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2030 deadline for gas monetisation

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said that Guyana must monetise its gas resources by 2030 and demands that the Stabroek Block, estimated at 17 trillion cubic feet (tcf), be part of a series of mega projects aimed at transforming the Berbice region into an innovation and industrial hub.

The head of state boldly reaffirmed his position while addressing a packed room of local and international investors, technical experts, and global industrial leaders at the inaugural Berbice Development Summit 2025.

The historic two-day event is being held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown.

It aims to examine transformative projects that can unleash Berbice's potential as the logistical backbone for future industrialisation and energy distribution in Guyana and the wider region.

Speaking directly to coventurers of the Stabroek Block, the president declared, "I am not willing to push monetisation beyond 2030. Constitutionally, I have an election in 2031, and I can't run again. I'm not leaving this decision for anyone after me. Any option that does not allow this country to monetise gas before 2030 will not have the type of support that I would like to give," he underscored.

The president emphasised the need to create a platform for momentum and unity by partnering with the government and private sector investors.



Toronto launches portal for Jamaica aid

The City of Toronto has launched a new portal to help with disaster relief after Hurricane Melissa tore through Jamaica early last week, Mayor Olivia Chow (pictured) announced at a news conference Friday.

The DonateTO portal includes a way to make secure monetary donations, as well as a list of city firehouses accepting supplies to be shipped to the island.

A host of local businesses are also involved in relief efforts, either helping to collect donations or by donating supplies directly. A tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

"I'm so grateful for the support. Overwhelming isn't a strong enough word to describe it," said David Betty, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association at the news conference, held at Bedessee Imports.

The Caribbean food importer is one of the local businesses helping send hurricane relief to Jamaica.

Bedessee Imports will be shipping 21 tonnes of food and hygiene products to the Island, said CEO Rayman Bedessee, at the news conference.

"Most of our customers are Caribbean-oriented, and they support us greatly, so now it's time for us to go back and support them," said Bedessee.

Melissa made landfall in southwest Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane two weeks ago, with wind speeds reaching 295 km/h. The hurricane has been blamed for at least 45 deaths in Jamaica and 31 in nearby Haiti.

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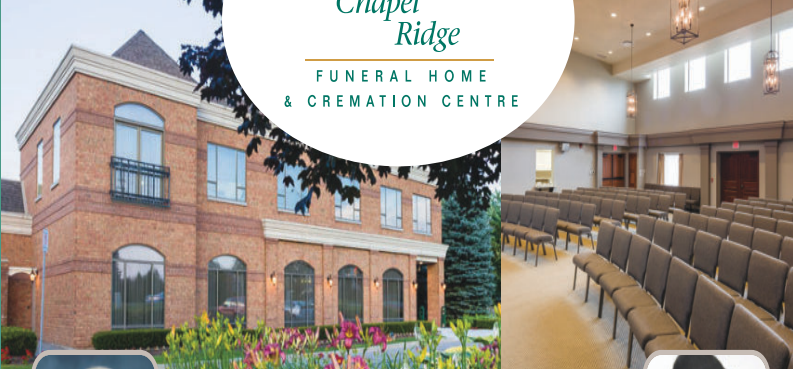
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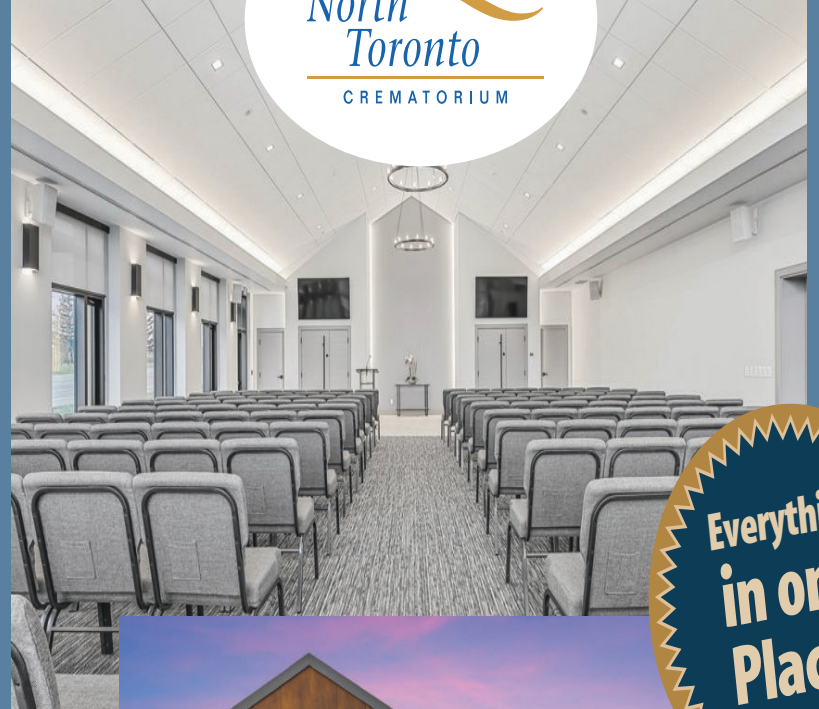
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CHAPEL RIDGE & NORTH TORONTO CELEBRATE OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW CREMATORIUM BUILT FOR SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY

Chapel Ridge Funeral Home & its new Crematorium – North Toronto Crematorium in Gormley (Hwy 404 & Stouffville Road) celebrated an Open House for the South Asian Community on Saturday, November 8th.

18 temples and seniors' organizations were represented for the tour and ceremony, with refreshments and donations made to those organizations represented.

The new North Toronto Crematorium was designed and built to specially accommodate the Hindu traditions of the South Asian Community – with a beautiful prayer room for up to 150 people, and state of the art witnessing and cremation facilities.

Temples from across the GTA have begun using the new “Everything in One Place” North Toronto Crematorium facility, noting its beauty and sensitivity to Hindu rituals and traditions.

Chapel Ridge also partners with St. John's Dixie Crematorium in Mississauga to serve families from West Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton and beyond. The Dixie chapel holds up to 250 people and has on site services, witnessing and cremation.

To arrange a funeral at the new Crematorium, or to pre-arrange in advance, call Chapel Ridge at 905-305-8508 and ask to speak to one of our Funeral Directors.



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

 KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 105

PRESIDENT ALI URGES GLOBAL LEADERS AT COP30 TO TURN CLIMATE WORDS INTO ACTION

PAGE 11

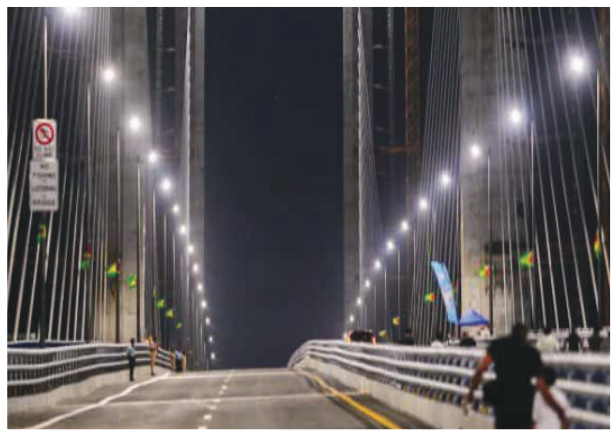


President Ali receives official welcome from Brazil's President Lula as COP30 Gets Underway in Belém, Brazil.



PRESIDENT ALI NAMED AMONG WORLD'S 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS

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GUYANA'S ECONOMY CONTINUES STRONG GROWTH, MID-YEAR REPORT SHOWS GAINS

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MORE CASH GRANT COMING FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND FISHERFOLK

PAGE 5

GUYANA READY FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY



President Ali with Donald Trump Jr

Guyana is positioning itself as a key partner for global investment and sustainable development, driven by bold leadership and a vision for transformative growth. President Dr Ali emphasised that a nation's potential should not be measured by its size or population, but by the innovation, vision, and boldness of its people. **"We are shaped by the**

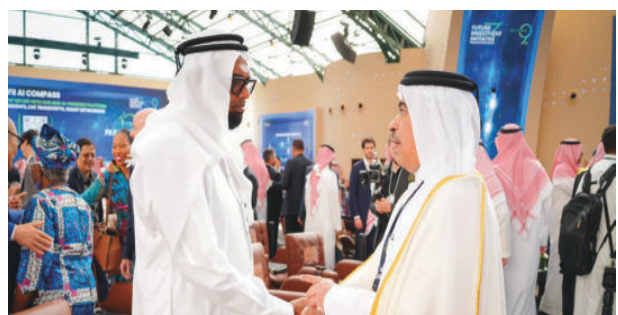
60 percent over the past 50 years, Guyana has maintained more than 89 percent of its forests, storing 19.5 gigatons of carbon and keeping one of the lowest deforestation rates worldwide. **"This is the country that is keeping the world alive,"** he said, highlighting Guyana's role in addressing global climate challenges.

Highlighting the importance of partnerships, talent acquisition, and technology, President Ali drew comparisons to small nations like Qatar, noting that



President Ali with President of Kosovo, HE Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu

emergence as the fastest-growing economy in the world, propelled by recent oil and gas discoveries, while emphasising that the country's transformation extends beyond petroleum wealth. The government is smart investments and strategic planning can drive large-scale transformation. He reaffirmed that Guyana is ready to collaborate with global investors and partners to build a future defined by prosperity, resilience,



President Ali with Minister of Finance for Qatar, Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari



President Ali met with His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Bin Faizal Al Saud and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Sport, FIFA President Gianni Infantin



President Ali with President of Rwanda, HE Paul Kagame

and environmental Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, sustainability.

On the sidelines of former Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, FII9, President Ali met with several international and Richard Attias, leaders, including His Founder of the FII



President Ali attending the opening ceremony of the 9th Future Investment Initiative

Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz Bin Turki Bin Faizal Al Saud, with FIFA for mini arenas in hinterland communities, further advancing Guyana's vision of inclusive national development. Discussions included partnerships with FIFA for mini arenas in hinterland communities, further advancing Guyana's vision of inclusive national development.

PRESIDENT ALI NAMED AMONG WORLD'S 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been recognised in the 2026 edition of The Muslim 500: The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims, under the category of Political Caribbean Leaders.

Published annually by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre in Amman, Jordan, The Muslim 500 highlights individuals who have made outstanding contributions and demonstrated meaningful influence within the global Muslim community. Now in its 16th year, the publication profiles leaders across politics, education, philanthropy, science, and culture whose work shapes social and economic progress worldwide.

President Ali, featured on page 157 of the 2026 edition, is acknowledged for his transformative leadership as Guyana's first Muslim Head of State, and for advancing inclusive national development, interfaith unity, and global cooperation.

The publication notes that with over 2.1 billion Muslims worldwide, its listings focus on figures whose impact transcends borders and benefits both Muslim and non-Muslim communities alike.

This year's edition also names the collective men and women of Gaza as Persons of the Year. It recalls President Ali's humanitarian call during Ramadan Village 2024, when Guyanese citizens contributed over GY\$110.8 million to support Palestinian

refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Extending congratulations, Sheikh Moen UL-Hack, Director of Education of the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana (CIOG), and the Muslim Youth Organisation (MYO) commended President Ali's **"remarkable leadership and unwavering commitment to national transformation and interfaith harmony."**



President Ali is featured on page 157 of the 2026 edition

PRESIDENT ALI, CROWN PRINCE BIN SALMAN AGREE ON FRAMEWORK FOR LASTING COLLABORATION

Guyana and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are deepening their partnership with a renewed focus on turning shared goals into concrete outcomes across multiple sectors.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali recently met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, during which both leaders agreed to establish an implementation and follow-up mechanism to ensure that their expanding collaboration delivers measurable benefits for citizens of both nations.

The high-level discussions centred on advancing cooperation in key areas, including



President Ali with His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

Hajj, energy, food security, biodiversity, sports, infrastructure, investment, and development cooperation. President Ali and the Crown Prince reaffirmed their mutual commitment to move beyond dialogue and translate opportunities into real projects that promote economic growth and social

advancement. This strengthened engagement builds upon a solid foundation of cooperation between the two countries. In 2023, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, signed two major loan agreements worth US\$150 million with the Saudi Fund

for Development (SFD). These funds are supporting the “Infrastructural Development Works for the Housing Sector Project” and the landmark Wismar Bridge project.

Earlier, in 2022, Guyana and Saudi Arabia signed an air services agreement to establish direct air connectivity between the Middle East and South America. The agreement, signed by Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, and Guyana’s Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, is aimed at enhancing trade, tourism, and investment.

Agricultural

collaboration also continues to expand, particularly in hydroponics and food security. At the 2023 CARICOM–Saudi Arabia Summit in Riyadh, chaired by President Ali,

Caribbean. With Guyana advancing its national transformation agenda and Saudi Arabia implementing its Vision 2030 strategy, both nations have reaffirmed



President Ali with His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia committed US\$25 million for a regional hydroponics facility and earmarked US\$2.5 billion to support development across the

their intention to pursue sustained and meaningful collaboration aimed at shared prosperity and global partnership.

GUYANA TEAMS UP WITH SAUDI EKSAB TO BRING JOBS AND GROWTH HOME



Presidet Ali witnessed the signing of the MoU between the Government of Guyana and Saudi Eksab

Guyana is opening the door to new opportunities for its citizens, as a partnership with Saudi Eksab promises jobs, infrastructure, and sustainable growth across key sectors.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on the sidelines of the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali witnessing the historic agreement. The deal

positions Guyana to benefit from investment ventures and knowledge transfer in areas critical to national development. Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, signed the document on behalf of Guyana, while Saudi Eksab’s CEO, Yazeed Alyahya, represented the international investment firm, which describes itself as a company “guided by purpose, powered by investment rigour.”

“This partnership opens pathways

for meaningful investment that will accelerate infrastructure development, create jobs, and support economic diversification,”

Minister Ally said, emphasising Guyana’s commitment to building a stronger, more prosperous future for its citizens.

Alyahya echoed this sentiment, highlighting



Presidet Ali witnessed the signing of the MoU between the Government of Guyana and Saudi Eksab

Saudi Eksab’s goal to identify high-impact initiatives that foster shared growth. “We are excited to explore opportunities that not only deliver returns but also benefit communities and strengthen Guyana’s economy,” he said.

The MoU marks a major step in Guyana’s ongoing efforts to attract strategic investments and build a foundation for inclusive, long-term prosperity.

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group) have renewed their strategic partnership, pledging US\$1 billion over the next five years to support development initiatives in Guyana and Suriname through a newly signed memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The collaboration will focus on inclusive and sustainable development across key sectors, including transportation, energy, urban development, education, rural development, health, and climate resilience.

“At the Islamic

GUYANA AND SURINAME SET FOR US\$1B MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Development Bank, we are committed to empowering our member countries and fostering partnerships that advance sustainable development. This renewed engagement with the IDB Group allows us to jointly deliver transformative projects that enhance livelihoods and promote shared prosperity in Suriname and Guyana,” said IsDB President Dr Muhammad Al Jasser.

IDB Group’s President, Ilan Goldfajn added, “We are joining forces with the Islamic Development Bank to unlock

new co-financing opportunities, build resilience, foster inclusive growth, and improve lives in the region.”

Beyond Guyana and Suriname, the partnership also aims to support broader collaboration in member countries with

significant Muslim populations. The MoU emphasises knowledge sharing, trade and investment promotion, and sustainable transportation solutions to strengthen regional connectivity, climate resilience, and inclusive growth.

Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to delivering impactful development solutions and enhancing cooperation across Latin America, the Caribbean, Gulf States, and other stakeholders.



(L-R) Chairman of IsDB Group Dr Muhammad Al Jasser, President of the IDB Group Ilan Goldfajn and CEO of IDB Invest James P Scriven

GUYANA'S ECONOMY CONTINUES STRONG GROWTH, MID-YEAR REPORT SHOWS GAINS

Guyana's economy is on a strong growth trajectory, fuelled by the booming oil and gas sector and robust performance across non-oil industries. By mid-2025, the overall economy grew by an estimated 7.5 percent, while the non-oil economy expanded by 13.8 percent, marking the fifth consecutive year of growth in the sector following the 2020 contraction.

Based on first-half developments, the government has revised full-year real GDP growth to 15.2 percent overall and 13.9 percent for the non-oil economy.

The 2025 Mid-Year Report highlights the government's commitment to sustaining high growth

while maintaining fiscal discipline and long-term economic stability. Senior Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh stressed that the measures in Budget 2025 provide a clear path to make the economy more resilient and ensure that this unprecedented expansion delivers lasting benefits for all Guyanese.

The government continues to prioritise citizen empowerment through employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, access to free education at all levels, home ownership, higher disposable incomes, and targeted support for children, youth, women, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

Agriculture, fishing, and forestry grew by

9 percent in the first half of the year. The sugar industry surged 136.7 percent, rice grew 13.9 percent, other

gold by 10.9 percent, and other mining activities by 24.2 percent.

Manufacturing increased by 26.8



Guyana's economy records 7.5 percent growth in the first half of the year, with the non-oil economy expanding by 13.8 percent

crops expanded by 7.4 percent, and livestock output increased by 11.7 percent. Forestry recorded growth of 6.2 percent. In the mining and extractive industries, petroleum output rose 5.5 percent, bauxite by 133.1 percent,

percent, services grew by 6.6 percent, and construction expanded by 29.9 percent, reflecting strong government investment and private sector activity. The balance of payments recorded a US\$10.3 million

surplus, supported by a current account surplus of US\$197.9 million. Non-oil exports grew 12.5 percent, driven by gold and bauxite, while import payments rose 81.1 percent, largely due to the One Guyana FPSO.

Monetary developments showed net domestic credit rising to \$1,015.5 billion, with household and business lending also increasing. Real estate mortgages expanded 11.4 percent, while consumer prices rose 2.9 percent, with declines in fuel prices easing costs for both producers and consumers. Twelve-month inflation stood at 4.2 percent and is projected at 3.1 percent for the year.

The government's measures to boost

disposable incomes include tax relief, cash grants, increased pensions, and expanded social support programmes. Investments in education, healthcare, and social protection have strengthened services and directly benefited households, particularly the most vulnerable.

Dr. Singh affirmed that the government remains committed to prudent resource management while investing in people and communities, ensuring that the benefits of national growth are widely shared and that Guyana continues on a steady path toward sustainable and inclusive prosperity.

Citi, one of the world's leading financial institutions, has announced plans to establish a representative office in Guyana, pending regulatory approval from the Bank of Guyana. The move underscores the country's rapid economic growth and its emergence as a hub for investment, infrastructure development, and trade.

With operations spanning over 90 countries, Citi aims to bring its global expertise to Guyana, supporting businesses, investors,

and communities as the nation experiences unprecedented economic expansion. By opening a local presence, Citi seeks to provide clients and partners with better access to international markets while helping to strengthen the country's financial infrastructure.

"We are very excited about the prospect of establishing a presence in Guyana," said Pablo del Valle, Citi's Head for Central America and the Caribbean. "The country's growth

GLOBAL BANK CITI SET TO OPEN OFFICE IN GUYANA AMID ECONOMIC BOOM

trajectory and vibrant investment landscape offer unique opportunities, and we look forward to working closely with the Bank of Guyana and local stakeholders to build lasting relationships."

The decision reflects more than a business strategy; it signals confidence in Guyana's future and

its people. For local businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs, Citi's entry promises easier access to global financing, advisory services, and international markets, potentially unlocking new opportunities for growth and innovation.

As Guyana continues to attract global attention for its thriving economy and strategic location, Citi's planned presence stands as a vote of confidence, highlighting



Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh with the delegation from Citibank during a visit to Georgetown back in June 2025

both the country's potential and the growing opportunities

for its citizens to participate in the wider global economy.

ESSEQUIBO ENTREPRENEURS ENCOURAGED TO GROW AMID GOVT SUPPORT

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, has highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in driving regional economic growth, urging entrepreneurs in Essequibo to take full advantage of opportunities created through government support.

Delivering the feature address at the Essequibo Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (ECCI) 19th Annual Agro and Trade Fair, the Prime Minister praised the Chamber for providing a platform that connects over 100 local businesses, allowing



Scene from the 19th Annual Agro and Trade Fair

them to showcase products, expand networks, and explore new markets.

"This Expo is a practical demonstration of what cooperation can accomplish. It highlights local

talent, connects businesses with partners, and allows them to share knowledge and expand their networks," Prime Minister Phillips said. "The private and public sectors

advance further when they work together."

He noted that Guyana's growth in key sectors, including energy, infrastructure, education, and housing, has created opportunities for both citizens and the private sector. Revenues from the oil sector, combined with the Local Content Act of 2021, have allowed over 1,000 Guyanese companies to supply more than US\$1.5 billion in goods and services, creating approximately 10,000 jobs.

He also reminded entrepreneurs of the government's initiatives in education, including free tuition at the University of Guyana and technical institutes, as well as GOAL scholarships and vocational training programmes benefiting over 82,000 citizens nationwide.

Highlighting regional developments, the Prime Minister

pointed to ongoing projects, including the four-lane Essequibo Coast highway, the Gas-to-Energy project at Wales, and solar farms across Region Two, which are improving connectivity, reducing energy costs, and generating employment opportunities.

He also reminded entrepreneurs of the government's initiatives in education, including free tuition at the University of Guyana and technical institutes, as well as GOAL scholarships and vocational training programmes benefiting over 82,000 citizens nationwide.

"Essequibo's contribution to the national economy is growing

due to improved infrastructure, greater access to services, and a strong business community," the Prime Minister said. "Local entrepreneurs are encouraged to leverage these conditions, adopt technology, expand operations, and create sustainable jobs."

Prime Minister Phillips concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to equitable growth, stability, and national unity, emphasising that continued collaboration between the public and private sectors will sustain Guyana's upward trajectory.

MORE CASH GRANT COMING FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND FISHERFOLK



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali during the interview

A new wave of support is on the horizon for Guyanese families, farmers, and fisherfolk. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that before the end of the year, his government will unveil a series of comprehensive measures designed to

ease financial burdens, create opportunities, and empower communities across the country. Speaking during an interview, President Ali said the new relief package will go beyond one-time cash grants, focusing instead on long-term empowerment for all groups; families, small businesses, women, children, the elderly, and persons living with disabilities. **“I am going to announce, before the end of the year, a series of measures, not only looking at cash grants, but looking at the total empowerment of**

every Guyanese,” he affirmed. He encouraged citizens to open bank accounts to ensure that future payments and grants can be delivered smoothly and securely. The announcement follows a series of people-centered interventions by the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Government. Last year, every adult Guyanese received a \$100,000 cash grant, complementing other initiatives such as the Because We Care student grant and the \$100,000 Newborn Grant. But this time, the support will reach even

further, touching the backbone of Guyana’s productive sectors. President Ali revealed that over \$2.7 billion will be injected into the rice industry to cushion the impact of falling global prices. Rice farmers will be paid a minimum of \$300 per bag of paddy,

ensuring they can stay afloat and continue contributing to national food security. For the nation’s fisherfolk, a \$150,000 cash grant will soon be rolled out, along with the removal of taxes on fuel, seines, and other essential materials.

These interventions will help reduce costs, improve livelihoods, and sustain the traditional fishing communities that have fed and supported Guyana for generations. Through these measures, President Ali reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to ensuring that every Guyanese, whether on the coast or in the hinterland, shares in the nation’s growth. **“Every single person matters,”** he said. **“We’re building a country where no one is left behind.”**



Guyanese shopping at the Bourda Market

OVER 1,500 KM OF CANALS, 300 KOKERS, AND 180 PUMPS TO BE UPGRADED IN GUYANA'S LARGEST DRAINAGE PROJECT

Over 1,500 km of canals, 300 kokers, and 180 pumps to be upgraded in Guyana’s largest drainage project

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled plans for the largest drainage and irrigation investment in Guyana’s history, as part of the government’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030. The announcement came during the first meeting of the LCDS Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) for the new term.

The initiative will see upgrades to over 1,500 kilometres of drainage canals, more than 300



President Ali meeting with the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee

kokers, and 180 pumps nationwide, protecting 130 square kilometres of urban land and 1,270 square kilometres of agricultural land. President Ali emphasised that the project will enhance the resilience of 320,000 people against

intensified rainstorms and rising sea levels. New high-level relief canals, modeled after the Hope Canal system, are being designed to allow water to drain even during high tides, ensuring critical protection for coastal communities. **“These are real investments, not just words, in our land, our people, and our future,”** President Ali said.

The project is part of a wider climate resilience and development framework, which includes mangrove restoration, clean energy expansion, and community-led

development projects. Over the past decade, more than 140 hectares of mangroves have been restored and half a million seedlings planted, safeguarding the environment while supporting fisheries and carbon storage.

Since the relaunch of LCDS 2030 in



Meeting with the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee

2022, Guyana has achieved world-leading milestones, including receiving jurisdictional forest carbon credits under ART-TREES and securing a US\$750 million carbon sale through 2030. Carbon revenues, over 400 million USD in three years, have been invested in Amerindian and hinterland communities, funding hundreds of local development projects. The drainage and irrigation works also complement the government’s ‘Rescue Georgetown’ initiative, reinforcing urban infrastructure and sea defenses.



Meeting with the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee

President Ali stressed that development and environmental protection are twin pillars of prosperity, and Guyana will continue advocating for fair, science-based global climate policies at international forums, including COP 30 in Brazil.



The meeting with the multi-agency team to develop the Georgetown Drainage Development Plan

Residents of Georgetown are set to play a key role in shaping the city’s Drainage and Beautification Plan, following an announcement by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali. The consultations, beginning next Monday, form part of the government’s broader initiative to

modernise Georgetown’s ageing drainage system and restore the city’s reputation as a “garden city.” During a meeting with ministers and technical officials at the Office of the President, President Ali explained that the consultations will run for three weeks, covering

RESIDENTS TO HAVE SAY IN GEORGETOWN'S NEW DRAINAGE AND BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

various wards of the city before expanding to other urban areas. The process aims to engage residents, businesses, and other stakeholders on the design and implementation of the plan, ensuring their perspectives inform every stage of development. The initiative is part of a larger, multi-agency effort to improve Georgetown’s drainage capacity and strengthen its resilience against flooding. President Ali noted that the plan will include

immediate, short-term, and medium-term investments to address increased rainfall, drainage challenges, and the city’s ongoing growth. Advanced technology, including satellite imagery and LiDAR mapping, is being used to create a detailed schematic of Georgetown’s drainage network, covering primary, secondary, and tertiary channels. A condition survey of drains, outfalls, and pump stations has already been

completed, providing critical data for new pumping infrastructure, maintenance schedules, and system upgrades. The first phase of implementation will begin with clearing and cleaning park parapets, which have been obstructed by vegetation and illegal structures. President Ali urged residents, property owners, and businesses to cooperate with technical teams during this stage, emphasising that the work will enhance public safety, protect properties from

flooding, and improve overall city aesthetics. The drainage and beautification initiative also aligns with Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and includes plans to modernise the sewer system in partnership with Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI). President Ali assured citizens that visible works will begin before the end of the year, stressing that the project is a collective effort to create a healthier, safer, and more resilient Georgetown.

“NO ONE ABOVE THE LAW” - GUYANA’S LEADERS STAND BY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS U.S. SEEKS EXTRADITION OF MOHAMEDS



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, during the live interview

Guyana has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the rule of law and international treaty obligations as the United States formally seeks the extradition of prominent businessmen Nazar Mohamed and his son, Azruddin Mohamed.

The two were arrested under the Fugitive Offenders Act and granted bail on October 31, 2025, as legal proceedings commence in Georgetown.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, confirmed that the extradition request was

received on October 30 from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the U.S. Department of Justice. The charges include wire fraud, money laundering, customs violations, and gold smuggling linked to an alleged US\$50 million gold export and tax evasion scheme spanning 2017 to 2024.

Minister Nandlall emphasised that the Government of Guyana’s response to the extradition request is guided solely by the law.

“Guyana is a law-abiding state. Our response to the U.S. extradition request

is entirely based on legal and treaty obligations. This is about adherence to law, not politics,” he told the National Communications Network (NCN).

He explained that Guyana has acted promptly and in accordance with its international commitments.

“Our duty is to comply with international treaties. We honour them faithfully,” the Attorney General affirmed.

According to reports, the U.S. extradition dossier includes evidence of falsified customs declarations, undeclared gold shipments, and financial irregularities. The case is now before the courts, where due process will ensure that the Mohameds’ constitutional rights are protected.

During the bail hearing, defence

attorneys argued that the father and son, both long-standing residents of Guyana, pose no flight risk and will comply with all court-imposed conditions. The prosecution, however, objected to bail, citing the seriousness of the charges and the ongoing extradition proceedings.

Principal Magistrate



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo speaking with the media

Judy Latchman granted each defendant \$150,000 bail, ordering the surrender of their passports and weekly reporting to the Ruimveldt Police Station.

Meanwhile, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali dismissed claims that the government delayed the opening of the 13th Parliament in connection with the case, describing such allegations as **“deliberate misinformation”** meant to sow confusion.

“This is not about



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

politics; this is about the law taking its course,” the President stated during a live interview.

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo also rejected the opposition’s claims, noting that

parliamentary proceedings are progressing according to established protocols. He emphasised that the legal action against the Mohameds arises from an international investigation, not domestic politics.

“There’s no immunity as a Member of Parliament, even as Opposition Leader,” he said.

Both President Ali and Attorney General Nandlall reiterated that the government’s approach is rooted in transparency, legality, and international cooperation.

“We act with integrity, in full compliance with international and domestic law,” Minister Nandlall asserted, underscoring that no one is above the law as Guyana continues to uphold its global and constitutional responsibilities.



President and Commander-in-Chief, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) was lauded for six decades of steadfast service in safeguarding the nation’s peace and sovereignty.

Speaking at the GDF’s 60th Anniversary Interfaith Service, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali emphasised that the military’s strength lies not in aggression, but in discipline, dedication,

and a commitment to the people of Guyana.

“The Guyana Defence Force is not a force of intimidation,” President Ali said. **“We are peaceful, but we are prepared. We will fiercely defend our territorial integrity and sovereignty against any threat, from wherever it may come.”**

The anniversary comes amid reflection on recent challenges, including the tragic terrorist attack at the Mobil Gas Station on Regent Street, which claimed the life of a young child. President Ali praised the professionalism and swift response of the

joint services, noting that such dedication exemplifies the GDF’s role as the nation’s shield. **“Those who seek to harm or divide us will fail. Our spirit cannot be terrorised. Our peace, our democracy, and our people will endure,”** he said.

Highlighting the human side of the force, the President acknowledged the sacrifices of service members and the importance of continuous training and education. Soldiers now have access to

GDF PRAISED FOR PROTECTING PEACE AND SOVEREIGNTY



GDF’s 60th Anniversary Interfaith Service

advanced leadership programmes and higher education opportunities, strengthening a force that is resilient in both spirit and skill.

From its founding on November 1, 1965, the

embodying patriotism and selfless service.

President Ali concluded with a call for continued national cohesion, noting that a nation at peace with itself is the strongest defence against external threats. **“Sixty years have passed, but the mission continues. The mission remains clear,”** he said.

The GDF celebrated this milestone under the theme: **“Strengthening Our Nation Through Sacrifice and Selfless Service”**.

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND CHIEF VISITS GUYANA FOR SECURITY TALKS

Admiral Alvin Holsey, Commander of the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), visited Guyana to hold high-level discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral security cooperation.

During his visit to Georgetown, Admiral Holsey met with Prime Minister Brigadier

(Ret’d) Mark Phillips, who was performing the functions of President, and Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Omar Khan. The meetings focused on advancing joint security initiatives, promoting regional stability, and reaffirming the United States’ strong support for Guyana’s territorial integrity.

The U.S.–Guyana defense partnership has long been rooted in collaboration on countering transnational threats, building defense capacity, and enhancing professional military development through training and exchange programmes.

SOUTHCOM continues to work

closely with Guyana and other regional partners to promote security and stability across Latin America and the Caribbean, an effort central to ensuring shared prosperity and addressing evolving security challenges.



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips, and the Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan, meeting with Admiral Holsey

TERRORISM CHARGES LAID IN DEADLY GEORGETOWN GAS STATION BLAST

Seven individuals have been formally charged with terrorism following a deadly explosion at the Mobil Fuel Station in Georgetown on October 26, 2025, which claimed the life of six-year-old **Soraya Bourne** and left four others injured.

Among those charged is **Venezuelan national Daniel Alexander Ramirez-Pedermo**, 33, who allegedly confessed to orchestrating the bombing. Ramirez-Pedermo told police he transported the explosive device from Venezuela and remotely detonated it after leaving his vehicle near the gas station.

Police Commissioner **Clifton Hicken** called the confession a “major breakthrough,” confirming that the device had a remote switch, which Ramirez-Pedermo activated after leaving the scene.

The six other individuals charged are: **Wayne Corriea** (44, Guyanese), **Ramesh Pramdeo** (51, Guyanese), **Krystal LaCruz** (33, Guyanese/Venezuelan), **Jennifer Rodriguez** (33, Venezuelan), **Johnny Boodram** (27, Venezuelan), and **Alexander Bettancourt** (44, Venezuelan).



President Ali meeting with the families of the victims of the tragic bombing



President Ali meeting with the families of the victims of the tragic bombing

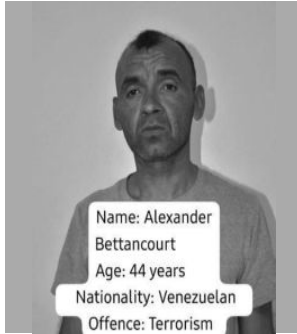
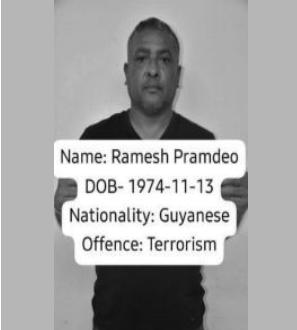
All face charges under Section 3(1)(a) of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act, Chapter 8:01. Ramirez-Pedermo, Bettancourt, and LaCruz were remanded by Chief Magistrate **Faith McGusty**. Defense counsel for Boodram argued that his client, a taxi driver, was unaware of the attack, claiming he was merely transporting a passenger.

The remaining three, Pramdeo, Corriea, and Rodriguez, were charged with aiding and abetting and appeared remotely before **Leonora Magistrate Alisha**

George, as the alleged acts occurred in East Bank Essequibo. Bail applications for all seven were refused.

Authorities say Ramirez-Pedermo is linked to the Venezuelan criminal group “R,” associated with the Sindicato gang, and **Interpol** is assisting with cross-border verification. Minister of Home Affairs **Oneidge Walrond** credited technology, including the government’s Smart City Programme, for the swift arrest of the suspect two days after the attack at Vergenogen, East Bank Essequibo.

President **Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali** condemned the explosion as a “vile act of terrorism,” promising families of the victims that “swift justice” will be pursued. Vice President **Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo** reinforced that all perpetrators, local or foreign, will face the full weight of the law.



Related Activities Act of 2015, which allows capital punishment when an attack results in loss of life.

E-ID REGISTRATION MANDATORY FOR NON-CITIZENS ENTERING GUYANA

The Government of Guyana has made Electronic Identification (E-ID) card registration mandatory for all foreign nationals entering the country, as part of a broader effort to strengthen border security and modernise public services.

Minister of Home Affairs, **Oneidge Walrond**, outlined the initiative during a media briefing, following the tragic explosion at a Mobil gas station on Regent Street that claimed the life of six-year-old Soraya Bourne.

Minister Walrond emphasised that all non-citizens entering Guyana must register at legally designated points of entry. She noted that the explosion’s main suspect and several accomplices were Venezuelan nationals who had entered the country illegally by boat on October 26, 2025. Those who fail to register will face deportation,



The E-ID system is a national security initiative

though a grace period will be provided to allow individuals in the country illegally to regularise their status.

The E-ID system will differentiate between citizens and non-citizens, integrating personal data into a secure digital and physical card for accessing government and private sector services. The card will link to other systems, including TIN, bank accounts, and immigration records. Citizens will receive E-ID Citizen Cards, while eligible migrants, including those with valid work permits, will receive E-ID Resident Cards, valid only for

the duration of their approved stay.

Minister Walrond addressed misinformation circulating on social media, emphasising that the initiative is not intended to legitimise illegal migration. “**These claims are false and misleading,**” she said. The E-ID system is a national security initiative designed to protect borders, ensure citizen safety, and enhance compliance with regulations, including those of the Guyana Revenue Authority and the National Insurance Scheme.

The application process is simple, with appointments available online or at service centres, where applicants submit the required documents and complete registration steps. Applicants are notified when their cards are ready for collection.

Minister Walrond urged the public to rely only on verified official information and reject divisive narratives, stressing that the E-ID system reflects the government’s commitment to responsible technology use, national security, and modernisation of public services.



Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond navigating the platform along with immigration staff

Citizens will soon be able to apply for passports online, eliminating the long wait and long lines that have frustrated applicants for years. Minister of

Home Affairs, **Oneidge Walrond**, confirmed that the government remains on track to roll out the service by the end of the year.

Speaking on the

GUYANESE CAN APPLY FOR THEIR PASSPORT FROM HOME BY YEAR-END

‘Starting Point’ podcast, Minister Walrond said the new digital system is part of a broader effort to modernise government services and make them more convenient for citizens.

“We have advanced significantly with the contractor in digitising the biometric system. While this process has already started

at the passport office, full online application service will be available by year-end,” she explained.

The online system will allow applicants to submit applications, book appointments, and access passport services from the comfort of their homes, reducing the need to travel long distances or wait in queues.

To support decentralisation, the government is also establishing new service centres in all regions, offering passport facilities alongside other government services under one roof.

President **Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali** highlighted that the online passport portal is a key part of the government’s plan to digitise all public services

by the second quarter of 2026, aiming to create a more transparent, efficient, and citizen-focused system.

With this initiative, Guyanese can expect faster, hassle-free passport applications, improved accessibility, and a smoother overall experience as the government moves to deliver modern, digital solutions across the country.

GUYANA SENDS RELIEF SUPPLIES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO JAMAICA FOLLOWING HURRICANE MELISSA



Guyana sends help to Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa

Guyana has dispatched its first shipment of emergency relief supplies and essential equipment to Jamaica to support recovery and

humanitarian operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. The Category 5 storm has left widespread devastation across the island, claiming at least 28 lives and cutting off access to several communities. A vessel carrying Guyana’s relief supplies—loaded in the Dominican Republic, is now en route to Jamaica. The shipment includes generators, tarpaulins, and chainsaws, among other essential materials, mobilised through a joint government–private sector initiative. Additionally, a team from the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Transmission and Distribution Division has departed to assist with power restoration efforts.

The relief mission follows a high-level meeting convened by Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips with the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), and the Private Sector Commission (PSC) to coordinate the country’s response. The government, through the CDC, continues to work closely with key national agencies and private partners to channel emergency assistance to the Jamaican authorities. President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has personally assured Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness of Guyana’s readiness to provide full support. He also tasked Permanent Secretary Sharon

Roopchand-Edwards with coordinating efforts with Guyana’s Honorary Consul in Jamaica to ensure the safety and welfare of Guyanese nationals on the island.



Education Ministry checking on safety of Guyanese students in Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa

Minister of Education Sonia Parag confirmed that all Guyanese students studying in Jamaica are safe and have received

care packages. During a virtual meeting attended by Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussain, the students expressed gratitude for the support. Minister Parag said a

classes. Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo reaffirmed the government’s commitment to aiding Jamaica, emphasising that solidarity during times of disaster transcends comparison. **“Jamaica has been devastated. Our prayers are with the people of Jamaica,”** he said. **“We have a duty to help as much as we can, as we would with anyone else, locally or regionally.”** Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Caribbean, also caused severe damage in Cuba, the Bahamas, and Haiti, where 30 people lost their lives.



The commissioning of the new \$97.8 million CDC multipurpose building, bond

Guyana has taken another major step toward strengthening its disaster preparedness with the commissioning of a modern multipurpose facility at the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) Headquarters, Thomas Lands, Georgetown. The \$97.8 million state-of-the-art complex, funded by the Office of the Prime Minister, will

expand the CDC’s storage capacity for disaster relief supplies and improve coordination during emergencies. It will also ensure that food, water, and medical supplies are stored safely and deployed swiftly when disaster strikes, helping communities recover faster. Speaking at the commissioning, Prime Minister Brigadier

NEW CDC FACILITY STRENGTHENS GUYANA'S READINESS TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

(Ret’d) Mark Phillips described the facility as a vital investment in Guyana’s resilience. **“Preparedness demands resources, but also foresight,”** he said. **“The cost of readiness is always less than the cost of inaction. Each dollar invested in prevention saves many more in recovery, it spares communities from prolonged suffering and allows the economy to rebound faster.”** The Prime Minister emphasised that true preparedness must be **“built, trained,**

housed, and supported” through modern infrastructure like this one. He noted that similar facilities are already operational in Region Nine, with another soon to be commissioned in Region Eight, expanding national coverage so that **“when adversity comes, Guyana will not be caught unprepared.”**

The CDC’s growing capacity reflects the government’s commitment to safeguarding lives and property. Over the years, the Commission has led vital training in oil spill



The commissioning of the new \$97.8 million CDC multipurpose building, bond

response, interagency coordination, and emergency planning. It has also supported regional neighbours, including Grenada and St. Vincent, during recent natural disasters.

Currently, the CDC is working alongside

the private sector to send humanitarian relief to Jamaica and other Caribbean nations affected by Hurricane Melissa, which the Prime Minister described as **“perhaps the biggest storm the region has experienced in the last 200 years.”**

BUDGET 2026 WILL FOCUS ON JOBS, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo announced that Budget 2026 will be presented early and will prioritise key areas including job creation, healthcare, education, community development, and national security, while also addressing labour shortages through a structured migration framework. Speaking at his weekly press conference at the PPP/C’s Freedom House headquarters in Georgetown, Dr. Jagdeo said the upcoming budget

reflects the government’s commitment to fulfilling the promises outlined in its manifesto. **“The President spoke about creating more and better-paying jobs, ensuring our people are healthier and better educated, and solving community problems like drainage, garbage, and security,”** he said. A major component of the government’s plans is the rollout of a national biometric

identification system. Every citizen and legal migrant will be registered and issued an electronic ID card containing facial recognition and biometric data. Possession of this card will be mandatory for work, banking, and other services, with employers facing penalties for hiring anyone without it. The system will also be integrated with an expanded network of 4,000 surveillance cameras to strengthen public safety and border control.

Dr. Jagdeo explained that legal migrants may be granted residency, without voting rights, to fill labour gaps in sectors such as construction. Citing examples from countries like Qatar and the UAE, he stressed that these measures are designed to protect Guyana’s identity while meeting economic needs. He described these initiatives, along with the establishment of a Development Bank and other national projects, as transformative measures with long-



The finance minister surrounded by his colleague ministers after successfully presenting Budget 2025

term impact. Dr Jagdeo reaffirmed the PPP/C’s commitment to accountable governance, long-term development, and safeguarding citizens’ interests. Budget 2026, he added, will continue that

path, funding growth, modernisation, and security while ensuring every citizen and legal resident is properly documented and included in Guyana’s transformation.

ESSEQUIBO COAST GETS 40% POWER BOOST AS US\$10.4M SOLAR FARM GOES LIVE



The commissioning of the 5MW Solar Farm at Onderneeming, Essequibo Coast

Residents and businesses along the Essequibo Coast are now benefitting from cleaner, more reliable electricity following the commissioning of Guyana’s largest hybrid solar-plus-storage facility to date, a US\$10.4 million, 5-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) farm at Onderneeming. Prime Minister

Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips officially launched the facility, highlighting it as a major step in the government’s push for energy security, sustainability, and affordable power under the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030. **“This solar farm strengthens the grid, supports the growth of local communities, and ensures that Guyanese families and businesses benefit from cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable energy,”** the Prime Minister said. The project, developed under the Guyana Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic (GUYSOL) Programme by Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Inc., with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) support, replaces part of the older generation capacity and increases regional power from 16 MW to approximately 22.5 MW, a 40% boost for the Essequibo Coast. Beyond infrastructure, the project also creates opportunities for local communities. Thirty-one women, including nine from Region Two, received training in solar PV installation, while 20 apprentices, including six persons with disabilities, gained hands-on experience in engineering, finance, and project management. **“This is more than just a solar farm; it’s a catalyst for local growth and skill development,”** the Prime Minister emphasised. The Onderneeming facility is expected to generate around 7,700 MWh annually, cutting fossil fuel costs by an estimated GY\$447 million and preventing 6,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year. It

will also help stabilise electricity prices and lay the groundwork for integrating more renewable sources into the national grid. The commissioning forms part of a broader GUYSOL programme, which will deliver 33 MW of solar capacity and 34 MWh of battery storage across Regions Two, Five, Six, and Ten. Plans are also underway for a 15-MW solar farm in Linden, Region Ten,



The commissioning of the 5MW Solar Farm at Onderneeming, Essequibo Coast

and classrooms, empower workers with new skills, and support local economies. The light that now shines from Onderneeming belongs to every Guyanese who believes in a sustainable future,” he said.



One of the flagship ventures is the Guyana Gas Bottling and Logistics Company

A wave of new developments at Wales, West Bank Demerara, is set to bring tangible benefits to Guyanese households, lower gas prices, more jobs, and stronger industries. These projects, spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister

AFFORDABLE GAS AND MORE JOBS TO EVOLVE FROM DEVELOPMENTS IN WALES

which will serve as the anchor for the emerging Wales Development Zone, a growing hub of innovation, industry, and employment. One of the flagship ventures is the Guyana Gas Bottling and Logistics Company (GGBL), a new facility designed to make domestic cooking gas cheaper and more accessible. The plant, developed under a Public-Private Partnership, will bottle and distribute gas nationwide, meeting an annual demand of three million 20-pound cylinders, worth an estimated \$14 billion. The gas will be supplied at lower wholesale prices through Guyana Power and Gas Inc. (GPGI), using the GTE pipeline to ensure stable, affordable energy for homes and businesses alike. For the agriculture sector, the upcoming Guyana Ammonia and Urea Plant (GAUP) will be a game-changer. With a US\$300 million investment, the facility will produce around 300,000 tons

of fertiliser annually, reducing costs for local farmers and exporting to neighbouring markets, including Northern Brazil and the Caribbean. Once operational by 2027/2028, it will help farmers increase yields and strengthen Guyana’s position as a regional food producer. The Amaila Falls Hydro Project, expected to generate 165 megawatts of clean power, will complement these efforts by ensuring reliable electricity for homes, industries, and farms, further driving down energy costs. Together, these projects, coordinated by the OPM’s Gas-to-Energy Task Force, promise to turn Wales into a thriving economic hub, creating hundreds of new jobs, improving livelihoods, and delivering affordable, sustainable energy to families across Guyana. Proposals for the projects are open until early 2026, with details available via gas-to-energy@gte.gov.gy or +1 (592) 225-2602.

BAMBOO PILOT PROJECT TO BRING GREEN JOBS TO REGION 10

Communities across Guyana are set to benefit from a new initiative that combines environmental restoration with livelihood opportunities. On October 27, 2025, the Ministry of Natural Resources, through the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), launched the “Piloting Bamboo for Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Guyana” project at the GFC Multiplex in Kingston. Supported by the European Union Delegation in Guyana under the EUROCLIMA Programme, and

implemented with technical guidance from Expertise France, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR), and the GFC’s Forest Resources Management Division, the project seeks to harness bamboo’s potential for ecological and economic impact. The initiative will focus on restoring degraded lands, including bauxite-mined areas in Region Ten, while offering alternative forest-based livelihoods for communities dependent on forest resources. Local residents from Maria Elizabeth, Three Friends, Coomacka, Old England, Nottinghamshire, Richmond Hill, and Siberian will play a central role in designing and implementing the pilot, ensuring that the project directly benefits those on the ground. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat in his feature address, identified bamboo as a key part of Guyana’s vision for a diversified, low-carbon forest economy, and emphasised the importance of all actors working in synergy



The launch of the project at the GFC Multiplex in Kingston

to create and sustain production and markets for bamboo. INBAR and international experts will provide technical support on taxonomy, soils, and environmental and social assessments, while the GFC and GGMC will integrate this effort into the broader National Forest Restoration Initiative. The bamboo pilot project not only offers climate change mitigation through forest restoration but also introduces new bamboo-based products and value chains that can strengthen local economies. For many communities, this initiative represents more than environmental protection, it is an opportunity for sustainable income, skills development, and participation in shaping Guyana’s green economy. By combining ecological restoration with community empowerment, the project embodies a future where nature and people grow together.

The Government of Guyana has clarified details surrounding the Linden–Mabura Road Project after recent international reports described it as a “road to nowhere” and questioned its progress and integrity.

A report by The Telegraph (UK) on October 31, 2025, claimed that only 46 of the 75 miles of the road had been completed since construction began in December 2022, with challenging sections still pending. Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan A. Edghill shared videos on social media showing ongoing work, addressing what he called “false flags” about the project.

The Minister emphasised that the Linden–Mabura corridor is part of a nearly century-long national

development vision. First defined in the 1920s and advanced through the Georgetown–Linden (McKenzie) Lethem Project in the 1960s with U.S. support, the current works modernise and continue that historic plan, strengthening territorial connectivity and national integration.

Upon completion, the corridor will provide full overland access across Guyana west of the Essequibo River, enhancing links between coastal and hinterland regions. The Minister highlighted the road’s role in facilitating trade, promoting economic growth, and ensuring balanced national development.



Drone shot of works on the Linden-Mabura road project

The project also strengthens regional integration, connecting Guyana’s coastal economy to Brazil’s northern states. This link is expected to boost bilateral trade, improve logistics, and create new opportunities for communities in both Guyana and neighbouring Brazilian

regions, particularly Pará State. Hinterland populations will gain improved access to markets, healthcare, education, and emergency services.

Funded through the UK Caribbean Infrastructure Fund (UKCIF) and administered by the Caribbean Development

Bank (CDB), the project meets climate-resilient infrastructure standards, providing year-round access, reducing vehicle emissions, and ensuring flood-resistant connectivity. Independent appraisals confirm compliance with environmental, social, and fiduciary standards.

Environmental stewardship is a priority: the project upgrades an existing corridor rather than cutting through untouched rainforest. Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) were conducted, and mitigation and monitoring measures are in place. Guyana retains over 85 percent forest

cover and continues its Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, demonstrating that infrastructure and environmental protection can coexist.

Minister Edghill reaffirmed the project’s transparency and governance, noting CDB oversight, independent auditing, public disclosure, and continuous monitoring. He described the Linden–Mabura Road as a defining national achievement, advancing connectivity, climate resilience, and regional partnership while empowering Indigenous and hinterland communities.

MINISTER EDGHILL ENGAGES TRUCKERS ON GUYANA-BRAZIL TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

Guyana’s rise as a regional hub for trade and development is being guided by strategic

and Brazil. Recently, Minister Edghill met with truckers from Lethem, Region

Council (RDC), focused on ensuring that the agreement protects the interests and economic well-being of Guyanese transport operators.

“Our discussion today aims for you to be more than just a man wanting a hustle. It must be about how we fix a system that allows you, others, your children and your children’s children, and the country to leapfrog into the next level of engagement and influence,” Minister Edghill told truckers.

The IRTA, set for full implementation before the end of the year, will regulate the movement of passengers and cargo by road

between Guyana and Brazil. The agreement is expected to stimulate tourism and investment, streamline customs and security processes, and boost regional trade integration.

Under the agreement, the Ministry of Home Affairs will serve as Guyana’s implementing agency, while Brazil’s National Land Transport Agency (ANTT) will oversee operations on their side. Registered transport companies can apply for cross-border licences by providing necessary documentation, including tax identification numbers, vehicle licences, and appointing a legal representative in Brazil. Once approved,



Minister Edghill meeting with truckers from Lethem, Region Nine

operators will receive an official operating licence, with a supplemental ANTT licence required within 120 days.

To support increased trade and logistics, new infrastructure is being developed at border points. Plans include air-conditioned containers and multi-agency facilities to house police, customs, immigration, and anti-narcotics units. The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) will also install container scanners at strategic

points such as the Takutu Bridge and Lethem crossing.

Minister Edghill highlighted that further plans, including a deep-water harbour, are advancing. These measures are part of the government’s vision to position Guyana as a key player in regional shipping, logistics, and trade, creating sustainable opportunities for businesses and communities alike.



Truckers from Lethem, Region Nine, who operate along the Georgetown–Brazil route

government initiatives, according to Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill. One of the key projects driving this growth is the International Road Transport Agreement (IRTA) between Guyana

Nine, who operate along the Georgetown–Brazil route, to discuss the formalisation of cross-border travel and address their concerns. The engagement, held at the Lethem Regional Democratic

Construction of the US\$35 million Mackenzie/Wismar Bridge is progressing rapidly, with works now

83.5 per cent complete, well ahead of schedule, according to a report from the Ministry of Public Works.



Ongoing work on the bridge

CONSTRUCTION OF MACKENZIE/ WISMAR BRIDGE ON TRACK

The 220-metre-long precast concrete structure, being built by China Railway Construction (Caribbean) Co. Ltd, is designed to significantly ease traffic congestion and long delays for commuters. Once completed, it will feature four vehicular lanes, two pedestrian walkways, and a prestressed, post-tensioned concrete box girder design similar to

the new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge.

To date, more than 26 precast concrete girders have been produced. Construction of the temporary embankment and access pathway for girder transportation has been completed, while assembly of the girder launcher is already one week ahead of schedule.

Backfilling of the P6 abutment is finished, and settlement monitoring

is ongoing. Work on shaping the embankment and placing rockfill at the riverside toe piles has been partially completed. Meanwhile, reinforcement and formwork installation for the P6 abutment wing and backwall are underway. Piers P3, P4, and P5 are fully completed, with only minor surface adjustments pending.

Although pile cap

construction at P1 and P2 has experienced a three-week delay, it is not expected to affect the overall timeline.

When completed, the new Mackenzie/Wismar Bridge will transform connectivity in Region Ten, facilitating smoother transport, trade, and economic expansion across Guyana’s heartland.

PRESIDENT ALI URGES GLOBAL LEADERS AT COP30 TO TURN CLIMATE WORDS INTO ACTION



President Dr Irfaan Ali at COP28 in Belém, Brazil

Guyana’s President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, called on world leaders at the United Nations COP30 climate talks in Belém, Brazil, to move beyond rhetoric and take meaningful action, highlighting his country’s proven environmental solutions. Addressing the plenary, President Ali questioned why “extreme” positions and empty speeches continue to hinder

urgent climate action. He underscored that Guyana, in partnership with regional allies like Brazil and Barbados, has already implemented practical solutions through its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Launched in 2009 under then-President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo in collaboration with Norway, the LCDS initially saw US\$250 million invested in Guyana to conserve

its rainforest, one of the world’s first forest-saving initiatives. More than 15 years later, the strategy remains central to Guyana’s development, balancing environmental stewardship with nascent oil and gas production. It has expanded to include jurisdictional-scale carbon credit sales and biodiversity protection, establishing Guyana as a leader in global discussions on forests and ecosystem services. “Let our words be followed by actions,” President Ali urged, outlining three priority areas critical to the climate crisis. First, he called for an accelerated energy transition, emphasising the urgent need for renewable power as the digital and

data industries drive global energy demand. He advocated removing fossil fuel subsidies and implementing carbon pricing to incentivise low-carbon energy. Second, he stressed the forest agenda. Speaking in the heart of the Amazon, he called for increased attention to forest conservation and financial support to safeguard these vital ecosystems. “Forests cannot be an afterthought; they cannot be a negotiated item,” he said. Finally, President Ali urged expanded funding for climate adaptation to help nations withstand extreme weather events, noting recent Caribbean hurricanes that have devastated communities. During a COP30 roundtable on forests and oceans, President Ali encouraged the adoption of proven forest-saving initiatives and praised Brazil’s launch of

the Tropical Forests Forever Fund, signaling Guyana’s participation in the initiative. On energy, he emphasized that responsibly managed, lower-carbon fossil fuel production must continue to meet global demand during the transition to renewables. “Fossil fuels still provide more than 80% of global energy. Countries with high-carbon, inefficient production should be phased out, while responsible producers meet declining demand,” he said, calling for global rules that reflect true carbon costs. President Ali concluded by urging leaders to scale proven solutions, linking energy, forests, and adaptation to a sustainable, inclusive, and actionable path forward in the fight against climate change.



President Dr Irfaan Ali at COP28 in Belém, Brazil

BRITISH INVESTORS URGED TO EXPLORE GUYANA'S EXPANDING ECONOMY

British businesses and members of the Guyanese diaspora are being called on to explore the growing investment opportunities in Guyana’s rapidly transforming economy. Hon. Peter Ramsaroop, MP, Chief Investment Officer and Head of the Guyana Office for Investment, delivered the message at the British Chamber of Commerce Guyana (BritCham Guyana) Business Forum and Networking Event at Chelsea Football Club. The gathering brought together UK and Guyanese business leaders to discuss potential

partnerships across energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism, and trade. “Guyana is open for business,” Dr. Ramsaroop said. “This is not just about oil. While our oil sector is an important enabler, we are modernising industries, expanding infrastructure, and building a diversified and sustainable economy.” He highlighted the Gas-to-Energy Project, nearing completion,

which will reduce energy costs and create new opportunities in manufacturing, food processing, and exports. “Energy wealth is becoming national wealth,” he added. Dr. Ramsaroop also emphasized the strategic role of the Guyanese diaspora. “Our diaspora is strategic capital. It brings knowledge, networks, and expertise that connect Guyana to global markets and

drive sustainable enterprise growth,” he said. Reaffirming President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s vision, Dr. Ramsaroop noted, “Guyana’s transformation is happening now. Over the next five years, we will redefine what an inclusive, sustainable energy-led economy looks like in the developing world.” The BritCham Guyana forum featured corporate presentations,



Guyana’s Chief Investment Officer challenges British companies and diaspora to seize opportunities in Guyana

expert panels, and networking sessions, reinforcing Guyana’s position as the UK’s largest trading partner in the Caribbean, accounting for nearly 30 percent of regional trade.

Twenty-five women from Banakari Village along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are now certified culinarians after successfully completing a four-month commercial food preparation course under the Ministry of Labour’s Board of Industrial Training (BIT) programme. The graduation ceremony was held at the multipurpose building in Tigerbone, where Alexandra Maria DeAbreau and her peers received their certifications. DeAbreau expressed excitement about the accomplishment and shared her ambition to open a small catering business. “It’s a very

beneficial course and it is nothing difficult,” she told the Department of Public Information (DPI), noting her eagerness to pursue more advanced training in the future. Another graduate, Yeanat John, reflected on how completing the course fulfilled a long-standing dream. “A few years ago, I wanted to participate in a similar programme, but could not. Now I am certified, and I tell my friends that this course has been good, and I am able to make something of myself,” she said. For Arlene Alexander, the training has sparked confidence

1,345 TEACHER GRADUATES FROM CPCE



Guyana’s Chief Investment Officer challenges British companies and diaspora to seize opportunities in Guyana

to start her own business to support her family. “I would like to encourage all youths to join this course because I have learnt so much,” she noted.

Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith, praised the women for their dedication, highlighting that there were no dropouts. He encouraged graduates

to transform their skills into sustainable businesses that benefit their communities. BIT Chief Executive Officer Richard Maughn emphasised

that the government’s investment aims to produce tangible results. He noted that BIT would follow up with the graduates to ensure their skills are fully utilised for personal and community development. Discussions are underway for the Small Business Bureau (SBB) to visit Banakari Village to advise the graduates on starting and managing their own businesses, ensuring that the training translates into meaningful economic opportunities.

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OATH-TAKING MARKS START OF 13TH PARLIAMENT NADIR RETURNS AS SPEAKER

Guyana’s 13th Parliament began its first sitting on Monday, November 13, 2025, at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC), with 65 newly elected MPs taking their Oath of Office before Speaker Manzoor Nadir, marking the official start of the legislative session following the September 1, 2025 elections.

Nadir Returns as Speaker, Mahadeo Elected Deputy Speaker

Former parliamentarian and minister Manzoor Nadir, an economist by profession, was sworn in as Speaker after being nominated by Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips and seconded by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Gail Teixeira. Nadir previously served as Speaker during the 12th Parliament. Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, Director General of the Ministry of Health, was elected Deputy Speaker by a majority vote.

Govt Bench Strengthened by Experience and New Faces

The 36-member PPP/C government bench combines seasoned politicians, professionals, youth, and women. Notable members include Sonia Latchman (Toshao and Vice Chairperson of the National Toshao Council), Steven Jacobs (Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport), Zulfikar Ally (Minister of Public Service), and Keoma Griffith (Minister of Labour, Manpower and Planning). New entrants such as James Bond, Vanessa Benn, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, and Lennox Shuman bring diverse expertise to the Assembly. Leadership is anchored by Prime Minister Mark Phillips, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Attorney General Anil Nandlall, SC, and Minister Gail Teixeira, alongside a full roster of ministers overseeing key portfolios. The opposition benches comprise 29 MPs: 16 from WIN, 12 from APNU, and one from FGM.

Govt Reports on Natural Resource Fund, Financial Intelligence, and Development Loans

Senior Minister Dr. Ashni Singh presented the Natural Resource Fund (NRF) 2024 Annual Report, underscoring transparency and accountability in managing oil and gas revenues. Reforms under the NRF Act 2021, including the Board of Directors, Public Accountability and Oversight Committee, and Investment Committee, ensure proper governance and parliamentary oversight. The NRF balance as of September 2025 stood at US\$3.6 billion.

Dr. Singh also presented the FIU 2024 Annual Report, highlighting progress in combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Achievements include strengthened AMLCFT laws, establishment of additional regulatory agencies, increased resourcing for enforcement, membership in the Egmont Group of FIUs, and recognition by CFATF with the BREMOLT Case Award.

The sitting also saw the presentation of development loan agreements supporting agriculture, infrastructure, human services, environmental policy reforms, and energy projects. Key agreements include:

- **Agricultural and Infrastructural Development Programme (AIDP)** – US\$15M with CARICOM Development Fund to boost production, processing, and value addition in key commodities, enhance food safety compliance, and strengthen institutional capacity
- **Support to Human Services in Guyana II** – US\$350M with IDB to digitise social safety net services, expand senior citizen pensions, empower persons with disabilities, and advance gender-based programmes
- **Environmental Sector Policy-Based Loan** – US\$125M with CDB to strengthen climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, water resource management, and institutional capacity
- **Gas-to-Energy Project** – US\$527M with the U.S. Export-Import Bank to provide reliable, affordable, and cleaner domestic power, reduce carbon footprint, and stimulate economic growth and job creation
- **Strengthening Human Capital through Education Project** – SDR1,690,000 with IDA to enhance secondary education, teacher training, and digital learning.

These loans support Guyana’s development agenda while maintaining prudent debt management and sustainability.

The sitting highlighted the PPP/C Government’s focus on transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures, ensuring that Guyana’s natural resource wealth is managed responsibly to benefit current and future generations.



T OF 13TH PARLIAMENT - AS SPEAKER





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HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES TO MOVE INTO NEW HOMES BY DECEMBER

The People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration is set to deliver hundreds of new homes to Guyanese families by December, as part of its \$20 billion national housing programme aimed at expanding access to affordable, move-in-ready homes.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, recently visited several housing sites, including Palmyra, Overwinning, Providence, Glasgow, Hogstye, and Moleson Creek, to assess progress on land preparation and construction works. These efforts mark the initial phase of development, which will also see the installation of critical infrastructure such as roads, drainage



A view of the new Palmyra housing development

systems, and utilities.

At Palmyra Village, Region Six, the government's flagship housing construction initiative is underway, with 200 modern three-bedroom homes being built at a cost of \$13.5 million each, inclusive of land. Of these, 20 homes are already completed, while 80 are nearing completion. By December, 100 homes are expected to be ready

for occupancy, allowing dozens of families to celebrate the holiday season in a home of their own.

"This is where we want to push persons, to have their home very quickly without the hassle," Minister Croal said. He also highlighted the flexibility in the housing programme, noting that modular home designs and private submissions

are encouraged, enabling families to innovate while meeting required standards.

Across Regions Five and Six, the housing programme addresses the needs of some 6,000 pending applicants. In Hogstye, Phase One of construction will be completed by mid-November, allowing over 300 allottees to access their plots. Work at Moleson Creek has been temporarily slowed due to limited access, but the construction of a new bridge is expected to accelerate progress.

Minister Croal emphasised that the government's approach goes beyond land allocation. **"We are building complete communities that**

include essential amenities, economic opportunities, and improved quality of life," he said.

Implemented through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), the programme also

lines and poles are being installed to ensure that homes are connected to electricity and water.

Over the past five years, the government has constructed more than 4,000 homes, with the current expansion aligning with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision of delivering 40,000 house lots during this term, providing sustainable housing solutions



Minister Croal engaging engineers and contractors

involves 22 local and transforming contractors, stimulating communities local employment and nationwide economic activity. Utility



The facility aims to enhance service delivery and better meet the housing needs of residents in Regions Five and Six

Residents of Regions Five and Six can now access improved housing services following the commissioning of a new \$52 million Regional Housing Office at Fort Wellington, West Coast Berbice.

The modern

facility, located within the Guyana Water Incorporated's (GWI) compound, was officially opened by Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal. He noted that the new office marks another step in strengthening the

REGIONAL HOUSING OFFICE COMMISSIONED AT FORT WELLINGTON

ministry's regional presence and improving service delivery to citizens.

"The Ministry of Housing is growing in every region in terms of capacity and the work required ahead," Minister Croal stated. **"In Region Five, we still have a number of pending applicants. Strengthening our regional offices means not just increasing staff but also ensuring that they are comfortable and well-equipped to**

serve."

The new office will allow the ministry to better manage housing applications, address residents' concerns more efficiently, and reduce the backlog of pending cases. To further enhance efficiency, the ministry has introduced staff training initiatives to ensure employees have the necessary skills to deliver quality service.

Previously, the regional housing office operated from the Regional Democratic Council building.



The facility aims to enhance service delivery and better meet the housing needs of residents in Regions Five and Six

Minister Croal expressed gratitude to the regional authorities for their support and accommodation over the years.

As part of the expanded operations,

two new positions, a cashier and a conveyance officer, will be added to the staff complement, further improving the ministry's ability to serve residents across the region.

LINDENERS TO START BUILDING IN WISMAR PHASE ONE BY YEAR-END

Persons allocated land at Wismar Phase One in Linden, Region Ten, will be able to start building their homes by the end of the year, Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, announced during a site visit.

He was joined by Minister within the Ministry, Vanessa Benn, as they inspected ongoing infrastructural works at the new housing scheme.

"Phase One, I am happy to say, all persons allocated there will be able to access their land and start building before

Christmas," Minister Croal stated.

The Wismar housing projects, comprising Phase One and Two, are transforming Linden's housing landscape with total investments of approximately \$5.5 billion. Phase One is expected to be completed by November, while Phase Two is slated for completion by May of next year. However, Minister Croal urged contractors to accelerate works so that all allottees can access their lots as soon as possible. The ministry plans to meet with all contractors

in the coming week to reiterate this directive.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress and reaffirmed the government's commitment to quality and timely completion. Minister Croal also disclosed plans for another housing development in Region Ten, reflecting the government's broader drive to expand affordable housing.

During the visit, the ministers also made brief stops at Wismar Block 43 and Prosville, where they highlighted

ongoing regularisation efforts. They reminded residents that occupying government reserves is illegal and can hinder community development and infrastructure works.

"We recognise that some persons may feel they have no other option, but it remains illegal and the law must be enforced," Minister Benn said. She added that the ministry's enforcement arm works alongside the community development unit to engage affected residents and explore solutions.



Minister of Housing Collin Croal and Minister within the Ministry Vanessa Benn inspecting the housing development plan

These projects and regularisation initiatives are part of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration's commitment to deliver 40,000 housing units during its second term,

ensuring equitable, sustainable development while expanding homeownership opportunities and improving living standards for Guyanese across all regions.

Guyana signs energy deal with Qatar for production sharing consortium

Global confidence in Guyana’s robust energy sector continues to expand, as on Tuesday, the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources signed a new Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for shallow-water Block S4 with a consortium comprising QatarEnergy (35%), TotalEnergies (40%, operator), and PETRONAS (25%).

See the full release from the Ministry below:

The Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, is pleased to announce the signing of a Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) for shallow-water Block S4 offshore Guyana with a consortium comprising QatarEnergy (35%), TotalEnergies (40%, operator), and PETRONAS (25%). The award was made under the 2022 Guyana Licensing Round, the country’s inaugural bid round, marking another major step in the country’s efforts to responsibly develop its hydrocarbon resources.

The agreement reflects continued confidence in Guyana’s petroleum sector and underscores the country’s attractiveness as a global investment destination for major international energy companies.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, M.P., welcomed the signing, stating, “We are pleased to welcome QatarEnergy, TotalEnergies and Petronas as new partners in Guyana’s petroleum sector. This investment demonstrates continued international confidence in Guyana’s transparent and robust licensing framework, and it reflects our government’s commitment to ensuring that the development of our natural resources is done sustainably and for the benefit of all Guyanese.”

Block S4 spans an area of approximately 1,788 square kilometres, located 50 to 100 kilometres off Guyana’s coast in water depths ranging between 30 and 100 metres.

Exploration activities will be conducted in keeping with Guyana’s regulatory requirements and international best practices for environmental protection and resource management.

The Ministry of Natural Resources reiterates the government’s commitment to ensuring that all petroleum operations are conducted with the highest levels of environmental stewardship, transparency, and local participation. The ministry looks forward to collaborating closely with the consortium as Guyana continues to strengthen its position as a responsible and emerging energy producer.



Minister Bharrat with officials from QatarEnergy

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HOSORORO SECONDARY SCHOOL ON TRACK FOR EARLY 2026 COMPLETION



A section of the Hosororo Secondary School Complex

Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, recently conducted an on-site inspection of the \$2.6 billion state-of-the-art Hosororo Secondary School complex in Region One (Barima-Waini), reaffirming the government’s commitment to ensuring the project meets its early 2026 completion target.

“The complex is quite massive and will comfortably accommodate 800 students,” Minister Parag noted, highlighting the scale and importance

of the project for the North West region. To keep the construction on track, she set several short-term deadlines, particularly for electrical installations and the completion of the teaching blocks. Within the next two weeks, one of the two teaching blocks, each comprising five buildings, is expected to be ready for student intake. “Two of these buildings will be fully completed by November 7th,” she added, emphasising the aim to transition students quickly into a

comfortable learning environment.

The school complex features modern laboratories, a dining hall, and specialised facilities for Science, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Information Technology, Home Economics, and Industrial Technology. Minister Parag also inspected the living quarters designed to house up to 30 teachers, noting their importance for staff retention and comfort.

The dedicated student dormitory, designed to accommodate approximately 350 students, is scheduled to be fully operational by December. The initial goal is to house around 400 of the 800 students for the upcoming term, ensuring they benefit from modern boarding

facilities. Minister Parag confirmed that the full school complex is expected to be ready by the end of December, allowing all students to move in for the January 2026 term.

Essential utilities, including electricity, running water, plumbing, and washrooms, are being prioritised. A new well is being constructed to ensure a reliable water supply, while Guyana Water Incorporated is assisting to have the system operational within a month. In the interim, a reservoir provides water to the complex.

During her visit, Minister Parag also focused on the expansion of the male and female dormitories at the North West Secondary School to increase boarding capacity to approximately 120

students from remote communities. She instructed contractors to increase manpower and extend working hours, with disruptive work conducted during the day and finishing touches,

committed to delivering quality education across the country, stating, “We want to ensure that the extension for the dormitory is open and running by the end of January so that we can accommodate these students.”

The Hosororo Secondary School and



Minister Parag and team assessing the Hosororo Secondary School Complex

such as plastering and painting, scheduled for night-time to minimise disruption to current boarders.

The contractors confirmed that all materials are on-site, with no further delays anticipated. Minister Parag reiterated that the government is

North West Secondary School expansions form part of a wider government initiative to provide universal access to secondary education, improve student facilities, and strengthen the country’s educational infrastructure.



Middle Mazaruni gets its first secondary school

The Middle Mazaruni district has marked a historic milestone with the completion of the Issano Secondary School in Region 7, the first

secondary school ever built in the area.

The new school represents a major step forward in the government’s ‘One

HISTORIC FIRST SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILT IN ISSANO, REGION SEVEN

Guyana vision’, aimed at closing inequality gaps and ensuring that all Guyanese, regardless of location, have access to quality education.

Students in Issano and neighbouring communities will no longer need to leave their families and travel to Bartica and the coastland to continue their studies. The school promises to provide modern facilities and a supportive learning environment, opening

new opportunities for academic growth and personal development.

Education officials and community members have welcomed the development, seeing it as a vital investment in the future of the region’s youth. The Issano Secondary School now stands as a symbol of progress and a brighter educational future for the children of the Middle Mazaruni.



Middle Mazaruni gets its first secondary school

2025 CSEC AND CAPE RESULTS PLACE GUYANESE STUDENTS AMONG CARIBBEAN'S BEST

Guyana has once again demonstrated its leadership in regional education, achieving top performance in the 2025 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) examinations. The results reflect the dedication, resilience, and academic excellence of both students and educators across the country.

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) announced that Queen’s College students



Mahesa Boodhoo and Sara Khan were named the Most Outstanding Performers in the Caribbean at CSEC and CAPE, respectively. Their achievements

are celebrated as a significant national milestone.

Guyanese students also claimed top Caribbean awards across key subject areas, showcasing strength in multiple disciplines. Dhanesh Tularam of Saraswati Vidya Niketan was named Most Outstanding Performer in Business, Raquel London of Queen’s College earned the top spot in Humanities, and Samara Munro, also of Queen’s College, led in the Sciences.

Minister of Education

Sonia Parag praised the accomplishments, stating, “Guyana continues to excel on the regional stage because of the resilience, commitment, and excellence of our students and educators. Mahesa, Sara, and all of our top performers have upheld the distinguished legacy of our education system. The Ministry remains focused on expanding opportunities for all learners to succeed.”

The Ministry extended congratulations to students, teachers,



parents, and school administrators whose collective support contributes to these achievements. Additional announcements highlighting other outstanding performers will follow.

Guyana’s continued



success at CSEC and CAPE underscores the talent, discipline, and dedication of its students and educators, reinforcing the nation’s reputation as a regional leader in academic excellence.

GUYANA ACHIEVES 80.12% IN GLOBAL AVIATION SECURITY AUDIT, EXCEEDING WORLD STANDARDS



Strong performance lifts Guyana among world’s best in aviation security

Guyana has recorded an outstanding overall score of 80.12% in the recent International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Aviation Security Audit, surpassing the global average of 72% and marking a significant improvement from the country’s previous score of 62.90% in 2016. This 17.22% increase underscores Guyana’s

growing reputation as a regional leader in aviation safety and security. The audit, conducted from August 25 to September 3, 2025, was part of ICAO’s Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach. Guyana’s impressive performance not only exceeded the

global benchmark but also surpassed ICAO’s aspirational target of 75% by 2033, placing the country well ahead of schedule. The comprehensive evaluation examined Guyana’s compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation, focusing on Annex 9 (Facilitation) and Annex 17 (Security – Safeguarding International Civil Aviation Against Acts of Unlawful Interference). It involved 494 Protocol Questions across eight critical areas, including aviation security legislation, state authority responsibilities,

personnel training, technical guidance, certification, quality control, and the resolution of security concerns. Four ICAO achievement to the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, whose commitment continues to drive the development of a world-class aviation sector. The Guyana Civil Authority also extended appreciation to Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat



Strong performance lifts Guyana among world’s best in aviation security

experts conducted the rigorous assessment. The Guyana Civil Authority (GCAA) has credited this remarkable

Indar, for his guidance and instrumental role in audit preparation, and to Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, for his steadfast support throughout the process. In expressing gratitude, the GCAA commended its Aviation Security team for their dedication and professionalism, noting that their efforts were pivotal in attaining such a high level of success. This achievement not only enhances Guyana’s global standing in aviation security but also reinforces international confidence in the nation’s air transport system. It represents a major milestone in positioning Guyana as a trusted and secure destination for travellers, investors, and global partners alike.

NEW AIRSTRIP PROMISES SAFER TRAVEL AND GROWTH FOR KWAKWANI AND PARAMAKATOI

Two major airstrip projects in Regions Ten and Eight are nearing completion, promising safer and more reliable travel while opening new avenues for economic and social development. In Kwakwani, Region Ten, the \$248 million upgrade of the local airstrip is almost complete. The new 2,500-foot-long, 50-foot-wide asphaltic runway replaces the old grass surface that once restricted flight operations, particularly during the rainy season. Constructed by Associated Construction Services under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Works, the facility will allow for



The new Kwakwani airstrip now under construction

safer and more frequent flights to the once hard-to-reach mining and logging community. Residents are already anticipating easier travel for work, education, and health needs, while local businesses will benefit from better access to suppliers and markets. The upgraded airstrip is

also expected to attract more visitors to the Upper Demerara-Berbice region, boosting tourism and local commerce. Community leaders say the development will help integrate Kwakwani more fully into Guyana’s growing transportation network. Similarly, in Region

Eight, construction of the Paramakatoi airstrip has reached 70 percent completion. The \$799.7 million project, being executed by International Import and Supplies under the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, is designed to significantly improve air connectivity and safety across the North Pakaraimas. The 2,500-foot-long by 50-foot-wide airstrip will feature six inches of rigid paved concrete reinforced with steel joints for durability, along with a 100-by-100-



Ongoing works on the Paramakatoi airstrip

foot tarmac for aircraft parking. Once completed, the new airstrip will serve as the main transportation hub for the area, enhancing access for emergency medical flights and supporting tourism

growth. Supporting infrastructure, including the Karasabai-Paramakatoi and Paramakatoi-Kato roads, has also been upgraded to facilitate construction and improve regional connectivity.

WORK ACCELERATES ON \$4.5B PARIKA PORT PROJECT

Work accelerates on \$4.5B Parika Port Project Construction on the first phase of the \$4.5 billion International Parika Port is progressing steadily and will intensify in the coming weeks, as the government moves forward with one of Guyana’s most transformative maritime projects. The new port will accommodate international cruise liners and cargo vessels transporting goods to and from the Caribbean, while also offering opportunities for luxury travel. Once completed, it will modernise Guyana’s

export system and enhance the country’s role as a regional trade and tourism hub. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, recently inspected the project site along with Transport and Harbours Department’s (T&HD) General Manager Yolanda Hughes and engineers overseeing the works. He urged contractors to ramp up their activities, stressing that once a section of the wharf is closed, construction must proceed continuously. “From the time that it is closed off, works have

to be continuous. The contractor must not start until all materials, equipment, and resources are on site,” the minister emphasised. Phase One of the project includes extensive land reclamation and the installation of new systems. The works are being executed by Gaico Construction, Toolsie Persaud Limited, and A&S General Contractors. Before approval, the project design was discussed in consultations with farmers, transport operators, and

businesses operating in the area to ensure broad stakeholder input. Minister Edghill confirmed that as construction accelerates, engagements with stakeholders will continue. Adjustments include relocating speedboats that are often left docked at the wharf and demolishing an old building to make way for a modern terminal. The new facility will feature waiting areas and offices for the Transport and Harbours Department, Police, Immigration, Customs, and the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU). Residents living



An artist’s impression of the Parika International Port Facility in Region Three

along the sea dam within the project’s alignment are also being engaged by the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) for relocation. Minister Edghill said the first phase should be completed within 18 months, after which phase two will commence, featuring a marina for yachts and a developed waterfront with restaurants and

entertainment spaces. “This whole area will come alive,” he said, noting that the Parika Port project complements other major developments including the Gas-to-Energy project and the Vreed-en-Hoop Shorebase, driving job creation and economic expansion across Guyana.

PARIKA FIREFIGHTERS EQUIPPED TO PROTECT LIVES - MODERN STATION COMMISSIONED

Parika residents now have added peace of mind with the commissioning of a new, state-of-the-art fire station, a project designed to strengthen emergency response and protect lives in the community.

-The facility was officially opened by Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, alongside Permanent Secretary Andre Ally and Chief Fire Officer Gregory Wickham.

“This is more than just a building. It is a

promise delivered,” Minister Walrond said, speaking to residents and firefighters gathered at the ceremony. **“It demonstrates our commitment to the safety and well-being of every citizen and ensures that the Parika community is better prepared for emergencies.”**

The new fire station comes in the wake of the February 2023 Parika Market fire, a tragedy that highlighted the urgent need for quicker

response times in the area. The modern facility is strategically located to allow firefighters to respond faster, coordinate efficiently, and manage emergencies effectively.

For firefighters like Captain Gregory Williams, the station represents more than infrastructure. **“This station gives us the tools and space we need to do our jobs safely and efficiently,”** he said. **“It’s about being**



Parika welcomes state-of-the-art fire station

ready when our community calls on us.”

Minister Walrond also encouraged collaboration among the fire service, local residents, and the private sector to raise awareness about fire prevention and safety. Permanent Secretary

Ally highlighted that this investment is part of a broader government plan to modernise the Guyana Fire Service nationwide.

The new Parika station is equipped with modern operational spaces, storage facilities, and resources that will allow firefighters to maintain readiness for any situation. As new stations continue to be established across the country, communities like Parika can now feel more secure, knowing that trained professionals have the tools and infrastructure to protect lives and property.



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, inspecting the new recruits

Ninety-one new firefighters are now on the frontlines, ready to protect lives and property across Guyana. Among them are 19 women and 72 men, all trained over three grueling months at the Leonora Training Centre,

FIREFIGHTERS INCREASE BY 91

mastering everything from live firefighting drills to emergency communications.

At their graduation ceremony, Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond praised their determination and sacrifice. **“You have met every challenge with distinction. Today, you stand ready to serve with confidence,**

professionalism, and pride,” she said.

The recruits’ training is part of a broader government effort to modernise the Guyana Fire Service. New stations, rapid intervention vehicles, high-rise Bronto Sky Lifts, and fireboats have already strengthened the country’s firefighting capacity. Another station

in Parika is under construction, further improving response times in Region Three.

“Every investment we make is about safety, protection, and empowering our firefighters to save lives,” Minister Walrond added.

With digital dispatch systems, interstation connectivity, and access to international training programs, the GFS is evolving into a highly coordinated, modern service—one ready to respond to emergencies anytime, anywhere.

These new firefighters are not just part of a workforce, they are the shield of communities, the first line of defence, and a symbol of Guyana’s commitment to safety and resilience.

MINISTER WALROND URGES PUBLIC TO EXPOSE POLICE BRIBERY

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, is urging citizens to take a stand against police bribery by speaking out and reporting incidents whenever they occur.

Appearing on the ‘Starting Point’ podcast, Minister Walrond made it clear that bribery, no matter the amount, will not be tolerated under her leadership.

“Even if it is a \$200 bribe or \$2 million, it is a scourge in society that we need to tackle head-on,” she declared.

The Minister noted that while this issue has often been overlooked in the past, her ministry is determined to confront it directly. She encouraged members of the public to take photos, record videos, and share

information when they witness acts of bribery, stressing that **“policing is a partnership with citizens.”**

“These complaints will not fall on deaf ears under my leadership,” she emphasised, adding that robust internal systems are already in place to investigate and discipline any officer found guilty of soliciting

or accepting bribes.

Minister Walrond also reminded citizens that offering bribes is a criminal offence and urged them to resist participating in such acts.

Reports of bribery can be made to the Commissioner of Police Secretariat at 227-1611 ext. 4001, 225-6411, 225-2700, or 600-3019.



Reports of bribery can be made to the Commissioner of Police Secretariat



Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond

Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, has reaffirmed that any instances of sexual misconduct within the Guyana Police Force (GPF) will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Her comments follow allegations involving senior male officers and their female subordinates.

From the start of her tenure, Minister Walrond emphasised that senior ranks are held to a higher standard of ethical conduct. **“Wherever these allegations**

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN GPF WILL BE DEALT WITH SERIOUSLY, MINISTER WARNS

may arise, especially when it relates to subordinate female officers, it will be dealt with very, very seriously,” she stated.

Citing the Sexual Offences Act, the minister highlighted that consent cannot exist where a power imbalance is present. She explained, **“If the person is in a position of authority, that power dynamic removes the element of consent where sex**

is concerned,” drawing parallels with legal protections for minors.

Minister Walrond confirmed that officers currently under investigation at the Police Training College have been removed from duty pending disciplinary proceedings. **“The matter is before the Office of Professional Responsibility, and they were removed immediately after the report came to our**

attention,” she said.

Acknowledging that such incidents are not representative of the wider force, the minister encouraged women officers to speak up. **“We have many young and senior female officers who serve with integrity. These instances are not the norm, and when they do arise, we will deal with them very strongly,”** she said. Minister Walrond



Official crest of Guyana Police Force

Guyana played a leading role at a High-Level Symposium on Domestic Violence in the Caribbean, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on October 27–28. Hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in collaboration with the Government of Barbados and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the event brought together Attorneys General, Commissioners of Police, Heads of Gender Bureaus, and senior technical officers from 18 CARICOM member and associate states to examine legislative gaps and strengthen state responses to domestic violence.

The Government of Guyana was represented by Attorney General &

CARIBBEAN STATES UNITE TO STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS, GUYANA TAKES LEAD



Guyana was represented by Attorney General & Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC and Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindya Persaud

Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC, and Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindya Persaud.

During a panel discussion on legislative gaps and opportunities,

Attorney General Nandlall highlighted Guyana’s Family Violence Act 2024, which repealed the Domestic Violence Act of 1996. **“This modern, expanded framework a d d r e s s e s**

p r o c e d u r a l , jurisdictional, and substantive deficiencies in the previous legislation,” he explained. **“It draws from best practices across the region, making it arguably the most comprehensive legislation of its type in the Caribbean.”**

AG Nandlall’s panel included peers from Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, moderated by Roberta Clarke, Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Meanwhile, Minister Persaud focused on

Guyana’s survivor-centered support framework, detailing initiatives such as the Hope and Justice Centres. These One-Stop Centres and Sexual Offences Model Courts streamline case management, improve access to services, and ensure coordinated and compassionate justice for survivors.

The symposium also heard directly from domestic violence survivors, who shared their experiences navigating legal and social systems, highlighting areas where regional approaches need strengthening.

At the event, Guyana

and participating Caribbean states signed a regional agreement to harmonise legislative and policy approaches to domestic violence. The agreement emphasises shared responsibility, survivor-centered justice, and regional cooperation to close legislative gaps, enhance accountability, and promote consistent and equitable responses across the Caribbean.

The symposium reaffirmed Guyana’s leadership in advancing legal reforms and holistic approaches to combating domestic violence, while fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the region.

GUYANA ELECTED TO UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Guyana has been elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), marking a significant step in the country’s leadership on global education, science, culture, and communication.

The election took place during UNESCO’s 43rd General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, positioning Guyana to play a key role in shaping international standards and advancing collaborative solutions among the organisation’s 194 member states.

In a statement, the



Minister of Education, Sonia Parag attending the UNESCO conference

Ministry of Education described the election as “a proud moment for Guyana,” emphasizing that board representation offers an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to UNESCO’s mandate of promoting peace and sustainable development through education, science, culture, and information.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag, addressing the General Conference, reaffirmed Guyana’s commitment to equality and inclusion in education. **“The Government of Guyana continues to prioritise academic equality and access,**

ensuring every child, regardless of geography or circumstance, can benefit from quality education,” she stated. She also highlighted efforts to preserve Guyana’s cultural heritage while developing creative industries as engines of economic growth and social cohesion.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reiterated that education remains central to national development, noting initiatives to narrow educational gaps, including curriculum reform, expanded ICT use, enhanced in-person



Minister of Education, Sonia Parag attending the UNESCO conference

tutoring, and broader science, culture, and access to learning communication resources.

Guyana’s election to the UNESCO Executive Board strengthens its voice in global discussions, allowing the country to advance inclusive, knowledge-based societies through education,



GUYANA RANKS AMONG TOP COUNTRIES FOR ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud

Guyana has achieved a major milestone on the global stage, ranking 8th in the Latin America and Caribbean region and 31st worldwide on the Global Gender Gap Index, a testament to the country’s steady progress toward gender equality and women’s empowerment.

This achievement,

driven by strategic government policies and sustained investment, reflects the growing participation of women in the workforce, home ownership, entrepreneurship, and national leadership.

At the opening of the National Conference on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, highlighted the progress Guyana has made since the historic

1995 Beijing Conference, which boldly declared that *“women’s rights are human rights.”*

She noted that Guyana’s advancements stem from strong legislative, policy, and social frameworks, including the establishment of the Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Gender-Based Violence Framework, and laws designed to protect women and girls. Among these are the Family Violence Act 2024 and the upcoming amendments to the



A section of the gathering at the conference

Sexual Offences Act, which will introduce a Sex Offenders Registry.

Dr Persaud also underscored that 60% of government housing lands are now owned by women, while over 90,000 women have

received training through the Women’s Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN,) providing them with new skills and financial independence.

She further acknowledged the role of men in advancing gender

equality, announcing plans to expand the Bridging the Gap Policy and establish men’s safe spaces and community centres to promote positive masculinity.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira also commended Guyana’s evolution, noting the growing presence of women in leadership across government, the judiciary, and business, calling it **“a proud moment in our nation’s journey toward equality.”**

GOVT INCREASES PLANTLET PRODUCTION BY 50 TIMES WITH NEW LAB

With the launch of its first biotechnology plant tissue culture laboratory at the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana is



Inside the newly commissioned tissue lab

positioning itself as a regional leader in sustainable agriculture. The facility is expected

to increase annual plantlet production by 50 times, significantly strengthening the country's food security.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar

government's efforts to modernise agriculture, promote science-driven practices, and boost food production.

"With this laboratory, the number of plantlets we produce annually will increase by 50 times. That's one million high-quality, disease-free plantlets for farmers and researchers," Minister Mustapha said. He noted that the initiative also supports the broader strategy of strengthening the non-oil economy, creating jobs, and sustaining agro-processing industries.

The laboratory



Inside the newly commissioned tissue lab

will provide clean, high-yielding planting material for key crops including plantains, pineapples, citrus, sweet potatoes, breadfruit, sugarcane, and exotic fruits such as strawberries and blackberries. Over time, this will increase the national supply of essential crops, enhance domestic food security,

and support agro-processing ventures like fruit processing and packaging.

students to complement their studies.

Minister Mustapha stressed that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Guyana's economy. **"This facility will transform our agriculture sector, ensuring farmers have access to clean, disease-free plantlets while sustaining local industries,"** he said.

The commissioning of the tissue culture laboratory underscores the government's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and regional leadership in agricultural development, laying the foundation for a food-secure future for generations to come.

HONEY FEST SHOWCASES GUYANA'S SWEET SUCCESS AND BEEKEEPING POTENTIAL

Beekeepers across Guyana celebrated growth, innovation, and opportunity during the second annual Honey Fest at the Guyana Livestock Development Authority's (GLDA) main compound. The festival highlighted the vital role honeybees play in agriculture while shining a spotlight on the people who sustain this growing industry.

For beekeepers like Timothy Fausett, owner of Beezone, the festival was more than just a showcase, it was a chance to connect, collaborate, and strategise. **"Events like this give us the platform to exchange ideas and plan how to market our pure honey products more effectively,"** he said.

Shane Fullerton, owner of Hive to Bottle, echoed that sentiment, describing

the government's support as a boost to his confidence. **"I can now invest in expanding my business knowing that there are opportunities and support for beekeepers. Dedication will now truly pay off,"** he remarked.

Even newcomers like Antonia, public relations officer for Golden Harvest Honey Flow, saw immediate benefits. **"This festival gives my business exposure and access to media attention, helping us grow sustainably,"** she noted.

Delivering the feature address, Minister of Agriculture,



Honey Fest highlights rapid growth in Guyana's beekeeping industry

Zulfikar Mustapha, said the festival celebrates more than honey, it honors the hard work of bees and humans alike. **"Beekeeping is more than collecting honey; it is critical to our ecosystem. Honeybees are silent heroes, pollinating crops that form the backbone of**

our national food security," Minister Mustapha said.

The minister highlighted the remarkable growth of the industry over the past year, noting a 33% increase in registered beekeepers, from 160 to 213, and expansion of the largest apiary from 300 to 400

hives. **"This growth represents more than number, it reflects opportunities, innovation, and livelihoods, especially for women and youth,"** he said.

Honey production has surged from 2,128 gallons in 2023 to 27,601 gallons by the end of 2024, with 2025 projected to surpass 30,000 gallons. Government investments, including \$150 million in 2024, are helping transform the sector from individual hives to standardized commercial operations, with ambitions for self-sufficiency and regional export by 2030.

Minister Mustapha also emphasised quality

and safety. The Guyana Food Safety Authority (GFSA) and GLDA ensure honey meets national and international standards, from labelling to packaging. **"When consumers buy Guyanese honey, they must trust that it is pure, safe, and premium quality. That trust is built through rigorous inspection and compliance,"** he said.

With the theme, "Buzz Forward – Sweet Innovations for a Safe and Sustainable Future," Honey Fest captured the spirit of a transforming agriculture sector that empowers people, protects the environment, and celebrates the sweet rewards of hard work.

NDCS MUST STEP UP FOR COMMUNITIES, MINISTER MANICKCHAND TELLS LOCAL COUNCILS

Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) across Guyana are being urged to raise their standards of leadership, accountability, and responsiveness to better serve their communities. The call came from Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, during a series of nationwide engagements aimed at improving local governance and restoring public

confidence in grassroots leadership.

During her meetings with councils in Regions Two, Three, and Four, Minister Manickchand reminded councillors that NDCs are **"servants of the people"** and the first point of contact for citizens seeking essential services. She emphasised that local leaders must be visible, proactive, and solution-oriented.

"I want to see NDCs that pick up their garbage, maintain their



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand

drains, and remain open and accessible to the people who need help," the Minister said.

Minister Manickchand reiterated government's

commitment to strengthening local institutions through technical support, resources, and training. The discussions focused on critical areas such as waste management,

drainage and irrigation, roads, healthcare, education, and agriculture.

On the East Bank of Demerara, she urged councillors to put people above politics, reminding them that they were elected because their communities trusted them. **"Regardless of political differences, your duty is to serve every resident with fairness and compassion,"** she told the officials.

She also encouraged

NDCs to engage residents in local decision-making, particularly regarding budget priorities and development projects. **"Your job is to build trust between you and your constituents,"** she said.

This outreach marks the first time in Guyana's history that the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is engaging directly with all 70 NDCs, Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs), and municipalities, part of a broader effort to strengthen grassroots governance and improve lives across the country.

PRESIDENT PLEDGES MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed his government's commitment to enhancing the lives of persons living with disabilities in Guyana, promising expanded opportunities for both children and adults. The Head of State made the pledge during a meeting with members of the Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (GCOPD) at State House.

Discussions focused on initiatives to improve educational access for children unable to attend physical schools. President Ali highlighted plans to establish home-based learning systems, ensuring that students receive quality education in environments that support their growth and development.

The President also emphasised the importance of creating more employment and skills development opportunities for adults living with disabilities, underlining the government's commitment to economic inclusion and empowerment.

Mr. Ganesh Singh, Programme Manager of the Council, noted that roughly 17,000 adults and 6,000 children in Guyana are living with disabilities. He commended the government's efforts over the past five years and expressed appreciation for the President's vision to make society more inclusive.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency, and Implementation, Zulifikar Ally, and Director of Presidential



President Ali meeting with the Council on Disabilities to discuss inclusive initiatives

Affairs, Mrs. Marcia Nadir-Sharma. President Ali's engagement with the Council reinforces the government's commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to quality education, meaningful employment, and supportive systems that empower them to fully participate in society.



Nine foster homes earn national licenses

For children who have faced neglect, abuse, or other hardships, foster homes are more than just shelters, they are places of safety, hope, and a chance to thrive. Recently, nine foster homes across Guyana were officially recognised for their commitment to providing that care, achieving full licencing under the Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA) Act.

The licences were presented during a ceremony at the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security by Minister Dr. Vindhya Persaud and Permanent Secretary Dr. Erica Forte, who praised the homes for creating

NINE FOSTER HOMES ACHIEVE FULL LICENCING

environments where vulnerable children can grow with dignity and support.

"Every child placed in your care carries a story, a dream, and a need for safety and love," Minister Persaud said. **"These licences are not just certificates, they represent your dedication to giving each child a chance to flourish."**

The nine homes, among 17 currently registered with the CPA, met the Minimum Standards for Residential Care Facilities, demonstrating excellence in safety, management, and child development. The Ministry has set a national goal: all children's homes must be fully licenced by June 2026, ensuring that every child in state care benefits from high-quality, accountable care.

To support this, the government has doubled annual funding to \$400,000 per home and provides free staff training in childcare and early childhood

development through the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) programme. Staff members will gain the skills to meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of each child.

Minister Persaud emphasised that oversight and care go hand in hand. A Children's Visiting Committee of medical, legal, and social work professionals will monitor homes and ensure ongoing improvement.

"This is about giving every child the chance they deserve," the minister said. **"Safe homes, trained caregivers, and proper oversight mean children can sleep at night knowing they are protected, cared for, and valued."**

For the children living in these licenced homes, the recognition is more than a milestone, it is a promise of safety, opportunity, and the chance to grow into their full potential.

NEW CAMPAIGN PROMOTES SAFE MOTHERHOOD

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), has launched a national campaign to promote safe motherhood and reduce adolescent pregnancies. The initiative, held at the Sophia Health Centre, formed part of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Week 2025, celebrated across the Caribbean from October 20 to 26 under the theme "Let's End Child Pregnancy."

The campaign focuses on educating young women about family planning, prenatal care, and healthy lifestyle choices through a **"safe motherhood approach"**. Participants learned about pregnancy prevention strategies, essential practices for mothers and babies, emergency signs during pregnancy, and referral pathways to medical care. An innovative "Roadmap tool" helped adolescent mothers understand the stages of a healthy pregnancy and the benefits of family planning.

Interactive sessions featured open discussions, a question-and-answer segment, and practical guidance from healthcare

professionals on labour, breastfeeding, and postnatal care. Nurses at Sophia Health Centre also provided information on registering newborns for postnatal clinics and accessing ongoing family planning support.

Adolescent pregnancy, particularly among girls aged 10 to 14, poses serious health risks, including complications, maternal death, premature births, and low birth weight. It also limits educational and economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of



Several expectant mothers were present during the campaign launch

poverty and inequality. The campaign reinforces the government's and PAHO's commitment to adolescent health. The initiative aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising that every girl deserves a safe childhood, access to opportunities, and the protection of her rights.

In a bid to promote sustainable tourism practices, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, recently facilitated an educational tour for members of the University of Guyana's (UG) Geographical Society. The visit, held at the Bimichi Eco Lodge in St. Cuthbert's Mission, aimed to deepen students' understanding of eco-tourism and community-based



University students at the Bimichi Eco Lodge, St. Cuthbert's Mission

development. The initiative brought together students from diverse disciplines including geography, environmental studies, tourism, petroleum engineering, mechanical engineering, and chemistry, fields

UG STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

essential to advancing sustainable growth in Guyana's tourism sector. Throughout the visit, students observed eco-tourism operations, explored the link between environmental awareness and tourism development, and engaged in discussions with the lodge owner, Toshao, and village elders on sustainable management, cultural preservation, and environmental mitigation strategies.

Participants also took part in cultural activities, contributing their academic insights to ongoing efforts in sustainable tourism. Through such experiential learning opportunities, the Ministry continues to strengthen national capacity and empower future tourism professionals by bridging the gap between classroom theory and real-world practice.

PACKED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
TO CELEBRATE TOURISM AWARENESS MONTH

Tourism Awareness Month 2025, themed: **“Tourism, a transformational pillar in Guyana’s economy”**, kicked off at the picturesque Baganara Island Resort, drawing government officials, industry leaders, and community members eager to showcase and experience the nation’s cultural and natural wealth.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, highlighted the government’s dedication to promoting

local heritage while creating opportunities for economic growth. She unveiled two new tourism products in Regions Four and Nine, expanding on the 68 initiatives introduced since 2020.



Tourism Awareness Month 2025 kicks off with new experiences across Guyana

“This month (November) is about people-centred experiences,” Minister Rodrigues said. **“We are supporting community-driven projects that create jobs, empower**

residents, and share the very best of Guyana with the world.”

The opening ceremony featured a lively cultural performance by the Riverside Angels, setting the tone for a series of events across the country. Visitors can look forward to art competitions, guided tours, culinary showcases, and expos, each designed to highlight Guyana’s stunning landscapes, rich traditions, and inspiring stories.



Tourism Awareness Month 2025 kicks off with new experiences across Guyana

Mitra Ramkumar, President of the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana, noted the industry’s broader impact. **“Tourism drives value... not just through GDP, but by fostering dignity, inclusion, and national pride,”** she said.

As Guyana continues

to emerge as a global eco-tourism destination, Tourism Awareness Month is both a celebration and a call to action, inviting residents and visitors alike to explore, protect, and share experiences rooted in the nation’s heritage, while contributing to economic growth and a vibrant cultural identity.



Scene from the One Guyana Christmas Village that is held on Main Street, Georgetown

Georgetown’s annual Christmas Village has long been a highlight of the holiday season, drawing crowds with its festive lights, cultural

performances, and holiday cheer. This year, the celebration promises to be bigger and brighter, as the government launches an exciting new

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS THE GUYANESE
WAY WITH NEW CHRISTMAS TOUR

initiative: the ‘Christmas in Guyana’ tour package. Designed to showcase the best of Guyana, the seven-day tour offers visitors an immersive holiday experience, combining cultural, culinary, and natural attractions. Guests can savour iconic local cuisines such as pepper pot, black cake, and ginger beer, while exploring the country’s

most celebrated sites, including the majestic Kaieteur Falls and scenic river tours along the Demerara, Essequibo, and Mahaica Rivers.

Priced at approximately US\$1,900 per person, the tour aims to make Christmas celebrations uniquely Guyanese, allowing visitors to embrace the country’s traditions and festive spirit.

The Ministry of Tourism, Industry, and Commerce, through the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), has developed this package in collaboration with private tour operators, ensuring a seamless and memorable experience. The ministry is also planning a full calendar of events for 2026, providing year-round opportunities for

residents and visitors to enjoy Guyana’s cultural and natural attractions.

With the launch of the ‘Christmas in Guyana’ tour, holidaymakers now have the perfect opportunity to celebrate the season in true Guyanese style, delighting in the flavours, sights, and experiences that make the country a one-of-a-kind festive destination.

DESTINATION GUYANA SHINES AT WORLD
TRAVEL MARKET 2025 IN LONDON

Guyana made a powerful impression on the global tourism stage as Destination Guyana took centre stage at the World Travel Market (WTM) 2025 in London, England. The three-day event, held from November 4 to 6, brought together thousands of tourism professionals, investors, and travel agencies from

around the world to explore new trends and opportunities in travel. Leading the Guyanese delegation, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, said the participation formed part of the government’s national strategy to strengthen Guyana’s presence in the global tourism marketplace

and attract sustainable investment. Guyana’s vibrant booth drew enthusiastic crowds with its rich cultural displays and captivating visuals of the country’s lush rainforests, majestic waterfalls, and thriving Indigenous communities. Delegates from the Tourism and Hospitality

Association of Guyana (THAG), Wilderness Explorers, Travel the Guianas, Iwokrama, and the Guyana High Commission in the UK worked together to showcase the country’s diverse tourism experiences, from eco-lodge getaways to authentic community-based adventures.

With nearly 400,000



Minister Susan Rodrigues, along with the Guyanese delegation

visitors recorded so far in 2025, Guyana’s participation at WTM 2025 reaffirmed its commitment to responsible tourism, one that protects

biodiversity, uplifts local communities, and strengthens the country’s reputation as a premier eco-tourism destination.



GPF officers participating in the training session

Three hundred officers of the Guyana Police Force are stepping into a new role, not just as enforcers of the law,

but as ambassadors of hospitality. They are currently undergoing a six-part training in public engagement

designed to enhance how visitors experience Guyana.

The programme, a collaboration between the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and HAROBED, is being held at the GPF Officers’ Training Centre on Camp Street, Georgetown. It focuses on improving officers’ skills in

customer service, cultural awareness, destination knowledge, and professional conduct, key qualities that help shape a visitor’s first impression of the country.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, praised the initiative, reminding officers that

every interaction counts. **“When a visitor asks for directions or seeks help, they are not just meeting a police officer, they are experiencing Guyana,”** she said.

Constable Marvin Rajkumar, one of the participants, said the training is helping officers adapt to Guyana’s

growing tourism industry. **“It’s very beneficial,”** he shared. **“We’re learning the right things to say and the right way to approach people.”**

The initiative reflects a broader vision, building a police force that not only protects, but also warmly welcomes all who visit Guyana.

GPF OFFICERS TAKE ON NEW ROLE IN
WELCOMING VISITORS TO GUYANA

SWAN VILLAGE MARKET SQUARE OPENS DOORS FOR SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

The newly commissioned Swan Village Market Square along the Linden-Soesdyke Highway is ushering in a new era of opportunity for residents, providing small business owners with the space and support to expand their ventures and improve their livelihoods.

For single mother Lyn Ali, the new facility is a dream come true. After seven years of operating her online clothing business without a

physical location, she now has a dedicated stall where customers can browse and shop in person.

“I feel so good to actually have a physical store so customers can casually come in and shop. I want to thank the government and the chairman for giving me this opportunity,” Lyn said.

Another resident, Cyrilda DeLacuz, who moved from Georgetown

to Swan, has also found new hope in the market. An Amerindian craftswoman and the community’s only cobbler, Cyrilda recalled the days when she pushed a food cart through the streets to provide for her family. Now, she operates from her own stall in a clean and safe space.

“When I came to Swan, there wasn’t any road, water, or light where I lived, so I’m thankful to this government

for bringing development here,” she shared.

The market was constructed through the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, with funding from the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). It forms part of the government’s commitment to building sustainable and self-reliant Indigenous communities.

During the commissioning ceremony, Minister within the Office of the



Section of the new market square

Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, urged residents to continue working together to grow their local economy.

“We want to support community ventures that lift your profile and create sustainable

livelihoods,” he said.

Beyond business, the market square is set to become a vibrant hub for social and cultural exchange, bringing residents closer and strengthening the spirit of Swan Village.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA AND ON THE ACCOUNTS OF MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS/REGIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



Auditor General validates transparent expenditure

The Government of Guyana has highlighted significant progress in public financial management, revealing that over 80 percent of recommendations from the Auditor General’s

previous report have been fully or partially implemented. A government release emphasised that these achievements demonstrate the administration’s

ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

At a time when some media outlets have focused on selective findings in the Auditor General’s report released on November 3, 2025, the government stressed the importance of providing full context. The People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) government noted that it has consistently worked with the Auditor

General to ensure reports are completed and presented to the National Assembly on or before statutory deadlines, a marked improvement compared to the ten-year lapse from 1982 to 1992 under the PNC administration.

Government officials said Accounting Officers have actively responded to queries from the Auditor General while implementing his recommendations to improve accountability.

Over the past three years, all contractor overpayments have been fully recovered, and systems have been strengthened to prevent future breaches. The number and severity of audit findings have also declined.

The 2024 Auditor General report recorded a total of 254 audit opinions issued between September 2024 and August 2025, covering Public Enterprises, Statutory Bodies, Trade

Unions, Foreign Funded Projects, Municipalities, Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, and Constitutional Agencies, an unprecedented level of oversight.

The government urged media houses to report responsibly, noting that selective coverage can misrepresent the significant strides made in governance and financial accountability.

MINISTER SINGH CALLS FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION IN ADVANCING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni K. Singh, represented President Irfaan Ali and the Government and People of Guyana at the United Nations Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha, Qatar, from November 4 to 6.

The summit brought together Heads of State, government ministers, multilateral

organisations, and civil society groups to assess progress on the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action, while advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the plenary session, Minister Singh expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir and the Government of Qatar for hosting the summit and supporting



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni K. Singh

Guyana’s delegation. He highlighted the summit as a critical platform for nations to share lessons,

successes, and challenges in implementing social development policies over the past three

decades.

Minister Singh reaffirmed Guyana’s commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration, noting that the government places the well-being of the people at the centre of its development agenda. He outlined key initiatives, including expanding education, improving healthcare and social services, promoting decent work, fostering entrepreneurship, and

advancing women’s empowerment.

Emphasising that national progress alone is not enough, Minister Singh called for strengthened international cooperation and solidarity to achieve global social development objectives. He stressed the importance of integrated economic and social policies and inclusive approaches to addressing poverty and other socio-economic challenges.



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

GOVT MONITORING DELAYS IN FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCESS

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has acknowledged recent delays faced by businesses in accessing foreign currency but assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation.

Dr. Jagdeo explained that the slowdown is partly due to how some

businesses interact with the banking system. **“Many businessmen submit the same request to multiple banks, thinking they can beat the system,”** he said.

He identified two key factors contributing to the delay, a shortage of physical banknotes

and large cash exports by some traders. **“The issue is more about the availability of notes. Some traders take out large bundles of cash, which puts extra strain on physical currency. Bank drafts are easier to manage,”** he noted.

Despite these challenges, the Vice President emphasised that there is no systemic shortage of foreign currency and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to maintaining stability within the financial system.

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GT3 DREAMS ON TRACK AS GUYANA EYES REGIONAL MOTORSPORT GLORY

Guyana is accelerating towards the international motorsport spotlight, with President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali unveiling ambitious plans to transform the country into a regional hub for elite racing. The government is eyeing the South Dakota Circuit as the stage for a major GT3 series beginning in 2026.

Speaking on the rise of sports in Guyana, President Ali said, **“We are looking for regional, global opportunities that are larger in scale than what we have now.”** He confirmed that discussions with the Guyana Motor Racing and Sports Club (GMR&SC) are well underway to host a high-profile event next year, backed by a government investment of nearly \$300 million to upgrade the facility.

The project is more than a short-term boost. President Ali outlined a three-to-five-year strategy to bring

the best drivers from Latin America and the Caribbean to Guyana. **“We are investing in sport, but sport from a different perspective; not only for those who are participating but also from a tourism perspective,”** he said, highlighting the economic potential of integrating racing with tourism and community engagement.

The GT3 format, known globally for featuring high-performance cars from Lamborghini, Ferrari, McLaren, Audi, and Porsche, is central to this plan. By adopting this standard, GMR&SC hopes to attract international investment, top driving talent, and greater exposure for Guyana’s motorsport sector.

Key figures in the local racing scene are leading the push. Current GMR&SC President Mahendra ‘Raj’ and Trinidadian racing veteran Franklyn

Boodram are helping secure the series, while former GMR&SC President and Group Four driver Vishok Persaud is coordinating collaboration between government, the private sector, and the racing community. Planned upgrades to the South Dakota Circuit include enhanced safety features, improved track surfaces, and state-of-the-art pits, creating a dynamic venue for both competition and family-friendly activities.

President Ali underscored that success will rely on regional collaboration, with support expected from partners across the Caribbean. A formal announcement is anticipated later this year at a gala celebrating 70 years of motor racing in Guyana.

(Story adapted and modified from Newsroom Guyana)



President Ali attending the Caribbean Clash of Champions, motorbike and car racing event at the South Dakota Circuit in Timehri



President Ali attending the Caribbean Clash of Champions, motorbike and car racing event at the South Dakota Circuit in Timehri



President Ali attending the Caribbean Clash of Champions, motorbike and car racing event at the South Dakota Circuit in Timehri



SPORTS SUPPORT EXPANDS - RUGBY AND CRICKET TEAMS RECEIVE LIFELINE



GRFU and GCB each received a 26-seater bus

For athletes in Guyana, getting to training sessions and tournaments has often been a struggle, especially for teams from remote communities. That challenge took a giant step toward being solved when President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali handed over a new 26-seater bus to the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB).

The gesture, part of the government’s ongoing investment in sports development, comes after a similar

donation to the Guyana Rugby Football Union (GRFU) and previous support to the Guyana Rifle Association, with more contributions planned for Badminton, Squash, and Chess federations in the coming year.

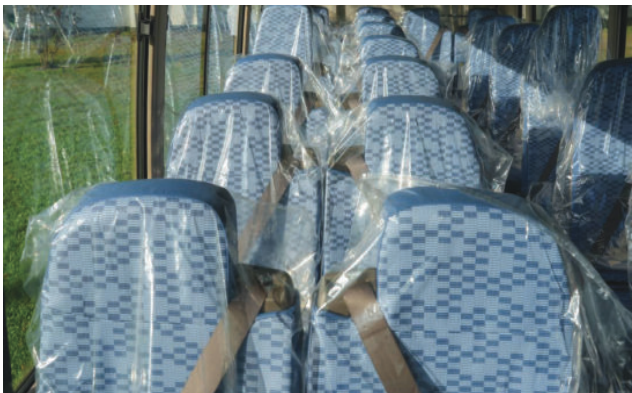
Speaking at the handover, President Ali said the donations followed consultations with athletes, who identified transportation as one of their biggest barriers, second only to access to facilities and equipment.

“We’re investing in this infrastructure and these tools, but we expect sporting bodies to give women equal opportunities, and I am going to ensure that happens,” he emphasised, highlighting the government’s commitment to equality in sport.

The donation carries special significance for women athletes. Carrin Carter, a member of the

after an eight-year hiatus. **“We’re training now for the November tournament, and we’re so grateful to President Ali for bringing us back on the circuit,”** she said.

President Ali also announced plans for world-class cricket and rugby facilities, including a national cricket academy, high-performance centres, and a new rugby home, which will be equipped



GRFU and GCB each received a 26-seater bus

national rugby team, was moved to tears, saying the assistance enabled the women’s team to return to competition

with modern training amenities. **“You will see that coming on board in the new year,”** he said.

The government’s



GRFU and GCB each received a 26-seater bus

support extends beyond infrastructure. A partnership with Fitness 53 Gym, owned by former West Indies cricketer Ramnaresh Sarwan, will provide two months of free training for national rugby players preparing for regional tournaments. Sarwan has also worked to develop a national heritage cricket team in hinterland communities, giving young talent a platform to shine.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr. noted that over the past five years, more than 571 community grounds have been upgraded, with 150 now equipped

with lights, improving access to safe, high-quality training spaces.

For many athletes, these initiatives are more than upgrades, they are life-changing opportunities. GRFU President Ryan Dey lauded President Ali’s **“open-door policy”** for the sporting community, describing the support as the strongest level ever received from any administration.

With better facilities, transport, and training, Guyana’s athletes are now empowered to compete at the highest levels, while communities in the hinterland and across the country can dream bigger and aim higher.



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A promotional banner with a black background. On the left, a black tray of 48 pieces of maki is shown, with a large red price tag of \$26.99 and the word 'ORDER' in red below it. In the center, a wooden plate with five dynamite rolls is shown, with a large red price tag of \$5.99 and the word 'ORDER' in red below it. On the right, the text 'Sushi Full Menu' is displayed above a QR code, with the words 'Sushi Menu' in green text overlaid on the QR code.

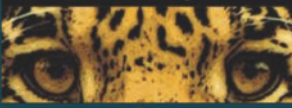


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Day 4 - (Free Day) Personal or visit to Guyana Christmas Village
Day 5 - Mahaica River Eco-Tour. (Optional-Evening): Dinner with Singing Chef
Day 6 - Essequibo River Islands Expedition
Day 7 - Departing Destination Guyana and reminisce

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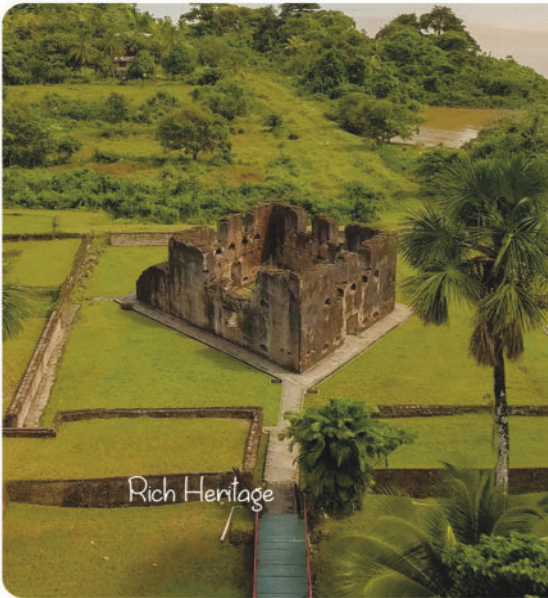
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