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Thursday April 30 2026. Volume 44, Issue #18

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VP Jagdeo talks development in Scotland

Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo (centre) engaged with The King's Foundation during his visit to Scotland.

The Vice President toured a range of the Foundation's programmes at Dumfries House, focused on sustainable urban development, training and supporting individuals and communities who may otherwise be left behind. These initiatives span construction, sustainable agriculture, heritage and traditional crafts, STEM education, health and wellbeing, and skills development – bringing together training, enterprise, and community support to create real pathways into employment.

Discussions also focused on the Foundation's expanding international work, including its collaboration with Guyana to advance sustainable urban development. This partnership is in response to the vision set out by President Irfaan Ali to ensure that Guyana's rapid urban growth is matched by strong planning, high-quality design, and a focus on liveability and long-term resilience. He also interacted with international students participating in the Foundation's programmes, including from Antigua and Barbuda, gaining insight into training in areas such as sustainable construction and the development of practical skills for modern, climate-resilient economies.



Alarm over Venezuela's provocation

Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali has formally written to CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Terrance Michael Drew, raising "grave concern" over what he described as a troubling development involving Venezuela's territorial claim to Guyana's Essequibo region.

In the correspondence dated April 28, 2026, President Ali flagged the public display of a map by Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodríguez during official engagements in CARICOM member states, which purportedly depicts the Essequibo as part of Venezuela.

"I note with grave concern the public display... of a map purporting to incorporate Guyana's Essequibo region as part of Venezuela," the President wrote, warning that such actions, particularly within CARICOM settings, risk being interpreted as tacit acceptance of Venezuela's claim. While reaffirming Guyana's respect for the sovereign rights of CARICOM states to engage bilaterally with partners, including Venezuela, Ali made it clear that the use of regional platforms to advance territorial claims is unacceptable. "The use of CARICOM engagements to project

or promote a territorial claim against a Member State risks being interpreted as acquiescence or tolerance," he stated.

The President characterised the move as a deliberate and calculated escalation.

"This is not a matter of symbolism alone. It is a calculated and provocative assertion of a claim that Guyana has consistently and lawfully rejected, and which is before the International Court of Justice for final adjudication. Venezuela cannot, while the case is before the Court, seek to normalise by symbols, maps, legislation, appointments or official display what it has failed to establish in law. (It undermines) commitment to peaceful settlement (and) good neighbourly relations," the President asserted.

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Feds announce 'Canada Strong'

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The federal government has announced plans to establish the Canada Strong Fund, a new national investment fund intended to support major economic projects across the country.

The initiative, unveiled on April 27, will be introduced as part of the federal government's Spring Economic Update. According to the announcement, the fund will be created as a neutral party reporting through the Minister of Finance and National Revenue.

The Canada Strong Fund is described as a sovereign wealth fund, marking the first fund of its kind at the federal level in Canada. It is expected to invest in large-scale domestic projects in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, mining, agriculture and technology.

Early reports indicate the fund will begin with an estimated \$25 billion in federal backing, with the potential to expand over time through reinvestment and partnerships with private sector investors.

The government states that the fund will operate on a commercial basis, investing alongside private partners in projects considered to be of national importance. Its structure is expected to resemble other sovereign wealth funds used internationally, which are typically designed

to generate long term returns through investments in infrastructure, industry and financial markets.

According to the announcement, Canadians may also be able to invest directly in the fund, allowing individuals to participate in projects and share in potential financial returns.

A transition office will be established to advance consultations with financial institutions, regulators and market participants. This process is intended to finalize the fund's governance structure, investment mandate and operational framework before it becomes fully active.

Additional information regarding the fund's structure and timeline are yet to be publicized. The government said that additional information will be provided in the coming months following consultations and planning.

Sovereign wealth funds are state owned investment funds that manage public assets with the goal of bringing returns over time. These are commonly used in countries with significant natural resource revenues or surpluses in the budget, although structures and sources of income differ across regions.

The Canada Strong Fund is expected to operate as an independent Crown corporation, with management and oversight being separate from day to day government operations.



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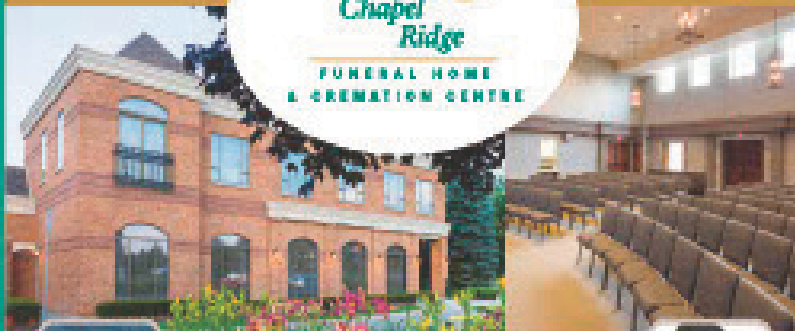
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Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 117

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON OPENS DOORS, ANCHORING FAST-GROWING HEROES HIGHWAY CORRIDOR

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The newly opened Four Points by Sheraton, seen from the air along Heroes Highway, adds to Guyana's expanding hospitality sector.

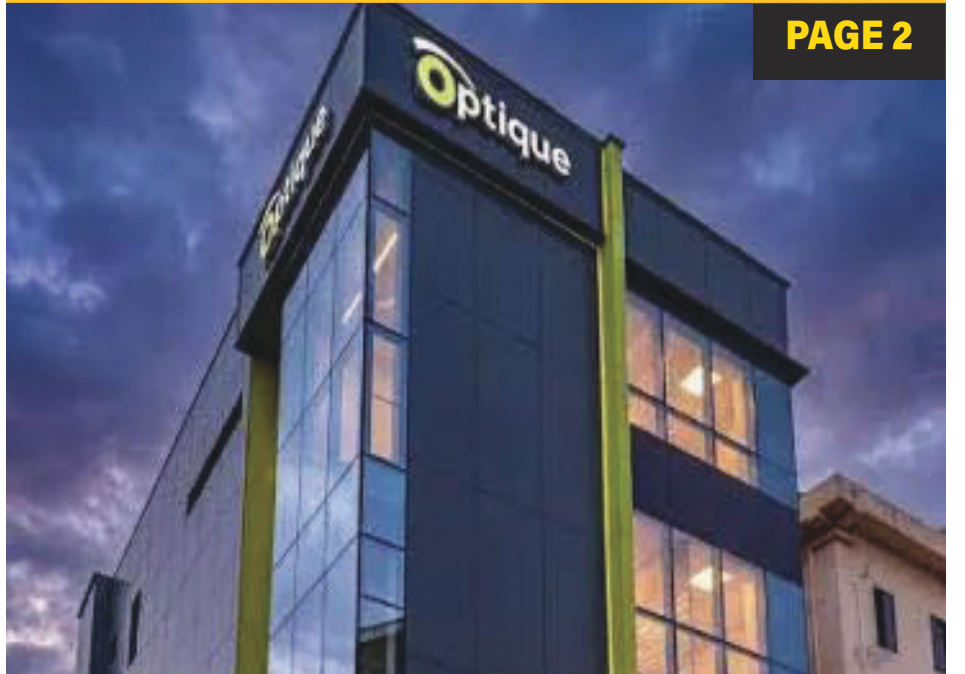
FOUR-LANE AUBREY BARKER ROAD OPENS, RESHAPING SOUTH GEORGETOWN COMMUTE

PAGE 2



BILLION-DOLLAR EYE HOSPITAL PUTS GUYANA ON MEDICAL TOURISM MAP

PAGE 2



FOUR-LANE AUBREY BARKER ROAD OPENS, RESHAPING SOUTH GEORGETOWN COMMUTE



\$6B Aubrey Barker Road officially open

Residents and commuters in South Georgetown are already feeling the difference as the newly expanded four-lane Aubrey Barker Road is transforming one of the area's busiest corridors into a modern route designed for faster travel and future growth.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali commissioned the long-awaited project, describing it as a strategic investment that goes beyond easing traffic to unlock new economic opportunities for surrounding communities. The upgraded roadway serves South Ruimveldt, North Ruimveldt, Festival City and Lamaha Springs, areas that have experienced rapid development and increasing traffic over

recent years.

The 4.4-kilometre corridor now connects more seamlessly with Heroes Highway, the East Coast corridor and other major routes, helping to reduce congestion and shorten travel times for thousands of commuters. Nearly 5,000 people are expected to benefit daily from the improved roadway.

"It creates faster access to businesses and developments along that corridor," President Ali said, noting that the project forms part of a broader national effort to modernise Guyana's transport network. **"It is not a local upgrade. It is part of a national upgrade of the road transport system."**

The transformation is already fuelling development. New housing schemes and businesses are emerging along the corridor, while land values have surged. The president cited one property purchased for \$5 million in 2021 that recently sold for \$38 million, and another valued at \$23 million in 2017 that changed hands for \$112 million this year after minor improvements.

The upgraded road features widened lanes, improved lighting, modern signage and pedestrian walkways. Covered drains spanning 5.4 kilometres were also constructed along both sides to improve drainage and safety.

Minister of Public

Works Bishop Juan Edghill said the road forms part of a wider push to improve infrastructure in South Georgetown. He noted that \$77 million was spent on 57 additional community projects while the Aubrey Barker Road and Greenfield-to-Ogle expansion were

underway.

With the road now declared a public thoroughfare, the Ministry of Public Works will assume responsibility for its maintenance, ensuring the corridor continues to support growth and improved connectivity.



\$6B Aubrey Barker Road officially open



Guyana's first privately owned eye hospital opens

A new \$1 billion and specialised state-of-the-art eye hospital is opening new possibilities for patients seeking advanced vision care, while strengthening Guyana's push to build a world-class healthcare sector.

The Optique Eye Hospital, located on New Market Street, offers comprehensive ophthalmology services ranging from routine examinations to advanced diagnostics and specialised surgeries. Patients can access treatment for cataract, glaucoma, corneal conditions, pterygium, vitreoretinal diseases, and orbit and oculoplastic procedures, all under one roof.

Delivering the keynote address, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the investment as a major step forward in expanding healthcare capacity and improving

BILLION-DOLLAR EYE HOSPITAL PUTS GUYANA ON MEDICAL TOURISM MAP

patient choice. He noted that the facility will also create employment opportunities for doctors, nurses, technicians, administrators, and support staff, while encouraging the adoption of new technologies and professional training.

Private healthcare, the president said, plays a strategic role in fostering competition, raising standards, and broadening options for patients. He explained that such developments form part of a broader national ambition to position Guyana as a hub for medical tourism by 2030, attracting patients from across the

Caribbean, the diaspora, North America, and beyond.

"We are here to promote quality healthcare," the president said, adding that partnerships between public and private providers are key to delivering improved services.

Chief Executive Officer Dhani Narine expressed gratitude to the government, his family, and private sector partners for their support in bringing the project to fruition.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony highlighted that Optique was among the first private

providers to support the government's Eye Testing and Spectacles Subsidy Programme launched in 2024. The initiative offers vouchers for eye examinations and spectacles, strengthening

preventative eye care nationwide.

The new facility represents a significant contribution to eye care services and another step toward building a modern, accessible healthcare system.



Guyana's first privately owned eye hospital opens

GUYANA EXPANDS GLOBAL AIR LINKS WITH MOROCCO AGREEMENT

Guyana and the Kingdom of Morocco have taken a step toward closer connectivity with the signing of an Open Skies Air Services Agreement, a move expected to create new opportunities for travel, trade and tourism between the two countries.

The agreement was signed on April 16, 2026, in Marrakech during the ICAO Global Implementation

Support Symposium. It was formalised by Morocco's Minister of Transport and Logistics with responsibility for Aviation, Abdessamad Kayouh, and Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority, Lt. Col. (ret'd) Egbert Field, on behalf of Guyana.

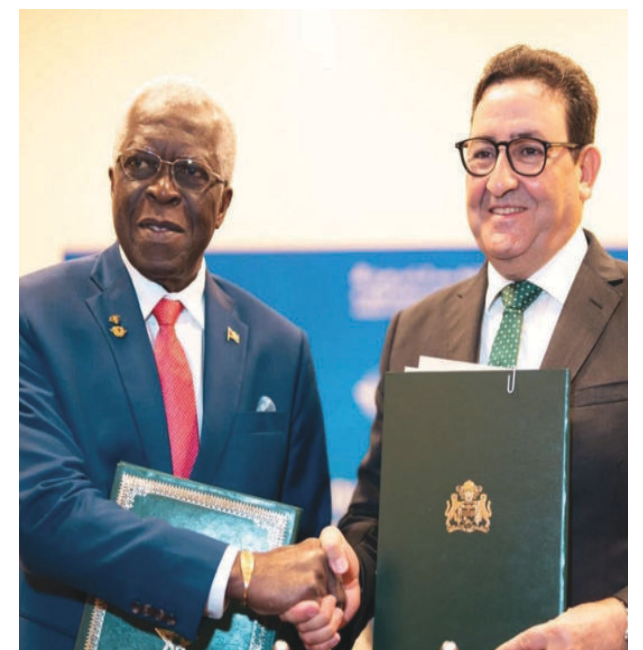
The deal establishes a legal framework for airlines from both countries to operate air services between

Guyana and Morocco, as well as onward to third destinations. Officials said the arrangement opens the door for expanded route networks, increased competition and improved connectivity.

Currently, there are no direct flights between the two countries, but the agreement is expected to encourage airlines to consider Guyana within their international operations.

The expanded air access is also anticipated to support trade, tourism and broader economic collaboration.

The agreement adds to more than 50 air services agreements Guyana has signed with other states, as the country continues to strengthen global links. Guyana and Morocco first established diplomatic relations in December 2012.



New air deal opens door for Guyana-Morocco connectivity

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON OPENS DOORS, ANCHORING FAST-GROWING HEROES HIGHWAY CORRIDOR



Four Points by Sheraton opens along Heroes Highway

The doors of the new Four Points by Sheraton swung open along Heroes Highway this week, welcoming guests into a space designed not only for comfort, but to capture the spirit and identity of Guyana.

Officially opened by President Dr. Irfaan Ali, the 172-room hotel rises from what was once undeveloped land, now part of a rapidly transforming corridor. The property features a pool, sports facilities, expansive common areas, a flexible event

hall, and a restaurant and bar, while its interior design draws inspiration from Guyana's rivers, forests and Indigenous heritage.

President Ali described the investment as a sign of growing confidence in the economy and a key piece in Guyana's expanding tourism and events market. With 11 major conferences and about six large sporting events expected this year, he noted that the country now has the capacity to host gatherings that

were not possible just a few years ago.

"We are going after larger and larger opportunities for the country," the President. The

Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues said the arrival of an internationally recognised brand signals the maturity of Guyana's tourism product. She

during peak periods. Hotel owner Mauricio Van Dam said the project represents a long-term commitment to Guyana. He highlighted solar-powered systems, water-saving technologies and energy-efficient materials, noting that the hotel is the country's first EDGE Advanced-certified development.

The opening

also reflects the transformation of Heroes Highway, now a major artery linking new infrastructure, commercial developments and the airport. Once quiet farmland, the corridor is quickly emerging as a commercial and hospitality hub, with the Four Points by Sheraton standing as one of its newest landmarks.



Four Points by Sheraton opens along Heroes Highway

hospitality sector, he added, will create jobs while supporting agriculture, transport, construction and entertainment.

Minister of Tourism,

noted that visitor arrivals surpassed 450,000 in 2025, with strong growth continuing, and that hotel rooms in Georgetown are frequently fully booked



Four Points by Sheraton opens along Heroes Highway



Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce to develop National Tourism Policy and Strategic Action Plan

Guyana is moving to shape the future of its rapidly expanding tourism industry, with the Ministry of

Tourism, Industry and Commerce advancing a National Tourism Policy and Strategic Action Plan aimed at ensuring

sustainable, long-term growth.

Being developed through the Department of Tourism and the Guyana Tourism Authority, in collaboration with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, the policy will establish a clear framework to guide governance, investment and development across the sector. Officials say the initiative will promote innovation,

strengthen coordination between public and private stakeholders and raise overall industry standards.

The policy comes as visitor arrivals continue to climb, with a 22 percent increase recorded in 2025 and projections pointing to approximately 550,000 visitors by the end of 2026. The new roadmap is expected to help manage this growth while expanding benefits

for communities and businesses.

Key priorities include improving infrastructure and connectivity, strengthening destination marketing, and enhancing tourism product development. The strategy will also focus on workforce training, quality assurance and creating opportunities for small businesses and community-led tourism

initiatives.

Aligned with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, the policy emphasises conservation, environmental stewardship and community empowerment, positioning tourism as a major pillar of economic diversification and sustainable national development.

TOURISM POLICY BEING DEVELOPED AS VISITOR NUMBERS SURGE

OVER 241,000 GUYANESE RECEIVE \$100,000 CASH GRANT AS ROLLOUT CONTINUES



Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh

More than 241,000 Guyanese have already received the government's \$100,000 cash grant, as authorities continue to roll out the nationwide distribution programme aimed at putting direct support into citizens' hands.

Finance Minister Dr. Ashni Singh reported that 241,614 people have already benefited, with the majority, 218,227 individuals, receiving payments directly into

their bank accounts through commercial banks and the New Building Society. The direct deposit option allows eligible citizens to sign up online for faster access to funds.

Residents in remote and hinterland communities are also being reached, with payments delivered via cheque to ensure no one is left out.

To qualify, applicants must be Guyanese citizens aged 18 years

or older as of February 28, 2026, possess valid identification, hold a local bank account, and be physically present in Guyana during registration.

A national help desk has also been established, with community-based assistance points expected soon to support registration efforts.

CARIBBEAN'S DIVERSITY CAN DRIVE CUTTING-EDGE HEALTH RESEARCH - PRESIDENT ALI



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has challenged Caribbean leaders to transform the region's small population and ethnic diversity into a competitive advantage, positioning CARICOM as a global pilot site for health innovation, research and telemedicine.

Delivering the feature address at the 70th Caribbean

Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Annual Health Research Conference at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, the president said the Caribbean already produces strong ideas but struggles with regulation, financing, workforce shortages and low institutional trust.

"We should be sharing, building common platforms,

building common systems. That is what we should be doing as a region," President Ali told delegates, urging deeper collaboration to scale research into real-world solutions.

He called for a unified regional approach to health regulation and technology deployment, suggesting that a single legislative framework could accelerate innovation. **"With the political will, we can fix this in a day... and come up with one master legislation that the region can implement as a whole,"** he said.

President Ali also announced Guyana's readiness to partner with CARICOM to establish

a regional telemedicine hub, aimed at supporting clinical care, research and training. The initiative would help bridge gaps created by geography and workforce shortages, particularly in remote communities.

The president highlighted Guyana's own transformation,

including new hospitals, digitised health records, artificial intelligence-assisted diagnostics and the use of drones to deliver blood and antivenom to hard-to-reach areas. Partnerships with international institutions and private providers are also expanding access and

reducing wait times.

"We are not trapped in old ideological boxes that view the private health care system as separate and distinct from the public health care system," he said, noting that collaboration is key to improving outcomes.

The three-day conference, themed **"Innovations in Health"**, brought together regional policy makers, researchers and global experts to explore how technology, data and partnerships can strengthen healthcare systems and improve resilience across the Caribbean.



The 70th Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Annual Health Research Conference

GUYANA POSITIONED AS A REGIONAL LEADER IN LIVESTOCK, ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, alongside delegates at the 52nd Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight Against Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA)

Guyana is positioning itself as a regional leader in animal health and livestock development, with President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali outlining an ambitious vision during the 52nd

Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA 52).

Addressing regional delegates, the president said Guyana's progress shows that even small developing nations can meet global standards while strengthening food security. **"It demonstrates to the world that Caribbean countries can achieve world-class animal health status,"** he stated, noting that the country's investments are designed to benefit the wider region.

Central to that effort is the transformation of Region Five, Mahaica-Berbice, into the

livestock capital of Guyana and CARICOM. The initiative focuses on expanding high-breed cattle, including Ongole stock, to increase meat production and strengthen the regional supply of animal protein.

Guyana has already imported 6,000 improved animals and introduced high-quality genetic material through a programme valued at approximately US\$1 million annually. The government has also procured advanced PCR diagnostic systems to improve disease detection and response, while forging partnerships with biotechnology institutions to support

research.

The president also revealed that discussions are ongoing for a private sector-led vaccine manufacturing facility in Guyana, a move that would strengthen regional preparedness during outbreaks and reduce reliance on external suppliers.

"As we scale our production of meat, poultry, dairy, and small ruminant sectors, there are over US\$650 million in investment opportunities," President Ali said, linking the figure to the confidence created by Guyana's disease-free status and strengthened animal health systems.

He also emphasised the importance of digital traceability and integrated data systems to build trust and expand trade. **"The systems we build today must be innovative, creative, built on technologies that allow the optimal use of AI, digitisation, and integrated record keeping,"** the president added.

Guyana's recent designation as free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination further strengthens its position as a reliable supplier of safe, high-quality meat and dairy products for the region.

ICJ TO BEGIN ORAL HEARINGS IN GUYANA-VENEZUELA BORDER CASE MAY 4

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will begin oral hearings on Monday, May 4, in the long-standing border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela, marking a pivotal stage in one of the country's most consequential legal battles.

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

his "Issues in the News" programme that the hearings are scheduled from May 4 to 8 and are expected to continue into the following week if necessary. He will be part of the team of international legal experts representing Guyana before the court.

The proceedings move the case into the merits phase, where both countries will present full oral arguments following

the completion of written pleadings in 2025. The dispute centres on the Essequibo region, which accounts for more than two-thirds of Guyana's landmass.

Guyana approached the ICJ in 2018 seeking confirmation that the 1899 Arbitral Award, which established the boundary between the two countries, is valid and legally binding. The award was recognised

for more than 60 years before Venezuela declared it invalid in 1962 and revived its claim.

The case is being heard, after the United Nations Secretary-General referred the matter to the court following failed bilateral efforts. A final judgment is expected to be binding on both countries.



Part of the team representing Guyana before the court



Local and international experts, healthcare workers, and policymakers at the seminar

AI TO POWER EARLY DETECTION AS GUYANA REIMAGINES HEALTHCARE

Guyana's push for a world-class healthcare system is increasingly being shaped by artificial intelligence, with President Mohamed Irfaan Ali outlining a future where technology helps detect illness before symptoms appear. Speaking at a national seminar on AI in healthcare at the Guyana Marriott Hotel,

worsen. He stressed that healthcare, unlike most sectors, generates constant data and affects every citizen, making it ideal for transformation. But he cautioned that data ownership will be central to Guyana's strategy. If population data is processed abroad, he warned, national realities could be interpreted elsewhere. Maintaining control over health intelligence, he said, will ensure AI strengthens domestic decision-making while partnerships provide technical support.

On the ground, this vision is expected to reach

communities through self-testing centres where citizens can walk in for basic screenings. Readings would feed into a national health information system, tracking individuals' health over time. The centres are expected to operate in familiar community spaces such as hospitals and places of worship, helping make routine screening part of daily life.

The president noted that AI is already supporting radiology services in five hospitals, while plans are underway to integrate electronic identification into the

healthcare system and unify data on a single platform.

Minister of Health Frank Anthony said the country is embracing a shift from reactive treatment to predictive, evidence-based care. Through collaboration with the Mount Sinai Health System, Guyana is expanding electronic health records, with implementation underway at the Festival City Polyclinic and Georgetown Public Hospital.

Anthony added that data from initiatives such as the national school health screening

programme is already guiding targeted interventions, while new clinical guidelines aim to standardise treatment for chronic diseases.

The seminar, held under the theme "Turning Promise into Practice: Integrating AI into Health Care," brought together local and international experts, healthcare workers, and policymakers to explore how technology can strengthen early detection, improve outcomes, and reshape care delivery across Guyana.



The official signing of the MoU

HEALTH MINISTRY INKS MOU TO ADVANCE BIOTECH AND PANDEMIC READINESS

Guyana's Ministry of Health is taking a step toward a high-tech future following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Union and Belgium-based Bioparc Charleroi.

The agreement aims to replicate Belgium's world-class biotech ecosystem locally, positioning Guyana as a regional bio-hub. The collaboration will focus on harnessing Amazonian biodiversity

for strengthening vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and creating opportunities for startups and skilled jobs.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony

said the initiative goes beyond routine healthcare, noting that the partnership represents a shift toward innovation, resilience and long-term economic growth for Guyana and the wider Caribbean.

ST. LUCIAN TEAM EXPLORES GUYANA'S SEND SUCCESS

A delegation from Saint Lucia spent a week exploring how Guyana is expanding opportunities for students with special education needs and disabilities, in a regional exchange focused on inclusive learning.

The team, drawn from Saint Lucia's Ministry of Education, Youth Development, Sports and Digital Transformation, was in Guyana from April 19 to 25 observing

systems designed to better support learners with diverse needs. Their visit began with a high-level meeting with Minister of Education Sonia Parag and senior ministry officials, where both sides shared experiences, challenges and priorities shaping special education in their respective countries.

Discussions highlighted Guyana's growing investment in

inclusive education, including strengthened policies, specialised services and improved access to quality learning environments. Officials noted that these efforts are aimed at ensuring every child, regardless of ability, can participate meaningfully in the classroom.

Beyond the boardroom, the Saint Lucian delegation

visited special education facilities and programmes across the country. These site visits provided a closer look at the interventions, teacher support systems and student-centred approaches driving Guyana's progress.

The exchange reflects deepening regional cooperation in education and positions Guyana as an emerging reference point for



Saint Lucia delegation visiting Guyana to examine advancements in special education

inclusive practices, while between the two opening the door for Caribbean nations. continued collaboration

NEW BLOCK BOOSTS MAHAICONY TVET CENTRE CAPACITY TO OVER 500 STUDENTS

More students in Region Five are now getting the chance to learn practical, job-ready skills following the commissioning of a new training block at the Mahaicony Technical and Vocational Training Centre.

The addition of eight modern classrooms has increased the centre's capacity from just over 300 to more than 500 students, expanding access to technical and

vocational education across the region.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag said the development reflects the Government's strengthened focus on skills-based training and certification over the past five years. She emphasised that technical education provides an alternative pathway for individuals to earn an income and support their families.

"Not everybody

is going to be an academic, and we recognise that," the minister noted, while highlighting the importance of Caribbean Vocational Qualifications in validating skills.

The expanded facility is expected to meet growing demand, with increasing numbers of both male and female students showing interest in technical and vocational careers.



Mahaicony TVET centre grows as demand for skills training rises



President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali believes that Guyana is better positioned to weather global supply disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict, due to ongoing investments which will help cushion the country from rising fuel and food costs.

Speaking during his "Tea on the Terrace" programme, the president outlined the potential global impact of the conflict, particularly the severe disruption of traffic through the

GUYANA POSITIONED TO WITHSTAND GLOBAL ENERGY SHOCKS – PRESIDENT ALI

Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy corridors. The narrow waterway facilitates roughly 21 per cent of global oil supplies, 19 to 22 per cent of liquefied natural gas and a significant share of the world's seaborne fertiliser trade.

"What this has led to is widespread volatility," he said, noting that the disruption has already triggered increases in fuel, gas and agricultural input prices.

For countries like Guyana, which rely on imported fuel and fertiliser, the ripple effects could influence production costs, transportation expenses and, ultimately, food prices. Fertiliser prices have already risen

sharply, while oil price movements are expected to impact sectors across the economy, including

affect food production in the months ahead, with higher input costs potentially pushing

disruptions continue.

Despite these challenges, President Ali emphasised that the government has already been implementing measures to strengthen Guyana's resilience. Among these are investments in gas-to-energy infrastructure, plans for a refinery and fertiliser production, and broader initiatives aimed at reducing reliance on imported energy and agricultural inputs.

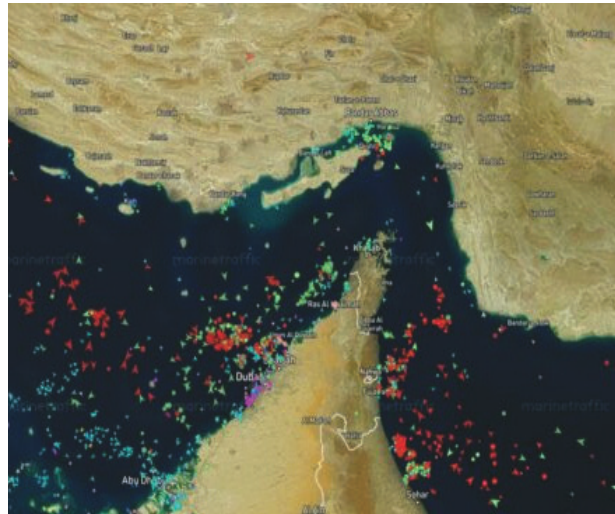
The gas-to-energy project at Wales is expected to come onstream by the end of 2026, while planning is also advancing for a second facility in Region Six. These initiatives, the president noted, are intended to reduce exposure to global shocks, lower energy

costs and stabilise key sectors.

"You have a government that is ahead of the planning cycle and one that is ready and willing to make the necessary adjustments and to take the steps that will secure our economy not only for today but in the long term," he said.

Addressing criticism, the president stressed that managing global economic disruptions requires serious planning and continuous policy adjustments.

"It's not a simplistic social media post," he underscored, noting that Guyana operates within a global economic framework.



The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy corridors

agriculture and manufacturing.

The president warned that these global pressures could

prices upward. He referenced international projections that millions more people could face food insecurity if

GUYANA LOCKS IN WORLD BANK SUPPORT FOR GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

Guyana has secured a major institutional agreement with the World Bank Group as it pushes to accelerate private sector growth and economic transformation, following high-level engagements at the 2026 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group in Washington, DC.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, led Guyana's delegation and participated in a series of strategic meetings focused on investment, agriculture, human



Senior Minister Dr. Ashni Singh, alongside International Finance Corporation Vice President for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Alfonso Garcia Mora during the signing of the agreement

capital development, and regional economic cooperation.

A key outcome of the visit was the signing of the World Bank Group Establishment Agreement between

Guyana and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The agreement, signed by Dr Singh and IFC Vice President for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean Alfonso Garcia

Mora, establishes the institutional framework for World Bank Group operations in Guyana. It is expected to strengthen support for private sector development, job creation, and sustained economic growth.

Dr Singh also took part in the AgriConnect Partners Meeting, where stakeholders reviewed progress since the initiative's launch in October 2025 and discussed strategies to expand support for smallholder farmers by 2030. He underscored Guyana's growing role in regional food security, highlighting the country's abundant arable land and

freshwater resources as key advantages.

He stressed the importance of expanding access to technical support and advancing the use of science and technology in agriculture, noting strong alignment between government policy and the AgriConnect initiative.

At the Caribbean Governors' Meeting with World Bank Managing Director for Operations Anna Bjerde, Dr Singh advocated for increased infrastructure investment and policy reforms to unlock trade and economic opportunities across the region. He reaffirmed appreciation for

the World Bank's ongoing partnership in supporting Guyana's development agenda.

The Finance Minister also emphasised the importance of human capital development, noting the need for a skilled workforce to support Guyana's rapid economic expansion. He pointed to opportunities for collaboration in digital education tools to improve learning outcomes.

Dr Singh further called for expanded financing mechanisms to better support Guyana's fast-growing private sector, stressing the need to mobilise investment more efficiently to match the pace of national development.

A modern policing facility now stands in Anna Regina, offering residents of Region Two improved access to services and reinforcing efforts to strengthen safety across the Pomeroun-Supenaam region.

The reconstructed Anna Regina Police Station was commissioned recently. It is expected to enhance law enforcement capabilities while improving both public service delivery and working conditions for officers.

The new station, built at a cost of more

than \$185 million, represents a significant upgrade to regional security infrastructure. It is designed to strengthen public safety while providing a more dignified and supportive environment for members of the public seeking assistance.

The building features male, female, juvenile and isolation holding cells, along with specialised spaces for sensitive cases. These include a child-friendly area and a dedicated domestic violence interview and waiting room. The facility also houses key operational

NEW ANNA REGINA POLICE STATION COMMISSIONED



Modern police facility opens in Anna Regina

units such as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), traffic, enquiries, and evidence storage, in addition to living quarters for ranks.

The station was designed to meet the evolving realities of policing a growing region with dispersed communities and expanding economic activity.

The performance of Regional Division Number Two was also

highlighted during the event, with the division recording a 39.2 per cent reduction in crime and a 54.2 per cent clear-up rate in 2025. Officers were urged to maintain high levels of professionalism, while residents were encouraged to view the new station as a community institution dedicated to their safety and service.

JUSTICE DAMONE YOUNGE SWORN IN TO COURT OF APPEAL, COMPLETING FULL BENCH



Justice Damone Younge elevated to Court of Appeal in formal ceremony

Justice Damone Younge has officially taken her seat on Guyana's Court of Appeal, marking both a personal milestone and a key moment for the country's judiciary as the appellate bench reaches its full complement.

She was sworn in during a formal ceremony at the Office of the President, presided over by Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, following a recommendation by the Judicial Service Commission and her appointment in accordance with Article 128(1) of the Constitution of Guyana.

With Justice Younge's elevation, all seven positions on the Court of Appeal are now filled, a development seen as strengthening the capacity of the country's second-highest court to review decisions, clarify legal

principles and ensure consistency across the judicial system.

President Ali highlighted the significance of the appellate court, describing it as a defining pillar of justice where legal questions

interpreting legislation and guiding lower courts.

While congratulating Justice Younge, the president said her appointment reflects confidence in her judgment, integrity and legal expertise. He added that her elevation

now joins the appellate bench at a time when public confidence in strong legal institutions remains central to governance and national development. The head of state emphasised that appellate judges carry significant responsibility, as their rulings shape legal precedent and affect the lives of citizens across the country.

He also underscored the importance of

fairness, restraint and thoughtful deliberation, noting that higher courts provide authoritative interpretations that help maintain order and coherence within the legal system.

Justice Younge assumed office on April 14, 2026, stepping into a role that places her among the country's senior judicial voices entrusted with safeguarding the rule of law.



Justice Damone Younge elevated to Court of Appeal in formal ceremony

are carefully examined and the law is refined for future generations. He noted that the Court of Appeal plays a critical role in correcting errors,

represents not only professional recognition, but also an institutional advancement for the judiciary.

Justice Younge



Justice Damone Younge elevated to Court of Appeal in formal ceremony

The High Court has dismissed an election petition filed by the Forward Movement Guyana (FGM), ruling that the case was riddled with procedural deficiencies and failed to meet the strict legal requirements governing election challenges.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall provided the update during his weekly Facebook programme "Issues in the News", explaining that the petition sought to invalidate the September 1, 2025 elections in several regions.

The petition, filed by

Randolph Critchlow on behalf of FGM through Attorney-at-Law Vivian Williams, was dismissed on April 14, 2026 by Chief Justice Navindra Singh. The court also awarded \$350,000 in costs each to the Guyana Elections Commission, the Chief Elections Officer, and the Attorney General.

Minister Nandlall said the petition contained multiple procedural breaches under the National Assembly Validity of Elections Act. Among

the deficiencies were the failure to obtain leave of the court, incorrect formatting, naming the wrong parties, insufficient filing copies, and failure to serve key

stakeholders, including the Speaker of the National Assembly.

"The entire petition was defective and in breach of the relevant rules

and laws regarding election petitions," the Attorney General stated.

He explained that election petitions in Guyana operate under

COURT THROWS OUT FORWARD MOVEMENT GUYANA ELECTION CHALLENGE



The petition sought to invalidate the September 1, 2025 elections in several regions

a specialised statutory framework with strict timelines and requirements that must be followed precisely. Any failure to comply, he noted, is considered fatal and results in dismissal regardless of the claims raised.

The ruling follows an earlier legal challenge filed by Krystal Fisher, which was dismissed by both the High Court and Court of Appeal and is currently awaiting hearing at the Caribbean Court of Justice.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, during the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Labelling the ongoing crisis in Gaza a "profound failure of humanity", Guyana has issued a high-level demand for a massive surge in humanitarian

aid and the immediate lifting of Israel's blockade.

Speaking at the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Minister

of Human Services and Social Security Dr. Vindhya Persaud warned that the weaponisation of aid has reached levels unimaginable for modern civilisation.

The Minister was joined in Türkiye by a high-level delegation, including the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir, and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy.

Outlining Guyana's position, Dr. Persaud underscored

the country's long-standing solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination within internationally recognised territories.

"Guyana has consistently called for an end to Israeli occupation and supported the cause of liberation and justice," the Minister stated, noting that the conflict carries far-reaching consequences for global peace and security. She recalled

Guyana's support for numerous United Nations resolutions, stressing that the Palestinian people deserve to live in freedom and dignity.

Reaffirming support for a two-state solution, Dr. Persaud reiterated Guyana's insistent calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire that upholds UN principles. She specifically demanded the opening of all land routes into Gaza to enable the UN and humanitarian partners

to operate safely.

Dr. Persaud also paid tribute to the lives lost in the protracted conflict, including the more than 100 UN staff members and hundreds of humanitarian workers killed in the line of duty. She concluded by assuring the assembly that Guyana remains steadfast in its position, ready to support all international efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

WORLD BANK JOINS GUYANA-LED BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE IN BOOST FOR GLOBAL CONSERVATION

Guyana's push to link environmental protection with economic growth gained new momentum as the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) officially joined the Global Biodiversity Alliance, a move the government said strengthens global action to safeguard nature while supporting development.

The partnership was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on April 17, 2026, by Senior Minister with responsibility for Finance, Ashni Singh, and World Bank Group Director for the

Environment, Valerie Hickey. The agreement outlines cooperation on research, financing, stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing to accelerate biodiversity conservation worldwide.

The initiative builds on the environmental agenda championed by President Irfaan Ali, which promotes valuing standing forests and protecting ecosystems while advancing national development. Guyana's approach, including its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, has been widely cited as



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh and World Bank Group Director for the Environment, Dr. Valerie Hickey, during the signing

a model for balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship.

Dr Singh said the World Bank's participation signals

for conservation without sacrificing development goals.

The collaboration will focus on mobilising joint initiatives and expanding partnerships with governments, development agencies and the private sector. Officials say the aim is to scale solutions that reward countries for protecting biodiversity while creating sustainable economic opportunities.

The Global Biodiversity Alliance also complements

commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, both of which seek to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems.

With the World Bank now on board, Guyana hopes the alliance will attract additional partners and financing, further positioning the country as a leader in climate and biodiversity initiatives while advancing sustainable development at home and abroad.



Guyana, EU partner to train community brigades to protect forests

Communities are being equipped with new skills to protect Guyana's vast forests, as the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Guyana Forestry

Commission partner with the European Union to reduce deforestation and forest degradation across the Amazon.

The initiative forms part of the Amazonia+

LINDEN TRAINING EQUIPS COMMUNITIES TO SAFEGUARD AMAZON FORESTS

Programme, funded by the EU and led by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in collaboration with the Pau Costa Foundation. The programme promotes responsible fire use for sustainable land management while reducing the risk of destructive wildfires.

From April 14-16, community representatives

gathered in Linden for training under the Community Brigades initiative. Participants included officials from the Civil Defence Commission, Guyana Fire Service, Protected Areas Commission and Environmental Protection Agency.

The sessions combined practical demonstrations with technical instruction, helping participants

better understand fire behaviour and improve readiness to respond to emergencies. The training also emphasised balancing environmental protection with sustainable livelihoods.

Officials say Guyana's forests remain a cornerstone of environmental protection and sustainable development. The initiative forms part of the Amazonia+

economic opportunities and local livelihoods.

The Ministry of Natural Resources noted that continued collaboration with international partners will help ensure Guyana's forests remain a cornerstone of environmental protection and sustainable development.

INVESTORS BEING SOUGHT FOR AMMONIA, GAS BOTTLING PROJECTS AT WALES

As development accelerates at Wales, the government is seeking investors to support two new ventures expected to complement the country's gas-to-energy initiative.

The Office of the Prime Minister has issued a preliminary call for expressions of interest to support projects planned near the Wales Gas-

to-Energy Combined Cycle Power Plant and Natural Gas Liquids facilities on the West Bank of Demerara. The initiatives include the Guyana Ammonia and Urea Plant Inc. (GAUP), valued at approximately US\$300 million, and the Guyana Gas Bottling and Logistics Company (GGBLC), estimated at US\$40 million.

Under the proposal,

the government is targeting investments of up to US\$5 million per investor for the ammonia and urea project, while the gas bottling and logistics venture has a cap of US\$1 million per investor. Interested parties may, however, indicate larger investment amounts.

Both projects are expected to operate as

private companies and offer a government-guaranteed annual return of 10 per cent. Authorities say priority will be given to Guyanese investors, including members of the diaspora, as part of efforts to broaden local participation in major energy developments.

Prospective investors must submit ownership details and



Guyana seeking proposals to design, build & operate cooking gas bottling company

proposed investment terms as part of the expression of interest process. Submissions are due by May 15, 2026, and the preliminary

call is expected to guide the structuring of final investment terms ahead of a formal invitation.

VICE PRESIDENT JAGDEO MEETS KING CHARLES III, ADVANCES LOW-CARBON COLLABORATION

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo met with King Charles III at Dumfries House on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, as part of high-level discussions on sustainable development and climate resilience.

During the engagement, the vice president also participated in meetings with The

King's Foundation and representatives from across the Commonwealth of Nations. The discussions focused on advancing low-carbon growth, strengthening sustainable development partnerships, and identifying practical solutions for countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Dr. Jagdeo further met with members of the King's Foundation team working with Guyana on sustainable urban development initiatives. The collaboration aims to support environmentally conscious planning, resilient infrastructure and community-focused development aligned with Guyana's broader low-carbon agenda.

The engagement underscores growing cooperation between Guyana and international partners as the country continues to promote sustainable growth while addressing climate challenges and expanding opportunities for resilient urban development.



VP Jagdeo engaging King Charles III during Scotland visit

TWO-YEAR PROJECT TO DELIVER MODERN HOSPITAL FOR BARTICA



Bartica Regional Hospital to be completed in 24 months

A two-year timeline has been set for the construction of a new regional hospital in Bartica, aimed at expanding healthcare

services in Region Seven. Minister of Health Frank Anthony described the sod-turning ceremony as a “memorable and

long-anticipated moment,” noting that the facility forms part of ongoing efforts to modernise healthcare access across Guyana.

The new hospital will be constructed on approximately 10 acres of land, allowing room for future expansion, improved patient access, and enhanced emergency response. Its proximity to the airstrip is also expected to support faster medical evacuations for hinterland communities.

“When this

hospital is completed, people in Bartica and surrounding communities will be able to access high-quality, specialised services right here, without having to travel to Georgetown,” the minister said.

The facility will feature a 24-hour accident and emergency department, pharmacy, and advanced diagnostic unit equipped with digital X-rays, ultrasound, and a modern CT scanner. Artificial intelligence

systems will also be incorporated to assist with rapid interpretation of medical imaging and quicker diagnoses.

Additional services will include a fully equipped laboratory capable of conducting more than 100 types of tests, a modern blood bank, and approximately 50 inpatient beds in self-contained, air-conditioned rooms designed for patient comfort and privacy.

The hospital will also offer dentistry, audiology, speech

therapy, two operating theatres, and a dedicated maternity ward and neonatal unit to support mothers and newborns.

Upon completion, the facility is expected to employ at least 46 doctors, including specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, internal medicine, paediatrics, and emergency medicine, significantly enhancing the level of care available in Bartica and surrounding communities.

NEW HEALTH POSTS, BOATS TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN REGION ONE

Residents of Wanakai and Tobago are marking a turning point in their communities, as new health posts bring healthcare closer to nearly 500 people and ease the burden of traveling long distances for treatment.

The facilities, commissioned by Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony, represent a major step toward improving access to quality healthcare in hinterland communities. With a combined population of just over 400 residents, 169 in Wanakai and 246 in Tobago, the new health posts are expected to significantly enhance emergency response, maternal and child health services, and preventative care.

For years, residents had to endure long and often dangerous river journeys to access medical attention at facilities such as Sacred Heart Hospital. Those trips, sometimes made in urgent situations, depended heavily on weather conditions and available transportation.



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony engaging patients at the Mabaruma Regional Hospital

For Veona Williams, a mother of four from Wanakai, the new health post brings a profound sense of relief. She recalls spending hours paddling her canoe to seek medical care, often while worrying about whether help would come in time. With the facility now within reach, emergencies no longer carry the same uncertainty, and routine care is far easier to access.

The health posts will support routine check-ups, vaccinations, health education and early

detection of illnesses. Improved access is also expected to strengthen maternal healthcare and reduce complications by ensuring expectant mothers receive timely monitoring.

Equally inspiring is the return of trained Community Health Worker Darian Williams, who completed six months of training before returning to serve her home community. Her presence ensures care is delivered by someone familiar with the culture, language and needs of residents.

“I feel honoured serving them and to build trust, and respect everyone’s needs and provide good service to my community,” she said.

Beyond the two villages, Region One is also set to benefit from expanded services at the Mabaruma Regional Hospital. During the commissioning, Minister

for admissions. The hospital currently serves around 150 patients and conducts roughly 500 diagnostic tests daily.

Healthcare delivery in the region is also being strengthened through mobility. Seven new 40-horsepower boats and engines were handed over to the Regional Health Department, allowing

routine check-ups and emergency response for residents unable to travel.

Regional Health Officer Steven Cheefoon said improved mobility has already delivered results, particularly in maternal health. Expectant mothers nearing delivery are accommodated at a maternal waiting home in Mabaruma, where they receive care from midwives and specialists in preparation for safe births.

Mobile vaccination drives and school health visits are also helping ensure children in remote communities receive timely care. Together, the new health posts, expanded hospital services and improved transportation are reshaping healthcare access in Region One, turning what was once a long journey for help into care that is now within reach.



Testing out the new boats

Anthony announced plans for a new inpatient facility that will add about 50 beds, increasing the hospital’s capacity and reducing wait times

medical teams to reach riverine communities more efficiently. The watercraft will support outreach services, including vaccinations,

GUYANA AND TÜRKIYE DISCUSS EXPANDING PARLIAMENTARY COLLABORATION



Guyana’s delegation meeting with H.E. Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye at the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

Guyana and Türkiye are moving to deepen parliamentary cooperation following a bilateral meeting between Speaker of the National Assembly Manzoor Nadir and Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Numan Kurtulmuş, on the sidelines of the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Istanbul.

The engagement focused on strengthening ties between the two legislatures through structured collaboration and practical exchanges. According to a statement from Guyana’s Parliament, Speaker Nadir expressed appreciation for Türkiye’s hosting of the global gathering and signalled Guyana’s interest in building more formal parliamentary

relations.

He emphasised that cooperation should move beyond symbolic engagement to deliver meaningful outcomes, including technical support, knowledge-sharing and parliamentary exchanges aimed at strengthening institutional development.

Both sides also reaffirmed their shared commitment

to democratic governance, and to promoting regional and international peace and stability.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud and Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Kwame McCoy were also part of Guyana’s delegation.

ENMORE EMERGING AS BPO HUB WITH NEW V-CHART HIRING PUSH

More employment opportunities are on the horizon for residents along the East Coast of Demerara, as V-Chart Services advances recruitment efforts at its Enmore facility with support from the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest).

The company is preparing to host a job fair on May 19, 2026, aimed at connecting jobseekers with immediate openings as part of its next phase of expansion. The initiative follows continued growth within the Enmore corridor, including the scaling up of operations by GUYSONS K+B Industries, reinforcing



The job fair is expected to allow applicants to engage directly with recruiters

the area's emergence as a developing industrial and services hub.

Since establishing its presence in Guyana in 2023, V-Chart has steadily expanded its operations, contributing

to the country's rapidly growing Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector. Officials say the upcoming job fair will support increased staffing levels while strengthening

operational capacity at the Enmore location.

Chief Investment Officer, Peter Ramsaroop said the initiative reflects the type of investment Guyana is seeking to attract.

"V - C h a r t represents exactly the type of investment Guyana is pursuing: technology-driven, service-oriented, and employment-intensive," he noted, adding that collaboration between government and industry is key to ensuring that job opportunities remain accessible to Guyanese.

Company officials explained that V-Chart's Tuschen facility has already demonstrated strong results and employed approximately 100 workers and operating near capacity. Building on that success, the Enmore facility is now entering a more active recruitment phase, supported by outreach and coordinated engagement through the job fair.

Chairman of V-Chart, Vinayak Shankar, said the company is also investing in skills development as the BPO industry evolves.

"AI is reshaping the BPO industry... our focus in Guyana is to stay competitive by investing in skills, adaptability, and scalable operations," he stated.

The job fair is expected to allow applicants to engage directly with recruiters, with on-the-spot hiring anticipated for qualified candidates. The expansion aligns with broader efforts to strengthen job creation, skills development, and economic diversification across Guyana.

MASSIVE UTILITY CORRIDOR, HOUSING SCHEME RISING IN ECD BACKLANDS



All utility lines will be removed as the 200-mile utility corridor is being built

Deep in the backlands of the East Coast Demerara, two large-scale projects are quietly reshaping the landscape, a nearly 200-mile utility corridor and a sprawling new housing development carved out of former sugar cane fields.

Speaking from a newly constructed all-weather road south

of Enterprise Village, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall described the works as transformative developments that many Guyanese have not yet seen.

The road forms part of an expansive utility corridor designed to house transmission cables

and communication lines. According to the minister, the corridor begins at Wales, crosses the Demerara River at Garden of Eden, then stretches along the backlands before continuing east to Goedverwagting, Mahaicony, West Coast Berbice and onward to the Corentyne Coast.

When completed, the corridor will carry 69kV and 230kV transmission lines for Guyana Power and Light Company, along with telecommunications infrastructure from providers including One Communications and ENet. The lines will be relocated from public roadways, improving safety, reliability and

future expansion capacity.

Just metres away, another transformation is underway. A massive housing scheme, stretching roughly four miles by half a mile, is rising on land that once supported sugar cultivation. The Ministry of Housing and Water has already undertaken major engineering works, including filling trenches, constructing heavy-duty concrete bridges and upgrading drainage canals.

Retained canals have been cleaned and integrated into the area's drainage system, while streets, culverts and kokers are being installed. Hundreds of house lots have already

been allocated, with dozens of homes under construction.

Minister Nandlall said the developments are part of a wider national push to expand housing and modern infrastructure. He added that the utility corridor will also support the

country's broader energy transformation tied to reduced electricity costs.

Echoing recent remarks by President Dr. /Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the attorney general said many transformative projects are unfolding beyond public view, urging citizens to recognise the scale of development taking place across the country.



The housing scheme that is being developed

OVER 50 CITY ROADS NOW PUBLIC AS GOVT MOVES TO TACKLE GEORGETOWN'S INFRASTRUCTURE WOES



President Ali at the commissioning of the Aubrey Barker Road

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has defended the government's decision to declare more than 50 roads in Georgetown as public roads, saying the move is aimed at fixing long-standing infrastructure problems rather than scoring political points.

Speaking at the commissioning of the four-lane Aubrey Barker Road, the president said transferring responsibility to the Ministry of Public Works will allow for faster upgrades, better

maintenance and stronger long-term planning for the capital.

"We are not taking roads for politics. We are not playing politics with potholes. We are not campaigning with congestion. We are governing," he told the gathering.

The decision means the Ministry of Public Works will now manage and maintain the designated roads, a shift from the traditional responsibility of City Hall. While acknowledging concerns about

central government's involvement, President Ali said the intervention is necessary to address deteriorating roadways and growing traffic pressures.

He also argued that Georgetown's infrastructure must keep pace with the country's rapid development, noting that a modern capital cannot function with outdated road networks. The president added that ongoing roadworks, though disruptive, are part of a phased plan designed to deliver long-term

improvements.

"The traffic you endure today will become the travel you enjoy tomorrow," he said, urging commuters to be patient.

Looking ahead, the president revealed that broader transport solutions are being explored, including light rail, expanded bus services and alternative routes to ease congestion, as part of plans to create a modern, integrated transport system for Georgetown.

*Happy
Birthdays*

TO

His Excellency

DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI,

President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

On the occasion of your birthday ,
we extend our heartfelt congratulations
and best wishes for continued health
and prosperity .

May your vision continue to guide
Guyana toward a brighter future.

With Warmest Regards

Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

Prime Minister

Hon. Kwame Mc Coy

Minister within the
Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Eddy Layne

Director of the
Department of Public Information

The Management and Staff of the
Department of Public Information



Martyrdom of Satyadeo Sawh Guyana's Mahatma

The brutal murder of one of Guyana's most outstanding sons Satyadeo Sawh occurred in his home at LBI, East Coast Demerara. This criminal act included the death of his brother, sister, home security guard and pet dog. This heinous crime occurred on the night of April 21, 2006 by a criminal gang.

After 20 years of his assassination, a commemoration event was held at the Guyana Central Arya Samaj mandir in Georgetown beginning with a havan religious service chanting Vedic Hymns, Bhagans, classical music and speeches. This was followed by a nostalgic tribute memorial program. Sash Sawh was born on June 13, 1955 at Central Mahaicony. He was the youngest son among nine children in his farming family. Despite the burning down of their ancestral home during the riots of 1963, Sash successfully graduated from secondary school with a distinguished record. He subsequently migrated to Canada as an ambitious youth with great expectations when he was 19 years old. He studied Economics at York University. During his entire spare time in Canada he actively participated with the Association of Concerned Guyanese (ACG) which agitated for political changes in native country. He was president of this organization for about a decade. During his formative years Sash was engaged in addressing the issues of the dictatorship oppressive regime in Guyana. Between 1970- 1992, tens of thousands of Guyanese were forced to migrate to Canada, USA and other countries escaping the Guyanese oppressive undemocratic government. Under the leadership of Dr. Cheddie Jagan, a new PPP government was formed in 1992. As an outstanding and dynamic Jaganite, Sash was recruited to be the ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela from



Dr Irfan Ali Addressing Participants



Meeting with the Great Flood Victims

He became extremely friendly with all persons in the agriculture as a household name. The most challenging activity as Minister of Agriculture was the responsibility to safe guard the livelihood of farming in rural coastal Guyana during and after the great floods which destroyed not only crops and livestock but homes and

1993-1996. There he seized the opportunity to legalize the residency status for the large number of undocumented Guyanese through the Venezuelan authorities.



As a result of his relationship with the diplomatic community and the Venezuelan government, Sash eventually received a high Venezuelan award in recognition of his sterling services as ambassador.

This charismatic politician was recalled to join the new Guyana government as the Minister of Agriculture.. He had the herculean task for innovative management of all agricultural sector. This resulted in food security for the nation and the bread basket of the Caribbean.

Guyana stopped importing poultry products, the Guyana Marketing Corporation became pivotal for food distribution while the rice industry increased production and productivity, workers in the sugar industry applied themselves to receive increased income and benefits. Above all he was visionary for diversification for Guyana agriculture revolution to promote fish and shrimp farms.



Satyadeo Sawh

communities with water all around. Sash traveled extensively from the Pomeroy to Crab wood Creek to provide assistance to farmers and others. With sleepless nights he embraced the farmers and provided them emergency relief with food and supplies for living conditions.



Policy Discussion with Dr. Cheddi Jagan

The elder grandson recited a poem from Rabindranath Tagore GITANGLI (Song of my soul) Verse 35 WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR

" Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action into that heaven of freedom Father, let my country awake!" President Irfan Ali in his address paid tribute to minister Sawh indicating that he contributed significantly to building many institutions in the country to "ensure that his life continues " and that he was "a foundation fighter for the return of democracy" In addition as a Minister " His door was always open,

his voice always asking farmers and fisher-folk what they wanted" and that "he walked among them not merely as a minister but as a true friend"

The President also articulated to the audience that belief alone was insufficient but it must be accompanied with discipline and sacrifice. Sash was not only an outstanding national freedom fighter but also was a profound family and community activist. His religious belief consolidated his family values with his wife, children and others. He embraced them with enormous love and dignity. As a former president of the Guyana Arya Samaj, he was proactive in supporting youths to be dedicated for education, discipline and involvement in

community activities. He embraced the ten principles of Arya Samaj and supported various programs and activities for the good of all.

In an outstanding Shakespearean voice, President Ali recited in a thunderous voice his poem

"From a Comrade to a Comrade" with these words which are dedicated to Sash Sawh "respect and humility was part of your personality", "Service and protection was your philosophy "Furthermore, " with great determination you fulfilled your ambition", " you ended with a tone of humility for you have contributed positively to this great nation" President Ali in his presentation philosophical and meticulously identified the sterling qualities of the life and dedication of fallen hero.

He should be also known as the Mahatma of Guyana.



Minister 'Sash' Sawh at the opening of the 28th Congress of the PPP held in 2005 at Anna regina



Husband, Wife, and two sons



Dr Fred Sukhdeo extending greetings to President Dr. Irfan Ali

Excerpt from President's Poem

Satyadeo Sawh, You lived your life almost without a flaw, Putting people at the center, never were you a dictator, Justice, Peace, and Integrity for you were hereditary, Respect and Humility was part of your Personality, Service and Patriotism was your conviction, Freedom and Democracy was your Philosophy, For this oh Sash you have left your Legacy, With great determination, you fulfill your ambition, seeing Guyana a free Nation, for Generation to come History would record your contribution.



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Sugar Bee Apple 糖心香脆蘋果 Reg:\$3.99 2.59 lb	Pineapple 菠蘿 Reg:\$3.99 2.99 ea	Fresh Blueberry 551ml 新鮮藍莓 Reg:\$5.99 3.59 pk	Sun Candy Navel Orange 袋裝紅肉橙 Reg:\$5.99 3.99 bag	Green Kiwi 2Lb 盒裝奇異果 Reg:\$6.99 4.99 pk	Watermelon 大西瓜 Reg:\$9.99 7.99 ea	Ataulfo Mango 呂宋芒 Reg:\$16.99 13.99 case

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GUYANA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP PARK OPENS ON WEST BANK, BLENDING HISTORY AND RECREATION

For generations, it was a wide-open field where families gathered each Easter to fly kites. Now that familiar space on the West Bank Demerara has been reborn as the new Guyana-China Friendship Park, a modern recreational hub designed to celebrate community and international partnership.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali commissioned the upgraded facility, describing it as a symbol of enduring ties and expanding cooperation between Guyana and China. The park, formerly known as Joe Vieira Park, has been transformed into a multifunctional public space featuring a lotus pond, pavilion, football field, basketball and tennis courts, jogging areas, and a children's play zone. An open-air theatre, outdoor trampoline, and accessible washroom facilities have also been added.

Funded through a US\$10.8 million grant from China, the project adds to a growing list of bilateral initiatives spanning infrastructure, health, agriculture, and education. The site, once part of Plantation Meerzorg, was originally gifted to the State by the late Joseph Rudolph Vieira and declared a public space in 1982.

In his feature address, President Ali traced the roots of Guyana-China relations to the arrival of Chinese immigrants in 1853, noting their lasting contributions to the country's social and economic fabric. He said the park's location is especially meaningful.

"For it is on this very site, watered by the labour and sacrifice of those first indentured souls, that the human thread of connection between our two peoples was first woven," the President said.

The redesigned facility blends elements of Chinese architectural design with Guyana's natural landscape. At its centre stands a Guyana-China friendship monument, commemorating the long-standing relationship between the two nations. The park is also expected to connect to broader urban development plans, creating green and cultural corridors for public use.

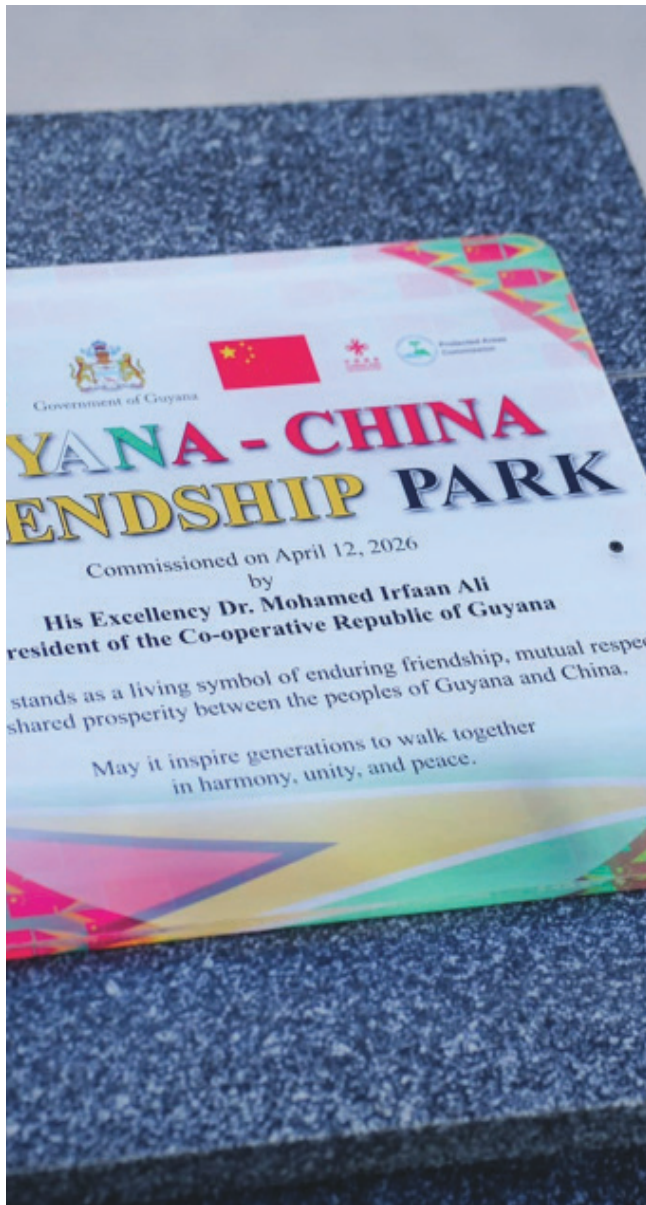
Chinese Ambassador Ying Yang said the park reflects the shared people-focused approach of both countries.

"This park stands as a tribute of the Chinese Government to Guyana's 60th anniversary and a celebration of our long-lasting and strong friendship," she stated.

President Ali urged citizens to take ownership of the new space, encouraging families, youth and community groups to use and maintain the facility so it remains vibrant for generations.

"This friendship park stands as a milestone on a road we are walking together into a future bright shared achievement," he said, reaffirming Guyana's commitment to the One-China policy and continued cooperation between the two nations.





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HEBEI ACROBATIC TROUPE BRINGS SPECTACLE TO GUYANA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE



Scene from the performance at State House

A series of dazzling performances by the Hebei Acrobatic Troupe turned venues across Guyana into stages of colour, precision, and awe as audiences witnessed a cultural showcase blending strength, artistry, and tradition.

At State House, the opening night set the tone. Under glowing lights, a vivid lion dance unfolded as a performer in gold balanced effortlessly atop a rising



Scene from the performance at State House

control. A handstand act on a single cane showcased remarkable balance and strength, holding audiences in stunned silence before erupting in applause.

The performances form part of a cultural gift from China, marking Guyana's 60th Independence Anniversary and 54 years of diplomatic relations between the

two countries. The tour, hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Guyana and the Government of Guyana, also received sponsorship from CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited.

Audiences in Leonora, Georgetown, Albion, Linden, and Anna Regina experienced the same high-energy spectacle, with each stop drawing

the tour delivered cultural connection, one a vivid reminder of performance at a time.



Scene from the performance at State House



Scene from the performance at State House



Scene from the performance at State House



Scene from the performance at State House

families, students, and community members eager to witness the internationally acclaimed troupe in action.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali described the visit as a celebration of friendship through culture, while Chinese Ambassador Ying Yang said the performances reflect a shared commitment to deepening people-to-people ties.

Beyond the acrobatics and applause,



Scene from the performance at State House

NEW RECREATIONAL PARKS OPEN IN REGION FIVE



Bush Lot, Bath Settlement residents welcome two modern recreational parks

Residents of Bush Lot and Bath Settlement in Region Five are now enjoying two newly commissioned recreational parks designed to promote family life, community interaction, and safer

public spaces. The facilities, located in the heart of the growing communities, are part of the National Beautification Project led by the Office of the First Lady in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and private

partners. The parks are expected to serve thousands of families, offering accessible and secure environments for recreation and relaxation.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, First Lady Arya Ali highlighted the importance of investing in spaces that bring people together. She noted that while national development often focuses on major infrastructure such as roads and bridges, equal attention must be placed on community environments where families can connect and children can thrive.

"Each time we

launch a new park or public space, it serves as a reminder that development encompasses more than just the construction of roads, bridges, and large structures," she said. "It also involves creating spaces where our children and families can gather, connect, grow, and experience the joy of belonging."

The First Lady also urged residents to take ownership of the facilities and protect them from vandalism so they continue to serve their intended purpose.

Located near schools and community grounds,

the parks are equipped with modern amenities including play areas, gazebos, lighting, water facilities, and vending

kiosks.

The initiative also encourages families to spend more quality time together outdoors, strengthening community bonds beyond digital screens.



Bush Lot, Bath Settlement residents welcome two modern recreational parks

Tourism industry's progress stimulates growth across sectors –President Ali

GUYANA'S growing tourism and hospitality sector plays a critical role in the country's long-term development, with President Dr. Irfaan Ali describing the sector as a key driver of job creation, economic linkages, and economic diversification.

The Head of State, in his address at a recent event, highlighted that the hospitality industry is among the most inclusive sectors capable of creating opportunities across a wide cross-section of the population.

"Hospitality creates jobs quickly and widely for young people entering the workforce, for experienced professionals, for skilled tradesmen, and for entrepreneurs," he said.

The President stated that the sector's inclusive nature makes it central to expanding economic participation, while also pointing to the government's efforts to build a skilled workforce to support its growth.

"That is why we're investing in [an] International School of Hospitality, spending tremendous resources to bring that school alive very soon," President Ali said.

Along with employment, the President emphasised that hospitality stimulates a wide range of other industries, noting that its impact extends far beyond hotels themselves.

"A hotel does not stand alone; it depends on agriculture, fisheries, transport, entertainment, construction, finance, security, technology, laundry services, maintenance and retail," he said.

This interconnectedness, the Head of State related, ensures that growth in tourism drives activity across multiple sectors, creating opportunities for local producers and service providers.

President Ali further highlighted the role of hospitality in shaping Guyana's international reputation, noting that visitor experiences influence how the country is perceived globally.

"The experience visitors have in our hotels shapes how they view Guyana; every satisfied guest becomes an ambassador for Guyana," he said.

The President stressed that service quality, safety and efficiency are critical components of the country's national brand, adding that the visitor experience begins even before arrival.

"That is why we have commenced work on the new terminal which will allow us to move from processing 800 passengers per hour to 3,200 passengers per hour, seamlessly," the President disclosed.

Against this backdrop, the Head of State framed tourism and hospitality as essential to the country's economic future, specifically as Guyana moves further towards economic diversification.

"Tourism and hospitality provide sustainable long-term opportunities to create income streams beyond traditional sectors, and strengthen resilience," he said.



Dr Ali addressing members of the hospitality industry

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"DECADE OF DELIVERY" - GUYANA CALLS FOR ACTION, NOT PROMISES, AT GLOBAL FORUM ON AFRICAN DESCENDANTS



Ministers Vanessa Benn, Minister and Steven Jacobs with Dr Leslie Ramsammy, Guyana's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva at the session

Guyana is urging the United Nations (UN) to move faster and more decisively to protect vulnerable people of African descent, warning that global crises are deepening inequality, poverty and discrimination across communities already facing historic disadvantage.

Speaking at the Fifth Session of the Permanent Forum

on People of African Descent in Geneva, Guyana's Minister within the Ministry of Housing, Vanessa Benn said Guyana believes the UN must become **"more nimble in response, delivery, advocacy and protection"** as war, climate change, and economic instability disproportionately affect marginalised populations.

Minister Benn,

who was accompanied by Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Steven Jacobs and Guyana's Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, Leslie Ramsammy, reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to international agreements aimed at eliminating racial discrimination. She stressed that human rights violations against people of African descent remain a pressing concern, particularly as rising food and fuel prices, supply chain disruptions and conflict worsen global living conditions.

"We are gravely concerned by the global crisis being exacerbated by wars and conflict, supply chain disruptions, rising costs of food and fuel, and climate change," Minister

Benn said, noting that these pressures are increasing hunger, poverty and economic vulnerability. She also condemned what she described as racist and disproportionate treatment of migrants of African descent seeking safety and stable livelihoods.

For Minister Benn, the UN's recognition of slavery as a crime against humanity represents an important step forward, but she emphasised that acknowledgment must be followed by tangible progress toward equity and opportunity for descendants of enslaved people.

The call for action was echoed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which renewed its push for reparatory justice and equitable development.

Delivering a statement on behalf of the CARICOM group, Minister Jacobs said the international community must move beyond recognition of past injustices and focus on meaningful solutions.

"We meet at a moment when the pages behind us are well known, but the next chapter remains unwritten," Minister Jacobs said, describing the history of people of African descent as one shaped by injustice, dispossession and exclusion.

He pointed to the CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice as a key framework for accountability and development, stressing that small island and developing states face compounded challenges from climate change and financial

constraints. Addressing these issues, he said, requires coordinated action across reparatory justice, reform of the global financial system and equitable climate responses.

Minister Jacobs also called for the Second International Decade for People of African Descent to become a **"decade of delivery,"** where commitments translate into measurable improvements in education, economic opportunity and social protection.

Both ministers underscored that the lived experiences of people of African descent demand urgent global attention, warning that without decisive action, historical inequalities will continue to shape access to opportunity and development for generations to come.



New system to cut diagnostic wait times

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO CUT PATIENTS' SCAN RESULTS TO MINUTES

Patients in Guyana could soon receive X-ray, MRI, and CT scan results in as little as one minute, under a new digital health initiative announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Speaking at the opening of a privately owned eye hospital on New Market Street, the President said the country has already secured the systems needed to dramatically

speed up diagnostic services.

"We have now signed on to a programme that will allow us to read X-rays, CT scans, and MRI in seconds. One minute," he said.

For many years, patients have faced long waiting times for scan results, often delaying treatment and placing additional pressure on healthcare services.

President Ali acknowledged this challenge, noting, **"Before, you would be waiting for hours for those scans to be read."**

The new system is expected to significantly reduce turnaround time, allowing doctors to diagnose and respond to patients much faster.

"That allows better outcome, faster response, and

greater results," the President added.

The initiative is part of a wider effort to modernise Guyana's healthcare sector through technology, with investments in diagnostics, imaging, and specialist services. Government says the goal is to build a more efficient, responsive health system and move closer to a world-class standard by 2030.

\$3B CARDIAC INVESTMENT BRINGS LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT CLOSER TO HOME

Thousands of Guyanese have received life-saving cardiac treatment at home over the past five years, supported by nearly \$3 billion in government investment through the Caribbean Heart Institute, a shift that is reducing the need for costly overseas care.

Speaking at the recent opening of Optique Eye Hospital, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali said the spending reflects a broader effort to expand specialised healthcare services locally and ease

the burden on families.

"I was looking at the numbers over the last five years, and in cardiac services alone...we have supported Guyanese with an investment of almost \$3 billion," he said, noting that many of these gains often go unnoticed.

The Caribbean Heart Institute, located within the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation compound, provides a full range of services, from electrocardiograms to open-heart surgery. Advanced procedures

introduced in recent years have made the facility one of the most comprehensive cardiac centres in the region.

The president also highlighted improvements at the Lethem Regional Hospital, where fewer patients now require medical evacuation to Georgetown. He noted that while thousands once travelled to Brazil for treatment, medivac cases have dropped sharply as services expand locally.

To further strengthen cardiac care,

the government has partnered with Northwell Health and the George Subraj Foundation, which has committed \$209 million toward research, training and improved cardiovascular services nationwide.

An additional catheterisation laboratory has also been added at Georgetown Public Hospital, part of efforts to expand cardiology services and build a broader care economy focused on accessible, high-quality healthcare for Guyanese.



A cardiac surgery being performed on a patient

NEW MACKENZIE-WISMAR CROSSING FOR JUNE OPENING



US\$35M Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge on track for June completion

Residents and commuters in Linden are expected to benefit from smoother traffic flow and improved connectivity as the new US\$35 million Mackenzie-Wismar Bridge moves closer to completion, with full operations anticipated by June.

Works Bishop Juan Edghill made the announcement while addressing the opening of the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge office building, describing the milestone as a significant moment for Region Ten.

“The Mackenzie/Wismar bridge is going to be ready for June, and that is going to be a big day for Linden,” he said.

The 220-metre-long precast structure, being constructed by China Railway Construction

(Caribbean) Co Ltd, is designed to strengthen the link between the Mackenzie and Wismar communities. Once completed, it is expected to reduce congestion and improve daily travel for residents, workers and businesses moving between the two areas.

Supporting infrastructure is also being developed alongside the bridge. Two access roads and roundabouts are being installed, while connecting roads will be expanded to four

lanes. The upgraded roadway will include a geo-carriageway, median and traffic islands aimed at improving safety and traffic flow. Roundabouts on both sides of the bridge will link the crossing to the Linden-Mabura Road and the wider highway network.

The project forms part of a broader push to upgrade transportation infrastructure in the region, including improvements along the Linden-Soesdyke Highway.

Minister Edghill also highlighted several other bridge initiatives, including plans for a

permanent Kurupakari Bridge across the Essequibo River to replace the existing pontoon crossing. He noted that sections of the old Demerara Harbour Bridge are being repurposed to support new links, including the Timehri Sandhills to Bartica corridor and connections between Leguan and Wakenaam.

Additionally, negotiations are advancing for a new Berbice River Bridge, with the government preparing to sign a contract once financing arrangements are finalised.

NEW COMMAND CENTRE OPENED TO MANAGE BHARRAT JAGDEO BRIDGE OPERATIONS



New operations hub commissioned for Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge

A new office complex designed to support the smooth operation of the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge has officially opened, bringing staff together under a modern facility equipped for round-the-clock monitoring and maintenance.

The building features offices and collaborative workspaces, a 24/7

Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill said experienced staff from the Demerara Harbour Bridge have been retained to ensure a seamless transition.

“We have retained some members of the staff from the old bridge to transition here to ensure that daily operations continue seamlessly. The rest of the staff have been absorbed into the ministry and its agencies, including the Special Projects Unit,” he said.

Staff at the new facility will oversee daily bridge operations, including monitoring traffic flow and maintaining

infrastructure. Among the new features under their watch is the nighttime illumination of the bridge’s superstructure, which has quickly become a visual attraction.

The relocation also allows the Special Projects Unit to occupy the former Demerara Harbour Bridge building, providing expanded space for coordinating infrastructure projects nationwide.

General Manager Wayne Watson, who previously led operations at the Demerara Harbour Bridge, will continue in the same role for the new crossing. He expressed appreciation for the investment

and underscored the importance of accountability.

“We have cameras, and any incidents, speeding or accidents, as soon as the information is available, we will pass it to the police for the necessary

action to be taken,” Watson said.

The new operations hub is expected to enhance monitoring, improve response times, and support efficient management of one of the country’s key transport links.



New operations hub commissioned for Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge

THOUSANDS OF HOMES TO BENEFIT FROM GRID-CONNECTED SOLAR INITIATIVE



Solar push targets 5,000 homes in first phase of grid-connected programme

Thousands of households across Guyana are being encouraged to turn their rooftops into mini power plants as the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) moves ahead with the first phase of its National Grid-Connected Solar Programme, targeting 5,000 homes.

The initiative allows residents to generate their own electricity using rooftop solar panels while remaining connected to the national grid. During

daylight hours, homes will use power produced by their systems, with the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) supplying additional electricity when needed. Any excess energy generated can be fed back into the grid, allowing homeowners to earn credits and, in some cases, receive payments.

Speaking on the Starting Point podcast, Chief Executive Officer of the GEA, Dr Mahender Sharma, said the programme is designed to reduce reliance on heavy fuel oil while lowering electricity costs for households.

The agency has

established a support system to guide homeowners through the process, including technical assessments, quotations, financing and installation. Technical teams will also assist with approvals from GPL and the Government Electrical Inspectorate, ensuring systems are properly installed and connected.

To make the initiative more accessible, the GEA has partnered with local financial institutions, including commercial banks and the New Building Society, to offer financing options. Estimated monthly

payments range between \$7,000 and \$26,000 depending on system size and financing terms.

Dr Sharma noted that a typical five-kilowatt system, estimated at about \$1.2 million, can generate electricity valued at roughly \$28,000 per month, significantly reducing household utility costs.

The solar rollout forms part of a broader national push to expand renewable energy. In addition to the household programme, government has already launched the 30,000 Solar Photovoltaic project for

hinterland and riverine communities, while several solar farms have been commissioned in Regions Two, Five, Six and Nine.

Upgrades to solar mini-grids in multiple regions are also underway, expected to benefit more than 12,000 residents and provide reliable 24-hour electricity to public facilities.

Together with planned investments in hydropower, gas-to-energy and utility-scale solar farms, the grid-connected programme is expected to improve energy security, reduce fossil fuel dependence and support Guyana’s transition to cleaner power.

CANAL NO. 1 POLDER GETS NEW AGRO-PROCESSING FACILITY



\$58.5M agro-processing facility opens in Region Three

Farmers in Canal Number One Polder and surrounding communities now have access to a new \$58.5 million facility aimed at transforming fresh produce into market-ready products, marking a major step in the expansion of agro-processing in Region

Three.

The newly commissioned agro-processing plant is expected to significantly increase farmers' incomes, reduce post-harvest losses, and create year-round employment opportunities in rural communities. By converting raw agricultural produce into value-added goods, the facility is designed to strengthen the entire farming value chain.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Minister of

Agriculture Zulfiqar Mustapha said the investment represents a shift away from the traditional export of raw commodities toward a more modern and profitable agricultural model.

"For too long, we have been producing primary products and exporting primary products. Today, in Canal Polder, we are now harvesting that potential," he said, stressing that agro-processing is about transforming agriculture into a driver of opportunity and empowerment.

He noted that Canal

Number One Polder was strategically chosen due to its strong agricultural output, particularly in fruit production, and encouraged farmers to make full use of the facility.

The plant is equipped with mixers, blenders, stoves, stainless steel containers, heavy-duty scales, and chillers. It is also designed to operate on a 24-hour basis, allowing for efficient, mechanised processing that helps lower operational costs. Importantly, the facility will operate free of cost and provide support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the Guyana Marketing Corporation, continues to expand agro-processing infrastructure nationwide, with 15 facilities now established across Regions One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Nine, and Ten.

Minister Mustapha said the initiative ensures that farmers in both coastal and hinterland communities have equitable access to modern agricultural support, reinforcing the government's broader commitment to building a more resilient and income-generating agriculture sector.



Excavators removing mud from Bellamy Canal to build a wall behind existing boulders along the foreshore in Mahaicony

Farmers and residents in Mahaicony could soon see improved flood protection as the Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), invites bids for new drainage structures along the Bellamy Canal in Region Five. The project, estimated at \$59.4

BELLAMY CANAL SET FOR UPGRADE TO PROTECT FARMS AND COMMUNITIES IN REGION FIVE

million, forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen drainage infrastructure and improve water management in the Mahaica-Berbice region. Once completed, the work is expected to reduce flooding and better protect farmlands and nearby communities, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall and high tides.

The Bellamy

Canal plays a critical role in draining agricultural lands in Mahaicony, an area historically vulnerable to flooding. Over the years, government interventions have included dredging and the construction of embankments to prevent overtopping and improve the canal's efficiency.

The new drainage structures will build on

those improvements, enhancing resilience and supporting agricultural productivity in the area.

Region Five has benefited from sustained investment in drainage and irrigation infrastructure in recent years. These include expanded canal networks, additional pumps, and the distribution of mini-excavators to Neighbourhood

Democratic Councils in 2025 to improve local drainage capacity.

Earlier this year, rehabilitation of the 1,280-metre roadway along the Bellamy Canal, from Novar to Calcutta, was completed, improving access between communities while complementing ongoing flood mitigation efforts.

\$4.5B PARIKA PORT VISION ADVANCES WITH NEW ROAD AND PARKING WORKS

Efforts to modernise the Parika Port Facility are advancing, with the government seeking contractors for a new access road and parking apron to support growing commuter demand.

The Ministry of Public Works has invited bids for the construction works, which form part of a wider programme to upgrade transportation infrastructure and

improve connectivity along the Essequibo corridor.

The project is expected to ease congestion at the busy Parika Stelling, improve traffic flow, and enhance safety for the increasing number of commuters and vehicles using the facility on a daily basis. It will also support more efficient ferry operations and contribute to

economic activity in the region.

The works are part of the broader transformation of the Parika Stelling into a modern \$4.5 billion international port facility, with Phase 1 construction already underway since late 2025.

Minister of Public Works Juan Edghill previously said the

upgraded terminal is intended to play a major role in regional trade, tourism, and waterfront development, including improved export access for local producers into CARICOM markets.

The investment is part of a wider push to modernise ports, roads, and transport systems nationwide in response to rising demand and



A design of the Parika International Port Project

expanding economic activity.

Once completed, the new access road and parking apron are expected to significantly improve commuter convenience and strengthen the efficiency of operations at one of the country's busiest transport hubs.



Kesh Nandlall, Head of the Executive Management Committee of GPL, and Avery Trim, General Manager of LECI. Mr. Amir Dillawar, Program Coordinator of GUY SOL signed the MOU

Power reliability in Linden is expected to improve markedly as GPL and LECI partner to reinforce the local grid with new clean energy capacity, aimed

at easing long-standing supply constraints and supporting growing demand in Region Ten.

The Guyana Power and Light (GPL) and the Linden Electricity

Company Incorporated (LECI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see 15 megawatts of clean energy injected into the Linden power system. The initiative forms part of a broader government strategy to modernise energy infrastructure and improve service delivery in hinterland and mining communities.

The additional capacity is expected to benefit more than 14,000 households across the Mackenzie and Wismar Shores, as well as commercial districts and essential public services that rely on consistent electricity supply.

LECI General Manager Avery Trim noted that the improved energy supply will support planned housing

developments in the Wismar Land area of Amelia's Ward, where additional lots are being prepared for allocation. He pointed to ongoing infrastructure works aimed at facilitating future growth in the area.

Currently, Linden's power system operates under strain due to increasing demand and limited generation capacity. The new

clean energy injection is expected to reduce pressure on the grid, improve efficiency, and minimise disruptions.

The project is being seen as a key step toward strengthening energy security, supporting development, and improving overall quality of life in Linden and surrounding communities.

NEW ENERGY PARTNERSHIP TO EASE PRESSURE ON LINDEN'S GRID

2,600 BAGS OF ONIONS HARVESTED AS REGION NINE PROJECT PAYS OFF



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha at the A. Wahab Imports' bond

Farmers at Manari Creek in Region Nine are celebrating a bumper onion harvest that has already generated more than \$15 million, as a government-backed push to expand local food production begins to pay off.

The crop, planted on December 27, 2025, produced approximately 2,600 bags of onions after just 90 days. Each bag weighs 20 kilograms, bringing total production to about 52,000 kilograms. Sold at \$6,000 per bag, the harvest has provided a major income boost for farmers in the remote community.

With demand strong, markets were quickly secured in Lethem, while 1,000 bags have been set aside for shipment to Georgetown. During a visit to the A. Wahab Imports bond in Georgetown, Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha confirmed that roughly 2,000 bags have already been transported and are being sold and distributed nationwide.

The success has prompted plans to scale up production. According to Minister Mustapha, farmers from

Regions Two, Five and Six have already expressed interest in entering onion cultivation, while the government is preparing for large-scale expansion.

“We have a number of entities that want to be part of this process to purchase these onions. The president has instructed that the Ministry of Agriculture go into large-scale production. The next crop, I am hoping that we can go into about 200 acres,” he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), will partner with farmers to provide technical support, land preparation and other resources needed to increase output.

The initiative forms part of wider efforts to boost hinterland agriculture, reduce the food import bill by 25 per cent by 2030, and position Guyana to eventually export onions regionally while strengthening national food security.



Guyana to export soya beans to Barbados for first time

Expanding cultivation in Guyana's savannahs is already bearing fruit, with the country poised to begin exporting soya beans to Barbados for the first time.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that shipments are expected to begin within two weeks, during his address at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce Annual Business Meeting Outlook 2026/2027 in

GUYANA'S GROWING AGRICULTURE SECTOR OPENS DOOR TO FIRST SOYA EXPORT

Port of Spain. The development reflects Guyana's push to scale up food production, particularly in the intermediate savannahs, where new investments and improved road networks are opening thousands of acres for cultivation. Increased output of crops such as soya, tropical fruits, coffee, and cocoa is expected to feed both local demand and regional markets.

“This is about creating a full

ecosystem for production, value addition, and export,” the President said, noting that the country is building out agriculture alongside infrastructure and logistics support.

The announcement also signals deeper trade ties within the Caribbean, as Guyana positions itself as a key supplier of food to regional partners. President Ali pointed to growing connectivity with northern Brazil, describing it as an

emerging economic corridor that will help reduce transportation costs and expand market access.

Beyond agriculture, he urged Caribbean governments and businesses to address long-standing bottlenecks affecting regional integration, including customs, immigration, and transportation inefficiencies. He noted that modernising these systems is essential to improving trade and

movement across the region.

The President also highlighted opportunities created by Guyana's expanding energy, industrial and logistics infrastructure, encouraging Caribbean businesses to pursue consortium-based investments to achieve scale and compete globally.

“The future requires partnership, scale, and the willingness to act decisively,” he said.

NEW TRAINING HELPS GUYANESE TURN BACKYARD GARDENING INTO BUSINESS

Guyanese are gaining hands-on training in climate-smart agriculture as part of a new initiative aimed at strengthening food security and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The programme, launched by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security through the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), is being delivered in collaboration with the National Agricultural

Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) under the Ministry of Agriculture. It focuses on equipping participants with adaptive farming techniques designed to withstand changing climate conditions while improving crop yields.

Participants recently attended a training session at the Guyana School of Agriculture, where they explored food preservation and condiment production as value-added agricultural

opportunities. They sampled freeze-dried fruits, including mango, pineapple and coconut, along with tomato powder, before moving to the food processing lab for practical exercises.

Using ingredients they brought from home, participants created pepper sauce and green seasoning, taking part in every stage of production, from washing and cutting to blending, boiling and bottling. The hands-on

approach allowed them to develop skills that can support small-scale business ventures and household income.

The training concluded at NAREI, where participants toured the shade house and learned about plant species, soil types and shade house systems. They also observed proper techniques for cultivating dragon fruit and other crops suited to climate-smart agricultural practices.

Organisers say the programme is designed to help participants support their families while exploring agriculture as a business. The ministry is encouraging interested persons to register through the WIIN website as the initiative expands to additional regions.

The training forms part of government's broader food security agenda and is expected to benefit individuals interested in backyard gardening as well as those seeking to establish or grow agricultural enterprises.



Participants engaging in the WIIN Climate Smart Agriculture training



Government hands over two school buses to Region Six RDC

STUDENTS TO LEAVE SCHOOL WITH DRIVER'S THEORY CERTIFICATION

Students in Region Six are expected to benefit from improved transportation with the addition of two new 30-seater school buses handed over to the Regional Democratic Council.

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with responsibility for

Finance, Ashni Singh, delivered the buses noting the government's continued investment in supporting access to education across communities.

The simple handover ceremony was attended by Member of Parliament Zamal Hussain; Regional

Executive Officer Narindra Persaud; Regional Vice Chairman Wajid Saheed Khan; Deputy Regional Executive Officer Mary Samaroo; Regional Education Officer Sattish Udit, along with education officers and staff of the RDC.





Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally

New financing options on the horizon could soon help turn small business ideas into reality for many Guyanese, particularly young entrepreneurs and women seeking a foothold in the economy.

At a sensitisation session at the Better Hope Community Centre, residents gathered to learn about plans for the upcoming Guyana Development Bank, which will offer microcredit loans and hands-on mentorship

aimed at nurturing small enterprises from concept to sustainability.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally told participants that microcredit loans of up to \$3 million will be available to individuals who often struggle to meet the strict collateral and credit requirements of traditional commercial banks. The initiative, he explained, is designed to give aspiring entrepreneurs a practical

MICROCREDIT PUSH TO GROW SMALL BUSINESSES NATIONWIDE



The first in a series of engagements ahead of the bank's official launch

starting point while stimulating innovation and economic growth.

“The development bank is there for the development of our people, to give them a head start in achieving their dreams and aspirations,” he said.

Beyond microcredit,

entrepreneurs will also have access to financing of up to \$7 million at preferential rates through partnerships with commercial banks. The support package will include mentorship, financial literacy training, and ongoing business coaching to help recipients manage funds effectively and grow sustainable ventures.

“We will work with you to ensure that your business plan is sound, so that when you take the loan, you can succeed. We will continue working with you throughout the process,” Minister Ally added, noting that similar programmes

have already shown strong repayment levels.

For many in attendance, the initiative represents more than just financing. Kishawn Permanand described the programme as a pathway for young people to become productive and independent.

“This is a very strong, positive initiative for our country... it is a stepping stone for youths to actually start a business and be productive,” he said.

Aspiring entrepreneur Quayana Hinds said the outreach session provided valuable insight into opportunities for

women, while Eufarattia Beresford highlighted the potential impact of zero-interest financing, particularly for single parents and those unable to qualify for traditional loans.

The Better Hope meeting marked the first in a series of engagements ahead of the bank's official launch. Additional sessions have since been held, including with more than 200 young entrepreneurs at West Central Mall in Leonora, Region Three, and at Cottontree Primary School in Region Five, as awareness builds around the new opportunities.

ENTREPRENEURS SHARPEN SKILLS THROUGH GTA BUSINESS ETIQUETTE CLINICS

Entrepreneurs and small business operators are gaining practical tools to strengthen their operations through business clinics hosted by the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), as government continues to invest in private sector development and service quality.

The initiative, run under the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, is part of broader efforts to raise professional standards, improve customer service, and prepare local businesses to benefit



Quancy Cummings

from growing tourism and economic activity.

At a recent business and etiquette training session, participants said the experience offered valuable insight into

improving day-to-day operations and customer engagement.

Quancy Cummings of Family Guys Transportation said the training helped him better understand how to manage business interactions and resolve customer issues.

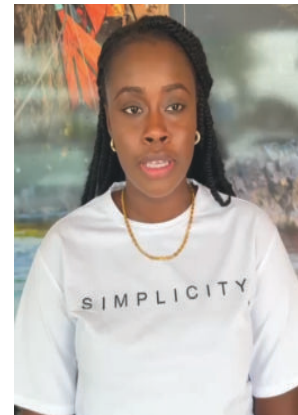
“The business etiquette course is important for all potential employers and entrepreneurs because it gives you the opportunity to learn more about yourself and how to develop your

business,” he said.

Cummings added that the sessions provided practical guidance on communication, customer reception, and handling complaints effectively.

“It teaches you about how to deal with the customers’ reception area, how to deal with issues, resolve them, and also how to better yourself to communicate effectively with your customers,” he explained.

Another participant,



Tonya Reddock

Tanya Reddock of The Balance, said the programme strengthened her understanding of professionalism and

communication, noting that the skills gained will support both personal and career growth.

“I’ve gained valuable skills that I am confident will positively impact both my personal growth and future career,” she said, while expressing appreciation to the GTA for the initiative.

The business clinics form part of a wider national push to empower small and medium-sized enterprises, improve tourism services, and create sustainable economic opportunities across Guyana.

The long-awaited transformation of the Georgetown Zoo and Botanical Gardens is expected to begin shortly, with government promising a modern facility designed for education, conservation and recreation.

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the announcement during the commissioning of the Guyana-China Friendship Park on the West Bank Demerara, describing the project as one that will become “the pride of South America”.

“I’m pleased to announce that the Georgetown Zoo and Botanical Gardens transformation project will commence with an investment that

NEW LIFE FOR ZOO, BOTANICAL GARDENS AS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT NEARS START



Government to transform Zoo and Botanical Gardens into regional attraction

would make it the pride of South America,” he said, adding that the upgraded space will serve both

educational and recreational purposes. Plans for the redevelopment include rehabilitation of the

gardens and water systems, alongside construction of modern zoo infrastructure aimed at improving animal

care and overall facility management. Visitors are also expected to benefit from enhanced amenities, improved accessibility, and dedicated educational spaces focused on biodiversity and environmental awareness.

The upgraded site will be integrated into a broader network of city walkways, including green, cultural, commercial and waterfront corridors, as part of wider urban development plans for Georgetown. Additional works will include new pathways, bridges,

landscaping, and strengthened security and operational systems.

The initiative forms part of a broader Georgetown restoration effort aligned with the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, aimed at promoting sustainable tourism while protecting biodiversity.

In October 2024, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo also engaged children, students and other stakeholders to gather ideas on improving the historic facilities, signalling strong public interest in the transformation.

REGION TWO TO GET NEW CPCE CAMPUS AS TEACHER TRAINING GOES CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES



Sonia Parag, Minister of Education

Teachers along the Pomeroon River and other remote communities in Region Two are set to benefit from easier access to professional training, following the announcement of a new Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE) centre to be constructed in Charity.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag

revealed that \$45 million has already been allocated in the 2026 budget to begin the project, which forms part of the government's push to decentralise teacher training and remove longstanding barriers faced by educators in hard-to-reach areas.

The new facility will allow teachers to pursue certification closer to home, reducing the need

for lengthy travel or reliance solely on online instruction. Addressing headteachers at a recent forum in Region Two, Minister Parag said the initiative represents a major step toward educational equity.

"Teachers no longer have to travel to wherever or go just online," she told participants. **"You will have the experience of an in-classroom teaching at CPCE right here in Region Two. And that's something that you should applaud."**

For many educators, the announcement brings relief after years of demanding commutes. Acting Headteacher of Jacklow



Janika Jones, Headteacher (ag) of Jacklow Nursery School in the Pomeroon

Nursery, Janika Jones, recalled the challenges she faced while pursuing her own training. She explained that she often had to arrive at the CPCE centre in Anna

Regina by early morning and rush through her responsibilities to make the return journey home.

"I have experienced that and it wasn't easy. We usually have to be on the water top late at nights. Sometimes we reach home after 10:00 p.m. and then we still have to attend to our children and our families," Jones said.

The planned Charity campus will include a dedicated classroom block, staff offices, kitchen area and washroom facilities, all within an elevated ridge-and-beam structure designed for the riverine environment.

The new centre

will support the government's aim of increasing the national percentage of trained teachers from over 90 per cent to 100 per cent. It also builds on significant investments in teacher training in recent years, including record graduating cohorts, with more than 1,300 teachers completing programmes in the most recent intake.

Minister Parag stressed that strengthening teacher training remains central to improving classroom outcomes.

"The development of our teachers means the development of our children and our future," she said.

STUDENTS TO LEAVE SCHOOL WITH DRIVER'S THEORY CERTIFICATION

Soon, students across Guyana will leave secondary school with more than academic qualifications, they will also carry a driver's theory certification, giving them a practical life skill before graduation.

The certification will be delivered through the Guyana Digital School, transforming how young people access driver education while easing the traditional manual process.

The initiative will allow fifth form students to complete the driver's theory curriculum and sit the examination shortly after writing their Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exams. Minister of Education Sonia Parag described the programme as a major addition to the national curriculum, noting that driver education has never before been formally offered within secondary schools.

By using the period

after CSEC and before the end of the school term, students will have time to complete the programme while still engaged in the school environment. The approach is intended to equip young people early with knowledge of road safety, responsible driving practices and proper road use.

For many students, the opportunity removes a common hurdle, navigating the process independently after leaving school. Instead,

they will graduate already prepared to move to the next stage of obtaining a driver's licence.

The initiative emerged from discussions earlier this year involving Minister Parag, Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond and Minister of Labour Keoma Griffith. The collaboration forms part of a broader push to deliver key national certifications through the Digital School platform.

Beyond convenience,



Driver's theory to become part of secondary school experience

the programme aims to build a culture of responsibility among young road users. By embedding driver's education into the school experience, students will graduate not only academically prepared, but also equipped with practical knowledge for everyday life.

OVER 11,000 SMALL CONTRACTORS STEP FORWARD FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS



These contractors are qualifying for smaller projects

More than 11,000 small contractors across Guyana have stepped forward for a chance to take on government projects valued below \$15 million, signalling growing optimism among small builders and tradespeople eager to expand their

businesses. President Dr Irfaan Ali announced the figure while engaging residents in Region Three, noting that the strong response reflects increased confidence in a procurement system designed to give smaller operators

a fair opportunity. The initiative targets contractors bidding for projects ranging from under \$5 million to \$15 million, many of which focus on everyday community needs.

In Region Three alone, about 1,500 contracts are expected to be awarded, potentially placing local contractors at the centre of improvements in their own communities. Authorities are expected to begin identifying priority works in the coming days, including upgrades to playfields, drainage networks, burial grounds,

schools, health centres, administrative buildings and recreational spaces.

For many small contractors, these projects represent more than short-term jobs. They offer a pathway to build capacity, employ residents and contribute directly to community development. The works are also expected to form part of a broader maintenance plan aimed at preserving public infrastructure.

The president also highlighted plans to make better use of public reserves and open spaces, encouraging structured development

while protecting community assets. He urged residents to support the effort through responsible practices, including proper waste disposal.

The initiative follows

a call for contractors to register to qualify for smaller projects, with the government emphasising transparency, fairness and faster delivery across communities.



IDB Country Representative Lorena Solórzano-Salazar

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT MUST BE "MEASURABLE" - GUYANA TELLS INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Kwame McCoy detailing Guyana's rights-based approach to inclusion

Disability inclusion must be measured in real outcomes, Guyana told global parliamentarians during a high-level debate in Istanbul, as it outlined an ambitious national agenda aimed at

expanding opportunities and strengthening rights for persons with disabilities.

Speaking at a preparatory session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on April 17,

2026, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Kwame McCoy detailed Guyana's rights-based approach to inclusion, anchored in international commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

He emphasised that inclusion is not only a moral obligation but a key pillar of sustainable development, noting that Guyana is deliberately shifting from welfare-based support toward economic empowerment and participation.

Central to this

approach is a national target to create at least 5,000 jobs for persons with disabilities over the next five years. This is being supported through skills training, expanded access to financing, and initiatives aimed at removing barriers to employment.

Minister McCoy highlighted the establishment of the Centre for Equity, Opportunity and Innovation, which provides training and employment pathways, alongside plans to expand similar centres across Guyana's regions.

He also pointed to broader reforms across housing and

education, where persons with disabilities are prioritised for access to homes and supported through inclusive education systems and specialised programmes.

Accessibility has been embedded into national planning, with new public infrastructure now required to include universal design features to ensure equal access.

In agriculture, targeted initiatives such as training programmes and model farms are being developed to support entrepreneurship and income generation among persons with disabilities.

Minster McCoy also

underscored Guyana's social protection framework, noting that more than 27,000 people receive public assistance, with over \$8 billion allocated in 2026 for citizens with permanent disabilities.

He told delegates that meaningful inclusion requires participation in decision-making, urging parliaments to strengthen oversight, financing, and accountability.

"Development that excludes is development that fails," he said, calling for a shift from policy commitments to measurable, results-driven action.

SKILLS TRAINING OPENS NEW DOORS FOR 84 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN REGION SIX

For 84 persons living with disabilities in Region Six, new doors to employment and self-reliance have opened following their graduation from a hands-on skills training initiative.

The programme, facilitated by the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning's Board of Industrial Training (BIT) in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady, equipped participants with practical, income-generating skills. Training covered areas such as commercial food preparation, pastry making, floral

arrangement, craft production, painting, and small electronic repairs.

The graduation ceremony, held at the new Empower Guyana building at Palmyra, marked a milestone for participants who are now better positioned to pursue employment or start small businesses.

For graduate Teresa Moore, the programme helped turn a lifelong passion into opportunity. She said the initiative created a space where persons with disabilities felt valued and encouraged to step confidently into society.

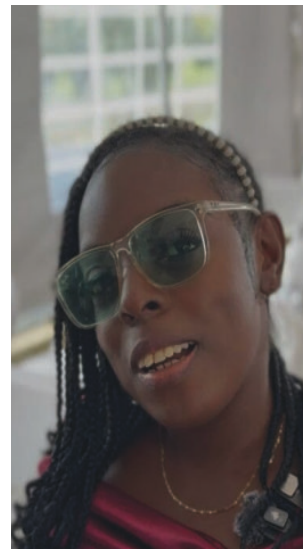
"After the First

Lady decided to open this place, she made it possible for persons with disabilities to feel loved... We feel wanted, and we feel that we can go out there and be like normal people, just like everybody else," Moore shared.

Visually impaired graduate Michele De Weever also described the training as life-changing. Once focused mainly on household responsibilities, she now plans to launch a small floral business using the skills she developed.

"I want to open a small floral business, where I can be

active and learn more," she said, noting



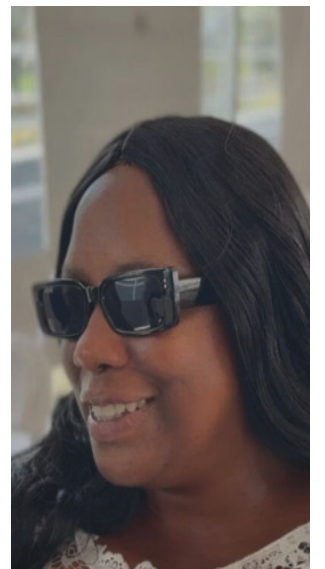
Graduate Teresa Moore

that the programme strengthened her

confidence and independence.

First Lady Arya Ali described the graduation as another milestone that opens doors to independence and restores dignity, allowing participants to contribute meaningfully to national development. She added that the training supports the broader goal of integrating 5,000 persons living with disabilities into the workforce.

With support from agencies such as the Small Business Bureau and upcoming financing opportunities through the Guyana Development Bank, many graduates



Graduate Michelle De Weever

are now preparing to transform their skills into sustainable livelihoods.

FREE EYE TESTING, SPECTACLES PROGRAMME REACH MORE GUYANESE

Hundreds of thousands of Guyanese are now seeing more clearly as the government expands its Eye Testing and Spectacles Subsidy Programme, bringing free vision screening and financial support for corrective lenses to citizens nationwide.

Since the initiative was launched in 2024, 175,272 vouchers have been used for eye examinations, while 160,282 persons have received assistance to purchase spectacles. The programme provides citizens with a voucher

for eye testing along with a \$15,000 subsidy toward glasses, helping to remove cost barriers that often prevent routine check-ups.

Before the programme, many people delayed eye exams due to expense, inconvenience, or limited access, allowing manageable vision problems to worsen. By pairing free testing with support for spectacles, the initiative is helping individuals address issues early and improve their quality of life.

President Dr

Mohamed Irfaan Ali said a key strength of the programme is its delivery model, which relies on both public and private providers to expand access efficiently. Under the approach, government finances the service while private specialists conduct the testing and provide care.

"This helps us to utilise existing and spare capacity within the private sector, and that is efficient," the President explained, describing the initiative as a **"public financed, privately delivered"**

model.

The effort also extends into schools, where students are being screened to detect vision problems early. The aim is to test children multiple times throughout their school years to prevent undetected issues from affecting learning outcomes.

Expanded in March 2026 to include all Guyanese citizens, the programme forms part of a broader push toward preventative healthcare and improved access to essential services across the country.



Over 175,000 eye tests completed under national programme

ROAD UPGRADE OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ST CUTHBERT'S MISSION

Daily life in St Cuthbert's Mission along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway is becoming easier and more productive following the completion of a \$196 million road project that residents say is already transforming transportation, farming and tourism in the Region Four Amerindian community.

The newly completed road now connects riverine farming areas to the village centre, allowing farmers to move cassava and other produce more efficiently and transport goods onward to Georgetown.

For many residents, the improvement means less time navigating rough terrain and more opportunities to earn income.

Toshao Alvaro Simon described the project as long overdue, noting that poor road conditions, especially during the rainy season, previously restricted access and often required off-road vehicles.

"This project has been in discussion for a long time. However, it was only after we had the opportunity to engage the president and emphasise its



\$196 million road project St Cuthbert's Mission

importance to our community last year that we saw real progress. The road was completed within

eight months," he said during an interview with the Department of Public Information.

The project, funded

through the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture, also created employment for residents, with villagers directly involved in construction. Toshao Simon praised the contractor for working closely with the community and contributing to the project's success.

Beyond agriculture, the improved access is expected to boost tourism.

Mission Landing, a popular recreational spot where visitors gather to swim and relax, is now accessible to all types

of vehicles. Residents anticipate increased visitor traffic, opening opportunities to sell fresh produce, crafts and traditional foods.

The new road is also improving access to essential services, including schools, the health centre and the village office, making every day travel more convenient for families.

With additional drainage upgrades and further road development planned, residents believe St Cuthbert's Mission is poised for continued growth and expanded economic opportunities.

NEW CONCRETE ROAD TO TRANSFORM ACCESS AT SWAN - MADEWINI ENTRANCE

Residents of Swan along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway are set to benefit from improved access and safer travel as works get underway to reconstruct the community's main entrance road into a concrete thoroughfare.

The \$84.2 million project, which falls under the rehabilitation of Swan- Madewini's first entrance, aims to enhance mobility for hundreds of residents and commuters who rely on the roadway daily. Previous construction

works had deteriorated after defects emerged, prompting calls for a more durable solution.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Madanlall Ramraj, recently met with residents to assure them that the new road will be built to higher standards to ensure long-term reliability. He emphasised that the intervention reflects the government's commitment to addressing community needs.

O u r

government's 2026 National Budget, themed 'Putting People First,' is not just a slogan. It is a guiding principle that shapes how we respond to the needs of citizens," the minister said, adding that projects must serve people effectively and meet required standards.

The scope of work includes six inches of structural reinforced concrete, BRC mesh, and high-tension steel dowels, along with hard shoulders to improve

durability and safety. Alternative routes will also be established following consultation with residents to minimise disruption and maintain connectivity during construction.

Minister Ramraj noted that reliable roads are essential for families, particularly children travelling to school and residents commuting to work. The reconstruction, he said, will bring immediate relief and improve everyday life for the Swan community.



Government injects \$84.2M to improve Swan access road

DISPLACED VENDORS FIND NEW FOOTING AS AUBREY BARKER UPGRADE RESHAPES SOUTH GEORGETOWN



Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill addressing at the commissioning of the Aubrey Barker Road

Twenty-three vendors displaced during the construction of the \$6 billion Aubrey Barker Road are getting a fresh start, with new lots allocated along a newly developed tarmac designed to bring order and opportunity back to their businesses.

The announcement was made by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill during the commissioning of the upgraded roadway. He said all affected vendors have been fully accommodated, allowing them to resume operations in a more structured and safer environment along the improved corridor.

"We pulled the lots of the 23 vendors who were displaced as a result of this project, and they will be situated here on this tarmac," he explained.

To support their restart, the government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, will help

vendors access financing under a Guyana Development Bank initiative. The assistance will allow them to construct uniform stalls, whether using containers or permanent block structures.

Even after the stalls are established, officials said a significant portion of the tarmac will remain available for wider community use, with proposals including a children's play park and other recreational amenities for residents of South Ruimveldt.

Vendors along Agriculture Road set for safer, organised relocation

In a related development, vendors

along Agriculture Road in Mon Repos on the East Coast of Demerara are also set to be relocated to a newly completed tarmac. The move is part of the wider Agriculture Road Expansion Project, which aims to clear space for construction while improving safety and reducing disruption for commuters and nearby residents.

Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Madanlall Ramraj, recently inspected the site, confirming that preparations for relocation are well advanced. He said the new facility will allow vendors to continue operating in a cleaner, more organised setting

with better customer access.

Authorities say mobilisation will begin shortly, with the relocation to be carried out in a structured and orderly manner. The broader plan also includes the establishment

of vending plazas in every Neighbourhood Democratic Council, featuring food courts and proper amenities to create safer, more tourist-friendly business environments while protecting livelihoods.



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Madanlall Ramraj, inspecting the new tarmac

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ORIGINS FASHION FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH BIGGER FOCUS ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY



Origins 2026 launched to expand opportunities for Guyanese creatives

The next chapter of Guyana's fashion movement has begun, with Origins 2026 expanding on the platform introduced in 2025.

Origins: Guyana Fashion Festival 2026 was officially launched under the

theme "A Diamond Legacy: Fashioning 60 Years" with organisers positioning the event as more than a fashion showcase, but a structured vehicle for developing the country's creative sector.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues said the initiative is designed to contribute to the growth of Guyana's orange economy by creating opportunities for designers, models, and other creatives.

"Origins is not just about individual success. It is about contributing to the comprehensive development of Guyana's orange

economy," she stated.

The 2026 edition will introduce five major award categories: Best Fashion Designer, Best Emerging Designer, Outstanding Storyteller/Innovator, Best Female Model, and Best Male Model. The top prize for Best Fashion Designer is valued at \$1 million, while winners in the remaining categories will each receive \$500,000.

The festival continues to serve as a development hub for designers, models, makeup artists, and other professionals within the fashion ecosystem. Participants will benefit from structured training, workshops, and mentorship

opportunities aimed at building long-term careers.

Minister Rodrigues also highlighted the importance of integrating local creatives into national and international platforms to ensure

wider recognition of Guyanese talent.

"We want to see our designers integrated into national events and platforms... showcasing Guyana's culture, creativity, and identity," she

noted. With government backing and growing industry support, Origins 2026 is expected to further strengthen the creative sector while transforming talent into sustainable economic opportunities.



Origins 2026 launched to expand opportunities for Guyanese creatives

GIANT GUYANA FLAG FLYOVER ACROSS NEW YORK PLANNED FOR 60TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Guyanese living in New York are set to mark the 60th Independence Anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana with a series of symbolic events featuring a giant national flag flown across some of the city's most iconic locations.

The Consulate General and the Guyana Permanent Mission to the United Nations will host the commemorative activities, bringing

together Guyanese nationals, members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Guyana and invited officials in celebration of the country's independence and national development.

On May 25 and 26, 2026, an aerial flyover will display a large Guyana flag over key sites including Lido Beach, Coney Island Beach, the Hudson River



One of the locations for the fly over

the George Washington Bridge, Battery Park, Liberty Park in New Jersey, and Brooklyn. The display will run daily from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A second event will be held on May 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center in Queens, featuring a flag-raising ceremony and reception.

Organisers say the

flyover is intended to serve as a unifying moment for the diaspora, honouring their resilience and contributions while reflecting on Guyana's journey since independence in 1966. Members of the public are encouraged to view the flyover from designated public spaces along the flight path.

KING'S BATON RELAY ENERGISES ATHLETES AHEAD OF GLASGOW 2026 GAMES



Guyana joins Commonwealth journey as King's Baton arrives in Georgetown

The King's Baton Relay made a spirited stop at the Botanical Gardens in Georgetown, bringing together athletes, officials and supporters in a celebration of unity and national pride ahead of the Glasgow 2026

Commonwealth Games. Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips joined members of Guyana's sporting community and representatives of the Guyana Olympic Association as the baton continued its symbolic

journey across the Commonwealth. He described the relay as a powerful reminder of shared values and connections among member states.

"It speaks to a modern Commonwealth that is rooted in tradition and responsive to the evolving aspirations of its people. In this regard, Guyana is proud to play its part," the prime minister said, adding that the country stands firmly behind its athletes.

The relay, launched by His Majesty King Charles III at Buckingham Palace in March 2025, is travelling across all 74

Commonwealth nations and territories ahead of the July 23 to August 2 games in Glasgow. Guyana is preparing to send a 27-member delegation to compete in athletics, boxing, 3x3 basketball, swimming and cycling.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr said the relay reflects the Commonwealth's wider ideals, including democracy, human rights and shared development.

Following the ceremony, participants took part in a 5-kilometre road race along Main Street, turning the morning into a lively community celebration.

HOME COMING
GUYANA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30: 8. FIT
- MAY 19, 20, 21, 22, 23: FIT OF CHINESE ROBOTIC GROUP
- APRIL 17, 24 & MAY 1, 8: ARNIVAL AVENUE
- MAY 7, 12, 14: SOCA FIT
- MAY 8: TASTE OF GUYANA
- MAY 2, 9, 16 & 23: HERITAGE SITES TOUR
- MAY 3 - JUNE 7: INDEPENDENCE VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION (except Sundays)
- MAY 15, 16 & 17: GUYANA FESTIVAL
- MAY 16: ROUTE MARCH - GDF, GPF, GPS, SCOUTS
- MAY 16: KING'S DUCKY CURRY COMPETITION & CHUTNEY SONG CONCERT
- MAY 17: STREET FOOD ON THE TERRACE - AIDEN HOTEL
- MAY 17: BAND DISPLAY (GDF, GPF, BARBADOS MILITARY, AIRSHOW, MILITARY EXPO, HORSE/CANINE DISPLAY)
- MAY 20: TOUCHDOWN
- MAY 20: PARATROOPING, HORSE/CANINE DISPLAY, BAND DISPLAY
- MAY 31: EL DORADO STRINGBETTLES
- MAY 22: XTRA STINK X DUTTY JOUVERT
- MAY 23: MAGNUM BADERATION
- MAY 24: SOCA & WINE
- MAY 24: JAMMERS ON THE WATER
- MAY 25: INTER- FAITH SERVICE
- MAY 25: INDEPENDENCE FLAG RAISING
- MAY 25: KARISA KOOKLOUT
- MAY 25: NIGHT ON LAKE CAPOEY
- MAY 26: GUYANA CARNIVAL INDEPENDENCE ROAD PARADE
- MAY 27: REPUBLIC BANK PAN & SOCA
- MAY 28: STREET FOOD ON THE TERRACE - AC MARRIOTT
- MAY 30: GUYANA ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL
- MAY 31: PLAYLAND - THE CARNIVAL ALL CHILDREN SHOW
- MAY 31: LEDJAN ESCAPE

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Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST



KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 117

BRICKDAM'S NEW 12-STOREY POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO OPEN SOON



Brickdam's skyline is being transformed by a striking 12-storey glass-and-steel tower, Guyana's new police headquarters, which is now in the final stages of construction.

The US\$28 million project marks a shift toward a more modern, centralised and high-tech approach to policing.

Once opened, the building will bring key departments, including Traffic, Finance and the IMPACT Base, under one roof, cutting out the need for movement between multiple offices and making services faster and more accessible for the public.

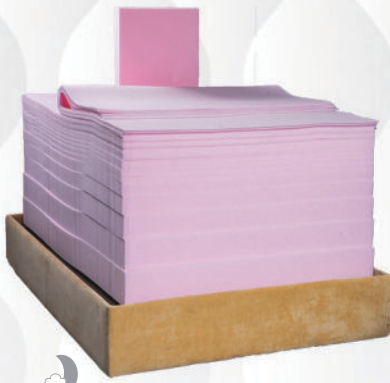
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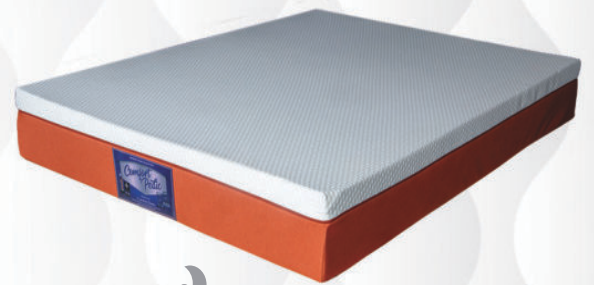
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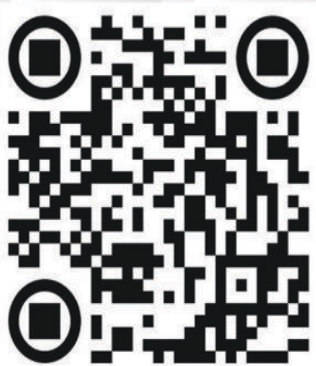
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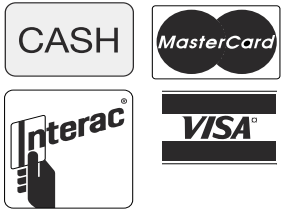


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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16

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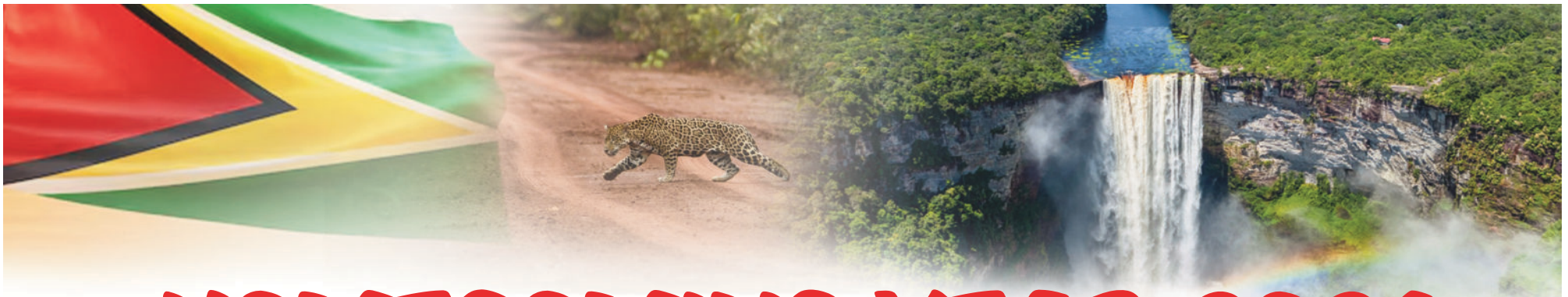
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Origins
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