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Bring your production to Guyana

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali (above) has warned overseas suppliers benefitting from Guyana's expanding consumer market that they must begin manufacturing and investing locally, insisting that companies seeking to serve the Guyanese market should also contribute to its productive capacity.

While addressing the commissioning of two new aircraft for Jags Aviation and the company's 12th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Dr Ali used the platform to caution foreign manufacturers that Guyana will no longer be content in playing the role of just a mere buyer. "If we are not good enough for you to manufacture and produce your goods by investing in our economy, then we are not good enough to consume [your] goods too," the President said. He argued that Guyana now offers the most attractive, policy-based incentives in the region for agro-processing and manufacturing and said it was time for producers to relocate production to Guyana if they wished to continue expanding their footprint there.



Jags Aviation celebrates new aircraft

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on Saturday called for greater ambition and regional positioning within Guyana's aviation industry as he delivered the keynote address at the commissioning of JAGS Aviation's new Hindustan H-228 aircraft.

The two Dornier 228 aircraft each seat 19 passengers and are expected to significantly enhance service delivery. They also introduce a first for domestic aviation in Guyana, featuring onboard washroom facilities an added level of comfort for passengers travelling long distances.

The planes were procured from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in India, further strengthening bilateral ties. The president said the investment represents more than fleet expansion, describing it as another signal of Guyana's broader economic transformation and its ambition to become a regional aviation hub.

Above, President Ali and Prime Minister Brigadier Mark Phillip are seen celebrating the arrival of one of the new planes at Ogle Airport on Saturday.

See more on Page 35

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Affordable housing plan unveiled. Pg 2

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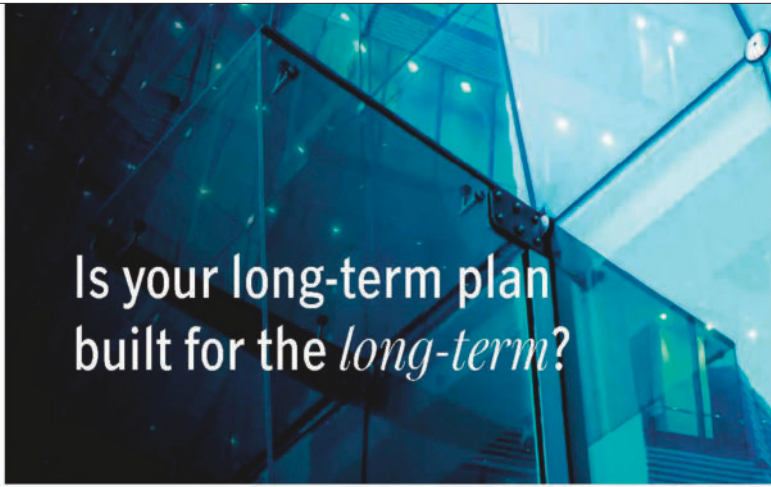
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A new affordable housing development in downtown Toronto

Feds, Province announce new affordable housing plan

By Milan Maharaj
 LJ REPORTER

The governments of Ontario and Canada have revealed the details of a new housing project in the city of Toronto that will be instrumental in ensuring an increase in the number of affordable housing units in the city.

Funding for the housing project will go into developing a mixed-used residential project in which affordable houses will be built for the people of Toronto. According to the officials from the government, the development will help in addressing housing affordability issues in the region as well as increasing rental housing units.

It is claimed by the governments that the development has been funded jointly with the objective of fast-tracking the construction process as well as creating long-term affordable housing units.

The federal and provincial delegates stated that affordability of housing is still one of the challenges in several communities across the country, especially in major cities where there has been more demand than the supply of housing. There have been various efforts by the government and other stakeholders aimed at encouraging the development of housing to solve the problem.

The development is anticipated to incorporate both housing and community spaces. According to the officials, such projects can contribute towards developing complete communities where housing is available in proximity to service and jobs as well as public transport.

The minister of municipal affairs and housing of Ontario has highlighted the increase in housing supply as the objective of the province. The federal government's delegates emphasized the importance of partnership between various stakeholders in solving affordability challenges.

The announcement is part of ongoing investments in housing programs that are aimed at providing for the construction and renovation of affordable homes. The officials state that these investments are meant to ensure more Canadians get access to stable and affordable homes by addressing the increased demand for housing.

Toronto has been experiencing continued population growth and the increasing demand for housing, which has led to the increase in prices of rental houses and home buyers. Housing experts have always indicated increased supply of housing as a measure that can be used to improve affordability in the area.

The new development will ensure that there are enough housing options for the residents while working towards the long-term vision of developing affordable homes in Toronto. Details of the project will continue to be worked on as the construction process moves forward according to government officials who refer to this project as a milestone towards housing provision in Toronto.

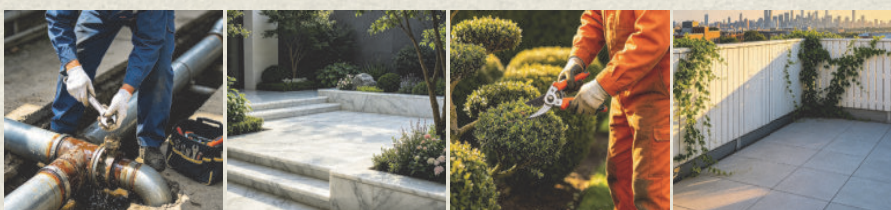
This is coming at a time when there is continued effort from the government to increase housing supply and improve affordability in the country's housing sector.

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GUYANA'S H.E RODRIGUES-BIRKETT PITCHES BOLD REFORM VISION FOR UN TOP JOB

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H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana's candidate for United Nations Secretary-General, engaging Member States during the interactive dialogue on her candidacy, outlining her vision for a more proactive, responsive and effective UN



PRESIDENT ALI REAFFIRMS \$200,000 TAX-FREE THRESHOLD GOAL BEFORE END OF TERM

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MORE THAN 40 OIL AND GAS COMPANIES APPROVED FOR 2026 LOCAL CONTENT PLANS

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GUYANA MUST MANUFACTURE NOT MERELY IMPORT - PRESIDENT ALI AT CAM MOTORS LAUNCH

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CITIZENS BANK OPENS BARTICA BRANCH



Managing Director and CEO Clifford Reis

Citizens Bank has strengthened its footprint in Guyana's hinterland with the commissioning of a new state-of-the-art branch in Bartica, a major investment aimed at expanding financial services, deepening

financial inclusion, and supporting economic growth across Region Seven.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali joined bank executives, regional officials and residents at the opening ceremony, describing the facility as a strong vote of confidence in Bartica's future and the country's continued economic transformation.

The modern branch replaces the bank's original Bartica operation, which opened in April 2000 from a modest 938-square-foot building staffed by just eight employees. Over the last 26 years, growth in the region's mining, agriculture, tourism

and business sectors has driven demand for expanded banking services, prompting the investment in a larger



The new branch in Bartica

and more technologically advanced facility.

Managing Director

and Chief Executive Officer Clifford Reis said the opening reflects the bank's long-term commitment to

Region Seven, noting that Bartica serves as a critical economic hub

and gateway to the hinterland.

Since establishing operations in the township, Citizens Bank has disbursed more than \$5.5 billion in loans to support housing, transportation, business expansion and equipment purchases. Approximately \$1.8 billion of that total was approved within the last five years, highlighting accelerated economic activity in the region.

Today, the branch serves about 7,000 customers across Region Seven.

The new facility features expanded customer service areas, upgraded banking technology, a drive-

thru ATM, enhanced accessibility features and a dedicated digital support zone to assist customers with online banking and financial literacy.

The investment has also created new employment opportunities, increasing staff complement from nine to 17 employees.

During the ceremony, Citizens Bank announced reduced mortgage rates of 4.6 per cent on loans up to \$30 million and the removal of legal and registration costs for qualifying borrowers, further expanding access to home ownership for Guyanese families.

PRESIDENT ALI REAFFIRMS \$200,000 TAX-FREE THRESHOLD GOAL BEFORE END OF TERM



President Ali speaking to the sugar workers

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has reaffirmed his commitment to raising Guyana's income tax threshold to \$200,000 before the end of his current term, underscoring what he described as a sustained

effort to improve disposable income for workers across the country.

Speaking during the Enmore Martyrs' Day commemoration ceremony on June 16, the President said the administration remains

focused on steadily lifting the tax-free income base rather than settling at a fixed level.

"The new base now is a new threshold, and we said that before the end of this term, that new base will be \$200,000 upon which our workers would stand, \$200,000 tax-free," he stated.

The pledge builds on a series of incremental increases since the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) returned to office in 2020. At that time, the income tax threshold stood at \$65,000. It was subsequently raised to \$75,000 in 2022, \$85,000 in 2023, \$100,000 in 2024, \$130,000 in 2025, and

most recently \$140,000 in this year's national budget.

According to the government, each adjustment has progressively expanded the number of workers removed from the tax net, with the latest increase reportedly benefiting about 5,000 earners and injecting more than \$2 billion in additional disposable income into households.

President Ali said the policy direction reflects a broader commitment to improving living standards and ensuring continued upward mobility for workers.

"It is the People's Progressive Party that has successfully increased the base upon which every

worker in this country stands," he said, adding that the administration's focus is on sustained improvement in wages, pensions, and overall household income.

"Our level for the workers is not a

hundred thousand. Our level is to move them from one status to the next status, so that their children can enjoy a different level upon which they start their base," the President added.



NATIONAL MINING CONSORTIUM PROPOSED TO KEEP MORE WEALTH IN GUYANA



President Ali addressing the banking officials

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has unveiled plans for the creation of a national mining consortium that would allow miners and

ordinary Guyanese to collectively participate in large-scale mining ventures through a locally owned, world-class company.

The proposal, announced during the commissioning of the new Citizens Bank branch in Bartica, forms part of a broader government strategy to deepen financial inclusion, expand investment opportunities, and increase Guyanese ownership of the country's natural resources.

Under the proposed model, small, medium and large-scale miners would join with citizens

to establish a national mining company capable of competing internationally while keeping greater economic benefits within Guyana.

President Ali said the initiative would pool resources, expertise and technology to create a modern mining enterprise owned and operated by Guyanese.

The proposal seeks to shift more large-scale opportunities into local hands rather than relying heavily on foreign

operators. According to the president, the long-term goal is to ensure citizens benefit directly from the country's mineral wealth through investment and share ownership.

The mining consortium forms part of a wider transformation of Guyana's financial architecture. President Ali revealed that government is also advancing plans for a Junior Stock Exchange, a Guyana Development Bank, and new

investment vehicles linked to agriculture, infrastructure and industrial development.

He noted that discussions are already underway with Citizens Bank to establish a Development Bank desk and an electronic identification support desk in Region Seven.

The president said financial inclusion must move beyond access to banking services and create pathways for citizens to invest, build wealth and participate directly in national development.

GUYANA'S H.E RODRIGUES-BIRKETT PITCHES BOLD REFORM VISION FOR UN TOP



H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett engaging Member States during the interactive dialogue on her candidacy for United Nations Secretary-General

Guyana has formally entered the contest for the next United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, nominating seasoned diplomat Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, who is campaigning on a platform of institutional reform, greater efficiency, and renewed global relevance for the world body.

Presenting her vision during an interactive dialogue with member states and civil society, Rodrigues-Birkett said the UN must urgently adapt to a rapidly shifting global landscape marked by rising conflict, development setbacks, and deepening financial constraints.

"The global landscape has

changed, and the tools required to guide the organisation must likewise evolve," she told delegates, framing her candidacy around what she described as a **"principled, pragmatic and responsive"** approach to leadership.

She warned that despite the UN's historic achievements in peacebuilding, decolonisation, humanitarian assistance, and development, the institution is increasingly being questioned over its ability to deliver results at the speed and scale demanded by today's crises.

Member states, she noted, remain committed to strengthening the system, but expect a more

effective and streamlined organisation. She pointed to the UN80 reform agenda as evidence of broad recognition that structural and operational change can no longer be delayed.

Rodrigues-Birkett said her consultations across member states have revealed a shared concern: that the UN risks falling behind unless it becomes more agile, better coordinated, and more accountable in how mandates are implemented.

Coming from a small developing state, she said her perspective is shaped by direct experience of how UN programmes impact communities on the ground, including in Guyana and across the developing world.

If elected, she pledged to engage closely with all 193 member states, UN staff, regional bodies and civil society to ensure balanced progress across the organisation's three pillars, peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

She also committed to an open, accessible leadership style, saying the UN must remain **"central, not peripheral"** in addressing global challenges.

Rodrigues-Birkett highlighted her extensive public service career, including her tenure as Guyana's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Amerindian Affairs, and her current role as Permanent

Representative to the UN. She also previously led a Geneva-based office for a UN agency, underscoring her blend of national and international experience.

"I do believe that I'm ready for the task ahead," she said, closing her address after responding to questions from delegations.

Her nomination, announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on June 15, positions Guyana to actively campaign for its candidate as the current UN Secretary-General António Guterres completes his term at the end of 2026, setting the stage for a competitive diplomatic race for the organisation's top post.

OVER 58,000 PENSIONERS BENEFITTED UNDER COVID-19 SAFETY NET PROGRAMME



Minister Persaud, along with representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank Ministry of Finance and beneficiaries at the project closure workshop

age pensioners and over 47,000 households have benefited from major interventions under the Support for Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations Affected by COVID-19 programme,

protection initiative financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The programme, launched in December 2020 and implemented by the Ministry of

Human Services and Social Security, was designed to cushion vulnerable groups against the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a Project Closure Workshop held at Cara Lodge Hotel, Coordinator of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Shawn Coojah, outlined the programme's extensive reach across several social protection areas.

In addition to one-off cash transfers for pensioners, the initiative supported 16,183 public

assistance beneficiaries and provided cash grants to 4,971 children living with disabilities.

A major component of the programme, the electricity credit transfer initiative, significantly exceeded its original target of 15,000 households, ultimately reaching 47,059 households nationwide.

The programme also introduced the Survivor Advocate component, which supported victims and survivors of gender-based violence by helping them navigate the justice system and

access essential services. A total of 30 survivors benefitted from this intervention.

Institutional strengthening was another key outcome, including the establishment of the Ministry's first Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and the rollout of a modernised Management Information System to improve data collection, service delivery, and policy development.

Minister of Human Services and Social

Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, said the programme's impact goes beyond statistics, noting that each beneficiary represents a life positively affected by targeted government support.

"Every number tells a story... every person that we have assisted, we want to make sure that they can be seen and heard," she said.

Officials said the initiative also strengthened cooperation between the government and the IDB, while laying the groundwork for a more efficient and data-driven social protection system.

BARTICA RECEIVES NEW MACHINERY IN PUSH TO FIX ROADS AND DRAINAGE



President Ali addressing the residents

Residents of Bartica witnessed a renewed push to fast-track infrastructure development as President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali officially handed over three new pieces of heavy equipment to support a wide-

ranging maintenance and enhancement programme across Region Seven.

The initiative, first outlined during a recent presidential outreach in the township, is aimed at improving roads, drainage systems, sanitation, and public spaces under the supervision of a newly established local committee.

Speaking at the Bartica Community Ground, President Ali said the delivery reflects a government approach centered on rapid response to community

concerns. He said issues raised during the outreach were not only recorded but acted upon immediately.

The equipment will be deployed across multiple works, including road shoulder construction, drainage improvement, vegetation clearing, dam maintenance, beautification, and solid waste management upgrades.

President Ali said the immediate focus will be the construction of hard shoulders along key roads to improve drainage, reduce flooding, and provide safer pedestrian

access, particularly for schoolchildren and commuters.

A locally driven committee, supported by regional authorities, will oversee implementation to ensure coordination and accountability across communities.

The President also reaffirmed ongoing support for mining areas affected by heavy rainfall, with rehabilitation plans being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Updates were also provided on completed and ongoing projects,

including improvements at Bartica Hospital, water system restoration in Karrau, and progress

toward a Government Service Centre to expand access to public services in the region.



Residents at the meeting



The equipment handed over

MORE THAN 40 OIL AND GAS COMPANIES APPROVED FOR 2026 LOCAL CONTENT PLANS



Over 40 companies receive approval for 2026 local content plans

More than 40 companies operating in Guyana's oil and gas industry have received approval for their 2026 annual local content plans, reinforcing commitments to expand Guyanese employment, procurement opportunities, and skills development across the sector.

The approvals were confirmed during

a signing ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources through the Local Content Secretariat at Duke Lodge, bringing together major operators and service providers, including ExxonMobil Guyana Limited, MODEC Guyana Inc., CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited, Schlumberger and Guyana Deep Water

Operations Inc.

Under Guyana's Local Content Act, contractors are required to submit annual plans detailing how they will meet obligations for local procurement, employment, and capacity building. Officials said the 2026 submissions reflect continued expansion of opportunities for Guyanese across the rapidly growing petroleum sector.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat said the approvals go beyond regulatory compliance, describing them as part of a deliberate national strategy to deepen local participation and economic retention.

He said the government will expand nationwide sensitisation programmes to improve public understanding of the sector and ensure more Guyanese can access emerging opportunities.

"Many Guyanese still truly don't understand the sector," Minister Bharrat said, noting the need for greater outreach and training pathways.

ExxonMobil Guyana's President and General Manager Alistair Routledge said implementation of the Local Content Act has delivered measurable results through collaboration among government, industry, and training institutions.

He reported that by the end of 2025, Guyanese accounted for about 68 per cent of the sector workforce. He also noted that one-third of local workers are women.

Routledge added that about 2,000 local suppliers are now engaged in the industry, with an estimated US\$3.6 billion spent with Guyanese businesses, underscoring growing domestic value retention.

Minister Bharrat also said government enforcement has significantly reduced "rent-a-citizen" arrangements and shell-company practices that previously distorted local ownership requirements. He said tighter oversight has ensured that benefits

reach genuinely active Guyanese workers and businesses.

He further signalled that government will push for more equitable pay structures, noting that many Guyanese now hold qualifications comparable to expatriate counterparts.

Guyana currently has about 7,000 citizens directly employed in the oil and gas sector.

Officials said approved 2026 plans now move into the implementation phase, with companies required to execute commitments and submit regular reports to the Local Content Secretariat for monitoring and enforcement.

OVER 2,200 RICE FARMERS VERIFIED FOR GOVT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

A total of 2,271 rice farmers from Regions Five and Six have been verified to benefit from the Government's newly announced rice farmers' assistance programme, following extensive field verification exercises.

The process was carried out by rice cultivation verification committees tasked with identifying eligible farmers and ensuring transparency in the distribution of support.

Minister of

Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha met with committee members from both regions to review progress and assessment findings. He said the verification exercise is critical to ensuring that assistance reaches intended beneficiaries while maintaining integrity in the process.

"We want to ensure that the assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries and

that the process is carried out with the highest level of integrity," the Minister said.

According to the verification data, 1,387 farmers in Region Five and 884 in Region Six have been approved under the programme.

The initiative, announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the agriculture sector and provide relief to rice

farmers.

Under the programme, farmers cultivating 50 acres or less will receive \$15,000 per acre, while those cultivating more than 50 acres will receive \$10,000 per acre.

Government officials said the targeted support is intended to sustain production, stabilise incomes, and safeguard livelihoods across the rice farming sector.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha with officials from the Guyana Rice Development Board at the meeting



Farmers at the meeting

HISTORIC WATER MANAGEMENT BLUEPRINT UNVEILED AS GUYANA STRENGTHENS CLIMATE DEFENCES



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha and (flanked to his right) Chairman of NDIA, Lionel Wordsworth

Guyana has launched its first-ever National Drainage and Irrigation Strategy, establishing a long-term roadmap to modernise water management systems, strengthen climate resilience and support the country's rapidly expanding development agenda.

The landmark framework was unveiled during a soft launch, with

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha describing the strategy as a historic milestone for the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) and a critical step towards securing Guyana's future.

"This is the first time that the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority has published a strategy," Minister

Mustapha said. **"The document represents an important step in Guyana's journey toward becoming a more resilient, more productive and more prosperous nation."**

The strategy comes as Guyana faces growing climate-related challenges, including rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns and more intense rainfall

events. Mustapha stressed that while the country is experiencing unprecedented economic growth and investment, climate adaptation must remain a national priority.

"Climate change is real, and we are living in an area where we are more vulnerable than many parts around the world. We must

plan strategically for what is happening now, and we must invest wisely," he stated.

Developed through consultations with government agencies, local democratic organs, farmers' organisations, water users' associations and other stakeholders, the strategy recognises that drainage and irrigation are no longer issues confined to agriculture. Instead, they are increasingly central to housing, infrastructure development, food security and economic expansion.

The framework also prioritises innovation and technology, promoting greater use of digital tools,

data-driven planning and modern water management practices to improve efficiency and sustainability.

NDIA Chairman Lionel Wordsworth said the strategy provides a phased roadmap for future investments and implementation while addressing climate challenges and advancing the digitisation of services and infrastructure.

Several initiatives outlined in the document are already underway, including the use of GIS technology to map and monitor drainage and irrigation networks nationwide.

A wider public launch involving farmers and stakeholders is expected in the coming weeks.



The preliminary launch of the National Drainage and Irrigation Strategy (NDIS) 2030

CASH GRANT PAYMENTS CROSS 424,000 RECIPIENTS

More than 424,000 Guyanese have now received or been processed for the Government's National \$100,000 Cash Grant, as distribution efforts continue across the country, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh has reported.

Dr. Singh said the rollout has been "continuing smoothly," with increased uptake since the last update. He noted that on March 19, 2026, a total of 48,858 central government employees, including public servants, teachers, and members of the disciplined services, received payments worth approximately \$4.9 billion.

He also highlighted the impact of the online registration system launched on March 26, 2026. As of June 15, 2026, 279,546 citizens who successfully completed self-registration have received their grants, while 4,053 others are



Government took additional steps to assist to register persons in far flung areas and hinterland communities

still being processed. Combined with government employees, this brings total direct transfers to 328,404 individuals.

For citizens without access to banking services, the government has also carried out targeted outreach in hinterland and remote communities, as well as in shelters, hostels, and senior citizen homes. These efforts resulted in 96,277 people being registered and processed for cheque payments.

Altogether, Dr. Singh

said, 424,681 people have been reached under the programme, representing about \$42.5 billion distributed so far.

The Finance Minister is encouraging remaining eligible citizens to register through the official portal at cashgrant.gov.gy. He also noted that assistance is available through the same platform for those needing help with registration.

PARENTS WELCOME \$85,000 SCHOOL GRANT AS NEW TERM RELIEF BEGINS

Parents across Guyana are welcoming the government's expanded "Because We Care" cash grant programme, with many describing the initiative as timely relief ahead of the new school term in September.

Distribution of the combined \$85,000 support package, which includes a \$60,000 cash grant, a \$20,000 transportation allowance, and a \$5,000 uniform grant, is set to begin in all regions on June 29, according to Minister of Education Sonia Parag.

For many families, especially single parents, the assistance is expected to ease the financial pressure of preparing children for school.

Single mother Yonette Hopkins said the support will go directly toward essentials such as clothing, socks, and school supplies. "It is important because I am a single parent and it will help me a great deal with the things my children need for school," she explained.

Another parent, Nadia Kennedy,

said the grant has strengthened her ability to provide for her two children after years of managing household and education expenses alone. She noted that the assistance will help cover key school-related costs while easing overall financial strain.

Aisha Allen, who has two sons in private school, said the funds will go toward textbooks and learning materials, helping her better prepare them for the new academic year.

"With this support, I can purchase textbooks

and prepare my children for the new school year," she said, adding that everyday household expenses often make it difficult to fully cover education costs.

Single mother Keziah Grant described the programme as life changing. She said it has significantly reduced the pressure of school-related expenses. Another parent, Yairis Casique, highlighted the transport allowance as especially helpful in managing daily commuting costs.

Minister Parag noted



Nadia Kennedy



Yonete Hopkins

that the programme, first restored after being discontinued, has been gradually increased over the years as part of government efforts to strengthen access to education. She said the latest enhancement reflects a continued commitment to supporting families

nationwide. The initiative will benefit every registered child in both public and private schools, reinforcing what the government describes as a broader push to ensure equitable access to quality education across Guyana.

PORT MOURANT SERVICE CENTRE BRINGS FASTER, ONE-STOP ACCESS TO RESIDENTS



GoG's new service centre at Port Mourant

Residents of Port Mourant and surrounding communities in Region Six are now benefiting from faster and more convenient access to essential government services following the official opening of a new Government Service Centre in the area.

The facility, brings a wide range of public services under one roof, significantly reducing the need for residents to travel long distances or visit multiple offices to complete basic transactions.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ali, said the centre represents a long-promised improvement in how citizens interact with the State.

"Now you can come and use government services in one building

where everyone can be there and that is the dignity we want for all Guyanese," he said.

The centre offers services including passport applications, electronic identification (e-ID) cards, drivers' licences, and the processing of birth,

death, and marriage certificates. Since opening on May 20, it has already seen strong demand, with hundreds of residents making use

of its services. Officials reported 451 passport applications received, with 367 already issued, alongside more than 200 applications handled by the General Register Office.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said the initiative reflects a



GoG's new service centre at Port Mourant



GoG's new service centre at Port Mourant

for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, added that the centre is part of a wider transformation of the "citizen experience" under the government's modernisation agenda.

He encouraged residents to embrace the shift toward digital services, noting that many applications can now be completed online, reducing the need for physical queues.

"The choice is between joining a line and waiting for hours... President

Ali has said these lines must be a matter of the past," he said, referring to the administration's goal of streamlining public service delivery.

Similar service centres are planned for Regions Seven, Nine, and Ten as part of its ongoing expansion of decentralised and digital public services, aimed at making government more accessible and efficient for citizens across Guyana.

PPGPL-GUYGAS SELECTED TO OPERATE GAS-TO-ENERGY NGL PLANT

The Office of the Prime Minister has announced that Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited and GuyGas Inc have been identified as the top-ranked firms for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) Plant under Phase 1 of Guyana's Gas-to-Energy project.

PPGPL is a leading regional gas processing company based in Trinidad and Tobago, with extensive experience in the recovery and processing of natural gas liquids such as propane, butane, and natural gasoline. GuyGas Inc., a Guyanese energy company, is expected to support the partnership by strengthening local participation in the sector, with a focus on workforce development, local content integration,

and technical skills transfer.

Cabinet has granted its "no-objection" for the commencement of negotiations with the consortium, paving the way toward a final O&M agreement for the facility, which is expected to begin operations in the first quarter of 2027.

The selection follows an open Request for Proposals issued in January 2025 and advertised in major local newspapers, including the *Guyana Chronicle*, *Guyana Times*, *Kaieteur News*, and *Stabroek News*. The process, conducted under the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board, received five submissions that were evaluated on technical, financial, and administrative criteria.

According to the evaluation outcome,



The Gas-to-Energy project remains a cornerstone of the Government's strategy to deliver reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy to Guyanese

the PPGPL-GuyGas bid ranked first overall, securing the strongest technical score alongside the most advantageous commercial proposal. Under the arrangement, PPGPL will serve as the lead operator,

while GuyGas Inc. will participate as a local partner, supporting local content development and skills transfer to Guyanese workers.

The NGL plant forms part of the wider Gas-to-Energy development,

which is designed to bring associated gas from the Stabroek Block to shore for processing into cleaner and lower-cost energy. The facility will also produce propane, butane, and pentanes-plus for both domestic use and export markets.

The Office of the Prime Minister also confirmed that Siemens Energy has been selected as the operations and maintenance operator for the 300-megawatt combined-cycle power plant and related balance-of-plant facilities, with responsibility for coordinating across the integrated system.

Government emphasised that a central objective of the agreements is workforce development, with structured training and mentorship aimed at progressively increasing Guyanese participation

in plant operations over time.

Officials further clarified that the O&M contract applies strictly to the NGL plant's operations and maintenance and does not include LPG bottling, marketing of NGL products, or other downstream infrastructure, which are being handled under separate processes.

Prior to signing, the agreement will undergo additional legal and technical due diligence by the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Attorney General's Chambers to ensure compliance with best practice and sector benchmarks.

The Gas-to-Energy project remains a key pillar of government's energy strategy, aimed at improving energy reliability, reducing costs, and expanding domestic capacity across the energy value chain.

POWER GRID OVERHAUL AIMS TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY

Guyana's electricity network is undergoing a major transformation with the construction of more than 70 kilometres of new high-voltage transmission lines designed to strengthen the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS) and support the country's expanding energy needs.

The upgraded system forms a core part of the Gas-to-Energy (GTE) Project and will link new substations, industrial areas, residential communities and existing Guyana Power and Light (GPL) infrastructure through a mix of 230-kilovolt and 69-kilovolt transmission corridors.

At the heart of the expansion is a

24-kilometre double-circuit 230-kV line running between Wales and Goedverwagting. This main corridor will carry bulk electricity generated at the Wales facility across the Demerara River into the national grid, significantly improving the flow of power between the western and eastern sections of the system.

The line is expected to strengthen the backbone of the DBIS, allowing larger volumes of electricity to be transmitted more efficiently while improving overall grid stability.

In addition to the main corridor, approximately 46 kilometres of 69-kV



230Kv line tower with height ranging from 35-46 metres

transmission lines are being constructed to connect key substations that will serve residential, commercial and industrial users.

These include links

from the GTE Power Plant Substation to the Wales Industrial Substation, designed to ensure reliable electricity supply to businesses in the Wales Development

Zone, as well as connections serving surrounding residential and commercial areas.

Another major line will run from Wales to Vreed-en-Hoop, creating an additional pathway for electricity flow and easing pressure on existing infrastructure.

On the eastern side of the Demerara River, upgrades between Goedverwagting, Sophia and Golden Grove will significantly increase transmission capacity, replacing older infrastructure and boosting the system's ability to meet rising demand from new housing schemes and expanding businesses.

The new network is also supported by four substations,

including a major 230/69/13.8-kV facility at Goedverwagting, which will serve as a key interconnection point for the expanded grid.

At Wales, additional substations will help integrate power from the Gas-to-Energy Project while supporting residential and industrial development in the region.

To manage the increasingly complex system, GPL is also establishing the Guyana National Control Centre, which will provide real-time monitoring and coordination of electricity generation, transmission and distribution across the country.

\$4.6B DISBURSED TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES NATIONWIDE

More than 19,000 Guyanese have benefited from the government's Regional Economic Transformation (RET) Programme, which has disbursed over \$4.66 billion to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across the country.

The update was provided by Minister of

Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand in the National Assembly.

As of October 31, 2025, a total of \$4.66 billion from the programme's \$5 billion allocation had been distributed across all regions except Region Nine, supporting a wide range of income-

generating activities.

Projects span agriculture, livestock rearing, aquaculture, beekeeping, vending and cottage industries, helping entrepreneurs move their businesses from start-up to sustainable operations.

A total of 19,301 individuals have benefited so far,

receiving startup support aimed at creating jobs and strengthening community-based economic activity.

The ministry says the programme is part of wider efforts to expand entrepreneurship, improve livelihoods and promote local economic growth across Guyana.



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand

GUYANA DEVELOPING GAS-TO-ENERGY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN AS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPANDS



Prime Minister Mark Phillips

Guyana is developing a dedicated emergency response contingency plan for its transformative Gas-to-Energy project while simultaneously expanding national emergency response infrastructure, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips announced.

The announcement came at the launch of the 14th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM14), where the prime minister

outlined a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening Guyana's resilience as the country's economy and energy sector continue to expand.

"Guyana continues to strengthen its disaster risk management framework to support the country's rapidly expanding economy and growing energy sector," PM Phillips said. **"A gas-to-energy emergency response contingency plan is**

in development."

The project-specific plan forms part of a broader national strategy to improve preparedness for both natural disasters and technological emergencies, particularly as major investments are made in critical infrastructure and energy development.

"As we build new infrastructure and expand our energy capacity, the task of protecting those assets and the communities around them grows every year," the prime minister stated.

Among the measures already being implemented are the Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Responsibility Act, the advancement of a modernised Disaster

Risk Management Bill, and the expansion of multi-hazard early warning systems using geographic information systems (GIS), satellite telemetry and advanced communications technology.

PM Phillips also announced that new emergency response facilities in Lethem, Mahdia and Georgetown will become operational this year, significantly enhancing Guyana's ability to coordinate and respond to emergencies nationwide.

"This year, new emergency response facilities at Lethem and Mahdia, as well as the multipurpose buildings in Georgetown, will be brought into operation," he said.

The facilities

build on recent investments by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), including the commissioning of a \$97.8 million state-of-the-art emergency management complex designed to improve logistics, coordination and rapid deployment of supplies during crises.

Addressing regional partners gathered for the launch, PM Phillips stressed that resilience must now be viewed as a central function

of governance rather than a standalone emergency management responsibility.

Guyana will host CDM14 from December 7 to 12 under the theme, "Checkpoint 2026 – Resilient Sectors, Sustainable Communities, Safer States." The conference is expected to bring together regional leaders, development partners, financial institutions and disaster management experts to



Guyana will host CDM14 from December 7-12, 2026.

CARIBBEAN MARITIME LEADERS MEET IN GUYANA FOR PORT STATE CONTROL CONFERENCE



Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond addressing the conference

Safeguarding maritime trade and strengthening regional security dominated discussions at the Port State Control Conference and CMOU meetings in Guyana, agreeing on the need for closer

coordination and stricter compliance systems.

The meetings at the AC Marriott Hotel Georgetown, brought together regional maritime authorities to review vessel safety standards, inspection regimes, and mechanisms for improving enforcement under the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (CMOU).

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar said the CMOU has, for nearly



Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar

three decades, provided a critical framework for harmonising Port State Control practices across the region. He

stressed that while the system is built on inspections, compliance, and data sharing, its deeper purpose is the protection of lives, the safeguarding of the marine environment, and the stability of maritime trade.

Minister Indar added that Guyana's expanding economy places increasing importance on its ports, describing them as vital gateways for commerce, investment, tourism, food security, and energy

security.

Minister of Home Affairs Oneidge Walrond called for a more integrated approach to maritime and border security, noting that Port State Control must function as part of a wider national security ecosystem.

She highlighted the roles of the Immigration Department, the Guyana Police Force, and the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) in strengthening and

countering transnational crime across maritime borders.

The conference concluded with delegates reaffirming commitments to deepen regional cooperation, enhance intelligence sharing, and strengthen compliance with international maritime conventions as Caribbean states prepare for increased maritime activity and trade growth.

PM CALLS ON REGION TO RECOGNISE AND SUPPORT CARIBBEAN TRAILBLAZERS



Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips with the awardees

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has called on Caribbean nations to recognise, celebrate and invest in the region's talent, declaring that the Caribbean is defined not by its limitations but by its enduring record of excellence.

Delivering the

keynote address at the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence ceremony at the Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown, the Prime Minister said the prestigious awards serve as a powerful reminder of the region's strength, resilience and immense potential.

Describing the event as one of the Caribbean's foremost celebrations of achievement, PM Phillips said the region continues to produce leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, artists and professionals whose contributions are shaping societies across the globe.

Referencing the famous question posed by the late Guyanese musician Dave Martins, "Where are your heroes, Caribbean?", the Prime Minister said the answer was evident among the award recipients and countless others making a difference throughout the region.

"They are in our universities, our laboratories, our boardrooms, our clinics, our studios, our families, our farms and our communities," he said.

PM Phillips noted that Caribbean excellence is rooted in a history of perseverance and determination. He pointed to the region's journey through slavery, colonialism, indentureship, economic hardship and natural disasters, arguing that these experiences forged a people known for their resilience and ability to overcome adversity.

"We are not accidental survivors; we are the descendants of resistance. We are the heirs of resilience," he stated.

The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of education as a pathway to opportunity and empowerment, while recognising the role families, communities and mentors play in shaping future generations.

He further argued that the Caribbean's relatively small size has become one of its greatest strengths, fostering adaptability, innovation

and entrepreneurship across the region.

According to PM Phillips, the Anthony N. Sabga Awards are significant not only because they honour outstanding individuals, but because they tell a larger story about Caribbean achievement and leadership.

He urged governments, institutions and citizens to continue supporting the region's heroes and heroines, stressing that greatness often develops quietly before achieving recognition.

"The Caribbean's greatness is not a distant aspiration," the Prime Minister said. **"It is a present reality."**

GUYANA AMONG FEW NATIONS WITH IN-COUNTRY ACCESS TO CRITICAL OIL WELL EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT



1 of 2 capping stacks located in South America

Guyana has significantly enhanced its offshore emergency response capability with the installation of a specialised capping stack at the Vreed-en-Hoop Shore Base Inc. (VEHSI), placing the country among a small group of nations with immediate access to the critical oil well control equipment.

The development marks a major advancement in Guyana's oil and gas safety infrastructure as offshore production continues to expand.

Minister of Natural

Resources Vickram Bharrat, during a visit to the facility, said the investment reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that the rapid growth of the petroleum sector is supported by robust environmental safeguards and emergency preparedness measures.

The capping stack, which arrived in Guyana in 2024 and was previously housed at Guyana Shore Base Inc., has now been relocated to VEHSI to improve accessibility and deployment readiness.

Used to contain and stop the flow of hydrocarbons in the unlikely event of an offshore well blowout, the capping stack is one of only 13 available globally and one of just two stationed in South America and the Caribbean.

"In our country, Guyana, this piece of equipment is one of 13 that are available globally, and in this part of the world, there are only two, one in Brazil and one in Guyana," Minister Bharrat said.

He noted that Guyana's Production Licence and Environmental Permit requirements mandate the availability of an in-country capping stack, underscoring the government's focus on risk management and environmental protection.

Prior to its arrival, operators relied on access to a capping stack stored in Houston, Texas, a process that could take approximately one week to mobilise to the Stabroek Block. With the equipment now based in Guyana, deployment time has been reduced to as little as two to three days.

"With this capping stack being in Guyana, to mobilise and transport it offshore will probably take two days, maximum two to three days," Minister Bharrat explained.

Managed through Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), the 42-metric-tonne unit is designed for deepwater operations and can function at depths of up to 3,800 metres while withstanding pressures of up to 15,000 pounds

per square inch.

President and General Manager of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge, said the facility forms part of a broader emergency response system supporting offshore operations.

"This collection of equipment here, from a capping stack to booms to deploy in the water and chemicals that we can use to disperse

oil, is all located here so we can respond quickly," Routledge said.

Officials say the presence of the equipment strengthens Guyana's ability to respond rapidly to offshore incidents while reinforcing the country's reputation as a responsible and prepared oil-producing nation.



Teams from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Vreed-en-Hoop Shore Base and Exxon Mobil Guyana

PRESIDENT ALI-PILOTED BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE ATTRACTS MAJOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

Guyana's Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA), piloted by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has expanded rapidly on the international stage, growing from 17 founding members to 125 members, according to senior climate officials.

Speaking on the *Starting Point* podcast, Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ in the Office of the President, Pradeepa Bholanath, said the surge in membership

reflects increasing global recognition of biodiversity as a core pillar of climate and development policy, moving beyond traditional forest-based carbon frameworks.

She noted that the alliance now includes major multilateral development institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), strengthening its financial and technical

reach.

"We now have all the development banks within our region as part of the membership," Bholanath said, adding that the momentum is creating **"new frontiers in biodiversity financing."**

The alliance is now shifting its focus toward expanding access to biodiversity financing mechanisms, which will be the central theme of its next phase of work.

This year's

biodiversity conference, scheduled for the final quarter of 2026, is expected to place strong emphasis on unlocking investment and global cooperation in the sector. President Ali is expected to announce the official date in the coming weeks.

Launched in July last year, the Global Biodiversity Alliance brings together governments, civil society, the private sector, Indigenous peoples and local



President Ali, British High Commissioner, Joseph Fisher, and Presidential Consultant for Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Sham Nokta discussing the GBA at breakfast meeting

organisations in a conservation and coordinated effort to sustainably advance biodiversity globally.

GUYANA'S FOREST CREDITS BRING IN US\$353M FOR CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Guyana has earned US\$353 million from the sale of carbon credits since entering the global carbon market as the first country to receive jurisdictional-scale forest carbon credits.

Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ in the Office of the President, Pradeepa Bholanath, disclosed the figure during an appearance on the *Starting Point* programme, noting that the revenues

are supporting the implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030.

Guyana's entry into the market was formalised in November 2022 when it became the first country globally to be issued jurisdictional-scale credits under the ART-TREES standard. The issuance covered approximately 33 million carbon credits for the period 2016 to 2020.

This was followed by

a landmark agreement valued at US\$750 million for the sale of a portion of those credits, positioning Guyana as a leading player in forest-based climate finance.

"Since then, we've been able to expand those market opportunities... to the point now where to date, since 2022, we have earned a total of US\$353 million," Bholanath said.

She explained that carbon credits represent

the amount of carbon dioxide emissions avoided through forest conservation, effectively monetising the country's efforts to protect its vast rainforest cover.

The revenues are being channelled into climate adaptation, sustainable development, environmental protection and community-based initiatives under the LCDS 2030 framework.



Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ in the Office of the President, Pradeepa Bholanath

GUYANA TO REMAIN STANDOUT GROWTH ENGINE IN CARIBBEAN THROUGH 2028- WORLD BANK



World Bank projections that Guyana will remain the fastest-growing economy in the Caribbean

Guyana is expected to remain one of the strongest-performing economies in the Caribbean and wider Latin America region as expanding oil production continues to drive rapid economic transformation, according to the World Bank Group's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

The June 2026 flagship report projects that Caribbean economies will strengthen despite global uncertainty, with

regional growth reaching 2.5 per cent in 2026 and averaging about 3.9 per cent between 2027 and 2028.

However, the World Bank underscored Guyana as a clear outlier, citing sustained expansion in petroleum output as a key engine of growth. It said "growth is expected to remain exceptionally strong" in Guyana as oil production rises and economic activity broadens across multiple sectors.

While most Caribbean states

remain vulnerable to higher fuel costs due to their reliance on energy imports, Guyana continues to benefit from its position as a growing energy exporter. The report noted that export performance across Latin America and the Caribbean has remained resilient, particularly among commodity and energy producers such as Guyana, supported by favourable oil price conditions.

The Bank added that regional recovery is being driven by stronger

domestic demand and continued expansion in services, especially tourism. Even so, Guyana's economic trajectory continues to stand apart due to its expanding petroleum sector and strengthening export base.

The government has consistently signalled its intention to channel oil revenues into broader economic diversification aimed at long-term, sustainable growth.

PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES INSTALLED

Parliament's key oversight and sectoral committees have been formally constituted, with chairpersons elected for bodies responsible for public spending, the economy, natural resources, foreign relations, social services, and the security sector, clearing the way for intensified scrutiny of government work.

Speaker of the National Assembly Manzoor Nadir convened the committees in a series of back-to-back meetings at Parliament Chambers in the Public Buildings, where members selected

leadership for each body. The committees include the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Committee on Appointments, the Standing Committee on Constitutional Reform, the Security Sector Committee, and four sectoral committees covering economic services, foreign relations, social services, and natural resources.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance Dr. Ashni Singh said most nominations proceeded without contest and were



Parliament elects committee chairs

concluded smoothly.

"I want to say how pleased we are at the efficiency and smoothness with which these

committee meetings were convened and with which the elections were held for the respective chairpersons," Dr

Singh said, speaking on behalf of government members.

He underscored that each committee plays a critical constitutional role in parliamentary oversight.

"Each one of them has an extremely important role to play and an extremely important mandate that is defined in some cases in the Constitution of Guyana, in some cases in the Standing Orders of our Parliament," he noted.

Dr Singh added that the committees are designed to bring

government and opposition members together for ongoing scrutiny of policy and expenditure between sittings of the National Assembly. He said their modern structure stems from constitutional reform efforts around 2001, which strengthened the Public Accounts Committee and introduced several sectoral committees that did not previously exist.

The newly formed committees are expected to begin meeting shortly, with work schedules to be set by their respective chairs and memberships.

REGION FIVE RESIDENTS LEAVE PUBLIC DAY WITH SOLUTIONS IN HAND



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo engaging residents

For fourth-generation rice farmer Salim Razack, a trip to Georgetown to pursue a land application often meant losing a valuable day in the backdam.

Recently, however, all he had to do was travel to Fort Wellington.

Razack was among hundreds of residents who attended Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo's Public Day outreach at the Regional Democratic Council headquarters in Region

Five, where government ministers and agency officials met residents face-to-face to hear concerns and provide immediate solutions.

He arrived seeking land to expand his rice farming operation and left with renewed confidence.

"He gave me a positive response and an assurance that I will get the necessary help that I need in the future," Razack said after

meeting with the vice president and Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha.

"I am so happy and pleased that I came here today and got my matter resolved."

For Razack, the outreach demonstrated the value of bringing government services directly to communities.

"I think the government should continue this approach so that more farmers can benefit in the way I benefitted," he said.

The same sense of relief was shared by community leader Devon Saul, who attended on behalf of residents facing road and drainage challenges in his area.

Rather than leaving with another promise, Saul said he received a



Community leader, Devon Saul

clear commitment that officials would visit the community by Monday to begin addressing the issues.

He encouraged residents to take advantage of opportunities to engage directly with government officials.

"Come out when the government comes and challenge them and see what they could give you," he urged.



Rice farmer, Salim Razack

Others praised not only the outcomes but also the atmosphere of the engagement. Resident Kumar Persaud said everyone was given a fair hearing and that decisions were made thoughtfully and respectfully.

Nizam Ramkissoon welcomed the chance to interact directly with the vice president and government ministers, noting that the outreach was taking place outside

of an election season.

"This is what we need, and we are supporting," he said.

Beyond individual concerns, residents also received updates on major initiatives that could affect thousands of families across the region.

Vice President Jagdeo announced that the government aims to clear Region Five's housing backlog, currently about 3,000 applicants, by the end of next year through the acquisition of private lands and the development of new housing areas.

He also assured the region's 530 pre-qualified contractors that they would benefit from a revised government contracting programme designed to ensure every eligible small contractor receives at least one public works contract before year-end.



President Ali addressing the launch

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali challenged Guyana's private sector to move beyond importing and selling products and instead focus on building industries that create jobs, skills and long-term economic value.

Delivering the keynote address at the launch of CAM Motors and the introduction of the Jetour and Foton

GUYANA MUST MANUFACTURE NOT MERELY IMPORT - PRESIDENT ALI AT CAM MOTORS LAUNCH

brands to the local market, the president said Guyana must position itself as a centre for manufacturing and assembly rather than merely a destination for distribution.

"Our ambition must never be the buying and selling of things. Our ambition must be to develop an ecosystem around every single business initiative that we pursue," President Ali said.

The launch marks a new partnership between ATL Automotive, Continental Group of Companies and MMKJ Inc. through CAM Motors. The

venture combines ATL Automotive's regional automotive expertise, Continental Group's 65-year presence and investment in Guyana, and the technology and business leadership of MMKJ Inc., both parent companies of ENet.

President Ali said investments of this nature should be viewed as opportunities to create supporting industries and local capabilities. He disclosed that he has already encouraged the company's leadership to explore the possibility of establishing vehicle assembly operations in Guyana.

"We can be much more than a

warehouse. We can be much more than a showroom," he stated.

Executive Chairman of ATL Automotive, Adam Stewart, described Guyana as one of the Caribbean's most important emerging markets and said the company sees significant opportunities for growth.

"Guyana is one of the standout growth stories in the Caribbean today," Stewart said, noting that Jetour has gained strong international momentum in the SUV segment while Foton is well suited to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding economy requiring reliable

commercial and utility vehicles.

He said CAM Motors will bring globally competitive brands backed by strong after-sales service, technology and customer support.

President Ali said the government's policies on taxation, energy and technology are designed

to support industrial growth and economic diversification, arguing that manufacturing and value-added production will be critical to ensuring Guyana's prosperity extends beyond oil and gas.

"That is what we have to build," he said.



One of the brands of vehicle

PRESIDENT ALI CALLS FOR REGIONAL AIRLINE AS JAGS EXPANDS FLEET



President Ali addressing the gathering at the BK hangar

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has called for the creation of a Guyanese-led regional airline, arguing that the country's rapidly expanding aviation sector is now positioned to compete beyond its borders and play a

leading role in regional connectivity.

The proposal came as JAGS Aviation commissioned two new Hindustan H-228 aircraft, an investment the president described as further evidence of Guyana's growing economic confidence and aviation potential.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony at BK Hangar, President Ali said local aviation operators should begin thinking beyond domestic routes and explore partnerships that could ultimately lead to the development of a regional carrier.

"It is a local

company that I believe has the potential to become more than a local carrier, and indeed I believe that our aviation players should come together to look towards developing a regional carrier," he said.

The president linked the proposal to the government's broader vision of transforming Guyana into a major aviation and logistics hub connecting the Caribbean, South America, North America and Africa.

According to President Ali, the country's aviation

strategy extends far beyond aircraft acquisition.

Major investments are already underway in airport infrastructure, air traffic management systems, aviation safety, digital technologies and training programmes designed to support long-term growth.

Among the flagship projects is the construction of a second terminal at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport, which the president said will become a world-class gateway showcasing Guyana's culture, biodiversity and development.

He also confirmed that plans remain on track for the establishment of a national aviation school that would serve both Guyana and the wider region.

The remarks came as JAGS Aviation added two 19-seat Dornier 228 aircraft to its fleet, bringing its total fleet size to 14 aircraft. The new planes, acquired from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in India, feature onboard washroom

facilities and are expected to strengthen connectivity between coastal and hinterland communities.

President Ali said investments by local operators such as JAGS Aviation are critical to ensuring that improved connectivity, economic opportunities and development continue to reach every part of the country.



The newest addition to the Jags Aviation fleet

AS GUYANA GROWS, VALUES MUST GROW TOO - PRESIDENT ALI TELLS BRAHMA KUMARIS GATHERING



President Ali addressing the gathering

As Guyana undergoes one of the most significant periods of growth in its history, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali has issued a call for the country's social and spiritual development to keep pace with its economic transformation.

Speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Brahma Kumaris

in Guyana, the President said the nation's success should not be measured solely by roads, buildings and economic indicators, but also by the values, character and consciousness of its people.

The event, held under the theme "One Guyana, One Future: The Power of Conscious Leadership," brought together members of the organisation, government officials and members of the public to commemorate five decades of service in Guyana.

Addressing the



President Ali with Sister Jayanti who serves as an additional administrative head of the Brahma Kumaris and represents the organisation at the United Nations in Geneva

gathering, President Ali reflected on the rapid changes taking place across the country and stressed that development must be accompanied by a strong moral and social foundation.

"A nation can build highways, but it must also build character. A nation can construct buildings, but it must also construct values. And a nation can create wealth,

but it must also cultivate wisdom," he told attendees.

The President praised the Brahma Kumaris for their longstanding contribution to personal development, meditation and emotional resilience, noting that their work has helped many Guyanese navigate the pressures of modern life with greater balance and purpose.

He said the organisation's emphasis on self-awareness, compassion and service aligns closely with the government's One Guyana vision, which seeks to strengthen

national unity by fostering respect across communities, cultures and generations.

The celebration also featured internationally respected spiritual leader Sister Jayanti, one of the pioneers of the Brahma Kumaris movement in Guyana. She encouraged participants to reconnect with their inner values, arguing that humanity's greatest challenge is not technological advancement but maintaining wisdom, compassion and self-awareness in a rapidly changing world.

GUYANA, BRAZIL PARTNER TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL AGRICULTURE INNOVATION HUB



The letter of intent aims to establish a science, technology and innovation hub

Guyana has taken another major step in its drive to strengthen regional food security, signing a letter of intent with Brazil to establish a science, technology and

research agency, EMBRAPA, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is expected to become a centre for agricultural research, technology transfer and climate-smart farming solutions.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha described the development as a landmark moment for the region's agricultural sector.

"For the first time, we are seeing a centre for science, innovation and technology opening here, not only for Guyana, but for the Caribbean," he said.

The hub is expected to provide farmers, researchers and agribusinesses with access to advanced technologies, scientific expertise and innovative production methods aimed at improving yields and strengthening resilience against climate

change.

Brazil's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, André de Paula, noted that science and innovation have been central to Brazil's agricultural transformation and can help Caribbean countries modernise their own food production systems.

IICA Director General Dr Muhammad Ibrahim said the partnership will also create opportunities for young scientists and farmers while helping

countries address challenges such as pests, diseases and changing weather patterns.

The facility is expected to serve as a regional platform for research, training and innovation, supporting CARICOM's efforts to reduce food imports and increase local food production.

For Guyana, the project further cements its role as a leader in the region's food security agenda, while offering new opportunities for farmers and researchers to access world-class agricultural knowledge and technology.



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, alongside the Dominican Republic official delegation

Guyana is moving to strengthen agricultural cooperation with the Dominican Republic, with plans underway to develop large-scale mango and avocado production while boosting technical support for local farmers. The initiative follows recent talks between

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha and his Dominican counterpart Francisco Oliverio Espaillet Bencosme during a visit to the Dominican Republic. Minister Mustapha said the discussions focused on expanding crop production,

DOMINICAN EXPERTS TO SUPPORT GUYANA'S MANGO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

improving technical capacity and supporting diversification within Guyana's agriculture sector.

He noted that the partnership is expected to create direct benefits for farmers through access to planting material, training and technical guidance.

"... Guyanese farmers will be benefitting tremendously," the minister said, adding that the government will support farmers

interested in entering large-scale production.

A key outcome of the discussions is a plan to develop commercial-scale mango and avocado cultivation in Guyana, building on the Dominican Republic's established experience in the sector.

Minister Mustapha also revealed that talks with former Dominican President Hipólito Mejía have advanced plans for the rollout of a large mango industry locally, with initial steps

expected to begin as early as September.

The Dominican Republic currently supports a mango industry that employs approximately 20,000 people, a model Guyana hopes to partially replicate as it expands its own production base.

While mangoes and avocados are already grown in Guyana, production remains largely small-scale. The new partnership aims to transition the sector into a more structured,

commercial industry.

As part of the agreement, Dominican agricultural experts will be deployed to Guyana to work alongside local technicians and farmers, assisting with planning, training and production systems.

The government says the collaboration forms part of broader efforts to modernise agriculture, increase productivity and create new economic opportunities for rural communities.

YARROWKABRA REGIONAL FOOD HUB ON TRACK FOR YEAR-END DELIVERY

Construction of the Regional Food Hub at Yarrowkabra along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway is approximately 50 per cent complete and remains on track for completion by the end of the year, according to Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha.

Speaking to the Department of Public Information (DPI), Mustapha said local contractors are expected

to finish their portion of the works by the end of September, after which United States-based firm Blumberg Grain will install cold storage systems and other operational infrastructure.

"As I am speaking now, approximately 50 per cent of the work has been completed," the minister said, adding that construction remains ongoing.

The facility, first initiated in 2023, was advanced through a 2025 memorandum of understanding with Blumberg Grain and Logistics. Once completed, it will include modern grain silos, refrigerated storage, container-loading systems and digital inventory technology.

The hub is designed to reduce post-harvest losses by up to 30 per cent and improve Guyana's

export capacity for rice, corn, poultry feed and processed products across CARICOM markets.

Minister Mustapha said the project will serve as a central collection and distribution point, connecting farmers nationwide to regional buyers and strengthening efforts to reduce CARICOM's food import bill under the "25 by 2025" initiative.

He added that the



Regional Food Hub halfway complete

Guyana Marketing Corporation will play a supporting role in linking farmers to export opportunities, ensuring greater market access and value retention within the local

agricultural sector. The project forms part of a broader national strategy to position Guyana as a key supplier of food within the Caribbean.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, along with some of the participants of the Tiger Bay model shade house project

The Government of Guyana says it remains committed to constructing 50 shade houses for single mothers

in Tiger Bay, with efforts now focused on securing suitable land to advance the project. Minister of

LAND SEARCH UNDERWAY AS TIGER BAY SHADE HOUSE INITIATIVE AWAITS EXPANSION

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that land availability is the only outstanding issue delaying the start of construction for the remaining units.

He said discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development,

which has been asked to engage the Mayor and City Council to identify an appropriate site.

"Everything else is in place," Minister Mustapha said, noting that registration for beneficiaries has already been completed and applicants have been shortlisted.

The project forms part of a commitment by

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali to expand income-generating opportunities for women in vulnerable communities through the establishment of shade house farming systems.

A pilot shade house already operating in Tiger Bay is reportedly generating weekly earnings of between

\$100,000 and \$120,000 for participants, with crops harvested on a continuous cycle.

Minister Mustapha said expanded production could increase weekly income to as much as \$200,000, with beneficiaries expected to earn at least \$120,000 once additional units are operational.

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VP JAGDEO'S REGIONAL "WALK-IN, WALK-OUT SOLVED"

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo's ongoing regional outreach, running since May across Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, is bringing government directly to residents and resolving issues on the spot.

The exercise has become known for its "walk-in, walk-out solved" approach, with residents arriving at venues with long-standing concerns and leaving with immediate answers, actions initiated, or clear follow-up timelines.

Land issues, village demarcation, procurement access for small contractors, and community development matters have dominated the engagements. Residents have also raised concerns about healthcare, education, security, roads, water, and basic services.

With Cabinet ministers, technical officers and agencies working side by side, the format allows decisions to be made in real time, cutting through delays that often slow down public service delivery.

VP Jagdeo said the outreach reflects the PPP/C Government's shift from promises to delivery under its 2025 Manifesto, with a focus on accessibility, speed and results.

The programme is expected to continue across more regions as government intensifies direct community engagement.



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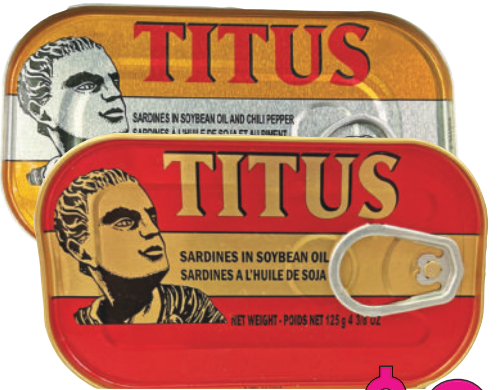
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ENMORE TO GET MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AS GOVT PUSHES ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



Enmore to get major industrial development as Govt pushes economic transformation

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced plans for a 50-acre industrial hub at Enmore, East Coast Demerara, while reaffirming his government's commitment to modernising the sugar industry, outlining a vision of economic transformation rooted in job creation, entrepreneurship and sustainable growth.

The announcements were made during the 78th commemoration of the Enmore Martyrs, where the president linked the sacrifice of five sugar workers killed in 1948 to ongoing efforts to improve opportunities for future generations.

The planned industrial development will be connected to the new four-lane highway and will provide dedicated space for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a particular focus on agro-processing and value-added production.

"A brand new four-lane road that

national strategy to create employment, encourage entrepreneurship and expand economic opportunities, particularly for families seeking to improve their standard of living.

"Our level for workers is not one level forever. Our level is to move them from one status to

GuySuCo's long-term viability.

While reaffirming government support for the sector, he expressed dissatisfaction with the corporation's inability to consistently meet production targets.

"I am not pleased with the failure of the corporation to consistently achieve the production target. I have made this position abundantly clear. I have demanded greater accountability. I have demanded greater efficiency. I have demanded better results," he said.

The president revealed that approximately 44 per cent of GuySuCo's cultivation lands have already been converted for mechanical harvesting as part of an aggressive mechanisation programme aimed at addressing labour shortages and improving productivity.

"We know there is an acute shortage of labour. We know that

many sugar workers do not want their children to engage in the task of cane cutting. That is why mechanisation is no longer optional. It is necessary," he stated.

President Ali also highlighted the growing use of drone technology for crop monitoring and the application of fertilisers and chemicals, as well as ongoing investments in factory upgrades and value-added sugar production.

He emphasised that the sugar industry's importance extends beyond estate workers, supporting entire communities and local economies across Guyana.

"The responsibility for

reviving the sugar industry does not rest with management alone. It rests with all of us because sugar does not only support sugar workers. Sugar supports the entire community," the president said.

Reflecting on the legacy of the Enmore Martyrs, Lallabagie, Harry, Pooran, Rambarran and Surajballi, President Ali said their struggle for dignity and justice laid the foundation for many of the opportunities Guyanese enjoy today, adding that the best way to honour their sacrifice is through continued investment in development, prosperity and opportunity for future generations.



The 78th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

will lead to the Enmore industrial site in which we are going to develop 50 acres of land specifically for small and medium-sized businesses for agro-processing so that our workers can move from one level to another level," President Ali announced.

He said the project forms part of a broader

the next status so that their children can enjoy a different starting point," the president stated.

Alongside the industrial hub announcement, President Ali delivered a strong message on the future of the sugar industry, stressing that modernisation and mechanisation are essential to ensuring



The 78th anniversary of the Enmore Martyrs

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WELCOME NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK AS LAUNCH APPROACHES



Arianna Butler

Young entrepreneurs across Guyana are expressing optimism as the Guyana Development Bank (GDB) moves closer to its official launch, with many viewing the institution as a long-awaited solution to longstanding barriers to accessing affordable financing.

The bank, which is expected to begin operations with more than US\$200 million in initial funding, will provide microcredit loans of up to \$3 million and target young entrepreneurs, women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and persons living with disabilities.

The initiative forms part of the



Shakira Rahaman

government's broader strategy to expand entrepreneurship, strengthen local businesses and create new pathways for wealth generation.

Speaking with the Department of Public Information (DPI), aspiring entrepreneurs said the bank could significantly improve opportunities for young people seeking to start or expand businesses.

Shakira Rahaman said access to financing remains one of the biggest challenges facing young entrepreneurs.

"A lot of young people do not have access to finances because it is hard to get documentation or a solid business

plan ready," she said. **"This is a great initiative. It gives entrepreneurs a big boost in getting their business started."**

She noted that many promising business ideas never move beyond the planning stage because of uncertainty surrounding financing and business development support.

Entrepreneur Arianna Butler said the bank's proposed zero-interest lending model could reduce financial pressure on first-time borrowers.

"Zero-interest means they do not have to worry about getting extra cash to cover that expense," she said.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has said the Development Bank will offer more than financing, describing it as a comprehensive support system designed to guide entrepreneurs from concept development to business expansion.

Addressing the bank's operational

framework, the president explained that the institution will adopt a "bottom-up" approach centred on mentorship, technical assistance, financial literacy and continuous business support.

Under the model, regional credit officers



will work directly within communities, assisting prospective borrowers with developing business ideas, preparing applications and monitoring projects during implementation.

"These credit officers will not be

there in suits," the president said. **"They will be in the field working with you, helping you in the development of your idea, checking on projects, and supporting the framework of what you're trying to achieve."**

The framework also includes mentors, facilitators and sector specialists who will support entrepreneurs in strengthening business plans, improving management skills and accessing training opportunities. Borrowers will be grouped into clusters based on similar industries to encourage collaboration and targeted assistance.

President Ali said mentorship would serve as a foundational pillar of the institution, helping to improve the long-term sustainability and success rate of new businesses.

As enterprises grow, technical experts will assist entrepreneurs in

scaling operations and transitioning into the commercial banking sector.

"We are not leaving you alone to go to the commercial bank," the president said. **"We are going to support you with the technical services, the specialist services, to get you there, to scale up your business, to expand your business and to grow."**

Applicants will be required to submit a business plan, valid identification and meet tax and social security compliance requirements, with support available to help prospective borrowers satisfy those standards.

With legislative work advancing in the National Assembly and administrative systems being finalised, government officials are encouraging entrepreneurs to begin preparing business proposals and documentation ahead of the bank's launch.

New wave of investors eyeing Guyana beyond oil and gas

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali recently said more than four international delegations are set to visit Guyana in the coming days to pursue investments in tourism, food production, manufacturing, and value creation.

Speaking at the commissioning of two new aircraft for Jags Aviation and the celebration of the company's 12th anniversary, Dr Ali said that the world is now looking at Guyana in a fundamentally different way, with investors increasingly focused on the non-oil economy.

He disclosed that several delegations are due shortly, all targeting diversified opportunities.

"In the coming days, I'll be welcoming more than four international delegations, all interested not in oil and gas, but in investing in tourism, in investing in food production, investing in manufacturing, and investing in value creation. That does not happen by accident, but by a decisive understanding and a bold communication of the Guyana we want to build," he said.

The president stressed that this shift did not occur by accident, but is the result of "careful planning" and a decisive understanding of building a diverse economy.

Framing the moment as part of a broader development vision, Dr Ali said the country is on the cusp of an "unbelievable future" for every citizen, provided that Guyanese remain committed to hard work, sacrifice, and national cohesion.

"This country is going to have an unbelievable future. Every citizen of this country will have that, but it will not happen by accident. It is happening because of careful planning. It must happen because of the ability to sacrifice [and] hard work," he said, adding:

"Nothing can replace hard work. The essentials of success have never changed. Essentials of success remain the ability to work and work hard, the ability to sacrifice and commit, regardless of how much money a country have [sic], [or] how much revenue is coming in."

He maintained that the current investment wave reflects a deliberate effort to present Guyana internationally, not just as an oil producer, but as a hub for food security, sustainable tourism, and value-added manufacturing in the wider Caribbean and South American space.

"The world is discovering a Guyana that is completely different," the President said, adding that the focus on value creation and production is central to ensuring that prosperity is broad-based and sustainable.

The president used the occasion to situate aviation within the country's wider diversification agenda, describing air transport as a critical enabler of tourism, investment, and national cohesion.

He reminded the audience that Guyana's "vast forests, mighty rivers, scattered communities, and immense dis-



President Dr Irfaan Ali

tances" mean that aviation cannot be treated as a luxury reserved for a few.

"In such a landscape, aviation is not a luxury, it is a lifeline. It connects people to opportunities, it connects producers to markets, it connects families to essential services, it connects remote communities to the broader national economy," Dr Ali said.

To this end, the president highlighted plans to upgrade and expand airport infrastructure as part of a 10-point aviation strategy.

He pointed to ongoing work on Ter-

minal Two at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), which he described as a state-of-the-art facility designed to be not just a terminal, it is built as an "experience," showcasing Guyana's heritage, culture, biodiversity, and ecosystem.

In addition, he signalled that the long-discussed Rose Hall Municipal Airport and Lethem Municipal Airport are moving from aspiration to execution, calling them "no longer dreams of the past," but "realities of the present" that will be built to enhance regional connectivity.

"Visitors are arriving in increasing numbers. Investors are exploring opportunities across our regions. Tourists are seeking authentic experiences," he said.

These projects, he suggested, will make it easier for in-bound visitors to see opportunities first hand and for domestic producers to reach new markets.

President Ali sought to distance Guyana's global image from a single-sector story, insisting that the country must be seen and must present itself as a diversified production centre, a tourism destination and a logistics and aviation hub.

He noted that the government's focus on value creation, rather than mere extraction or import dependence, is central to ensuring that the benefits of growth are "broad-based and sustainable," and that communities across Guyana share in the gains from investment.

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Guyana is open to partners, but ready to compete -President Ali says

PRESIDENT Dr Irfaan Ali has warned that while Guyana is open to regional and international partners, it will not hesitate to compete and “break the locks open” in markets that continue to restrict Guyanese products. The president said this while speaking at CAM Motors’ unveiling of its Foton and Jetour lines of vehicles on Saturday.

President Ali said that Guyana is moving to build a sophisticated manufacturing and assembly base beyond the oil and gas sector.

“I say to my friends across in Trinidad, Jamaica, all across the Caribbean, the DR [Dominican Republic], we want you to invest with our local private sector in the agro-processing industry, the manufacturing industry,” the Head of State said adding:

“We’re going to build it, the best agro-processing industry you will ever dream of. We’re going to build it right here in Guyana, and it’s going to be built in the next four years.”

Framing Guyana’s posture as one of partnership, but with firm expectations of fairness, President Ali signalled that his government is prepared to confront protectionist barriers in the region.

“If there are economies in the region that will continue to lock our products out, we’re going to break those

locks open, because we believe in reciprocity.

He stressed that the first invitation is to partner, particularly in agro-processing and manufacturing, but cautioned that Guyana would compete aggressively if necessary.

“If you’re not going to be part of it, we’ll compete with you, and we’ll beat you out of the market. I can assure you that the first invitation is to partner,” he said adding:

“We know that we have contributed significantly to this region, and we cannot only be a country that is celebrated because of our potential, we have to be a country that is celebrated because we have converted potential into opportunity and opportunity into success.”

He also pointed to the emerging opportunities from Cuba and Haiti opening up, and deeper integration with northern Brazil and the Dominican Republic, describing the potential market expansion as “immense” if supported by a conducive policy environment on taxation, energy costs, technology and government incentives

President Ali used the CAM Motors partnership to underscore his government’s commitment to “the explosion of private capital” and to nur-

turing young entrepreneurial leadership.

“Our private sector knows that they have a government that is backing them right on to every inch of success”, he said challenging local investors to demonstrate their readiness to seize larger opportunities, including in tourism.

He disclosed that he has already challenged the private sector partners behind the venture to position Guyana as an assembly hub for emerging automotive brands, insisting the country must not negotiate “from a position of being a selling destination” but as a location with the innovative capacity and capability to do far more than act as a “warehouse” or “showroom”.

“Our ambition must be to develop an ecosystem around every single business initiative that we pursue... tonight (Saturday) is not about launching the sale of a new brand, tonight is about the building of an ecosystem, an ecosystem that will support creativity, support innovation, and support service delivery.”

Earlier this year, the government moved to operationalise a raft of fiscal incentives and tax-relief measures after Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, successfully piloted the Fiscal Enactments

(Amendment) Bill 2026 through the National Assembly, following the conclusion of consideration of estimates of expenditure of the 2026 National Budget.

Among the most consequential provisions was the removal of corporate taxes on agriculture and agro-processing businesses, a move the government had said will promote productive activity and diversification. The measure is expected to increase retained earnings and drive reinvestment to boost output and productivity in the agriculture value chain.

The Bill also expanded the export-allowance framework to include value-added timber products, a step aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of exporters by reducing their effective tax burden and allowing them to price goods more competitively on international markets.

Further support for domestic manufacturing also came on stream with the removal of VAT on locally made furniture, including doors, moulding, and beds, as well as on locally produced jewellery. These measures are intended to lower construction costs, strengthen the forestry and jewellery subsectors, and support local manufacturers.

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SCAN ME

CJIA'S NEW TERMINAL TARGETS 2028 COMPLETION

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) is undergoing one of the most significant transformations in its history as Guyana positions itself to meet rising demand for air travel and strengthen its role as a regional aviation hub.

At the centre of the expansion is the construction of Terminal 2, a modern 150,000-square-foot facility that is expected to be completed by 2028. The project will be developed through a

partnership between UK-based BHM Construction and the Manchester Airport Group.

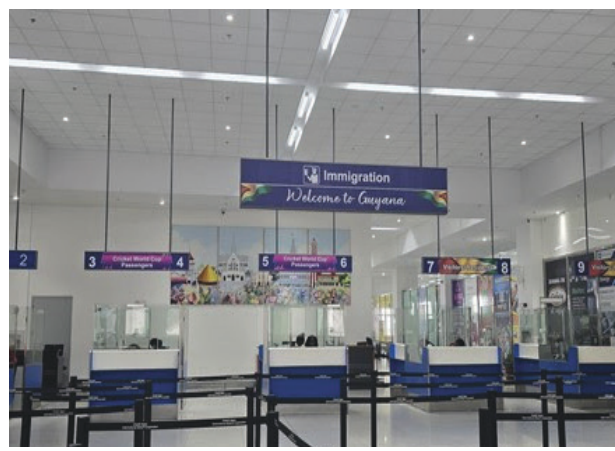
Minister of Public Works and Aviation Deodat Indar said the new terminal will significantly expand the airport's capacity while enhancing the overall passenger experience through larger concession areas, improved services and modern amenities.

The development comes as passenger and aircraft traffic continue to increase,

reflecting Guyana's rapid economic growth and expanding international connectivity.

But Terminal 2 is only one part of a broader transformation taking place at the country's main international gateway.

Plans are also underway to relocate the air traffic control tower, creating additional space for aircraft parking and improving operational efficiency. The airport will also receive a new inline baggage handling system equipped with



Branded signs at CJIA

advanced scanners and cameras, alongside off-site check-in services designed to reduce congestion and speed up

a processing.

Additional improvements include a new VIP lounge, upgraded tarmac

facilities and expanded administrative offices.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has described the investment as part of a wider vision to position Guyana as a major aviation centre serving both regional and international markets.

When completed, the projects are expected to reshape the travel experience for thousands of passengers while strengthening Guyana's connectivity with the rest of the world and supporting the country's continued economic expansion.

Guyana's passport applicants will no longer need to endure long queues as the country officially steps into a new digital era with the launch of its Online Passport Application and Appointment System.

Rolled out on June 15, 2026, the platform allows citizens to apply for passports, submit required information, and schedule appointments entirely online through pp.gpf.gov.gy, marking a major shift in how immigration services are delivered.

The system is

GUYANA ROLLS OUT DIGITAL PASSPORT SERVICE

designed to make the process faster, and more convenient and transparent, reducing administrative delays and improving access for applicants across the country.

Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Senior Superintendent Stephen Telford, described the launch as a milestone in modernising public service delivery. He said citizens can now begin their passport



application "from the comfort of your home" before selecting a convenient appointment to complete the process.

Once applications are submitted online, users will be able to choose their preferred passport office and receive email confirmations and notifications throughout the process.

The new platform is part of a wider transformation of immigration services that has already seen

processing times reduced to three working days, with expedited applications completed within 24 hours in urgent cases.

Authorities have also expanded access through regional offices and mobile enrollment units, while introducing digital travel systems such as electronic embarkation and disembarkation forms and automated e-gates at ports of entry.

These reforms are

aimed at improving efficiency while making services more accessible to citizens, particularly those in remote communities.

The government has encouraged applicants to register on the official portal and familiarise themselves with the new system as Guyana continues to modernise its public services through digital technology.

CARGOJET LAUNCHES FIRST DHL SERVICE TO GUYANA

Guyana's rapidly expanding air cargo sector received another major boost on June 12 when Canadian cargo airline Cargojet Airways began operations in the country on behalf of DHL Express USA, marking the latest sign of growing international confidence in Guyana's economy.

The new once-weekly service will operate along the Miami-Caracas-Georgetown-Medellin-

Miami route, providing additional capacity to support the increasing movement of goods into and out of Guyana.

The development follows discussions earlier this year between President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Cargojet executives in Canada. Recently, Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar met with DHL representatives and welcomed the launch of the new service.

Minister Indar



Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar meeting with the representatives of DHL

congratulated DHL Executive Director Maurice John and DHL Aviation America

Director of Business Development and ACS Strategy Xavier Cerruto, describing the new route

as a timely investment in Guyana's growing aviation and logistics sector.

The Minister noted that international air cargo volume has surged from 7.6 million kilograms in 2020 to 14.4 million kilograms in 2025, an increase of nearly 89 per cent. The growth has been driven by rising imports of industrial equipment for the oil and gas sector, expanding trade activity, and increasing demand

for e-commerce and air freight services.

The momentum has continued into 2026, with cargo volume already up by 21 per cent year-to-date.

Cargojet joins a growing list of international cargo operators serving Guyana, alongside carriers such as Avianca Cargo and LATAM Cargo, further strengthening the country's connections to regional and global markets.



Onion harvested in Region Nine

Around 40 young people in Region Nine have already signalled interest in expanding onion cultivation, as government moves ahead with a structured support model aimed at developing new farmers into commercial producers.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said during a social media address that the initiative is being backed by early technical support coordinated through the Ministry of Agriculture's extension services and emerging cluster-based

REGION NINE YOUTHS JOIN PUSH TO SCALE UP ONION FARMING

arrangements.

"The facilitators are already reaching out to the Ministry of Agriculture extension office to help them build out their capacity," the President said, noting that technical guidance will be central to the programme's rollout.

Under the model, the young farmers will be organised into clusters where they will receive mentorship, financial

literacy training, technical assistance, and ongoing monitoring from field-based credit officers and facilitators.

President Ali said the approach is designed to ensure participants are not only financed but closely guided through each stage of production.

"Here is where we will have large-scale farmers, business leaders and religious leaders helping in the mentorship," he noted.

Financing will be provided through the Guyana Development Bank in the form of interest-free and collateral-free loans, supported by a wider framework intended to reduce start-up failure rates.

The programme aims to help small onion producers gradually scale up from small plots to sustainable commercial operations.



The final consultation, hosted at the Mahaicony Technical and Vocational Training Centre in Region Five

GUYANA SHAPES NEW ANTI-BULLYING SCHOOL POLICY - OVER 1000 IDEAS SUBMITTED

A sweeping effort to address bullying and violence in schools has gathered momentum, with the Ministry of Education receiving more than 1,000 recommendations as it moves closer to finalising a new national Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence Policy.

The proposals, collected during nationwide consultations, include the creation of anti-bullying clubs, peer

advocacy programmes, strengthened counselling services, and tougher consequences for repeat offenders, including community service and possible withholding of school cash grants.

The final consultation, held at the Mahaicony Technical and Vocational Training Centre in Region Five, also saw parents calling for community-led after-school programmes aimed at improving teamwork, sportsmanship, and positive behaviour among students.

Education Minister Sonia Parag said all submissions will be reviewed by a multi-

agency task force involving the Ministries of Home Affairs and Human Services and Social Security. She said the aim is to develop a comprehensive policy with clear and consistent standards to address misconduct by both students and educators.

“What we’re seeing is not simply an act of bullying, but it’s also translating into violence,” she said, warning that even non-physical bullying can have lasting psychological effects, including social exclusion and verbal abuse.

Minister Parag also pointed to the growing influence of social media, noting

that children today are shaped not only by homes and schools but also by online environments that are often unsupervised.

Alongside the policy development, the ministry is also enhancing training for school counsellors from September, with a stronger focus on psychology and mental health support for students dealing with trauma linked to bullying and violence.

She stressed that tackling the issue requires a shared responsibility between schools and families. “You are their guardians for the eight hours they are in school,” she

said, while also urging parents to take greater responsibility for discipline and behaviour at home.

“Parents cannot pass the buck to schools,” she added, while cautioning against confusing discipline with abuse, noting that guidance does not require violence.

The Ministry says the final policy will guide stronger national standards and may eventually lead to supporting legislation aimed at making schools safer, more supportive environments for all students.



The final consultation, hosted at the Mahaicony Technical and Vocational Training Centre in Region Five

50 GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS TO RECEIVE ADVANCED PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING UNDER ANTI-BULLYING DRIVE



The programme will improve their ability to respond to bullying, violence, and wider psychosocial challenges

The Ministry of Education is stepping up student support services with a new psychology training programme for 50 guidance counsellors across the country, aimed at strengthening the national response to bullying and violence in schools.

The initiative, delivered in partnership

with the School of the Nations, will provide a 10-week United Kingdom-based course designed to enhance the skills of existing school counsellors.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag said the training builds on the counsellors’ undergraduate social work background and is intended to better equip

them to handle sensitive issues affecting students.

She noted that the programme will improve their ability to respond to bullying, violence, and wider psychosocial challenges, while also supporting teachers where needed.

The first group is expected to complete training before the

2026/2027 academic year, after which the programme will be expanded to include all guidance counsellors nationwide.

The initiative forms part of the government’s broader effort to create safer, more supportive learning environments for students across Guyana.

MEDIA, CREATORS AND OFFICIALS WEIGH IN ON BALANCE BETWEEN PROTECTION AND DIGITAL ACCESS FOR CHILDREN



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Kwame McCoy (left) and Director of Public Affairs Gordon French (right) during the consultation with media partitioners

Guyana’s government is weighing possible age restrictions and stronger safeguards for children’s use of social media as a national consultation continues to gather views from media practitioners, content creators and communications professionals.

The Department of Information and Public Affairs recently hosted a stakeholder engagement at the Office of the Prime Minister as part of the wider

National Consultation on Social Media and its Consequential Effects on Children.

The sessions, led by Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for media, Kwame McCoy, brought together media workers and communication stakeholders to discuss proposals aimed at strengthening child online safety.

Among the measures under consideration are a minimum social

media age, mandatory age verification systems, child-safe platform design, digital literacy education, enhanced parental empowerment and the possible creation of a Child Online Protection Authority.

Minister McCoy stressed that no final decisions have been made. He said the proposals remain open for public feedback as government seeks a balanced approach.

“We want to be able to have the opportunity of hearing from our citizens how they believe we can handle this matter,” Minister McCoy said, adding that “everything that we have proposed thus far is just what they are, proposals.”

He acknowledged the benefits of digital

platforms for education and creativity but warned of risks such as cyberbullying, harmful content, misinformation and online exploitation of children.

Director of Public Affairs Gordon French said the consultation is designed to collect evidence and practical recommendations rather than advance predetermined positions.

Media representatives highlighted the need to balance child protection with freedom of expression, while also strengthening responsible reporting practices involving minors.

Participants also debated whether children should have access to social media at all. Some, including



Content creator, Susan Abraheem better known as Saks Guyana’ sharing her concerns and suggestions

Deputy Director of the Department of Public Information Cassandra Persaud, suggested restrictions for children under 16 due to online risks. Others warned that strict bans could limit access to educational opportunities and information.

Industry and content creators argued instead for education, parental guidance and platform accountability, noting that children are already active online and need structured guidance

rather than prohibition.

Suggestions included supervised access for younger teens, stronger parental control tools, and the development of locally produced digital content reflecting Guyana’s culture and values.

Stakeholders also recommended studying international models from the United Kingdom, European Union and India as possible frameworks for Guyana’s approach.

The consultation is part of a broader national process involving sectors such as education, health, security and youth development. Government said further engagements will shape a national framework aimed at protecting children while allowing them to safely benefit from digital technologies.

GUYANA TO OPEN FIRST AUTISM SCHOOL AS DISABILITY SUPPORT EXPANDS NATIONWIDE



First Lady Arya Ali addressing the United Nations

Guyana is set to establish its first specialised school for children with autism later this year, a landmark development in the country's ongoing push to expand educational opportunities and support services for persons living with disabilities.

The announcement was made by First Lady Arya Ali while addressing the 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The new facility

will be located at the Cyril Potter College of Education in Turkeyen and is expected to strengthen early learning and specialised support for children on the autism spectrum.

In the 2026 national budget, \$316.5 million has been allocated for programmes and projects aimed at improving services for persons living with disabilities (PWDs), underscoring what government describes as a continued commitment to inclusion.

First Lady Ali said the autism school forms part of a broader national effort to ensure

equal access to education and full participation in society for persons with disabilities.

She pointed to recent progress, including the opening of Guyana's first school for children with hearing impairments in 2025 and the retrofitting of public buildings and schools to improve accessibility.

According to government figures, these measures have supported literacy and skills training for more than 800 persons living with disabilities, alongside expanded financial assistance programmes.

Support has also

been increased through higher monthly disability payments, a one-time cash grant for registered beneficiaries, and permanent disability benefits now reaching more than 26,000 individuals.

Another key initiative highlighted was the Business Centre for Persons with Disabilities, established in 2025, which currently provides employment for over 100 individuals with disabilities.

Speaking at COSP19, Ali said Guyana's policies are guided by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities, which calls for equal participation and the removal of barriers to inclusion.

She acknowledged, however, that challenges remain, particularly for developing countries seeking access to modern assistive technologies and rehabilitation services.

The First Lady called for stronger global partnerships among governments, international agencies and technology stakeholders to advance disability rights and ensure that innovation benefits all citizens equally.

STUDENTS BREAK NEW GROUND AS CCSLC EXAMS DEBUT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



The students sitting the exam

Sixty-nine students of the St George's School of Sciences have made history as the first cohort from a public institution in Guyana to sit the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC) examinations, marking a significant milestone in the country's education reform efforts.

The examinations, which began on June 10, 2026, saw students sitting English Language and Modern Language.

They continued with Mathematics and Social Studies on June 11, Integrated Science on June 12, and concluded with Digital Literacy on June 15.

The pioneering group consisted of 30 males and 39 females, with St George's serving as the pilot school for the programme's introduction at the lower secondary level.

National CCSLC Coordinator, Dr Viola Rowe, said the initiative is designed to strengthen foundational learning and better prepare students for advancement into higher levels of secondary education.

"The CCSLC is a foundational programme. It provides students with the opportunity to build a core set of skills, knowledge, values, attitudes and competencies," she explained.

Rather than replacing existing academic pathways, Dr Rowe said the programme is intended to support students as they transition into upper secondary education and prepare for Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) studies.

She noted that

the approach places equal emphasis on academics and personal development, including respect for self, others and the environment.

"It is more than just the development of skills and knowledge," she said.

The CCSLC uses continuous and external assessments across modular subjects, with grading bands ranging from Developing Competence to Mastery. Students must pass at least five subjects, including English and Mathematics, to receive certification.

Teachers involved in the pilot have described the programme as a

positive step, noting improvements in student confidence and engagement. While some initially expressed uncertainty, training and orientation sessions have helped build stronger support.

Dr Rowe also praised the St George's cohort, describing them as pioneers for the national rollout of the programme, which will expand to schools across Guyana in 2027.

The Ministry of Education said the CCSLC initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen foundational skills, improve certification at the secondary level and better prepare young people for further education, employment and national development.

CHESS INITIATIVE STRENGTHENS LEARNING FOR SEND STUDENTS

Twenty-two teachers and students from four Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) schools came together at the David Rose Special School to participate in a mini chess tournament hosted by the Guyana Chess Federation (GCF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Special Education Needs and Disabilities Department.

Beyond the competition, the event highlighted how chess is increasingly being used as an educational tool to support learning, concentration and

confidence among students with special needs.

Emerging as the Best Student was Micah Courtman of Diamond Special Needs and Disabilities School, whose performance reflected both skill and determination nurtured through ongoing chess initiatives in SEND classrooms.

Educators say chess offers more than recreation; it helps students build executive functioning skills such as planning, focus, impulse control and decision-making, while also



encouraging problem-solving in a structured and supportive environment where mistakes are treated as learning opportunities.

The game also promotes social development through turn-taking, communication and sportsmanship, helping students strengthen interaction skills in a predictable setting.

Teachers have adapted the game to meet different learning needs, using larger boards and alternative ways of communicating moves to ensure all

students can participate meaningfully.

The Guyana Chess Federation sponsored trophies for the tournament, while the Ministry of Education's SEND Department provided meals and transportation for participants.

Officials say the initiative is part of a broader effort to expand access to chess across special education schools, with continued training being provided to teachers to support classroom programmes.

SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRY BILL HEADS TO SELECT COMMITTEE AS VP JAGDEO ENDORSES PUBLIC ACCESS



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has publicly endorsed making Guyana's proposed sex offenders registry accessible to the public, reinforcing a position already advanced by President

public.

His comments come after President Ali announced that the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, which was presented in the National Assembly on June 5, will be referred to a Special Select Committee for further examination and public consultation.

President Dr Irfaan Ali has instructed that the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, presented in the National Assembly on June 5, 2026, be sent

to a select committee. He has also indicated that it is his view, and that of the cabinet, that any register of sex offenders must be public. I strongly share this view," VP Jagdeo stated.

The proposed legislation forms part of efforts to strengthen Guyana's framework for addressing sexual offences and improving protections for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

The bill includes provisions for the

establishment of a sex offenders registry and other measures aimed at enhancing the monitoring of convicted offenders.

President Ali said the referral to a Special Select Committee will allow stakeholders and members of the public to review the legislation and provide input before it returns to the National Assembly.

The government has in recent years introduced a series of measures aimed at strengthening the reporting, investigation

and prosecution of sexual offences, while expanding support services for survivors of abuse and violence.

The proposed amendments have sparked national discussion, particularly on the issue of whether information contained in the registry should be publicly accessible. Government officials have indicated that they support public access as an additional measure to enhance public safety and protect vulnerable citizens.

PRESIDENT APPEALS TO ADVENTISTS TO HELP GUIDE YOUTH, FAMILIES IN DIGITAL AGE



President Ali delivering remarks at the centennial celebration of the Caribbean Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has called on the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to work alongside the state in safeguarding the nation's values, warning that they must endure beyond the country's rapid economic

transformation.

He made the appeal while delivering remarks at the centennial celebration of the Caribbean Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, held at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown.

The centenary marked 100 years since the regional body was established in 1926.

In his address, President Ali said Guyana is undergoing unprecedented change, with new industries, infrastructure development and rising investment reshaping daily life. However, he cautioned that economic progress alone does not guarantee stronger or

happier societies.

He pointed to the risk of materialism and weakening social cohesion, noting that nations can become wealthier without becoming more united.

"Those principles and values in the soul of a nation... rest, faith, love, unity, and the will of God," he told the congregation, urging collective effort to **"find the soul of this nation."**

The president said institutions such as the Church play an increasingly important role in guiding society through periods of rapid change, describing them as a moral compass.

He invited the Adventist Church to

partner with government in areas including education, healthcare and youth development, highlighting concerns about harmful online behaviour and children's exposure to violent content on social media.

President Ali also outlined plans for broader social initiatives, including a proposed Sunday closure of a major Georgetown roadway to create family-friendly public spaces for recreation and bonding.

He further encouraged collaboration on health education, noting the Church's long-standing emphasis on healthy living.

Framing his vision as

a five-point partnership, the president called for strengthened value-based education, stronger families, ethical leadership, community service and spiritual resilience.

As the Caribbean Union Conference marked its 100th anniversary, President

Ali said Guyana's development must be matched by the cultivation of character, compassion and unity, stressing that national progress must be measured not only in economic terms but in the quality of its people and communities.



Worshippers at the centennial celebration of the Caribbean Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church



New Yarrowkabra Primary School block opens

For years, teachers at Yarrowkabra Primary School worked around limited classroom space, often finding creative ways to keep students engaged despite overcrowded conditions. Now, a newly commissioned school block is giving both educators and students room to breathe, and room to grow.

The new wing, officially commissioned by Minister of

Education Sonia Parag, will accommodate approximately 200 students from Grades Four to Six and includes a dedicated Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) room to support pupils requiring additional assistance.

For Grade Six teacher Alessia Watson, the expansion means more than just extra classrooms.

"With more space,

we can introduce activities and teaching methods that were difficult before because of overcrowding," she explained, noting that students will now have greater opportunities for interactive learning.

Grade Three teacher Lauren Cameron echoed those sentiments, saying the additional classrooms will create a more comfortable and productive environment for both teachers and pupils.

The new facility comes as Yarrowkabra continues to grow, bringing increased demand for educational services in the community.

Speaking at the commissioning

NEW SCHOOL BLOCK OPENS AT YARROWKABRA PRIMARY

ceremony, Minister Parag said the investment reflects the government's commitment to creating environments where children can thrive academically and personally.

"Creating an environment that is conducive to nurturing our children so that they can become the successful future of our country, we have to put these things in place," she said.

The minister noted that overcrowding can affect student performance and teacher effectiveness, making school expansions



Alessia Watson



Lauren Cameron

an important part of improving educational outcomes nationwide.

She also highlighted ongoing investments in schools across Guyana, including the construction of new institutions and the expansion of existing ones as the country moves toward achieving

universal secondary education.

For the students of Yarrowkabra Primary, however, the impact is immediate: brighter classrooms, more space to learn, and a school environment better equipped to support their success for years to come.

SINGLE MOTHER, FIREFIGHTER AMONG BENEFICIARIES OF HOUSING DISTRIBUTION IN REGION FIVE



Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, presenting a certificate of title to a beneficiary

Hundreds of Region Five residents turned out as the Ministry of Housing, through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHPA), commenced the distribution of more than 1,000 house lots and over 550 land titles across Mahaica-Berbice, marking a major step toward homeownership for many families.

Among the beneficiaries was single mother of one, Alliyah Khan, who received her certificate of title along with a steel and cement

voucher after 15 years of renting.

“Hard work does pay off,” she said, explaining that the support now gives her the opportunity to begin building her own home.

Firefighter Ronaldo Odonoghue was equally emotional after receiving his allocation, describing the process as smooth and well-organised.

“I have applied since 2019... words cannot express the way I am feeling, but I am thankful, and this is a great

initiative from the government,” he said.

Chief Executive Officer of CHPA, Dr Martin Pertab, said the housing programme in Region Five has seen significant investment over the past five years, with more than \$9.5 billion spent on

and 2025, while more than 1,000 land titles have been processed. In addition, over 3,200 steel and cement subsidies valued at more than \$750 million have been distributed to support home construction.

Dr Pertab also highlighted that an



CHPA's CEO, Dr Martin Pertab, presenting a steel and cement voucher to a beneficiary

housing and related infrastructure.

He noted that approximately 1,900 house lots have already been allocated in the region between 2020

additional \$1.5 billion will be invested this year to expand infrastructure in developing communities including Bath, Experiment, Hopetown and Waterloo.



Alliyah Khan

Minister of Housing Collin Croal said the exercise forms part of efforts to clear the housing backlog in Region Five, which stood at about 4,100 applicants as of October 2025. He said ongoing works are expected to address at least 60 per cent of pending applications by March 2027.

He added that new lands have been secured through the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission for additional housing areas, while infrastructure



Ronaldo Odonoghue

works are expected to begin shortly.

Minister Croal also pointed to improved efficiency in land title processing, which has been reduced from over six months to about three months.

Residents receiving steel and cement subsidies, valued at around \$210,000 each, were also encouraged to take advantage of the Single Window System to fast-track building approvals as they move toward constructing their homes.

BUILDING EXPO 2026 TO SHOWCASE 300 EXHIBITORS - 2000 LAND TITLES TO BE DISTRIBUTED



Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, along with the Minister within the Ministry of Housing, Vanessa Benn, are engaging with stakeholders at the Guyana National Stadium

Preparations are in their final stages for the International Building Exposition 2026, with the Ministry of Housing assuring a safe

and well-coordinated experience for exhibitors and visitors when the four-day event opens from June 25 to 28 at the Guyana National

Stadium, Providence.

Following a recent walkthrough of the venue, Housing Minister Collin Croal said the ministry is working closely with stakeholders to finalise arrangements for what is expected to be one of the country's largest housing and construction showcases.

More than 300 exhibitors will participate this year, highlighting developments in construction, housing, smart home technologies, security systems, banking and



Booths being prepared for the expo

insurance services.

Minister Croal encouraged citizens to attend, noting that the expo will offer

opportunities for learning, networking and access to services. **“There is a lot to look forward to and**

experience,” he said.

A major highlight will be the ministry's “Dream Realised” initiative, through which approximately 2,000 land titles and certificates are expected to be distributed to citizens.

The event will also facilitate the processing of land titles and agreements of sale for new housing areas, supporting wider efforts to expand home ownership.

Security, traffic management and logistics arrangements are being coordinated with the Guyana Police Force and other service providers.

CH&PA ENGAGES INTERPOL, FBI IN INVESTIGATION OF CONTRACTOR OMAR MALIK

The Ministry of Housing and Water, through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), says it has intensified efforts to hold contractor Omar Malik and his company, DreamVu Homes, accountable for failing to fulfill contractual obligations related to the construction of Young Professional Homes.

In a statement, the ministry said it remains committed to pursuing all available

legal, administrative and international measures to secure justice for affected families.

According to the ministry, concerns surrounding Malik's failure to complete contracted housing projects have been under active review for an extended period, predating recent public discussion of the matter.

The ministry noted that several public notices were issued through social media



Public Notice

Mr. Omar Malik, Chief Executive Officer Dream Vu Homes, You are hereby requested to visit the Ministry of Housing - Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), Accounts Department urgently to settle outstanding financial matters. Please note that failure to do so will result in further action being taken by the agency. Your immediate attention to this matter is required.

The ministry issued several public notices through social media platforms and national newspapers

platforms and national newspapers, including notices published in August 2025, calling on Malik to report to the ministry to address outstanding financial matters.

Following what it described as continued non-compliance, formal reports were lodged with the Guyana Police Force.

The ministry further disclosed that its Enforcement and Compliance Department has engaged regional

and international law enforcement agencies after Malik reportedly left Guyana.

Information related to the matter has been shared with INTERPOL, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), CARICOM IMPACS and other international authorities for review and possible cross-border action.

CH&PA said it remains in contact with affected individuals and is continuing efforts

to gather information, support ongoing investigations and explore lawful avenues to assist those impacted.

The ministry also rejected claims that authorities failed to act on the matter, describing such assertions as inaccurate and inconsistent with the actions taken by multiple agencies.

Officials said the ministry has acted in accordance with legal procedures and remains committed to transparency, accountability and the protection of citizens' interests.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS PUT ON NOTICE OVER SERVICE STANDARDS AND DRUG PROCUREMENT



Locally grown roses from the 'Cut Rose' Project at NAREI

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has called for significant improvements in service delivery across Guyana's healthcare system, warning health officials that patient care extends beyond clinical treatment and includes every aspect of the patient experience.

Addressing regional health officers, hospital administrators and

senior health officials recently at State House, the president said the quality of healthcare must be measured not only by medical outcomes but also by how patients are treated when they access services.

He stressed that facility leadership bears responsibility for ensuring proper standards are maintained throughout health institutions, including waiting areas, washrooms, security services and front-desk operations.

According to President Ali, healthcare facilities must foster a culture that is both service-oriented and people-centred, with patient comfort, safety and dignity at the forefront.

The president also disclosed that a comprehensive assessment of health facilities nationwide has been completed. He has tasked Presidential



Health officials at the meeting

Advisor on Science and Healthcare Modernisation Dr Mahendra Carpen, Director General Vishwa Mahadeo and the Director of Regional Health Services with ensuring that all facilities

meet established operational standards.

The upgrades will include improvements to walkways, waiting areas, seating arrangements and patient access



systems, guided by a standardised checklist.

As part of efforts to strengthen accountability, President Ali highlighted mechanisms that allow patients to report concerns

directly, including a text messaging system currently in operation at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

The president also issued a stern warning regarding the implementation of Guyana's new centralised medical supply management system, which will become the sole platform governing the procurement and distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies from July 1.

He stated that officials who bypass the system or operate outside its established procedures risk dismissal.

"If you act outside of that, we have no other choice but to send you home," the president warned.

Under the new arrangement, regional health authorities will no longer be permitted to independently purchase emergency drugs without approvals from the Director of Regional Health Services, the Chief Medical Officer and the head of the Materials Management Unit.

A national oversight committee will meet monthly to assess emergency supply requirements across the health system.

President Ali said the platform is designed to improve efficiency, reduce wastage from expired or excess stock and provide real-time visibility of medical supplies throughout the country's healthcare network.

31-MONTH PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM ORGAN TRANSPLANT SERVICES IN GUYANA

Guyana has launched a 31-month initiative aimed at developing a sustainable, resilient and internationally aligned organ donation and transplantation system to strengthen the country's healthcare services and improve patient outcomes.

The programme was formally discussed during a high-level meeting among Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony and a delegation from the Donation and Transplantation Institute (DTI Foundation), the Human Organ and

Tissue Transplant Agency (HOTTA), the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and other senior health officials at the ministry's Brickdam office.

Funded by the European Union and coordinated by Expertise France under the Guyana NextHealth programme, the initiative will run from April 2026 to October 2028 and focus on building institutional, clinical, regulatory and laboratory capacity to support organ donation and transplantation.



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony, along with the delegation from DTI Foundation, HOTTA, GPHC, and other senior health officials

A key component of the project includes strengthening protocols for living kidney donation while ensuring ethical standards and improved governance across the system.

The initiative marks a shift away from ad hoc procedures toward a structured national framework led by local institutions.

The programme is also expected to improve access to life-saving transplant services, reduce patient mortality linked to end-stage organ failure, and lessen

the need for overseas medical treatment.

In addition, healthcare professionals will benefit from training and knowledge transfer based on international best practices, helping to build long-term local expertise in transplant medicine.

The initiative forms part of broader efforts to modernise Guyana's health sector and reduce dependence on external medical systems by expanding specialised care within the country.

OVER 86,000 CHILDREN SCREENED UNDER LANDMARK NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME



Dr Rachel Vreeman, Executive Director of the Guyana-Mount Sinai Health Initiative

Guyana's national child health screening programme has been described as unmatched globally in its speed and reach, following the screening of more than 86,000 children and adolescents across the

country. Executive Director of the Guyana-Mount Sinai Health Initiative, Dr Rachel Vreeman, made the assessment after a second-quarter Steering Committee meeting held at State

House in Georgetown, where President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali was updated on progress under the health partnership.

Dr Vreeman said the scale and pace of the programme set Guyana apart internationally.

"Guyana's ability to move forward with this national child health screening programme is unparalleled around the world," she said. **"I have not seen a single country that has been able to move forward with**

this kind of early childhood initiative with the speed and coverage that Guyana has."

The screening programme assesses vision, hearing, dental health, developmental milestones and overall physical wellbeing, allowing health authorities to detect conditions early and respond more effectively. Officials said the data collected is also helping to shape broader child health interventions nationwide.

Dr Vreeman reported

that more than 86,000 young people have already benefited from the initiative, which is being rolled out as part of a wider transformation of the health sector.

The Steering Committee also reviewed progress across digital health, cardiovascular care, cancer services and future projects aimed at strengthening Guyana's transition to a modern healthcare system.

Looking ahead, the initiative will expand services for adolescents, with greater focus on autism support, mental

health care, substance abuse prevention and specialised paediatric treatment.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony said the school health component alone has screened more than 4,000 children, noting that follow-up interventions have already begun based on identified needs.

The Guyana-Mount Sinai National Healthcare Initiative was launched to support government efforts to build a world-class health system through expanded infrastructure, training, digitalisation and specialised medical services.

JUSTICE SECTOR TRAINING AIMS TO CUT CASE BACKLOG AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES IN GUYANA



Crime Chief and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Wendell Blanhum

A two-day joint training programme for investigators and prosecutors aimed at improving criminal case outcomes and reducing court backlogs has been completed, marking another step in Guyana's ongoing effort to modernise its justice system.

The programme, held at the Police Officers' Mess, Eve Leary, brought together the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and

the Guyana Police Force under the Partnership of the Caribbean and the European Union (PACE) on Justice Project.

It focused on strengthening cooperation between investigators and prosecutors, with



Director of Public Prosecutions Shalimar Ali-Hack

emphasis on strategic case planning, best practices in criminal investigations, inter-agency protocols, victim-centred witness care, evidence management

and coordinated case preparation.

Director of Public Prosecutions, Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC, said the training supports a unified approach across the justice chain, ensuring that all operate with shared objectives.

"If the judiciary and the prosecution, which includes the investigators, are not operating from the same perspective... we will not make progress in the courts," she said.

Ali-Hack noted that justice sector reforms supported by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have already contributed to a significant reduction in High Court backlog. She said criminal assize cases have fallen from about 300 to just over 100 over the past two



Members of the Guyana Police Force and legal professionals

years.

She attributed the progress to legislative reforms such as the Plea Bargaining Act and the Paper Committal Act, along with updated criminal procedure rules and the growing use of technology in investigations.

Crime Chief, Deputy Commissioner of Police Wendell Blanhum, said improved collaboration between police and

prosecutors remains essential to sustaining gains in efficiency and public confidence, noting that witness availability continues to present challenges in some cases.

UNDP Officer-in-Charge in Guyana, Dhiraj Singh, described the training as part of a broader investment in stronger institutions and improved access to justice, supported through digital tools,

forensic training and system upgrades.

European Union representatives said the programme's practical focus is expected to enhance day-to-day investigative and prosecutorial work.

The PACE Justice Project, funded by the EU and implemented by the UNDP, continues to support justice reform across eight Caribbean countries. In Guyana, it has provided equipment such as fingerprint machines, scanners and computers, alongside legislative and procedural improvements aimed at reducing delays.

The training strengthens coordination between key justice institutions and supports ongoing efforts to build a more efficient and modern criminal justice system.

GOVT EXPLORES SMART TECH SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE ILLEGAL DUMPING NATIONWIDE

Guyana is exploring the use of smart technology and digital systems to strengthen waste management and curb illegal dumping, as the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development advances its push to modernise public services.

A technical team from the ministry recently met with representatives of Huawei Guyana to discuss innovative solutions aimed at improving surveillance, monitoring and enforcement in the fight

against illegal garbage disposal.

The engagement focused on how emerging technologies could be integrated into existing systems to support data-driven enforcement and improve regulatory compliance across communities.

Huawei presented a range of potential tools designed to enhance environmental monitoring and assist authorities in identifying and deterring illegal dumping activities.

The meeting forms part of a wider series

of consultations led by Minister Priya Manickchand, who has been engaging stakeholders including the Guyana Police Force, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and municipal court officials. The aim is to develop a coordinated, multi-agency approach supported by stronger legal and technological frameworks.

The initiative is intended to improve enforcement capacity while also strengthening public health and environmental

protection outcomes.

The delegation included senior officials from the ministry's IT, sanitation and legal departments, while Huawei was represented by its local leadership team.

Huawei, a global ICT provider operating in more than 170 countries, has previously supported national projects in Guyana, including components of the Safe City Programme and speed camera systems.

The proposed collaboration represents a step toward integrating

smart solutions into management systems. national environmental



The meeting with representative of Huawei Guyana to explore innovative technological solutions

NEW HIVISION 2031 ROADMAP TO GUIDE GUYANA'S NATIONAL HIV RESPONSE

The Ministry of Health, through the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS), has invited proposals for a consultancy to review Guyana's current HIV strategy and develop a new national roadmap to guide the country's response through 2031.

The exercise will evaluate the implementation of HIVISION 2025, the

National HIV Strategic Plan covering 2021–2025, and support the formulation of HIVISION 2031, which will set priorities for 2026–2031.

According to the ministry, the initiative is a key part of Guyana's commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2031, in line with UNAIDS global targets.

The selected



Persons signing onto the goal of ending AIDS by 2030

consultant or firm will assess achievements, challenges and gaps under the current plan, update the national HIV epidemiological profile, and conduct consultations with stakeholders, including key informant interviews and site visits across the country.

The assignment also includes drafting and finalising the new strategy to ensure it

reflects emerging needs in HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

The Ministry of Health is seeking applicants with expertise in public health, epidemiology, HIV programming and policy development, as well as experience working with vulnerable populations.

RESIDENTS OPTIMISTIC AS EAST COAST ROAD PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



Improved infrastructure along the East Coast of Demerara

Residents and commuters along the East Coast Demerara corridor are welcoming the ongoing expansion of the US\$192 million roadway, saying the project is already making a noticeable difference in travel and traffic flow.

The large-scale infrastructure works, which stretch across one of the country's busiest transport corridors, are steadily advancing, with key sections nearing completion.

For returning resident Wayne Gittens, the progress was immediately visible.

"I go in the interior and come back and see they doing a good job with the road and I don't

have no complaints," he said, adding that the wider roadway will help ease congestion and improve movement along the corridor.

Vendor and resident Patsy Benn also expressed optimism, noting that improved infrastructure could support local businesses. Having recently benefitted from the Plaisance Market tarmac, she said she is looking forward to expanding

her operations as accessibility improves.

"I am really happy for it to finish... get some more things going," she said.

Commuter Trevon Williams described the project as a major upgrade for daily travel, saying the expanded road will significantly improve traffic flow. **"It is going to be a 10 out of 10,"** he said.

Works are already visible from Sheriff

Street to the Ogle Roundabout and from Belfield to Orange Nassau, with intensive paving continuing between Vryheid's Lust and Orange Nassau.

Once completed, the project is expected to transform transportation along the East Coast, offering safer, faster and more efficient travel for residents, businesses and commuters.



Carifesta Avenue Road Project progressing

A major transformation of Carifesta Avenue is steadily taking shape, bringing commuters closer to smoother journeys and improved drainage along one of

CARIFESTA AVENUE PROJECT MOVES CLOSER TO COMPLETION

Georgetown's busiest roadways.

The rehabilitation and expansion project, being carried out in phases, has already made significant progress. According to the Ministry of Public Works, works on the southern lane are over 75 per cent complete and include the installation

of covered drains, a reinforced concrete retaining wall, and the widening of the roadway to accommodate additional travel and parking lanes.

At the same time, the project's second phase has reached 85 per cent completion. This component includes further road widening

and the construction of new drainage infrastructure extending towards the Kitty Roundabout.

When completed, the upgraded corridor will feature improved drainage systems, pedestrian-friendly walkways, additional parking space, and expanded traffic

capacity.

For the thousands of motorists, pedestrians, and residents who use Carifesta Avenue daily, the project promises easier travel, reduced congestion, and greater resilience during periods of heavy rainfall, further enhancing connectivity in the capital city.



President Ali inspecting the rehabilitation works

Work on the Camp Street parapet enhancement project has advanced significantly following an overnight operation that saw crews complete key sections between Church and Quamina streets, marking continued progress in the government's

CAMP STREET PARAPET UPGRADE COMPLETED - OTHER GEORGETOWN WORKS CONTINUE

broader effort to improve Georgetown's roads, drainage, and urban environment.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali inspected the works during the night, noting that the project is focused on delivering durable hard-surface parapets while addressing long-standing drainage and sanitation challenges in the capital.

He pointed to blocked drains, deteriorated parapets, and accumulated garbage as persistent issues that have affected traffic flow



Walkway along Camp Street

and public health along the corridor.

"This is one of the major challenges. We have to work with the vendors to come up with a solution because the garbage left here

overnight impedes traffic and affects the environment," President Ali said during the inspection.

The works also included rehabilitation of underground drainage systems that had

deteriorated over time, with officials attributing the conditions to years of neglect.

Engineers and contractors carried out much of the project during night hours to minimise disruption to motorists and commuters along the busy route.

"We are working through the night so that people who left Georgetown in one condition will return to a visibly improved environment by morning," the President added.

Project personnel confirmed that the works included removing uneven road shoulders, laying sand and crushed stone, and constructing reinforced hard-surface parapets designed to improve pedestrian access and facilitate drainage maintenance.

The Camp Street upgrade is part of a wider city enhancement programme aimed at improving infrastructure, sanitation, and the overall appearance of Georgetown.



First concrete poured for Parika Port facility

PARIKA PORT DEVELOPMENT ADVANCES - CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

The first concrete has been poured for the \$4.5 billion Parika International Port Facility and Waterfront Development in Region Three, marking a key milestone in the project's construction phase.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced the development via social media, noting that the

project is expected to significantly modernise Guyana's maritime and tourism infrastructure.

Once completed, the facility will accommodate cruise liners and cargo vessels, strengthening regional trade links and improving export efficiency while creating new opportunities for tourism and luxury travel.

The first phase is being undertaken by Gaico Construction in partnership with Toolsie Persaud Limited and A&S General Contractors.

Plans for the second phase include a marina for yachts and the development of a waterfront tourism and entertainment hub featuring restaurants

and recreational spaces.

The wider project is expected to enhance access to Essequibo's tourism assets and complements ongoing national investments in energy, housing, transport and infrastructure development.

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PALMYRA AND ANNA REGINA STADIUMS NEAR OPENING



Palmyra International Stadium moves closer to completion as seats, roof installed

The Palmyra facility significantly closer to completion. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport said in an update that the venue is nearing readiness and is expected

to soon welcome athletes, spectators and visitors from across Guyana.

The stadium is being developed as a multipurpose facility designed to host cricket, athletics, basketball and futsal competitions, as well as concerts, festivals and other large-scale cultural events.

Officials have described the project as a “game-changer” for sports development in East Berbice-Corentyne, with the potential to stimulate economic activity and community growth in surrounding

areas, similar to the impact of the Guyana National Stadium at Providence.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr has previously said the project represents a transformational investment in national sporting infrastructure, aligned with government’s broader goal of positioning Guyana as a destination for international events.

Construction began in March 2023 and is being supported by a \$3.7 billion investment

through ExxonMobil’s Greater Guyana initiative.

Once completed, the facility is expected to expand opportunities for athletes, support sports tourism and create new spaces for cultural and entertainment activities across the region.

Meanwhile, in Region Two, the Anna Regina National Stadium is also nearing completion, with officials confirming it is substantially finished ahead of its scheduled opening on July 3.

Minister Ramson said only minor finishing works remain and commended the

construction team for advancing the project from a former ground into a modern sporting facility with international-standard features.

The stadium includes upgraded pavilions, improved drainage systems and a professional-grade playing surface, designed to support local athletes and host regional competitions.

Both projects form part of a wider national push to expand sports infrastructure and create greater opportunities for youth development, economic activity and community engagement across Guyana.

GUYANA SECURES HOSTING RIGHTS FOR FIBA AMERICUP CARIBBEAN PRE-QUALIFIERS



The signing of the contract between the Guyana Basketball Federation and the Kashif and Shanghai Organisation M

Guyana is set to host the FIBA AmeriCup 2029 Caribbean Pre-Qualifiers, bringing major regional basketball competition

back to local shores for the first time in more than 30 years.

The tournament will tip off on July 8, 2026, at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall and is expected to place Guyana and its athletes on the regional basketball map.

The FIBA AmeriCup is the premier continental championship for national teams across the Americas, serving

as a key pathway to elite international competition.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr endorsed the event at the signing of the organising contract between the Guyana Basketball Federation (GBF) and the Kashif and Shanghai Organisation, which will manage the tournament.

He said Guyana’s

ability to host such events reflects sustained investment in sports infrastructure and national facilities.

The competition will feature 10 Caribbean nations divided into two groups of five, with group winners qualifying for the FIBA AmeriCup 2029. More than 250 players and officials are expected in Guyana, representing

countries including Barbados, Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Bermuda and others.

The tournament also marks a historic return, with Guyana last hosting a similar competition in 1994 and having first hosted the Caribbean Championship in 1981.

SOUTH DAKOTA CIRCUIT WORKS ACCELERATE AS GUYANA RACES TOWARD GRAND PRIX DEADLINE

Construction and rehabilitation works at the South Dakota Circuit are moving at pace as Guyana ramps up preparations to host the upcoming Guyana Grand Prix next month.

The upgrades, being delivered in partnership with the Guyana Motor Racing and Sports Club, are aimed at

bringing the facility and its surrounding access routes up to international standards ahead of the July 11–12 event, which is expected to draw more than 20,000 spectators.

During a recent site inspection, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said multiple work teams have been deployed to fast-track

critical components of the project, including resurfacing of the racetrack, expansion of spectator readiness measures, and urgent upgrades to key access roads.

“One aspect is resurfacing the racetrack to meet international standards,” he noted,

adding that another team is focused on improving accommodation and crowd readiness, while a third is working on the Linden–Soesdyke corridor, commonly known as the Glass Factory Road.

He said the stretch is being upgraded with crusher-run material, with plans to complete

an asphalt finish where possible before race week.

Despite persistent rainfall creating difficult working conditions, Minister Edghill said he is satisfied with the pace of progress, noting that sections of the route from Timehri to the circuit have already been improved.



Drone shot of the ongoing upgrades on the South Dakota circuit

NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE SLATED FOR FULL REFURBISHMENT

The National Cultural Centre (NCC), Guyana’s premier performing arts venue, is set for a major restoration and modernisation this year as government moves ahead with design and procurement phases for the long-anticipated upgrade.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs, confirmed that work is progressing in collaboration with technical consultants to

develop a comprehensive plan that will transform both the exterior appearance and internal facilities of the iconic Homestretch Avenue institution.

Speaking in an interview with the Department of Public Information (DPI), Minister Jacobs said the project reflects a strong national commitment to preserving and enhancing the NCC’s role at the heart of Guyana’s cultural life.

“We recognise and understand that His Excellency has made it very clear that the National Cultural Centre is important to us, and we want to ensure that it is fully restored,” he said.

The planned works will include significant upgrades to dressing rooms, washroom facilities, and other backstage areas aimed at improving comfort and functionality for performers, technicians,

and cultural groups who use the venue regularly.

Minister Jacobs emphasised that the goal is to deliver a modernised facility that better serves both artistes and audiences.

Once the design phase is completed, the project will move into procurement, with physical works expected to commence later this year.

The NCC remains a central hub for national cultural



The National Culture Centre on Homestreach Avenue, Georgetown

expression, and in 2022 it underwent earlier upgrades, including new auditorium seating, lighting, acoustics, and security improvements.



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



BLUE RIDGE HOTEL RISES ABOVE LILIENDAAL SKYLINE

Steel and concrete now define the landscape at Liliendaal, East Coast Demerara, where the US\$45 million Blue Ridge Hotel has moved firmly beyond groundwork into a dominant structural phase.

The developing high-rise, spearheaded by Suriname-based Pasha Global Group, is already asserting its presence along the corridor, signalling the arrival of a major new player in Guyana's hospitality sector.

Designed as a premium, multi-purpose facility, the hotel will offer 200 rooms alongside a casino, expansive parking facilities, and a dedicated multi-level parking building. At its core is a major conference complex with seating for approximately 1,000 people, positioning the property as a future hub for business events, conventions, and large-scale gatherings.



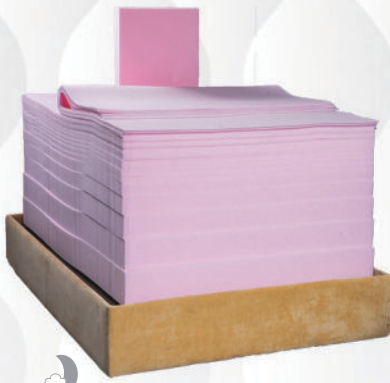
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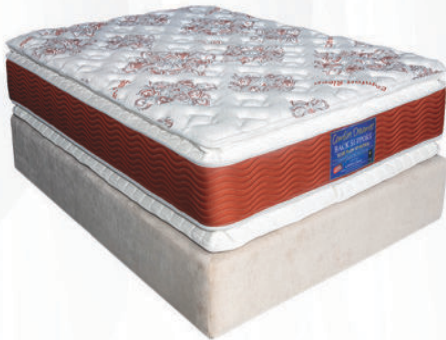
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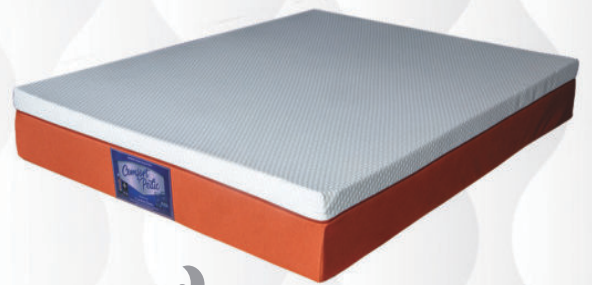
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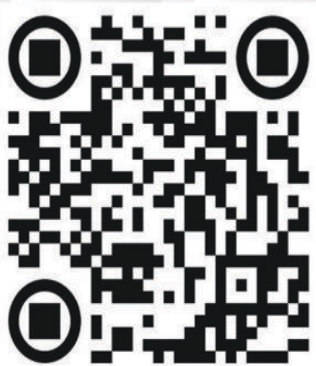
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Currency crash, visa crackdowns force Indian students to rethink studying abroad

AFTER many years of careful planning, Pragati Priya, a 29-year-old content creator from the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, finally decided to enroll in a master's programme abroad this year.

Priya will head to university in Rome in September to study global economic affairs – a move she hopes will open the door to better professional opportunities in Europe.

She's excited about what the future holds, but also questions whether she's made the right decision. The amount she needs to borrow for her programme has risen sharply because of the steep decline in the value of the Indian rupee against a basket of currencies, including the euro, over the past few months.

"It has kept me up at night. I don't want to burden myself with a student loan that [I] will never finish [repaying]," Priya told the BBC over phone.

Her anxiety mirrors the dilemma facing hundreds of thousands of middle-class Indian students who leave home each year to study at universities across Europe, North America and Australia.

More than 1.2 million Indian students were enrolled in higher education abroad in 2025, with India having overtaken China some years ago as the leading source of international students.

But a weakening currency, bleak job prospects in the US and Europe, stricter visa requirements and immigration crackdowns have forced many to reconsider whether it is worth taking on hefty debts to move abroad.

"I considered dropping my plans, but my parents and sister promised to support me. That's the only reason I'm able to take this risk," Priya said.

For many others, that is not a luxury they can afford – a reality reflected in declining enrolment numbers for the upcoming September intake at universities.

"The market is clearly showing signs of slowing down. We've already seen enrolments to the UK and US fall by 20% over the last two years, and I expect another 10-15% decline from those levels going forward," Sushil Sukhwani, founder of Edwise International, which sends thousands of Indian students to universities abroad each year, told the BBC.

Tougher visa requirements have already taken a toll. In the UK, 76% of universities reported a decline in Indian student enrolments for the January intake, while in the US, enrolments fell by nearly 7% between February 2025 and February 2026.

The sharp fall in the rupee has compounded the challenges facing both prospective students and those already studying overseas.

"Many students who are already abroad have paid part of their tuition fees, but are now having to refinance



Studying abroad is still a luxury many Indian students can't afford

loans and arrange additional funding to cover future instalments, with the rupee down more than 10% against the US dollar in the last year," Sukhwani said.

According to his calculations, the Indian rupee has depreciated by between 35% and 47% against the currencies of major study destinations since 2019.

While incomes have risen for some graduates who have got jobs and stayed overseas, climbing onto the career ladder is becoming increasingly difficult for many international students.

"They arrive hoping to secure skilled jobs in the fields they trained for and end up working in the gig economy. Earlier, that work helped fund their education. Now many are graduating and doing it full-time," Sudhanshu Kaushik, founder of the North America Association of Indian Students in Washington, told the BBC.

This, he said, is affecting the risk appetite of upper-middle-class Indian families, particularly as the weaker rupee has made an overseas education more expensive than ever.

Yet overall demand for foreign education remains strong.

According to the Global Student Flows Report 2026, Indian student enrolments in the US, UK, Canada and Australia – often referred to as the "big four" destinations – are forecast to decline by an average of 0.5% annually through 2030.

At the same time, interest in alternative destinations is growing.

"Countries such as Germany, Ireland, Italy and several other European destinations are attracting increasing interest from Indian students because of lower tuition costs, favourable post-study work pathways, strong employment prospects and a more attractive overall value proposition," said Mayank Maheshwari, co-founder and COO of University Living, a student accommodation platform.

Sukhwani says his company has also shifted its focus towards these "new-age destinations" in response to

growing student interest.

Affordability was a key factor in Priya's decision to choose Italy over the UK or the US.

Her tuition fees are roughly half of what she would have paid in the UK, while the US was "out of the question", she said, because completing her degree there would have taken two years rather

than one in Rome.

Experts say these trends are a worrying sign for countries such as the UK and the US, which have spent decades building globally competitive higher education sectors.

The concern is particularly acute because India remains one of the largest sources of international students for both countries, even as enrolments from China have slowed.

"The depreciating currency, the job market, the rise of AI, the visa issues and the current [Donald Trump] administration's policies have all combined to create a perfect storm. No one wins," said Kaushik.

"The students suffer, the universities suffer, college towns suffer and the broader economy suffers."

He argues that the US especially risks undermining one of its most successful sources of influence abroad.

"We are retreating from the gains we made in promoting higher education as one of our most influential and profitable forms of soft power," he said. (BBC)



New aircraft for Jags Aviation

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips, this past Saturday joined His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, and the executive management of Jags Aviation Inc. for the official commissioning and ribbon-cutting ceremony of two new HAL-228 aircraft.

The ceremony was held at Jags' Bradley Hangar at the Eugene F. Correia International Airport, Ogle.

During the event, President Ali underscored his Government's vision for a modern and expanded aviation sector, noting that Guyana must not merely participate in global growth, but soar alongside it.

The two Dornier 228 aircraft each seat 19 passengers and are expected to significantly enhance service delivery. They also introduce a first for domestic aviation in Guyana, featuring onboard washroom facilities an added level of comfort for passengers travelling long distances.

The planes were procured from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in India, further strengthening bilateral ties.

The president said the investment represents more than fleet expansion, describing it as another signal of Guyana's broader economic transformation and its ambition to become a regional aviation hub. "It is a local company that I believe has the potential to become more than a local carrier, and indeed I believe that our aviation players should come together to look towards developing a regional carrier, because Guyana's ambitions now seem limitless," he stated.



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