he said. “The authority on labour law, hiring practices, and workplace standards lies with the Ministry of Labour.” He urged businesses to use the Ministry’s free services, including guidance from the Chief Labour Officer, a qualified lawyer. “Stop paying for bad advice. All the support you need—on hiring, safety, termination—is available to you at no cost.”

GCCI President Kathy Smith welcomed this outreach, noting

many small and medium enterprises are often unfamiliar with labour regulations.

Minister Hamilton also challenged the misconception that academic qualifications guarantee job readiness. “Qualification does not equal employability,” he stated, citing graduates struggling with basic professional skills like email writing. He urged the private sector to value ethics, responsibility, and practical skills, while increasing engagement with technical training and apprenticeships.



The high-level meeting between senior Ministry officials and members of GCCCI

Highlighting the Ministry’s free training programmes via the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) and Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency (CRMA), Minister Hamilton noted over 13,000 individuals have been trained in the past five years, 60%

of them women. He called apprenticeships an “untapped growth opportunity” for shaping skilled workers. On workplace wellbeing, the Minister stressed mental health is now part of enforceable Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards. “We’ve intervened

where employers acted as torturers,” he said, noting collaboration with the Ministry of Health to improve workforce mental health.

Closing the session, Minister Hamilton emphasised the importance of strong tripartite cooperation among government, businesses, and workers, and encouraged companies to establish internal employee representation to foster dialogue.

The meeting ended with a commitment to continued collaboration between the Ministry and the private sector to build a modern, inclusive labour market.

RECORD FEMALE ENROLLMENT AT BIT SIGNALS SHIFT IN GUYANA'S WORKFORCE

A historic milestone is being marked in Guyana's workforce transformation as the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) reports a record 60 percent female enrollment in its programmes for the first time. This marks a growing embrace of technical and vocational skills by women in traditionally male-dominated fields.

The enthusiasm of female trainees was on full display during the recent "Try A Skill"



Shanalle Khan

exhibition and fair held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre. Participants shared inspiring stories of empowerment and skill development.



Women showcase skills at BIT 'Try A Skill' event

BIT programmes are tailored to equip individuals with technical skills that align



Lanessa Harry

with Guyana's evolving economy, focusing on sectors offering lucrative employment opportunities.

Shanalle Khan from Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), currently training in Electrical Installation, shared her excitement: **"I think it will help me develop more, help me be braver, and encourage me to keep**

moving forward." Her eagerness reflects a new wave of confidence among women pursuing technical careers.

Despite initial apprehensions, many women praised the supportive, hands-on training approach. Dharshanie Khan, enrolled in the Heavy-Duty Machinery Engineering programme, recalled her early fears: **"At first, I was so scared... but with the awesome teachers and knowledge gained, I can now say I'm somewhat a master on these machines."**

From Region Five, Lanessa Harry, training in agro-processing, showcased skills in producing products like gooseberry and cherry syrup and even homemade wines. She hopes to launch her own business, contributing to

Guyana's growing agro-processing industry. **"I encourage other women to seize these opportunities,"** she said.

This surge in female participation is supported by a \$677.5 million allocation to BIT in the 2025 National

the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security has expanded women-focused sessions, fueling this historic enrollment.

Participants receive stipends during training, and certificates earned open doors to diverse sectors, empowering



Women showcase skills at BIT 'Try A Skill' event

Budget, enabling training for 2,397 additional participants nationwide.

Support from the World Bank, the Guyana Energy Agency, and

women to reshape Guyana's workforce and drive national economic growth.

(Taken and Modified from Newsroom Guyana)

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK, 'OLLIE THE OTTER,' PROMOTES GUYANA'S BIODIVERSITY

A new children's storybook, 'Ollie the Otter's River Adventures,' has been launched to promote environmental awareness and biodiversity conservation among Guyanese youths. The book's unveiling, attended by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips, marks a fresh approach to engaging young minds in protecting Guyana's rich natural heritage.

During the launch, Prime Minister Phillips underscored the profound impact



Prime Minister endorses new children's book as key to conservation mission

of storytelling in education. He described it as **"one of the most powerful tools in education,"** explaining that **"incorporating storytelling into**

sustainability education makes environmental protection personal and reinforces a sense of urgency and importance in

even the youngest of minds."

The Prime Minister also highlighted the critical need for citizen engagement in conservation efforts. **"This storybook is a vital part of that mission. It brings biodiversity into the classroom, the home, the hearts and minds of our young people, because no strategy can succeed if our citizens are not informed. We cannot secure a future if our children are not**



Prime Minister endorses new children's book as key to conservation mission

inspired," he asserted.

'Ollie the Otter's River Adventures' was developed by Environmental

Management Consultants Inc. (EMC), aiming to instill an early appreciation for Guyana's unique ecosystems.

The launch event saw attendance from Mr. Shyam Nokta, Founder and Director of the EMC Foundation; Toshao Alvaro Simon of St. Cuthbert's Mission/Pakuri Village; various government officials; and members of the diplomatic community, all showing support for this important educational initiative.

REGIONAL SHOWDOWN IN GUYANA - IGG SET FOR EARLY DECEMBER

Get ready for a regional sporting spectacle! Guyana has officially been confirmed as the host nation for the 54th Inter-Guiana Games (IGG), scheduled to take place from December 5 to 7, 2025. The announcement was made by Director of Sport Steve Ninvalle, reinforcing Guyana's leadership role in promoting athletic development and

regional camaraderie among the Guianas.

The IGG is a long-standing multi-sport youth competition that unites athletes from Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana in friendly rivalry and cultural exchange. Ninvalle noted that standout players from the ongoing ExxonMobil U-14 School Football Tournament may be selected to represent Guyana in the

IGG, underscoring the event's importance as a launchpad for emerging national talent.

Both Suriname and French Guiana are expected to send teams, ensuring a full-scale regional competition. While the final list of sporting disciplines will be determined following consultations with participating nations, organizers anticipate a diverse range of events.

The 53rd edition, held in French Guiana in 2023, featured close to 150 Guyanese athletes competing in disciplines such as athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, chess, futsal, swimming and table tennis. These events offer a glimpse of what local fans can expect when the games arrive in Guyana this December.

First launched in



Guyana finished second over at the 2023 games

1967, the Inter-Guiana Games have remained a cornerstone of regional youth sports, providing invaluable international experience to young athletes and

encouraging cross-border friendships. As Guyana gears up to host, anticipation is building for another thrilling chapter in this celebrated tradition.

AG NANDLALL LEADS GUYANA'S DELEGATION AT CFATF PLENARY - CALLS FOR GREATER JUDICIAL TRAINING IN FINANCIAL CRIMES

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, led Guyana's delegation to the 60th Plenary of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), held in Trinidad and Tobago from May 25–30, 2025.

The CFATF Plenary, convened twice yearly, brings together member states to strengthen collaboration on anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and counter-proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF). The current Chair is Jamaica's Minister of Finance and Public Service, the Hon. Fayval Williams.

Guyana's delegation included officials from key agencies including, Dr. Gobind Ganga, Governor, Bank of Guyana, Matthew Langevine, Director, Financial Intelligence Unit, Navindra Datt Prashad, Deputy Commissioner, Guyana Revenue Authority, Deputy Commissioner of Police Fazil Karimbaksh, Head of the Special Organised Crime Unit, and representatives from the Ministries of Legal Affairs and Natural Resources, the Gaming Authority, Office of Public Prosecutions, and the Guyana Securities Council.

In his remarks, AG Nandlall emphasised the need for enhanced judicial training to improve enforcement and conviction rates in financial crime cases. He noted that AML/CFT laws are more invasive than traditional criminal statutes and pose interpretive challenges for courts.

“This legislative reality is not yet fully appreciated by those responsible for its application,” he said. **“Almost every Caribbean country struggles with low conviction rates and difficulties in securing necessary court orders.”**

He proposed a regionally coordinated training programme for judicial officers, The Plenary also featured mutual evaluations for Curaçao and Sint Maarten, the final assessments under the Fourth Round of

Guyana was commended for its contribution to a CFATF research project on money laundering risks in non-traditional Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs), led by the GRA's Mrs. Rajni Boodhoo Moore.

Guyana will present its own progress report at the 61st Plenary in Barbados later this year. The Fifth Round of Mutual Evaluations begins in 2026, starting with Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.



Guyana's legal & financial leaders conclude CFATF discussions

GUYANA'S 'ONE HEALTH' TAKES FLIGHT



Guyana officially launch 'One Health' Project

Guyana's 'One Health' takes flight

Guyana has officially launched its pioneering 'One Health' Project, a US\$22 million initiative funded by the Pandemic Fund and the World Bank.

Spanning three years, the project focuses on preventing, preparing for, and responding to future health emergencies by linking human, animal, and environmental health. This holistic strategy directly addresses gaps revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic in Guyana's preparedness systems.

Dr. Anand Persaud, Technical Project Lead, outlined the project's multifaceted approach, which includes enhancing laboratory capacity and workforce training, strengthening surveillance systems for early disease detection, improving Health coordination, and establishing an emergency response mechanism for rapid crisis action.

A key feature is boosting border security. **“We learned during COVID that closing borders during outbreaks was difficult,”** Dr. Persaud explained. The project will introduce controlled monitoring at entry points for travelers, cargo, and conveyances, vital for safeguarding public health.

World Bank Practice Manager Tanya Dmytrzenko praised Guyana's rapid proposal development, completed in just four months instead of the usual year. She noted, **“This is the first World Bank-supported One Health Project in Latin America and one of only two worldwide, making Guyana a global leader.”**

She emphasised that health security is crucial to economic stability. The project will establish a state-of-the-art laboratory set to become a Caribbean regional reference hub, promoting cross-border collaboration and enhancing pandemic preparedness across the region.

Head of the Pandemic Fund, highlighted the importance of preventive investments to avoid the devastating impacts of past pandemics on education, health, and economies.

Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony emphasised the scientific advances involved, including molecular and gene sequencing for disease surveillance, along with rapid response teams ready to tackle emerging hotspots swiftly.

Guyana's 'One Health' Project marks a major step toward building a resilient, prepared workforce and securing health for its people and the wider region.

OIL SPILL LAW UPHOLDS CONSTITUTION, SURPASSES GLOBAL STANDARDS - AG NANDLALL REJECTS CLA'S CRITICISM

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, SC, has defended the recently passed Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Responsibility Bill 2025, calling it **“landmark legislation”** that surpasses international best practices for managing oil spill risks and environmental liability.

Speaking on his weekly programme, “Issues in the News,” AG Nandlall emphasised the urgent need for such legislation, noting that despite Guyana's commercial oil production beginning under the previous administration, no comprehensive legal framework had been implemented until now.

“This bill is long overdue,” he stated. **“We've had oil production for years without proper legislation. This law finally addresses that gap.”**

The new law outlines clear standards for oil spill prevention, emergency response, and liability. It holds responsible parties fully liable for damages—including cleanup costs, environmental harm, economic losses, and property damage—with no cap on liability.

The legislation also invalidates indemnity agreements that seek to limit accountability, making Guyana one of the most progressive countries in environmental protection.

Addressing criticisms that the Bill was rushed, AG Nandlall said the legislative process was transparent and followed standard parliamentary procedures. He noted the Bill was published in the Official Gazette, tabled in Parliament, and extensively debated.

Responding to concerns about constitutionality, AG Nandlall highlighted that the Bill enforces Article 149J of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to a clean environment. **“This is the first piece of legislation that gives meaning to that constitutional right in the oil and gas sector,”** he said.

The Civil Defence Commission will serve as the Competent National Authority, supported by the Guyana Energy Agency, Maritime Administration, and the EPA. Oil companies are now required to have detailed emergency response plans aligned with a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Meanwhile, Nandlall dismissed a statement by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) urging President Irfaan Ali to withhold assent to the Bill. He criticised the CLA for making what he called an **“unjustified and uninformed intervention.”**

“The CLA did not consult its membership or give the Government of Guyana an opportunity to be heard. That's not good governance or fairness,” AG Nandlall argued.

He rejected claims that the Bill sought to overturn any judicial decision, suggesting the CLA may have relied on misinformation from local critics.

“This Bill strengthens environmental governance. To suggest otherwise is both inaccurate and irresponsible,” the Attorney General said.



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Mohabir Nandlall, SC

NEARLY 2,000 TO GRADUATE FROM GOAL AS GOVT SURPASSES SCHOLARSHIP PROMISE

The Government of Guyana is set to mark a major milestone in its education agenda, with nearly 2,000 Guyanese scheduled to graduate from the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) during its third graduation ceremony on June 9 and 10, 2025, at the National Cultural Centre. The announcement was made by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Ashni Singh. Dr. Singh also revealed that an additional 9,179 Guyanese have been awarded GOAL scholarships this year. This brings the total number of scholarships granted since the PPP/C

government took office in 2020 to 39,000—nearly double the 20,000 promised in its manifesto. **“The GOAL programme is a flagship initiative of the PPP/C Government, conceptualised by President Ali and rooted in our 2020 manifesto,”** Dr. Singh stated. **“It provides opportunities for Guyanese to advance their qualifications, including at the post-graduate level, and opens access to tertiary education for those who may not have had it before.”** The Minister described the upcoming graduation and new scholarships as

“exciting testimony” of Guyana and have to two key successes: completed programmes



Scene from the graduation exercise in 2024

fulfilling a campaign promise and, more importantly, transforming individual lives through education. Graduates represent all regions in diverse fields from internationally recognised institutions. This year’s scholarships span from certificate to PhD levels and are offered in partnership with 22

accredited universities, including the University of East London (UK), Jain University (India), University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Amity University, and the University of Suffolk (UK). Themed *“Enhancing the Nation’s Human Capacity”*, the upcoming graduation also marks the fifth anniversary of GOAL and reflects the government’s broader vision of national development through education. In a further landmark move, the government abolished tuition fees at the University of Guyana starting January 2025, benefitting over 11,000 current students and all new enrollees. The 2025 national budget allocates \$13.4 billion to fund UG’s operations under this new policy. Additionally, over \$2.5 billion in student loans have been written off under a loan-forgiveness initiative launched last year, fulfilling another manifesto promise. More than 3,700 beneficiaries have already been relieved of their financial obligations. Building on these achievements, President Ali announced in April that the government will cover CSEC and CAPE examination fees for at least eight subjects per student, further easing the burden on families and reinforcing its commitment to education for all.

GUYANA PREPARES FOR 10TH NATIONAL CLEAN-UP EXERCISE ON JUNE 8

Guyana will launch its 10th National Clean-up Exercise on June 8, 2025, reinforcing the government’s commitment to environmental sustainability and public health. This nationwide initiative, led by the PPP/C administration, aims to mobilise communities across all 10 administrative regions to create a cleaner, greener Guyana. The exercise is being coordinated by the National Enhancement Committee and will focus on the removal of garbage, derelict

vehicles, and scrap metal from public spaces. In Georgetown, additional efforts will include road upgrades to improve safety and urban aesthetics. Minister within the Ministry of Public Works and Chair of the National Enhancement Committee, Deodat Indar, recently convened a high-level planning meeting to coordinate logistics and mobilisation strategies. The session included representatives from the Georgetown Mayor and City Council, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Solid Waste Department, Guyana Police Force, Guyana Defence Force, Guyana Fire Service, and several other agencies. Minister Indar called on all citizens, businesses, civil society groups, religious organisations, and NGOs to take part in this national effort. **“We see the need for this clean-up because of a detailed assessment of the city and other parts of the country,”** he said. **“Everyone must play a role in creating a healthier, more sustainable**

environment.” He emphasised the wider benefits: **“This is good for Guyana—not just for those who live and work here, but also for those visiting our country.”** In preparation for the event, Minister Indar has been conducting inspections across Georgetown and other key areas to identify priority clean-up zones. The government continues to prioritise environmental sustainability as a national objective, recognising that a clean environment supports public health, boosts and fosters national tourism and investment, pride and unity.

NATIONAL CLEANUP EXERCISE

ALL REGIONS WILL BE PARTICIPATING

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025 @6:00AM

REGIONAL MOBILISATION AREAS

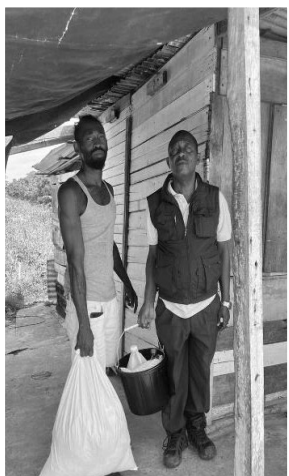
- 1 - MABARUMA
- 2 - ANNA REGINA
- 3 - VREED-EN-HOOP
- 4 - GEORGETOWN
- 5 - FORT WELLINGTON
- 6 - NEW AMSTERDAM
- 7 - KAMARANG
- 8 - MAHDIA
- 9 - LETHEM
- 10 - LINDEN

G/TOWN MOBILISATION AREAS

- 1 - MANDELA AVENUE & SHERIFF STREET
- 2 - DURBAN PARK
- 3 - HIGH STREET
- 4 - RAILWAY EMBANKMENT (FROM SHERIFF STREET TO OGLE)

CONTACT YOUR RDC FOR CLEAN-UP LOCATIONS

Flyer with details on clean up exercise



Relief delivered to families hit by Windstorm

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) led a coordinated emergency response following a high-wind event that affected several communities across

Guyana on June 2, 2025. The strong gusts caused widespread damage to homes, schools, and public infrastructure, prompting swift action



Relief delivered to families hit by Windstorm

from the country’s disaster management agency. Immediately after the event, the CDC deployed rapid assessment teams which worked alongside regional authorities to assess damage, identify the needs of affected residents, and coordinate targeted relief efforts. In Kaneville, East Bank Demerara, CDC officers, in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), delivered essential relief supplies to households reporting

significant structural damage caused by heavy winds and rain. Similar assessments and relief operations were carried out in Uitvlugt, West Coast Demerara, where homes and public buildings were also impacted. The CDC extended its operations to multiple communities across Regions Three, Four, and Five, including Sister’s Village, Belle West, Canal No. 2, Hope, Melanie, Cane Grove, Mahicony, and Bare Root. Damage verification,

emergency assistance, and coordination with national and regional partners ensured the timely delivery of aid. Relief packages included food, tarpaulins, cleaning supplies, and other essentials to help affected residents begin recovery. This coordinated response reaffirms the CDC’s ongoing commitment to disaster preparedness and its role in safeguarding vulnerable communities during emergencies.



Relief delivered to families hit by Windstorm

MODERN HOUSTON HOTEL PROJECT INTEGRATES LOCAL CRAFT, AIMS FOR AUGUST OPENING



President Ali tours new Four Points by Sheraton

Georgetown’s transforming skyline will soon welcome the new 172-room Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Houston, East Bank Demerara, a project not only boosting the city’s hospitality sector but also enriching it with local Guyanese artistry. President Irfaan Ali recently conducted an on-site inspection, highlighting the hotel’s progress and its unique integration of Amerindian craft.

During his visit, President Ali expressed

satisfaction upon learning that Amerindian women are earning income from their traditional craft, which will be prominently showcased throughout the hotel. Approximately 10 women from the Amerindian village of Santa Aratak are producing a variety of local pieces, from baskets to intricate wall decor, which will greet thousands of visitors.

“This is fantastic... and they [would] also have an entire section of the

building dedicated to Guyanese work, arts and culture and of course everything Guyana,” President Ali noted, emphasising the project’s commitment to “that indigenous artistic identity.”

The new Four Points by Sheraton, an investment by Tama Investments LLC estimated at US\$33.3

feature a restaurant, bars, an outdoor pool, 16,000 square feet of meeting space, and 25,000 square feet of retail area. This development is a key part of the government’s drive to secure at least 2,000 hotel rooms to support Guyana’s booming economic expansion.

President Ali also



President Ali tours new Four Points by Sheraton

investment in drainage systems over the next year, stretching from the hotel site all the way back to Georgetown.

This comprehensive urban enhancement plan includes constructing a nature walk along the same stretch, along with improvements to roads and pavements. A new concrete drainage system will enhance the area’s aesthetics, and the President mentioned creating “little hubs for all the local shops that can be in areas

that are touristic.”

“As we build a new city [in] the next five years, the city is going to be a real botanical city with the drainage systems,” President Ali stated. This transformation will be supported by extensive public education campaigns focused on promoting cleanliness. Additionally, a massive housing scheme will be established along this stretch, further contributing to the city’s changing landscape.



President Ali tours new Four Points by Sheraton

million, is on track for an August completion, with furnishing and landscaping to follow. Once operational, it will

used the opportunity to outline a broader vision for the Houston to Georgetown corridor. He announced a massive

HOSORORO SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION BACK ON TRACK AMID REGION ONE DEVELOPMENT BOOM

Minister of Education Priya Manickchand has strongly dismissed recent Opposition claims that the government abandoned construction of the Hosororo Secondary School and other crucial projects in Region One (Barima-Waini). In a detailed Facebook statement, Minister Manickchand clarified that the contract with the initial contractor for Hosororo Secondary was terminated due to non-performance and failure to meet contractual obligations.

“The contractor was terminated for nonperformance as per the contract. That is not something we are ever happy to do. We would simply prefer that the work is finished so that we could get our children into school. The PPP/C Government’s intention is to provide a seat in school for every child,” Minister Manickchand emphasised.

The process of securing a new contractor to complete Hosororo Secondary is nearly finalized, ensuring the project will resume promptly. Once completed, the school



Government pushing ahead with Hosororo Secondary after contractor termination

will accommodate over 500 students with 29 classrooms, modern physics, chemistry, and biology labs, and a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centre featuring industrial and home economics workshops. The facility also includes a dormitory for 200 students and duplex housing for 20 teachers. The original contract was signed in July 2023.

Progress is also being made at other key

schools in Region One, including Waramuri Secondary, Matthew’s Ridge Secondary, and Kwebanna Secondary. These developments follow the successful reconstruction of

Northwest Secondary, which was commissioned in November 2024 and now provides a conducive learning environment for 575 students after a devastating fire in 2021. Over the past four years, the government has invested more than \$4 billion in school construction and maintenance across the region, paired with commitments to ensure all facilities are staffed with qualified teachers.

improvements are part of a broader government push to transform Region One through extensive infrastructure and social development initiatives aimed at improving residents’ quality of life.

Significant strides have been made in potable water access. Over \$1.5 billion has been invested in new wells completed in communities such as Oronoque, Carbrora, Aracuru, Santa Rosa, and Kumaka. This year, 51 additional wells will be constructed, especially in Mabaruma and Moruca, benefiting communities like Kamwatta, Hosororo, Matthews Ridge, and Santa Rosa. Potable water access now stands at 89 percent in Region One.

Housing developments are advancing rapidly. On May 27, over 50 residents received land allocations at the new Tract ‘A’ housing scheme in Mabaruma, with a similar initiative planned for Port

Kaituma. The Hinterland Housing Programme has completed homes in Kokerite, Warapoka, Haimaruni, and other communities. Construction is ongoing for 10 houses at Canal Bank, with plans for additional homes in Imbotero, Arakaka, and Baramita.

Region One’s infrastructure programme also includes extensive road, bridge, and transport network upgrades. Over \$1.5 billion has been invested

received \$305 million, while \$224.6 million was allocated for road rehabilitation in Heaven Hill, Hell Hill, and Station Street, Matthews Ridge – benefiting over 2,000 residents. Wauna’s main access road was upgraded with \$51.1 million.

A new airstrip at Matthews Ridge will be constructed by local residents under the Ministry of Public Works’ Special Projects Unit (SPU). Additionally, tenders are out for new



Construction progressing on the Wamuri Secondary School

in roads at Mabaruma, Port Kaituma, Matthews Ridge, Wauna, and Rincon. Road upgrades from Kwebanna to Kumaka and San Jose

and enhanced ferry stellings at Kumaka, Morawhanna, and Port Kaituma, further improving regional connectivity.

FARMERS TO CHOOSE FERTILISER SUPPORT IN CASH OR KIND



President Ali addressing rice and cash crop farmers at the Albion Community Ground in Region Six

Guyanese farmers now have greater flexibility in how they receive government fertiliser support. President Irfaan Ali announced that, under a new policy, eligible farmers can choose to receive fertiliser either

in kind or as a direct cash equivalent—based on what best suits their operational needs.

The announcement was made during an outreach at the Albion Community Centre in Region Six, home to some 3,000 rice farmers and over 1,370 cash crop farmers. President Ali shared that the idea came directly from farmers in Regions Six and Two during recent engagements.

“I said to the minister, let us look at 30 acres and below, and those farmers that want the cash value—if that is their preference—they have that preference,” the President stated. For

instance, a farmer cultivating 30 acres could receive \$200,000 worth of fertiliser or opt for the equivalent in cash.

This support forms part of the government’s \$2 billion fertiliser aid package for 2024, building on similar interventions in previous years to help farmers offset rising input costs.

Looking ahead, President Ali outlined several initiatives to modernise agriculture and improve farmers’ incomes. These include support for hydroponic systems—particularly for women farmers—to boost crop yields in smaller spaces. One-acre hydroponic farms are already proving

successful, especially when linked with agro-processing.

To assist farmers in riverine and remote areas, the government will also provide boats to transport produce to markets, reducing spoilage and boosting profits. Additional plans include expanding rice value-added initiatives, reducing electricity costs, and supplying farming groups with machinery to improve irrigation systems.

The President further committed to creating co-investment frameworks to lower interest rates and reduce financial risks for farmers. He emphasised enhancing extension services using



Hundreds of rice and cash crop farmers gathered to hear what the president had to discuss

technology—allowing farmers to access weather data, pest alerts, and crop protection guidance via smart devices. Investments in regional lab services will also support disease detection and predictive modeling.

Agricultural diversification remains a priority, with a focus on agro-processing, meat and honey production, and integrated farming. President Ali also

addressed farmers’ long-standing concerns about delayed payments for rice, particularly during the second crop. He pledged to develop sustainable mechanisms to ensure timely payments in the next term.

The President urged farmers to stay engaged and help shape future agricultural policies.

President Irfaan Ali has unveiled a transformative initiative for small-scale farmers on the Essequibo Coast, pledging to open 20,000 acres of new farmland in Region Two. The announcement was made during an engagement with farmers and fisherfolk at the Anna Regina Multilateral School.

President Ali noted that many small-scale farmers—particularly those cultivating 30 acres or less—are burdened by high rental costs and often depend on land owned by absentee landlords or larger operations. To address this, he announced the opening of three agricultural clusters, totaling 20,000 acres. These will be



President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivering remarks.

fully developed with seed paddy, drainage and irrigation systems, and land preparation support.

Each cluster will be outfitted with critical equipment—tractors, backhoes, ploughs, and combines—managed collectively by farmers who will oversee operations and

maintenance.

In an effort to boost earnings, farmers will be supported in cultivating high-value, high-yield crops on at least one acre of every ten. To reduce post-harvest losses and weather-related challenges, two modern drying and storage facilities will also be built, with designs expected within weeks.

For the fishing sector, President Ali outlined plans to expand aquaculture by promoting swamp shrimp and prawn farming. Key access roads in the backlands will be upgraded with crush-run materials to

improve transportation and reduce spoilage and fuel costs.

Three cold storage facilities will also be established to support perishable crops and stabilise prices, laying the foundation for agribusiness and agritourism in the region.

In Georgetown, a new control centre will be launched to provide real-time agricultural data, weather tracking, and pest alerts, offering proactive support to farmers across Guyana and the wider Caribbean.

Looking ahead, Guyana also plans to operationalise its own

fertiliser plant within two years, lowering costs and producing custom blends suited to regional soil conditions.

President Ali emphasised that these initiatives are

shaped by farmers’ lived experiences and reaffirmed his government’s commitment to building a modern, inclusive, and resilient agricultural sector.



Farmers and fisherfolk at the Anna Regina Multilateral School

NEW FUND TO SLASH FARMER LOAN RATES TO 3.5%

President Irfaan Ali has unveiled a transformative co-investment fund designed to reduce agricultural loan interest rates from the current 8–12% to as low as 3.5% within five years. The initiative aims to ease farmers’ financial burdens, lower input costs, and boost productivity across Guyana’s agriculture sector.

The announcement was made during a

farmers’ engagement in Anna Regina, Region Two, with cash crop growers, rice farmers, and fisherfolk in attendance. Drawing a comparison to the government’s past success in lowering housing loan rates from 37% to 3.5%, President Ali stated, **“This is what we have to do for the agriculture sector.”**

The new fund will see the government directly co-financing agricultural

loans, reducing the risk exposure for commercial banks. This risk-sharing model is expected to incentivise banks to offer farmers significantly lower interest rates and more accessible financing options.

In addition to the co-investment fund, the President outlined how the plan will integrate strategic grant support. For example, a farmer applying for a \$6 million loan could receive a \$1 million grant from

the government. This reduces the loan principal, allowing the bank to lower the interest rate—potentially down to 4.5% or 5%.

“Because of that grant element, the agreement for the bank is to reduce the interest rate... That is the type of initiative we’re talking about,” President Ali explained, underscoring the direct impact this will have on farmers’ bottom line.

To complement



President Ali targets 3.5% interest for farmers

the financial support, the government is also making critical infrastructure investments. President Ali emphasised that these comprehensive measures are designed

to unlock opportunities, especially for small and medium-scale farmers, while supporting wealth creation and long-term sustainability in the agriculture sector.

NEW WHOLESALE MARKET AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY COMING TO REGION FIVE



Farmers of Region Five gathered at the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary-Agricultural Development Authority compound

Farmers in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice) are set to benefit from a major new government initiative aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and boosting profitability. President Dr. Irfaan Ali announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art wholesale market equipped with cold storage facilities in the region.

The announcement was made during a high-level engagement with hundreds of rice and cash crop farmers at the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary Agricultural Development Authority (MMA-ADA) compound. The new market will allow farmers to sell their produce directly within the region, eliminating the need to transport goods to

Georgetown. **“Every time you move back-to-back with your produce, the damage increases,”** President Ali explained. The cold storage component will significantly reduce spoilage and increase shelf life, directly improving farmers’ returns.

This facility is one of several transformative measures the government is rolling out to modernise Region Five’s agriculture. Among the key plans is the construction of a major new canal—similar to the Hope Canal—that will greatly enhance drainage and irrigation. This project is expected to unlock 54,000 acres of land for rice, cash crops, and

livestock.

President Ali emphasised a collaborative approach to land allocation and development. **“We’ll sit with you, the farmers, to find a mechanism through which these lands will be not only allocated, but strategically planned,”** he said.

To promote livestock diversification, farmers will receive direct asset transfers, including ten impregnated Black Belly sheep per recipient. Similar support will be extended to those involved in swine, poultry, and cash crop production. A new co-investment fund will also be established to support impactful agricultural ventures.

With over 3,000 vegetable farmers in the region, climate-smart greenhouses and hydroponic systems will be introduced to boost yields and resilience. The government will also construct modern agricultural facilities in key farming communities and build new feed mills using grass and legumes.

To revitalise the coconut industry, one million high-yield coconut trees will be distributed, with the first batch of seedlings arriving within two months. A packaging and labelling facility will also be set up to support coconut water processing for local and export markets.

Rice farmers will



President Ali delivering his address

benefit from new drying and storage facilities, while those with 30 acres or less will qualify for fertiliser or cash grants. The government also plans to roll out mobile-based real-time extension services to support modern farming.

President Ali invited farmers to help shape the 2025–2030 development agenda, reaffirming his commitment to inclusive, farmer-driven progress.

\$50B INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH TO UNLOCK 75,000 ACRES FOR FARMING IN REGION THREE

A major \$50 billion infrastructure drive is set to unlock approximately 75,000 acres of land for agricultural development in Region Three (Essequibo Islands–West Demerara). The investment forms a key part of the government’s five-year strategy to transform Guyana’s food production sector and expand national self-sufficiency.

President Irfaan Ali made the announcement during a farmer and fisherfolk engagement at the National Track and Field Facility in Leonora. He emphasised the need for region-specific

strategies, noting that while over 1,000 agricultural leases have been issued in Region Three over the past four years, farmers continue to face challenges such as limited access to productive lands, high development costs, and underutilised plots.

To tackle these issues, the government is auditing all farm-to-market access dams in the region. **“We’re going to set aside \$50 billion in the initial phase to transform all of those farm-to-market access dams into all-weather, hard surface roads,”**



President Ali outlines multi-pronged approach for Region Three agriculture development

President Ali announced. This transformative investment will rapidly bring tens of thousands of acres into productive use.

However, President Ali noted that improved access alone is not enough. **“You’ll have access, but the capital investment to**

develop those lands will be incredibly high,” he said. To ease this burden, the government will establish agricultural districts within Region Three, equipped with government-assigned machinery to reduce development costs for farmers.

Two major road projects—the Schoonard to Parika link and the Del Conte–Sand Hills Road—will further open up vast tracts of land for agriculture, sand mining, and tourism. The Del Conte Road will also provide critical access to remote areas

like Bonasika, Alik, and Lanabali, benefitting thousands of farmers.

National drainage systems will also be upgraded, including a planned project for B-line in Canals Polder, now at the procurement stage, and the expansion of infrastructure like the Hope Canal to mitigate flooding.

This announcement comes as part of a nationwide outreach, with President Ali meeting farmers in Regions Two, Five, and Six to gather insights that will shape the government’s long-term agricultural development agenda.

EAST LA PENITENCE TO GET NEW MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY TARMAC

Residents of East La Penitence in Georgetown are set to benefit from a new recreational space, with construction of a multi-purpose community tarmac. The project is intended to support a wide range of activities, including sports, health fairs, and local markets.

The announcement was made by Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, during a community consultation.

The initiative follows direct requests from residents for improved public spaces in the area.

The tarmac will feature a durable playing surface suitable for sports such as basketball, tennis, and football, while also serving as a venue for broader community events.

Resident Lin Toney welcomed the initiative and praised the government’s responsiveness:

“This is a very good initiative that will benefit the children in this area. They used to play football and cricket in the streets, and now they will have a better and safer environment,” she told the Department of Public Information.

Toney also commended the recent road upgrades in the neighbourhood, noting the improved

accessibility and overall upliftment of the community.

Minister Edghill assured residents that construction will begin immediately, with a technical team conducting an assessment on site to facilitate a swift start:

“The Government of Guyana is committed to start building this tarmac. That is what the community asked



The area earmarked for the development

for, and we will deliver,” he stated.

As part of the initiative, a community development group will also be established to oversee and maintain the facility, ensuring that

it serves residents well for years to come.

This project is part of the government’s broader effort to promote safe, accessible, and inclusive community spaces across Guyana.

GOED FORTUIN TO BECOME MODERN FISHING HUB



Fishing boat operator, Rajendra Nandalall

The Goed Fortuin fishing area on the West Bank Demerara is set for a major transformation, as part of President Irfaan Ali's broader national plan to enhance infrastructure and support for Guyana's fisherfolk.

The announcement came during a site visit on June 3, where President Ali conducted an early-morning walk-through and directly engaged with fishermen

and workers. He outlined a bold, comprehensive vision to modernise the site and improve conditions for the local



Fisherman, Sooknana Tackchand

fishing community.

Key components of the project include rehabilitation of the non-functional koker, installation of proper lighting for safer operations, construction of walkways and a dedicated wharf for

docking and offloading, and dredging to improve access where needed.

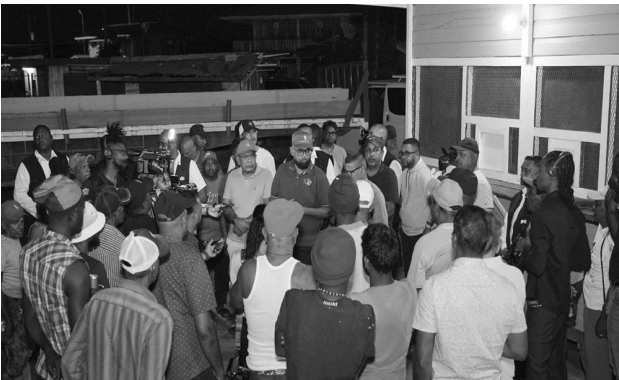
A designated area will also be created for small-scale retail and storage activities, allowing fishers and vendors to sell and store products directly on-site. This space will be outfitted with essential utilities and strengthened security to improve daily operations.

Site preparation and clearing will begin immediately, with the project to be closely monitored to ensure timely and effective delivery.

In addition to the immediate upgrades, President Ali encouraged fisherfolk to identify available land for expanding into prawn, crab, and shrimp farming. To support these efforts, the government has committed to financing

the construction of processing and cold storage facilities, enabling value-added production and job creation in the region.

The Goed Fortuin intervention is part of a broader initiative that includes the modernisation of other key fishing sites such as Meadow



President Ali conducted a walk-through of the site and engaged fishermen and workers

Bank, Mon Repos/North De Endragt, and Three Door Koker. President Ali reaffirmed his administration's



The current condition of the wharf

commitment: **“Once the People’s Progressive Party/Civic is in government, the**

local fishermen and stakeholders. **Sooknana Tackchand,** a fisherman of 50 years, shared his excitement: **“We would love to see this here, and the wharf he decided to build would benefit the entire fishing industry in the Goed Fortuin area. We are happy that this would be done.”**

Rajendra Nandalall, a fishing boat operator, added: **“Everything that he promised is going to happen. We are very proud that we have a president that can help us.”**

fisherfolk will get help.”

The announcement was met with strong support from

GPHC'S NEUROSURGERY DEPARTMENT SAVES FOUR LIVES AFTER GUNSHOT HEAD INJURIES

Four lives were pulled back from the brink of death thanks to the exceptional work of the Neurosurgery Department at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

Between January and April 2025, the team successfully treated four patients who arrived with critical gunshot wounds to the head—injuries that are typically fatal even in top trauma centers worldwide.

Each case involved life-threatening trauma, including open and penetrating skull fractures, brain



GPHC Neurosurgery saves four with gunshot head wounds

contusions, and embedded bone or metal fragments. Yet, against

the odds, all four patients survived and were discharged in improved condition—remarkable outcomes that highlight the hospital's growing capacity for advanced trauma care.

The first case, on February 17, involved a 21-year-old man suffering from a comminuted, depressed skull fracture to the right frontal lobe. Following emergency surgery, he has since returned home to recover. On April 8, a 46-year-old man arrived with a penetrating skull fracture and brain contusion. After undergoing surgery, he

was discharged a week later on April 15.

Just days later,



GPHC Neurosurgery saves four with gunshot head wounds

on April 14, the team operated on a 27-year-old male with a similar right frontal penetrating injury. He, too, made a full recovery. The most complex case came on April 22, involving a 19-year-old man with a left occipital open skull fracture, extensive hemorrhaging, and multiple embedded bone and metal fragments. Emergency surgery proved successful, and he is now recovering.

All four cases were managed by GPHC's dedicated neurosurgical team, whose swift, precise interventions made the difference



GPHC Neurosurgery saves four with gunshot head wounds

between life and death. Saving even one such patient is considered a rare feat.

NEW COVID-19 VARIANT PROMPTS HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is urging the public to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions following a recent announcement from the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the emergence of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant, designated NB.1.8.1.

The WHO has

officially classified NB.1.8.1 as a **“variant under monitoring”** due to a notable global increase in COVID-19 cases, including within the Caribbean region.

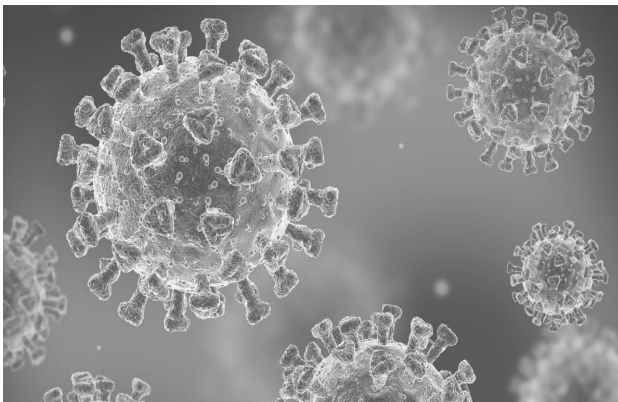
Current data suggest that symptoms associated with the NB.1.8.1 variant may vary among individuals. Commonly reported

symptoms include cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, fever, chills, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, and loss of taste or smell (less common.)

In response, the MOH is advising the public to take the following steps to reduce the risk of infection:

Practice good hygiene, including regular handwashing, and seek immediate medical attention and testing if exposed to COVID-19 or if someone is experiencing symptoms consistent with the virus.

The Ministry is continuing to monitor the situation closely in coordination



WHO has officially classified NB.1.8.1 as a variant under monitoring

with regional and international health authorities and will

provide updates as new information becomes available.

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- At-Fault Accident Claims
- Not At-Fault Accident Claims
- Catastrophic In-jury Claims
- Slip and Falls / Trip and Falls
- Dog Bites
- Long Term Disability / Short Term Disability
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GUYANA AND CHINA CELEBRATE 53 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES AS THEY RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO PEACE, DEVELOPMENT

The Chinese Embassy in Guyana hosted a commemorative reception on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston to mark the 53rd anniversary of diplomatic relations with Guyana.

While delivering the feature address, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali underscored the deep-rooted and evolving partnership between the two countries. He reaffirmed Guyana's unwavering support for a global order based on democracy, peace, sovereignty, freedom, and respect for territorial integrity.

"Discussions were held with



President Irfaan Ali speaking at the anniversary reception

Ambassador Yang which included safeguarding of our sovereignty and territorial integrity and the role China must play in ensuring this region remains peaceful and our

neighbour in a just manner, follow what we all believe that is international order and the rule of law



Newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, H.E. Yang Yang

and the respect of our sovereignty and territorial integrity," the head of state stated.

Guyana, for its part, continues to maintain its longstanding support for the One China policy and China's sovereignty.

"China has stood with us, partnered with us, and lent support in critical national priorities," President Ali noted.

The event also officially introduced China's new Ambassador to Guyana, Her Excellency Yang Yang, who echoed President Ali's sentiments

and pledged China's continued support for Guyana's sovereignty and development agenda.

She noted that Guyana was the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to establish diplomatic relations with China in 1972.

According to the ambassador, the partnership has expanded significantly across key sectors such as agriculture, education, infrastructure, health, and trade.

"We are also willing to work with Guyana to tap deeper into cooperation potential, and to expand our collaboration from traditional areas such as energy, mining, infrastructure, and agriculture to emerging fields like the digital economy, green development, and artificial intelligence," Ambassador Yang said.

In 2024 alone, China's investment in Guyana totalled US\$10.6 billion, while bilateral trade between the two countries reached



The reception at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston to mark the 53rd anniversary of diplomatic relations with Guyana

US\$1.4 billion—four times higher than in 2019. The ambassador described Guyana as a vital partner in the Caribbean and Latin America.

"We regard Guyana as a key partner in the Caribbean and Latin America, and firmly support Guyana in pursuing your own development path. And we are committed to taking our relations to a new level on the basis of mutual respect," she affirmed.

Among the key infrastructure projects supported by China are the New Demerara

River Bridge, six new regional hospitals, the expansion of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, and the China-assisted Guyana-China Friendship Joe Vieira Park.

The leaders of both nations emphasised the value of multilateralism, the rule of international law, and mutual respect in addressing shared global challenges.

Ambassador Yang also committed to encouraging more Chinese businesses to invest in Guyana as the country continues on its transformative development trajectory.



The reception at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston to mark the 53rd anniversary of diplomatic relations with Guyana

ALLOTTEES GET DIGITAL GLIMPSE OF HOGSTYE, BLOCK B EXPERIMENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

House lot allottees recently received a virtual preview of their future communities as the Ministry of Housing and Water rolled out digital tours of two major developments—the Hogstye Housing Scheme in Region Six and the Block B Experiment Housing Scheme in Region Five.

This innovative initiative, designed to help beneficiaries visualise their lots and track infrastructure progress, represents a

major step forward in transparency and citizen engagement.

In Black Bush Polder, Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, led the virtual tour of the Hogstye Development, where approximately 300 lots were allocated in March. Joined by engineers, she provided updates and a digital walkthrough of the area.

Lashana Welch, a mother of two, expressed her gratitude: **"I feel grateful to see where**



Some 300 lots were allocated at Hogstye Housing Scheme in March

the land is. I live with my grandmother now, but I've always dreamed of owning my own land. I've achieved that—my house is next."

Another allottee, Ventrice Henry, praised the government's commitment to equitable housing: **"I feel so overjoyed. The government is doing a great job making sure everyone gets land,"** she said, recalling her journey to securing a transfer after relocating

to Berbice.

Gajendra Rajon emphasised the value of homeownership for youth: **"This housing programme is one of a kind in the Caribbean. It gives young people stability and something to look forward to."**

Minister Rodrigues noted that virtual tours will continue for new housing areas. The Hogstye scheme is backed by a \$902 million infrastructure investment, currently

being executed by four contractors. Works are slated for completion by October 31, 2025.

Meanwhile, Minister of Housing and Water Collin Croal led a similar engagement at Block B

October.

To enhance access, Minister Croal also announced the rehabilitation of the main road leading to the development. During an interactive session,



Some 300 lots were allocated at Hogstye Housing Scheme in March

Experiment in Region Five, which includes nearly 250 house lots. Infrastructure works—including roads, water distribution, and electrical systems are expected to conclude by September, with lot viewings beginning in

allottees received progress updates and reassurance of the government's continued efforts to reduce the housing application backlog. Over 1,900 lots have already been allocated in Region Five.



Minister Rodrigues is having a chat with an allottee



Guyanese
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On June 4, 2025, the **Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA)** welcomed a historic arrival—the **inaugural KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight** connecting **Amsterdam, Netherlands to Georgetown, Guyana**, with a stop in **St. Maarten**.

KLM now operates **twice-weekly flights**, arriving in Guyana on **Wednesdays and Saturdays** via St. Maarten and departing **non-stop to Amsterdam**—establishing a direct link between Europe and Guyana like never before.





H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali
President, Co-operative
Republic of Guyana



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ONE DESTINY



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R - Region

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- Coffee Production
- Breadfruit
- Eco-Tourism
- BARTICA**
- Precious Minerals
- Manufacturing
- Tourism
- PARIKA**
- Expansion of the Schomburgk Road to the Demerara High Spine Bridge - Part for the Inter-Regional Ferry Service, Transportation and Logistics, Agricultural Trade, Eco & Medical Tourism
- ESSEQUIBO**
- Tourism Hub (C&S Islands)
- Gold Mines
- Agriculture/Agro-processing
- Solar Farms - Commercial Coconut Farming
- MAHIDIA**
- Precious Minerals (Gold, Diamond), Agriculture
- LINDEN**
- Agricultural Port & Large Scale Farming
- Food Hub - Under Soco Highway - Eco-Lodges & Resorts - Theme Parks - Manufacturing Ecosystem - Transport and Logistics Hub - Sports Facilities & Sports Tourism
- WALES**
- Gas to shore pipeline
- Manufacturing & Industrial Hub
- 300 MW Energy Plant & Integrated Natural Gas Liquid Plant
- Vreede-on-Roop Shore Base Inc. (VESH)
- GUYANA SURINAME CONNECTION**
- Corentyne River Bridge
- Food Production (Enhanced agricultural collaboration & trade)
- Infrastructure Projects - Eco-tourism
- BERBICE**
- Oil Refinery (Downstream investment opportunities, Petrochemical industry, fertilizers & synthetic materials, Fuel Distribution, Industrial Manufacturing - Deepwater port - Aquaculture - Hotel Development - Agricultural belt)
- LETHEM**
- Hotel Development & Casinos - Airport Expansion - Large Scale Farming - Cattle Ranching - Gold Storage - Eco Tourism - Food Hub
- GUYANA BRAZIL CONNECTION**
- Logistical Integration
- Food Security
- Energy Security
- Construction of roads, ports and airways that connect the Caribbean to the Northern Region of Brazil.

GUYANA'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, MBA
Chief Investment Officer, Office of the President, Agency Head, Guyana Office for Investment

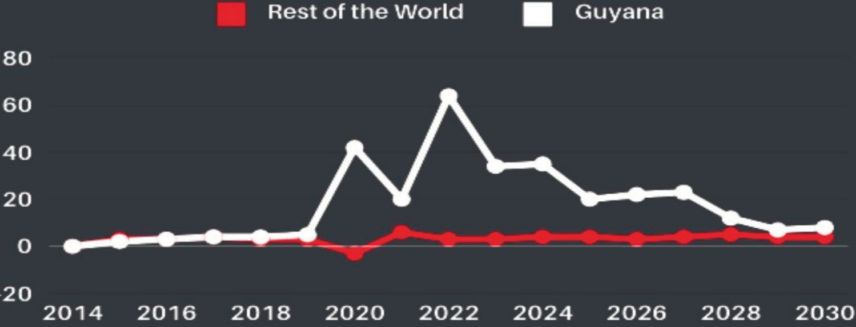
EXPORT PROMOTION & READINESS



The Guyana Office for Investment is a semi-autonomous agency established in 1994 pursuant to the Public Corporations Act, with a mandate to promote and encourage investment in Guyana.

WHY BUY GUYANA STOCK?

1 GY 43.60% -2024 REAL GDP GROWTH
Source - International Monetary Fund - Statista



Year	Rest of the World (%)	Guyana (%)
2014	0	0
2016	0	0
2018	0	0
2020	0	40
2022	0	65
2024	0	43.60
2026	0	25
2028	0	15
2030	0	10

FOOD SECURITY

- Tropical Climate
- Large Expanse of freshwater
- 420,000 Hectares of arable land
- 25% by 2025 reduction in food import bill

CLIMATE SECURITY

- 18.3M Hectares in standing forest
- Storing 19.5 Gigatons of Carbon worth US \$195B

ENERGY SECURITY

- 11+ Billion Oil-equivalent barrels discovered offshore
- 17 Trillion Cubic Feet Gas Reserves
- 300MW Power Plant

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

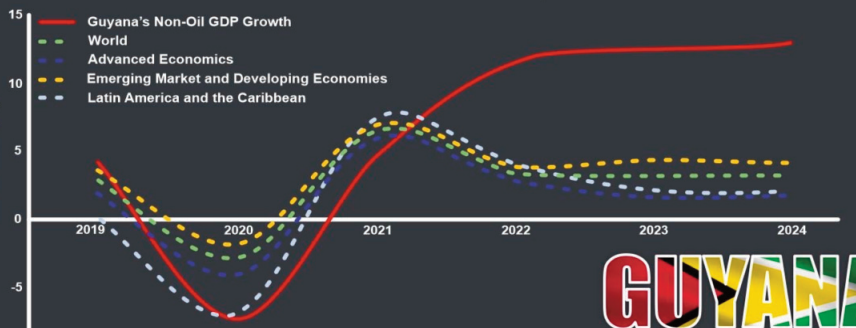
- Several New Regional Hospitals
- Access to free Education
- BIT Training
- Housing Development

WORLD CLASS TOURISM INDUSTRY


- 900 species of Birds
- 225 species of Mammals
- 800 species of Reptiles
- 6500 species of Plants & Trees
- 365 Islands along Guyana's Essequibo River
- Several US Branded hotels under construction

GUYANA: GROWTH NON-OIL ECONOMY VS. GROWTH IN OTHER REGIONS

Sources: Bureau of Statistics and IMF WEO Database, October 2024



Year	Guyana's Non-Oil GDP Growth (%)	World (%)	Advanced Economies (%)	Emerging Market and Developing Economies (%)	Latin America and the Caribbean (%)
2019	4	3	2	4	3
2020	-8	-5	-3	-2	-4
2021	10	5	3	8	6
2022	12	4	2	6	4
2023	13	3	1	5	3
2024	14	2	0	4	2



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- H.E. , Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-Opertaive Republic of Guyana.



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FIXTURES

GUYANA NATIONAL STADIUM - PROVIDENCE

JULY 2025		
Thu 10	10:00 AST	CENTRAL STAGS vs DUBAI CAPITALS
Thu 10	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Fri 11	10:00 AST	HOBART HURRICANES vs DUBAI CAPITALS
Fri 11	19:00 AST	CENTRAL STAGS vs GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS
Sun 13	10:00 AST	RANGPUR RIDERS vs HOBART HURRICANES
Sun 13	19:00 AST	DUBAI CAPITALS vs GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS
Tue 15	19:00 AST	HOBART HURRICANES vs CENTRAL STAGS
Wed 16	10:00 AST	DUBAI CAPITALS vs RANGPUR RIDERS
Wed 16	19:00 AST	GUYANA AMAZON WARRIORS vs HOBART HURRICANES
Thu 17	10:00 AST	RANGPUR RIDERS vs CENTRAL STAGS
Fri 18	19:00 AST	FINAL - FIRST PLACE vs SECOND PLACE