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## Ali, Kamla to meet with Trump

Guyana's President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar are expected to meet United States (US) President Donald Trump in Miami on March 7.

Both regional leaders confirmed the meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government in St. Kitts and Nevis.

"It's a meeting dealing with security matters, it's dealing with some of the challenges in the region, and to see how we can coordinate better in relation to those challenges," President Ali told reporters.

Security, the Guyanese leader said, has been a key focus in the growing bilateral relationship between his country and the US.

Meanwhile, the Trinidadian Prime Minister told reporters that the invitation to attend the meeting with President Trump was extended during bilateral talks with visiting US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

During his engagements at the CARICOM Summit, Rubio has reportedly called for deeper cooperation on tackling criminal gangs.

Other countries in Latin America are reportedly part of the Miami engagement. There has been no confirmation that other Caribbean leaders will attend. This meeting comes just weeks after US forces recently captured and overthrew Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.

Above, Ali and Persad-Bissessar are pictured at last week's Caricom Summit with Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, and Tobago House of Assembly leader Augustine Farley. The latter was invited to the meeting for the first time by Persad-Bissessar.

## Canada, India sign education pacts

Full story on Page 2



## Canada talks trade with India, Aussies

Prime Minister Mark Carney and his Indian counterpart announced Monday what they're calling a "new partnership," a series of multimillion-dollar deals and a commitment to sign a free trade agreement by year's end as the two look to turn the page on years of frosty bilateral relations marked by allegations of Indian foreign interference.

In a statement to reporters after a one-on-one meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the colonial-era Hyderabad House in Delhi's diplomatic core, Carney said Canada is going all-in on diversifying trade. The two countries have set a goal to more than double two-way trade to some \$70 billion a year by 2030, he said, as Canada continues a push to reduce its dependence on the U.S.

Carney framed this new course as not just a return to how things were but rather an ambitious revisioning of what the two Commonwealth countries can do together in an uncertain era marked by instability. At the centre of this more robust relationship will be a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement — a free trade deal — that Carney said the two sides hope to sign by December, which will offer Canada exports relief from Indian tariffs that are quite high on some goods.

"This is not merely the renewal of a relationship. It is the expansion of a valued partnership with new ambition, focus, and foresight — a partnership between two confident countries charting our course for the future," Carney said alongside Modi as the two delivered statements.

Reading prepared remarks, Modi was effusive in his praise of Carney, noting his leadership at two central banks and saying the only reason the two countries are on a better footing is because of his leadership.

The Canadian PM then flew on to Australia, where he held a meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

In Australia, Carney's office said the prime minister will discuss deepening cooperation on defence and maritime security, critical minerals, trade and artificial intelligence.

Like India, a bulk of the Canadian prime minister's trip will include meetings with business leaders and investors "to attract new capital into Canada", his office said.

Albanese said, "As our countries face new challenges and opportunities, we must deepen our cooperation with partners to promote our national interests."

Above is a photo of Carney with Modi and Albanese, taken just prior to the last November's G20 summit in South Africa.

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## Canada, India sign education pact

By Milan Maharaj  
LJI REPORTER

Canada and India have announced 13 new partnerships between postsecondary institutions in both countries, alongside the launch of a Canada-India Talent and Innovation strategy aimed at expanding collaboration in higher education and research.

The announcement was issued by Global Affairs Canada and outlines agreements between Canadian and Indian universities in areas including health sciences, engineering, artificial intelligence and clean technology. The universities entered into formal agreements to guide collaboration and are intended to facilitate joint research initiatives, academic exchanges and institutional cooperation.

Participating Canadian institutions include the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University, among others. Indian partner institutions include the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Jawaharlal Nehru University, along with additional universities and research centers.

According to the announcement, the partnerships are intended to support collaboration in research and innovation, as well as student faculty and mobility between both countries. Areas of cooperation outlined in the agreements include science, technology, engineer-

ing and math disciplines, as well as emerging technology sectors and health related research.

In conjunction with the institutional partnerships, the two governments introduced a Canada-India Talent and Innovation Strategy. The strategy gives a framework for bilateral cooperation focused on strengthening academic collaboration, advancing joint research efforts and increasing mobility pathways for students, researchers, and skilled professionals.

Priority sectors identified in the strategy include STEM fields, clean technology, life sciences and other industries. The framework gives way for coordination between governments, universities, and industry stakeholders to support research partnerships and knowledge sharing.

The announcement states that Canada and India maintain an established education relationship, with India representing one of the largest sources of international students in Canada. The new agreements are positioned within the border context of academic and research ties between institutions in both countries.

Officials from the Canadian and Indian governments participated in discussions leading to the agreements. Further operational details and an outline on the dedicated funding amounts are expected to be provided as the new partnership moves forward.

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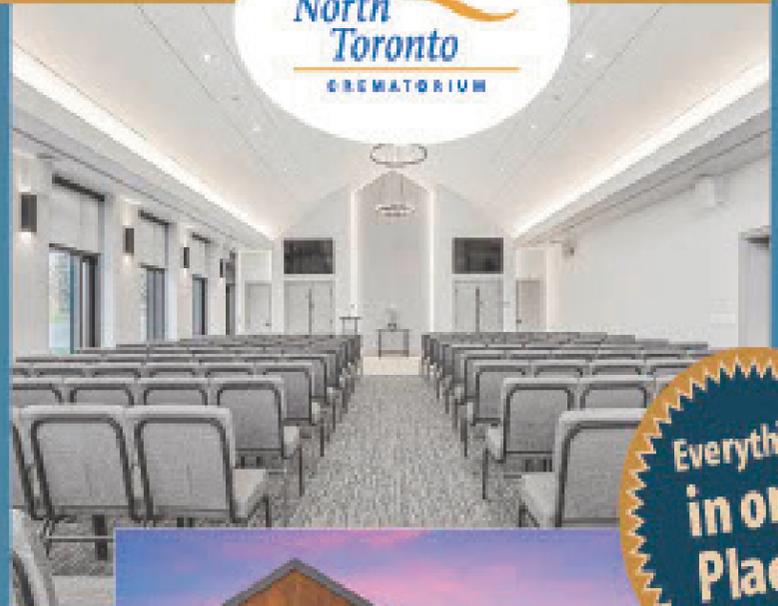
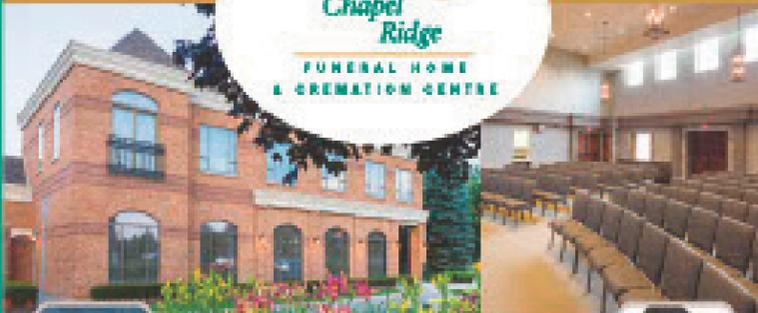
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# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 113

## GUYANA AND TRINIDAD INVITED TO U.S. SECURITY MEETING

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President Dr. Irfaan Ali meets with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference in St. Kitts and Nevis.



EXXONMOBIL'S US\$100M STEM PROGRAMME TO OPEN DOORS FOR GUYANA'S YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

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VP JAGDEO ENGAGES WORLD LEADERS IN INDIA ON AI INNOVATION AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES

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GEORGETOWN BURSTS TO LIFE FOR MASHRAMANI 2026

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## GUYANA ENGINEERING THE FUTURE - PRESIDENT ALI TELLS GLOBAL TECH AND ENERGY LEADERS AT 2026 CONFERENCE



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

Guyana is not simply riding an oil boom; it is actively **“engineering the future”** President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali declared at the opening of the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026.

Speaking to more than 10,000 attendees, including over 200 exhibitors and 74 speakers, the President outlined a vision that fuses energy wealth with cutting-edge technology, strategic infrastructure, and sustainable development.

At the Guyana Marriott Hotel, President Ali told global energy leaders, investors, and policymakers, **“Energy is the capacity to do work, and in a national context, that energy is people, technology, capital, partnership, but importantly, ideas. Ideas are what create the momentum to move this country forward.”**

Rejecting the notion

### CITIZEN-CENTRIC ECONOMY

In a major policy announcement, President Ali confirmed that the Bank of Guyana has completed a national payments platform, enabling two local banks to launch fully digital operations. The system, including digital wallets and electronic transfers, aims to dismantle barriers for small businesses and bring a new generation into the formal economy.

**“We want our economy to run on a digital backbone,”** he said. **“We are building a citizen-centric system where government services are available at the touch of a button, reducing bias and improving transparency.”**

He also highlighted a parallel infrastructure strategy, describing the rapid development of deep-water ports and upgraded airports in Lethem and Region

one that adopts **developmental prosperity with an eye on sustainability,”** he said.

Despite a survey showing that 90 percent of attendees believe Guyana is on the right track, the President cautioned against complacency: **“We cannot be satisfied when nearly 10 percent still believe we are not heading in the right direction. Our oil and gas transition must translate into measurable improvements in life expectancy and income for all citizens.”**

From coding programmes in primary schools to the regional technology hub in Wales,

and make Guyana **credible on the global stage.”**

He credited decades of disciplined policy for attracting investors like ExxonMobil, noting that the oil boom is the product of years of preparation, not luck. Guyana’s non-oil economy has grown an average of 11 percent over the last five years, he said, and the Sovereign Wealth Fund now holds sufficient resources to pay off the nation’s external debt. **“We have been able to accumulate enough savings to pay off the total external debt of the country,”** Dr. Singh said, marking a historic pivot from a nation once burdened by a 600 percent debt-to-GDP ratio.



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

President Ali’s message was clear: Guyana is preparing today to remain a global leader long after the oil era.

### FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEBT-FREE, GUYANA’S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, highlighted the broader economic transformation. Speaking during a dialogue with S&P Global Ambassador Carlos Pascual, Dr. Singh recalled Guyana’s pre-1992 era of economic collapse.

**“It was essentially a dictatorship,”** he said. **“We were spending more than 100 percent of government revenue on debt servicing. It took decades to rebuild institutions**

### PRIME MINISTER PHILLIPS CHAMPIONS BALANCED GREEN TRANSITION

On day two, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips outlined Guyana’s approach to a **“balanced and responsible”** energy transition, stressing that industrial growth will not compromise the country’s environmental heritage.

**“Reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy is central to improving infrastructure, expanding economic opportunities, and raising living standards,”** he told delegates, highlighting Guyana’s 85 percent forest cover and its role as a global carbon sink.

Since 2020, Guyana has added 186 megawatts of power capacity, including solar farms in Bartica and



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

Lethem and mini-hydro plants in the hinterland. Looking forward, the 2026 budget allocates \$119.4 billion for the Gas-to-Energy Project and the deployment of an additional 100 megawatts of solar energy.

**“Our vision is simple but powerful: a future where energy powers progress, forests remain tall, and development uplifts every citizen without compromising our natural heritage,”** he said.

### AI STRATEGY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar Ally stressed that Guyana’s push into AI and high-tech infrastructure is a deliberate, long-term strategy, not a reaction to global trends.

**“What we are**

make Guyana a regional technology hub.

Minister Ally also showcased the specialised FPSO training institute, one of few globally, ensuring local talent leads Guyana’s oil and gas sector. **“Every sector that you can think about, AI is going to be part of that,”** he said, noting its applications in drones, agriculture, robotics, and healthcare.

### MINISTER INDAR DETAILS INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY PROJECTS

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar emphasised that Guyana’s rapid infrastructure development is creating a predictable and inviolable environment for investors. Highlighting projects like the Gas-to-Energy initiative, fertiliser plants, and airport expansions, he underlined the



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

that Guyana should simply enjoy its oil revenues, he added, **“We are not sleepwalking through this journey. Technology is critical, and we have to adopt it in a way that allows us to sustain our success.”**

DIGITAL LEAP AND

Six to link Guyana to northern Brazil and the Caribbean. **“Yes, we have a Natural Resource Fund. But simultaneously, we are moving at lightning speed with infrastructure development. We are developing a global model,**



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

**seeing today did not happen in a vacuum,”** he said, citing years of groundwork in digitising government records and moving services online. Highlighting the 100MW AI data center MoU with U.S.-based Cerebras Systems in Wales, he said the strategy aims to

government’s hybrid energy strategy, including 100 megawatts of solar power across 55 grid-tied farms and the reopening of the 165-megawatt Amaila Falls Hydropower project.

**“We are working on multiple tracks.”**

# GUYANA AND TRINIDAD INVITED TO U.S. SECURITY MEETING



President Ali at the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government in St Kitts and Nevis

Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago are the only two CARICOM member states invited to participate in a high-level regional security meeting convened by U.S. President Donald Trump in Miami on March 7, highlighting deepening strategic engagement between Washington and select Caribbean partners.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali confirmed Guyana's participation while speaking on the sidelines of the 50th Regular Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government in St Kitts and Nevis.

He described the invitation as recognition of Guyana's proactive efforts to strengthen bilateral ties and contribute to regional security cooperation.

**“Over the last several years, we have engaged with the United States to enhance collaboration on**



President Ali in discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio

**security matters affecting the hemisphere,”** President Ali said. The Miami summit is expected to focus on coordinated responses to shared threats, including transnational crime, migration pressures, and other regional challenges.

President Ali also underscored the importance of CARICOM solidarity, particularly amid ongoing concerns over national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He welcomed support from Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, stressing that unity among Caribbean states is essential when any member faces external

pressures.

**“Our duty as leaders is to work in the interest of our citizens, our countries and the**



The bilateral meeting with Suriname President Dr Jennifer Geerlings-Simons

**region,”** he said.

Beyond security, President Ali highlighted Guyana's strong and evolving relationship with the United States. He described discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio as **“very positive,”** focusing on regional development and coordinated diplomatic priorities. Secretary Rubio traveled to St Kitts and Nevis specifically to meet with CARICOM leaders and reaffirm U.S.-Caribbean

partnerships.

President Ali also addressed the employment of Cuban medical professionals in Guyana, explaining

that Cuban staff are paid directly and operate under local labour laws, a model he said meets international standards.

While security remains central, the



The engagement with Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness

President emphasised economic cooperation, including food security and the free movement of goods, urging the removal of bureaucratic barriers to deepen CARICOM integration.

During the CARICOM meeting, President Ali also engaged with Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness and held bilateral discussions with Suriname's President Dr Jennifer Geerlings-Simons to strengthen partnerships in energy, food security, and regional connectivity.

The Miami summit is expected to further define U.S.-Caribbean security collaboration, with Guyana emerging as an increasingly influential partner in hemispheric affairs.



\$56,000 pension payment set for March

## SENIOR CITIZENS TO RECEIVE \$56,000 PENSION PAYMENT IN MARCH

Senior citizens across Guyana will receive a welcome financial boost in March as the government rolls out the increased old age pension along with back pay for the first two months of 2026.

For many pensioners, the total payment of \$56,000 will bring relief at a time

when household costs remain high. The sum reflects the new monthly pension of \$46,000 plus \$10,000 in retroactive payments, \$5,000 each for January and February.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, shared the update in a Facebook

message, encouraging seniors to ensure their pension vouchers are properly stamped at post offices to access the full amount.

Importantly, elderly citizens who are unable to travel need not worry. Family members or trusted individuals can complete the process on their behalf once

authorised by signature or thumbprint and witnessed accordingly.

For thousands of older Guyanese, March's payment represents more than money, it offers reassurance and added dignity in their golden years.

## EYE CARE VOUCHER PROGRAMME NOW OPEN TO ALL AGES

After a 144 per cent surge in public uptake, the government's voucher-based healthcare programme is entering a new phase, one that will allow all

Guyanese to benefit from eye testing and preventive services.

The announcement was made by Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony during the signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding with 67 healthcare partners at Herdmanston Lodge in Georgetown. Originally designed to support children and older adults, and later adjusted to those aged 50 and above, the eye care initiative will now be expanded to cover every age group.

**“I think this has been a very successful programme for us,”** Dr Anthony said, pointing to the strong public response. **“We have been able to cover a large percentage of the**

**population, and now we want to expand it so that everybody can benefit.”**

The programme's rapid growth reflects increased trust and accessibility. In 2024, 134,152 vouchers were used for services including eye exams, spectacles, laboratory testing and HPV screening. By 2025, that number had climbed to 326,868 vouchers.

Beyond the statistics, the impact has been tangible. Approximately 1,200 people were diagnosed with cataracts



Eye testing vouchers now accessible to everyone

and treated, while others began care for glaucoma and other conditions. Expanded testing has also revealed high rates of diabetes and cholesterol, allowing patients to seek treatment earlier.

The ministry is encouraging partners to extend services into hinterland Regions One, Seven, Eight, Nine and

Ten to ensure equitable access nationwide.

In parallel, the HPV vaccination programme continues, offering the quadrivalent vaccine free to boys and girls aged nine to 15 and women up to age 45, strengthening preventive healthcare efforts across Guyana.



MoUs for voucher-based healthcare programmes inked

## EXXONMOBIL'S US\$100M STEM PROGRAMME TO OPEN DOORS FOR GUYANA'S YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS



Chair and CEO of ExxonMobil, Darren Woods making the announcement

From coding and robotics to biotechnology and engineering, ExxonMobil's new US\$100 million STEM programme aims to equip Guyanese students with the tools and skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. The initiative, announced during a dinner hosted by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and First

Lady Arya Ali to mark Guyana's 56th Republic Anniversary, focuses on teacher training, hands-on learning, and creating clear career pathways nationwide.

STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—offers an interdisciplinary approach designed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. Students will gain practical experience through subjects such as robotics, coding, and biotechnology, preparing them for careers in emerging fields.

President Ali emphasised the importance of equipping the current and next generation with knowledge and skills to drive Guyana's growth. **"We have to ensure that the next generation of Guyanese, and this generation,**



President Ali with Chair and CEO of ExxonMobil, Darren Woods

**are equipped with the necessary skills, training, and knowledge to take Guyana forward,"**

he said, noting that education is central to the government's strategy for innovation, entrepreneurship, and national development.

A dedicated STEM centre will be built at the University of Guyana campus, with completion expected by 2028. The university setting is designed to introduce children to a

campus environment early, fostering ambition and higher learning. Preparatory work, including curriculum development and teacher training, will begin immediately, led by the Ministry of Education.

ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods highlighted the company's dual focus on responsibly developing offshore oil resources while creating opportunities onshore. Later this year, ExxonMobil will

roll out a nationwide secondary-level teacher training programme in mathematics and science and open the first STEM centre in Georgetown. These centres, modelled on the ExxonMobil Foundation Teen Engineering and Tech Centre in Spring, Texas, aim to provide hands-on, real-world learning opportunities for students and young adults.

The programme is expected to train thousands of educators

and reach tens of thousands of students over the next decade, strengthening Guyana's STEM capacity and preparing a new generation of engineers, scientists, and innovators. President Ali praised ExxonMobil for aligning its vision with the government's development agenda, underscoring the partnership as a model for sustainable growth and human capital development in Guyana.



President Ali with members of ExxonMobil

## EACH GTTCI STUDENT REPRESENTS A US\$150,000 INVESTMENT IN GUYANA'S ENERGY FUTURE

At the newly commissioned Guyana Technical Training College Incorporated (GTTCI) in Port Mourant, Berbice, each trainee represents more than just a seat in a classroom. They are a US\$150,000 investment each in the country's energy future. The government is funding this cutting-edge programme to ensure that Guyanese are trained, certified, and ready to compete in the booming oil and gas sector, all without leaving home.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali shared the details during his podcast, *Tea on the Terrace*, emphasising the transformational nature of the initiative. **"This is about investing in our people and building a workforce that can compete globally,"** he said. **"Every trainee here represents an investment of about US\$150,000... and now that opportunity is available right here at home."**

Officially commissioned on

February 15, the GTTCI offers an 18-month programme combining foundational and advanced training aligned with Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) operations. The institute features advanced technology and industry-grade systems, including simulations of real offshore environments, to ensure graduates are job-ready and meet international standards.

Students are already feeling the impact. Dhanraj Kishun said, **"This programme is opening doors I never thought possible. The level of technology and hands-on training we're getting here is preparing us to step confidently into the oil and gas sector."** Mugabe Ross added, **"Before this, training like this meant leaving the country. Now we can gain world-class certification right here at home."** Xavier Johnson highlighted the practical experience: **"We're not just learning theory, we're working with**



The government is investing approximately US\$150,000 per trainee enrolled at the newly commissioned training institute



The government is investing approximately US\$150,000 per trainee enrolled at the newly commissioned training institute

**the same systems used offshore. That kind of exposure gives us a real advantage and sets us apart."**

Training Centre Manager Shaagul Hameeth explained, **"By the time they complete the programme, trainees are trained to international standards and ready to perform safely and**

**efficiently offshore."**

Phil Doody, President and CEO of LearnCorp International, praised the facility as a regional milestone. **"We've transitioned from training cohorts in Canada to delivering that same high-quality programme here in Guyana. This facility is unmatched in the region and positions the country**



The government is investing approximately US\$150,000 per trainee enrolled at the newly commissioned training institute



The government is investing approximately US\$150,000 per trainee enrolled at the newly commissioned training institute

**as a leader in training across the Caribbean."**

Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith, emphasised the long-term impact. **"This is not just about today's jobs. It's about building the workforce Guyana will need for decades to come, and establishing our country as a hub for technical**

With each student representing a significant government investment, the GTTCI signals a major step in Guyana's human capital development, placing young Guyanese at the heart of the nation's energy future while preparing them to compete on a global stage.

# ENERGY GIANTS BACK GUYANA'S AGGRESSIVE GAS DEVELOPMENT PUSH

Berbice could soon become the centre of Guyana's next wave of industrial expansion, as ExxonMobil signals plans to advance a second gas-to-energy project aligned with government's 2030 development targets.

The announcement came during the fifth edition of the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, where ExxonMobil and Chevron reaffirmed their commitment to partnering with the Government of Guyana in responsibly developing the country's oil and gas resources.

President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge, confirmed that the



President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge

company anticipates submitting a request for environmental authorisation in the coming weeks or months for a second gas project in the southeast portion of the Stabroek Block.

The proposed development is expected to complement the ongoing gas-to-energy project at Wales, West

Bank Demerara, and could significantly transform Berbice through the creation of new industrial infrastructure. Government has already outlined plans for a deep-water port, industrial zones, a data centre and an ammonia plant in the region, with interest also expressed in potential collaboration with neighbouring Suriname.

Routledge noted that President Dr Irfaan Ali has set an ambitious target for the project to materialise by 2030, signalling growing confidence in the viability of Guyana's offshore gas reserves.

Meanwhile, Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat highlighted the scale of Guyana's energy

transformation, noting that oil production has increased from 120,000 barrels per day in 2020 to more than 900,000 barrels per day in 2025.

**"This momentum is expected to deliver more benefits for Guyana in the coming years, cementing our country's global positioning as a premier producer of low-cost, low-emission resources,"** the minister said.

The ministry also acknowledged remarks by Chevron's Chief Executive Officer Mike Wirth, who affirmed the company's commitment to partnering with Guyana as development progresses in the Stabroek Block, where Chevron holds a 30 percent stake.



ExxonMobil's Upstream President, Dan Ammann

ExxonMobil's Upstream Company President and Vice President of ExxonMobil Corporation, Dan Ammann, emphasised that the company stands ready to match the government's pace of development.

**"When the government advances permitting,**

**approvals and market frameworks, we will advance engineering, execution and investment in lockstep. When government accelerates, we accelerate,"** Ammann said.

Guyana has emerged as a major global oil producer with more than 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent resources discovered offshore. In addition to expanding oil output, appraisal work has confirmed substantial natural gas reserves, with approximately 50 million cubic feet per day of gas expected to supply the Wales gas-to-energy project, delivering cheaper and more reliable electricity nationwide.

## MORE POWER FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES AS WALES PROJECT EXPANDS

As Guyana's economy grows, so does its demand for power. The second phase of the Wales Gas-to-Energy project promises to deliver the electricity needed to fuel homes, industries, and future development.

Speaking at the 2026 Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo at the Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Winston Brassington, Head of Guyana's Gas-to-Energy Taskforce, confirmed that part of the first phase of the Wales project will be operational by the end of this year, delivering 228 megawatts (MW) of power. The Natural

Gas Liquids (NGL) facility, which will produce cooking gas, is also expected to be operational alongside the power plant.

**"The completion of Phase One by mid-2027 will see 300MW of power generated in Wales alone,"** Brassington said. He added that the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Inc. is upgrading the country's transmission and distribution systems in preparation for the new natural gas supply.

The second phase of the Wales project is expected to add another 300MW power plant and NGL facility. Five firms have already

been prequalified to bid on Phase Two, with construction expected to start later this year to meet the country's soaring energy needs.

Beyond Wales, the government is also pursuing a second Gas-to-Energy project in Berbice, demonstrating a nationwide strategy to provide cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable electricity for homes, businesses, and industries.

Guyana has become a global oil hotspot, with more than an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent resources in the offshore Stabroek Block. While multiple oil projects are ongoing,



Major power expansion underway in Wales, West Bank Demerara



Major power expansion underway in Wales, West Bank Demerara

recent assessments show substantial natural gas reserves that are now being harnessed to generate electricity. Currently, about 50 million cubic feet per day (mcf/d) of gas will

be supplied to the Wales project, fueling power generation that could transform the country's energy landscape.

The Wales Gas-to-Energy project is a cornerstone of the

country's economic growth, promising reliable power to support homes, industries, and the nation's future development.

While in Basseterre for the 50th CARICOM Heads of Government meeting, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali paused from high-level diplomacy to meet Guyanese nationals, sharing a vision of growth, opportunity, and ways to contribute to the nation's development.

Joined by St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew, President Ali provided updates on Guyana's rapid progress, including infrastructure expansion, energy transformation, public sector modernization,

## PRESIDENT ALI CONNECTS WITH GUYANESE COMMUNITY DURING CARICOM SUMMIT IN ST. KITTS



President Ali meets Guyanese Diaspora in St. Kitts

and investment growth. He highlighted the strengthening ties between Guyana and

St. Kitts and Nevis, showcasing tangible examples of regional integration.

Addressing the diaspora, the President encouraged Guyanese abroad to return home, not only to live, but to invest and actively participate in the nation's growth story. Community members engaged directly with him, raising questions and sharing concerns, many of which were addressed on the spot, reflecting a hands-on approach to leadership.

Demonstrating

cultural engagement, President Ali also joined Taraweeh prayers at the St. Kitts Islamic Centre,

connecting with the local Muslim community and emphasizing faith, unity, and shared progress.



President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge

## DIASPORA-FUNDED TRISTAR SHORE BASE SIGNALS CONFIDENCE IN GUYANA'S ENERGY FUTURE

In a show of diaspora-driven nation-building, the TriStar Shore Base and Energy Terminal has been commissioned, a US\$250 million project designed to strengthen Guyana's offshore energy capabilities while creating employment and technical training opportunities.

The facility, located on the West Bank of Demerara, marks one of the largest private-sector, diaspora-financed investments in the country to date.

The project, spearheaded by US-based Guyanese investor Kris Persaud, Phase One, valued at US\$100 million, came online

recently. It features 320 metres of quayside with a seven-metre draft and dock platforms tested to withstand 86 tonnes per square metre, engineering standards uncommon across the Caribbean. Phase Two, an additional US\$100 million, and Phase Three, US\$50 million, are scheduled for completion by the end of 2026, expanding the terminal into a full container facility with roll-on roll-off operations, logistics infrastructure, and pipe yards across 300 acres in the TriStar Gateway Park.

Speaking on the project, Dr. Peter

Ramsaroop, Chief Investment Officer of the Guyana Office for Investment, said, **"This investment demonstrates the deep confidence that Guyanese abroad have in the country's economic trajectory. It combines diaspora capital with structured local capacity development, ensuring that Guyanese workers and enterprises benefit meaningfully from growth in the energy sector."**

The terminal is designed to operate 24 hours a day and handle heavy offshore



*Peter R. Ramsaroop, speaks on the US\$250 million diaspora-funded private sector investment*

cargo, with capabilities including floating hose assembly, isotank storage, tubular preparation, and crane operations up to 450 tonnes. Environmental management systems, such as wash bays, inspection areas, and a waste treatment

plant, are integrated to meet international sustainability standards. Dr Ramsaroop emphasised that the long-term goal is for the facility to be fully managed and operated by Guyanese, with structured technical training and certification.

Beyond offshore operations, the terminal is expected to create jobs, facilitate skills transfer, and anchor greater value within the domestic economy. By enhancing shore-base capacity, the project supports President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision to develop Guyana into a competitive regional hub for maritime



*Founder of the TriStar Shore Base and Energy Terminal, Kris Persaud*

and logistics activity, reducing reliance on external facilities and attracting regional trade.

TriStar Shore Base is a symbol of national pride, diaspora engagement, and a future where local expertise drives the country's energy sector forward. As subsequent phases roll out, the terminal promises to remain a cornerstone of Guyana's economic growth and technical excellence.

## LOCAL CONTENT ACT REVISION TO ENSURE GUYANESE BUSINESSES GET BIGGER STAKE IN ENERGY SECTOR

Opportunities for local businesses in Guyana's oil and gas sector are about to multiply. The forthcoming revision of the Local Content Act and new legislative measures aim to carve out additional areas exclusively for Guyanese entrepreneurs and workers, ensuring the country's energy wealth benefits those at home.

Speaking at a panel on local content during the Guyana Energy Conference 2026, Michael Munroe, Director of the Local Content Secretariat, said the Secretariat has already identified at least 20 new areas that could be added to the Act's First Schedule, which currently outlines 40 services that oil and gas companies must procure locally.

"We are

committed to making the law more impactful and efficient," Munroe said. **"This is about moving beyond percentages to guaranteeing in-country value, capacity-building, and real opportunities for Guyanese."**

Since the Act's passage in 2021, more than 1,200 businesses have been registered with the Secretariat, with approximately US\$2 billion spent on local goods and services. However, challenges remain. Fronting, where foreign companies use locals as fronts to meet participation requirements, continues to be monitored, while access to financing for locals seeking large contracts is also a hurdle.

To streamline local participation,

the Secretariat recently launched an online Local Content Registration Portal, capable of processing new applications for sole proprietors within five working days and renewals in three. Fully Guyanese-owned companies now see new applications approved within 15 working days, and renewals within 10.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, highlighted the success of the legislation. **"There were many who said this law would push investors away or kill the oil and gas industry, but we forged ahead,"** he said. **"More than 1,200 local businesses are now actively participating, including catering consortia serving FPSOs, three locally-owned shore base**



*Director of the Local Content Secretariat, Michael Munroe*

**companies, and nearly 7,000 trained Guyanese employed in the sector."**

The government is also preparing complementary legislation. Attorney General Anil Nandlall SC announced the Oil and Gas Operations Bill to govern downstream developments, alongside a comprehensive Environmental Act and a Solid and Liquid Waste Management Bill.

"When we assumed office in

2020, the oil and gas sector lacked a modern legal framework," Minister Nandlall said. **"The Local Content Act and Natural Resource Fund Act became foundational pillars, ensuring that Guyana's energy boom benefits citizens while**



*Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat*

**adhering to the rule of law."**

With Guyana now a global oil hotspot, holding over 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent



*Attorney General Anil Nandlall SC*

in the Stabroek Block, the government's legislative push seeks to create sustainable, long-term opportunities for locals, while laying the legal groundwork for clean energy, infrastructure, and downstream industrial growth.

**"Every major development plan has a legislative cradle,"** Minister Nandlall added. **"Our framework is constantly refined to align with global best practices, ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainability for generations to come."**

## PRESIDENT ALI HONOURS CHINESE COMMUNITY AS GUYANA WELCOMES YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE



*President Ali marks Chinese New Year*

To mark the Year of the Fire Horse, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali paid tribute to the Chinese community, whose influence has been woven into Guyana's development for over 170 years.

Speaking at the Chinese Association's New Year Dinner at New Thriving Restaurant, Providence, East Bank Demerara, President

Ali highlighted how the observance of Chinese New Year reflects the nation's rich diversity and heritage.

**"Since 1853, the Chinese community has contributed significantly to Guyana's growth, sharing our struggles and common aspirations,"** he said.

The President

expressed hope that the Year of the Fire Horse would bring renewal, peace, prosperity, and unity to the country, celebrating both cultural tradition and national cohesion.



*President Ali marks Chinese New Year*

## VP JAGDEO WARNS CLIMATE GOALS AT RISK WITHOUT U.S. LEADERSHIP

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has warned that global climate ambitions could falter without the leadership and participation of the United States (US), urging developing countries to strengthen self-reliance and innovation amid shifting geopolitical alliances.

Addressing policymakers, researchers and advocates at the World Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi, Jagdeo said it would be “**very, very difficult**” to achieve global climate goals without US involvement in key negotiations. His remarks reflected broader concerns circulating among delegates about the future direction of international climate



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo attends the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) at the Taj Palace in India

talks. Despite the uncertainty, the Vice President challenged participants not to allow geopolitical shifts to stall progress. Instead, he encouraged countries to pursue practical, nationally driven solutions that can advance climate action regardless of global political dynamics.

Dr. Jagdeo pointed to Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy, first launched in 2009,

as an example of how smaller nations can craft independent climate frameworks while still pursuing economic growth. Guyana, roughly the size of the United Kingdom and covered by about 86 per cent primary forest, maintains one of the world’s lowest deforestation rates.

He highlighted the country’s efforts to monetise forest conservation through carbon markets, noting that 30 per cent of

Guyana’s forest carbon was sold for US\$750 million. The agreement, he said, demonstrates that environmental protection can generate substantial revenue for developing states.

Dr. Jagdeo also addressed criticism surrounding Guyana’s expanding oil sector. With production projected to reach up to two million barrels per day in the coming years, the country faces scrutiny over balancing fossil fuel development with climate leadership. He argued that oil revenues are being strategically deployed to finance sustainable development while preserving extensive forest resources.

Beyond climate policy, the Vice President warned of a widening technological divide

driven by artificial intelligence. While larger countries invest heavily in computing infrastructure, he said many smaller nations risk being left behind unless they prioritise digital capacity building.

Dr. Jagdeo concluded that climate action must make economic sense to secure lasting political backing, pointing to the rapid expansion of solar energy and electric vehicles in Asia as evidence that



Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo attends the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) at the Taj Palace in India

He suggested biodiversity protection could serve as common ground in politically divided societies, noting that even some climate skeptics strongly support wildlife and forest conservation.

sustainability can become profitable industry. In a lighthearted moment, he quipped that artificial intelligence had helped refine his speech, underscoring the need to adapt in an era of rapid change.

## GUYANA SET TO REMAIN CARIBBEAN’S FASTEST-GROWING ECONOMY

A generation ago, few would have predicted that Guyana would emerge as the economic engine of the Caribbean. Today, rapid expansion in oil production and major investments in infrastructure are reshaping the nation’s trajectory, and redefining what is possible for its people.

Guyana is projected to remain the Caribbean’s fastest-growing economy over the medium term, with oil-driven expansion significantly lifting the region’s overall growth outlook. According to

the January 2026 Global Economic Prospects Report released by the World Bank Group, the Caribbean sub-region is expected to grow by 5.2 per cent in 2026 and 6.6 per cent in 2027, figures largely propelled by Guyana’s sustained economic performance.

Without Guyana’s contribution, growth across the rest of the Caribbean would slow considerably to approximately 2.9 per cent in 2026 and 3.7 per cent in 2027, underscoring the scale of the country’s impact on regional performance.



Guyana’s changing shoreline

Individually, Guyana’s economy is projected to expand by 19.6 per cent in 2026 and 21.9 per cent in 2027, extraordinary rates that position the country among the fastest-

growing economies globally.

This expansion reflects more than oil revenues alone. It is tied to deliberate fiscal management, strategic public investment,

and policies aimed at strengthening both oil and non-oil sectors. The international projections broadly align with the outlook presented in Guyana’s 2026 National Budget.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, reported that Guyana recorded 19.3 per cent overall GDP growth in 2025 and is projected to grow by a further 16.2 per cent in 2026, driven in part by a 17.9 per cent increase in oil production.

Meanwhile, the non-oil economy is

expected to grow by 10.8 per cent, fuelled by strong performance in construction (25.4 per cent), manufacturing (12.9 per cent), and agriculture (7.6 per cent).

For citizens witnessing new roads, hospitals, housing developments and business opportunities take shape, the figures represent more than economic data. They signal a period of historic transformation, one that is not only redefining Guyana’s future, but reshaping the economic landscape of the wider Caribbean.

## GOVT MOVES AHEAD WITH LONG-AWAITED AMAILA FALLS HYDROPOWER PROJECT

After years of anticipation, Guyana is moving forward with the Amaila Falls Hydropower Project, a renewable energy initiative expected to deliver at least 165 megawatts (MW) to the national grid. The project, located in Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni), is set to transform the country’s energy landscape while supporting its low-

carbon development goals.

Under a revised Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model, interested firms and consortia have until April 9 to submit proposals. The government is seeking experienced developers with a track record of completing at least three large-scale hydro projects of 100 MW or more over the past 15 years. Proposals

will be evaluated based on factors such as the lowest power purchase agreement price, total project cost, completion timelines, and financing capabilities.

The hydropower facility will be executed through a Special Purpose Company, with the transmission network developed separately. Independent supervision will ensure transparency during

design and construction.

First proposed more than a decade ago, the Amaila Falls project faced delays due to political hurdles in 2013. Now, the government is positioning it as a cornerstone of Guyana’s energy strategy, complementing existing gas-to-energy and solar projects nationwide.

For residents, the project promises more than energy. It



The Amaila Falls in Region Eight

represents a future of reliable, renewable power and a step toward a greener, more sustainable Guyana.

## THIRTY-TWO PETER'S HALL FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO THEIR NEW HOMES



Thirty-two happy individuals now have a place to call home

Thirty-two grateful individuals now have a place to call their own as they collected the keys to newly constructed core homes at Peter's Hall, marking another milestone in Guyana's ongoing effort to improve living conditions for low- and middle-income families.

For 66-year-old

Wanda Abrams, the occasion was life-changing. As a visually impaired person, she said she could never have afforded to build a home on her own, but now she has a safe, accessible space to live independently. **"I am incredibly grateful for a home that accommodates**

**my needs,"** she said, beaming.

Diana Port, another beneficiary, expressed similar joy. **"We need to live in better conditions, with a better environment. This home allows us to live comfortably and smile every day,"** she noted, thanking the government for its support.

The homes were built under the Adequate Housing and Urban Accessibility Programme (AHUAP), funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and executed by the Ministry of Housing's Central Housing and Planning Authority. Each 400-square-foot unit, priced at nearly \$5 million, features two

bedrooms, a kitchen, and washroom facilities. Beneficiaries contributed GY\$100,000 toward construction.

Minister of Housing Collin Croal said the project is part of a wider effort to close the housing gap. **"It is the duty of the government to put the necessary policy mechanisms in place to ensure that the opportunity is available to all of its citizens... you have your keys now to your home...that's what we work for,"** he said.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn highlighted the initiative's alignment with Sustainable Development Goal



Thirty-two happy individuals now have a place to call home

10, aiming to reduce inequality and ensure fair access to housing. She also encouraged beneficiaries to maintain their communities, keeping environments safe and clean.

The government has allocated \$159.1 billion this year to advance housing development nationwide. At least

15,000 households are expected to receive house lots, with plans to distribute 8,000 lots and issue 7,000 certificates of title, enabling thousands of families to secure legal ownership of their properties.

## 520 FAMILIES TAKE CLOSER STEP TO HOMEOWNERSHIP IN BERBICE



Housing ministry delivers agreements of sale, vouchers and lots to Region Six families

With Agreements of Sale now in hand, 520 families in Berbice are one step closer to turning their long-held dream of homeownership into reality. The milestone, achieved during a two-day outreach at Classic Hotel and Suites in Corriverton, exceeded the initial target of 450

allottees from No. 75 Block Two and No. 76 Blocks Three and Four.

The event, led by Minister of Housing Collin Croal and Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn, was filled with excitement as beneficiaries began the process toward securing

their Certificates of Title. Minister Croal assured residents that the wait for their ownership documents would be short.

**"In three months, we will be coming back to issue your Certificates of Title... once you sign, there should be no glitch after that, and the processing of the title must be done within three months,"** he said, emphasising the government's commitment to a smooth and efficient process.

The outreach also reinforced the government's pledge to address outstanding applications across Region Six. **"All pending applicants will be cleared here in Region Six,"** Minister Croal added.

Beyond the Agreements of Sale, 241 residents were allocated house lots at Moleson Creek, expanding housing opportunities in the region. Additionally, 73 Steel and Cement vouchers were made available to assist families



Housing ministry delivers agreements of sale, vouchers and lots to Region Six families

with construction.

To support the new homeowners, the ministry facilitated on-site services from banking institutions, insurance providers,

and Guyana Water Incorporated, ensuring beneficiaries had the tools and resources needed to confidently invest in their homes and futures.

## CUMMINGS PARK FAMILIES GET FIRST GLIMPSE OF NEW HOMES

The relocation of families from the Cummings Park informal settlement gained momentum as residents began inspecting their newly allocated house lots under the Housing Ministry's ongoing resettlement programme.

The exercise, guided by surveyors and officers from the Community Development Department alongside representatives from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), allowed allottees to see the exact boundaries of their future homes and



A representative from the Central Housing and Planning Authority guides allottees

confirm their allocations. For many, it was the first time they had the chance to stand on the plots they had been promised.

The visit not only gave residents a tangible sense of progress but also allowed them to ask questions and

gain clarity about the move. Some residents expressed concerns about the distance to the new location, but authorities assured them that the area's position along the four-lane highway from Craig and the Aubrey Barker

Road extension provides convenient access to key transportation corridors.

The new location offers families improved access, long-term benefits, and a foundation within a developing community.

During the latest exercise, 22 allottees viewed their assigned lots, adding to the 25 who had already done so. The remaining 35 residents are expected to complete their inspections before the end of the month, as the relocation timetable continues to advance.

This effort builds on a joint visit conducted on November 3,



Allottee at the Cummings Park settlement

2025, by officers from the Community Development Department, the Enforcement Department, and the CH&PA, which focused on identifying households and tracking progress.

With officials maintaining a strong

on-the-ground presence and families actively engaging with their new plots, the Cummings Park relocation drive is entering a decisive phase, bringing thousands closer to the stability and security of permanent housing.

# PRESIDENT ALI MEETS BRAZILIAN GOVERNORS TO EXPAND CROSS-BORDER TIES



The tripartite meeting with Brazilian governors at State House

Following his recent visit to Brazil, where he received Roraima's highest honour, the Medalha Forte São Joaquim, President Dr Irfaan Ali hosted a tripartite meeting with Brazilian governors at State House.

The meeting brought together HE Antonio Denarium, Governor of Roraima, and HE Mauro Mendes Ferreira, Governor of Mato Grosso, along with their delegations. President Ali was joined by members of his Cabinet and heads of the Joint Services.

Discussions centered on food and energy security, infrastructure, and regional safety, with a focus on strengthening trade, energy cooperation, and cross-

border development. Roraima shares a border with Guyana near Lethem, while Mato Grosso is one of Brazil's major agricultural hubs.

The meeting underscored the growing diplomatic and economic ties between Guyana and Brazil and signalled new opportunities for collaboration on regional development, cross-border trade, and energy projects.

President Ali emphasised the importance of deepening



The tripartite meeting with Brazilian governors at State House

bilateral relations and building partnerships that benefit both nations, particularly in areas that promote sustainable growth, regional stability, and shared prosperity.

# GUYANA REAFFIRMS FAITH IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AS GENEVA AGREEMENT TURNS 60

On the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Agreement, Guyana is reflecting on the treaty that followed Venezuela's 1962 challenge to the 1899 Arbitral Award and reaffirming that the path to resolution lies squarely before the International Court of Justice.

In a statement issued, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said the Geneva Agreement, signed on February 17, 1966, remains a binding international instrument grounded in the principles of international law and the UN Charter. The Agreement established

mechanisms to resolve the controversy that arose after Venezuela reversed its long-standing acceptance of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which had definitively fixed the boundary between the two countries and was implemented through demarcation in 1905.

According to the Ministry, the Geneva Agreement outlined a series of steps toward settlement, including diplomatic negotiations and the establishment of a Mixed Commission. When those efforts failed to produce a resolution, the matter was referred to the UN Secretary-General, who initiated a "good offices" process

that spanned from 1990 to 2017 without substantive progress.

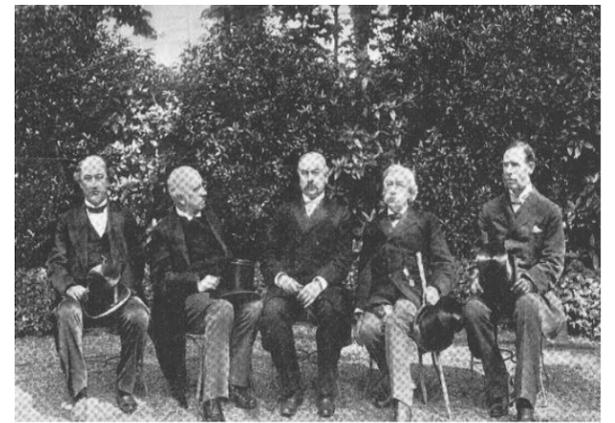
In January 2018, the Secretary-General concluded that the good offices approach had reached an impasse and selected adjudication by the International Court of Justice as the final means of settlement under Article IV (2) of the Agreement. Guyana subsequently instituted proceedings at the Court in March 2018, seeking a final and binding judgment affirming the legal validity of the 1899 Award and the boundary it established.

Venezuela objected to the Court's jurisdiction, but in a December 18, 2020 ruling, the ICJ

rejected those objections and confirmed that it has jurisdiction to hear the case. The Court later reaffirmed its competence in 2023 when it ruled on preliminary objections.

The Ministry also noted that the Court has twice granted provisional measures at Guyana's request to preserve the status quo and prevent actions that could aggravate or extend the dispute pending a final judgment. Guyana said it has complied fully with those orders and continues to urge Venezuela to do the same.

As it commemorates the historic milestone, the Government called on



Arbitrators of the Paris Arbitration Tribunal, in a photo taken at the Boluverd Said Germain, Paris, France

Venezuela to recommit to international law, respect the ongoing judicial process, and refrain from actions or statements that could undermine peace and regional stability. Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to a definitive judicial settlement in accordance with the Geneva Agreement and the UN Charter.

# LOCAL COURTS STEP ONTO GLOBAL STAGE WITH ICCE MEMBERSHIP

Guyana's courts have stepped onto a wider regional and international stage, joining institutions such as the Caribbean Court of Justice in the pursuit of judicial excellence through membership in the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE).

The milestone was welcomed by Acting Chancellor of the Judiciary, Justice Roxane George, who said the acceptance affirms the Judiciary's commitment to accountability, transparency and continuous improvement.

Membership in the ICCE connects Guyana to a global network of



Membership in the ICCE connects Guyana to a global network of courts and organisations

courts and organisations dedicated to promoting excellence in judicial administration through the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE), a globally recognised quality management

system designed to help courts strengthen performance and public confidence.

In a statement from the Supreme Court, Justice George underscored that excellence is not a one-

time achievement but an ongoing responsibility.

**"As one of the three constitutional arms of the State, the Judiciary plays a critical role in upholding the rule of law, strengthening public trust, and providing the legal certainty necessary to support good governance, investment, and national development. Acceptance into the ICCE reinforces the Judiciary's resolve to meet internationally recognised standards of court excellence,"** the statement said.

The journey to acceptance began in

December 2024 with preparation for a Judiciary-wide self-assessment under the IFCE. Between July 22 and August 11, 2025, judicial officers and staff across the country participated in structured surveys evaluating institutional performance against international benchmarks.

The findings revealed what the Court described as **"a fundamentally sound judiciary, with the capacity to become consistently excellent."** Following the review, key areas were identified for improvement and categorised for short-, medium- and long-term

implementation, aligned with the Judiciary's Strategic Plan 2024-2031.

The Supreme Court of Judicature, which comprises the Court of Appeal, High Court and Magistrates' Courts, said it remains committed to strengthening leadership capacity, leveraging technology, improving infrastructure and expanding high-quality service delivery to ensure greater trust, confidence and access to justice.

With this recognition, Guyana joins regional peers including Brazil's Supreme Federal Court and the Judiciary of Jamaica within the ICCE framework, signaling a clear commitment to raising the bar for justice across the country.

## NEW GENERATION OF ENGINEERS BEGINS TRAINING CLOSER TO HOME

In a classroom far from Georgetown, a new group of students is taking the first steps toward shaping Guyana's

living costs just to access higher education.

Now, that reality is changing.

In a historic move,

John's Science Centre in Berbice, is aimed at ensuring Guyanese are equipped to lead the country's rapidly expanding infrastructure development.

During an orientation session for the first cohort of engineering students in Berbice, Education Minister Sonia Parag described the expansion as more than an academic milestone. It is part of a broader national transformation.

The government, she said, will continue widening opportunities **"until we stop making our people spectators of the transformation and make them part of the transformation."**

For many students, the ability to study within their own region removes barriers that once made university feel out of

reach. Minister Parag stressed that **"access is the word of the day"**, explaining that decentralisation allows young people to remain close to family support systems while avoiding the high cost of living in Georgetown.

Reflecting on her own university experience, she noted that education was once tied to financial strain.

**"When I was at the University of Guyana, you had to obtain a loan or your parents had to save for you to attend,"** she recalled. Since UG became tuition-free, she said, thousands of student loans have been written off, amounting to billions of dollars, a policy the government plans to maintain in 2026.

**"This is vital because the fact**



UG Engineering Programmes decentralised to Regions Two and Six

that we have the will to ensure that you have access to higher education is why you are sitting in this room," she told students.

But Minister Parag also reminded the new cohort that engineering demands more than classroom success. With Guyana building major bridges, roads, hospitals and other world-class infrastructure, the workforce must be equally prepared.

She urged students to embrace competency-based learning that prioritises practical skills over memorisation.

**"If you want to say**

**you're an engineer, I have to see your skills at work,"** she said, emphasising the importance of hands-on training and repetition to achieve excellence.

By bringing high-level programmes into the regions, the ministry hopes to keep the nation's **"brain power"** close to the communities driving development.

Engineering is only the beginning. Minister Parag also revealed ongoing collaboration with Minister of Health Dr. Frank Anthony and the UG team to expand medical programmes across the country.



UG Engineering Programmes decentralised to Regions Two and Six

future, not from the capital, but from their own communities.

For decades, pursuing an engineering degree often meant leaving home behind. Students from Essequibo or Berbice had to relocate to Georgetown, facing the heavy burden of rent, transportation, and daily

the Ministry of Education has decentralised the University of Guyana's engineering programmes to Regions Two and Six, bringing Civil and Mechanical Engineering directly to communities outside the capital. The initiative, launched at the Essequibo Technical Institute and the

During a recent inspection of the new Jawalla Secondary School, Minister of Education Sonia Parag witnessed first-hand the steady progress of the \$231.9 million project, a facility set to ease overcrowding and improve learning conditions for students transitioning from Primary Top.

Minister Parag was joined by Marti De Souza, Deputy Chief Education Officer for Amerindian and Hinterland Education Development, along with the school's contractor and consultant. She expressed satisfaction with the advancements made in recent months

## JAWALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL TAKES SHAPE



\$231.9M Jawalla Secondary School on track for September 2026 opening

and emphasised the critical role the school will play in providing a modern, comfortable learning environment for local students.

**"It's very**

**important that we have students from the Primary Top come into this school and occupy this space. We want to remove the overcrowding that's**

**happening at schools right now; that's one of the main reasons why we embarked on this project,"** Minister Parag said.

She encouraged the contractor to accelerate work to ensure the facility is completed in time for the new academic year in September 2026. **"We are hoping that the facility is completed just before the opening of the new term. We've seen significant improvements in the last few months,"** she added.



Minister of Education Sonia Parag inspects the progress on the school

While some finishing works remain, the Ministry of Education pledged to monitor progress closely, ensuring that Jawalla's students will soon

benefit from a modern, spacious, and well-equipped school, a place where learning can thrive and overcrowding will be a thing of the past.

## DR ROOPNARAIN RESEMBLED BY PRESIDENT ALI AS CONSCIENCE-DRIVEN LEADER

President Mohamed Irfaan Ali has expressed deep condolences on the passing of Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, describing the late politician, scholar, and public servant as **"a public figure of conscience"** whose contributions to Guyana's political and intellectual life were profound. The statement was shared on the President's official Facebook page.

**"Guyana has lost a public figure of**

**conscience,"** President Ali wrote, noting that although they had served on opposite sides of the political aisle, he always regarded Dr Roopnaraine as part of **"that rare fellowship of men who wed thought to action and principle to sacrifice,"** particularly during the anti-dictatorship struggle alongside the late Walter Rodney.

Highlighting Dr Roopnaraine's intellectual achievements, President

Ali recalled his role as a distinguished lecturer of Comparative Literature and his tenure in public office, including as Minister of Education. He praised the late leader's belief that, **"education was the architecture of freedom, the patient building of minds capable of thought, dissent, and imagination."**

President Ali also emphasised Dr Roopnaraine's gentleness of spirit in

politics. **"In a political environment, often scarred by rancour and division, he chose civility. In debate, he was firm yet never cruel; in disagreement, principled yet never dismissive,"** he wrote, adding that across the political divide, Dr Roopnaraine **"earned respect not by force of rhetoric, but by depth of character."**

Concluding his tribute, President Ali said: **"His was a life**



Dr Rupert Roopnaraine

**that proved intellect need not be aloof, that politics need not be venomous, and that conviction need**

**not harden the heart. May he rest in eternal peace."**

# GUYANA MARKS 56TH REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY

Vibrant, joyous, and deeply patriotic, Guyana's 56th Republic Anniversary celebrations brought together citizens, cultural performers, and officials to mark the country's achievements and unity under one flag.

The flag-raising ceremony on February 23 featured a parade by the Joint Services, dynamic cultural performances, and a fusion of music, dance, and theatrical displays that showcased the nation's rich heritage. Guyanese traditions came alive on stage, reflecting the diversity and creativity that define the country.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressed the nation, highlighting youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and the ongoing journey of national development. He reminded all that Guyana's greatest resource is its people, whose shared spirit and determination continue to drive the country forward.

As the Golden Arrowhead ascended, cheers rippled through the crowd, a symbolic reminder that, despite differences in ethnicity, background, or belief, Guyanese rise together under one flag, united in pride, heritage, and hope for the future.



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**F**rom Church Street to Vlissengen Road, Mashramani 2026 transformed Georgetown into a living canvas of artistry, where tradition met innovation in dazzling costumes, electrifying music, and imaginative floats.

Revellers wowed spectators with futuristic and culturally inspired designs, while families and visitors lined the streets, soaking in the vibrant fusion of soca, calypso, and steel pan rhythms. From intricately crafted headpieces to technologically enhanced floats, every display reflected Guyana's creativity and cultural pride.

Vendors and small businesses added to the festive energy, offering local delicacies, drinks, and crafts, while parade bands and floats from government, private sector, and community groups highlighted national development, education, tourism, agriculture, and environmental sustainability.

The celebrations united Guyanese from every community and captivated visitors from abroad, showcasing how the nation's heritage can shine brilliantly when reimagined through innovation, imagination, and sheer joy.



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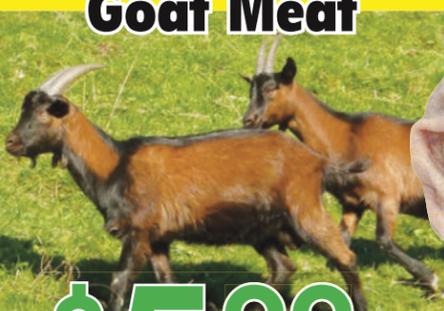


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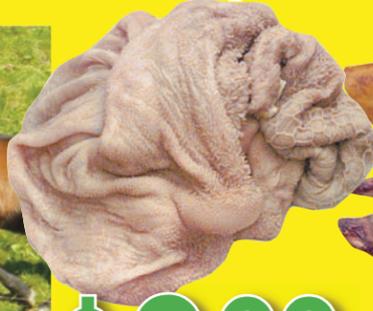
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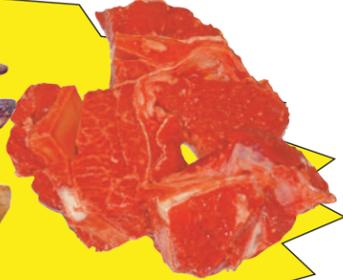
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## GUYANA'S REPUBLIC 'STRONG, SECURE, PROSPEROUS' AT 56 - PRESIDENT ALI



President Ali at the nation at the 56th Republic Anniversary flag-raising ceremony

With a sweeping account of economic growth, strengthened security and renewed national pride, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali declared Guyana's Republic **"strong, secure, prosperous and respected"** as he addressed the nation at the 56th Republic Anniversary flag-raising ceremony.

Marking 56 years since Guyana severed its final constitutional ties to the British monarchy, the Head of State reflected

on the country's journey while outlining what he described as a bold and confident future. As the Golden Arrowhead was hoisted, he posed a defining question: **"What is the state of that Republic?"**

**"I stand before you to declare, with confidence and with pride, that our Republic is thriving,"** President Ali said. **"It is a Republic that is robust in its foundations, radiant in its promise, and resolute in its purpose."**

### BROAD-BASED ECONOMIC SURGE

Central to his address was Guyana's economic performance. The President announced that the economy grew by 19.3 per cent in 2025, with the non-oil economy expanding by 14.3 per cent, evidence, he said, that growth is widespread and sustainable.

**"This is not a fleeting windfall; it is the roar of a lion**

**that has found its strength,"** he declared.

Agriculture grew by 11.5 per cent, bauxite production surged by 53.4 per cent, gold increased by 11.6 per cent, manufacturing expanded by 20 per cent, and construction recorded 31 per cent growth. The services sector also showed strong gains.

**"This, my people, is the picture of an economy that is not just hot, but healthy,"** the President said, adding that growth is projected to continue through 2026 and beyond.

Between 2020 and 2024, some 104,000 jobs were created, the largest surge in employment in the country's history, he noted. Through housing programmes, cash grants and tax relief measures, the Government is ensuring that prosperity reaches pensioners, farmers, small business owners and workers nationwide.



President Ali at the nation at the 56th Republic Anniversary flag-raising ceremony

### SECURITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND DEMOCRACY

On national security, President Ali underscored enhanced investments in the country's defence capabilities and reaffirmed Guyana's case before the International Court of Justice concerning the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award.

**"History and international law are on our side. Our borders are sacred, and we will defend them,"** he asserted.

He also pointed to a nearly 50 per cent decline in serious crimes

when comparing the 2016–2020 period to 2021–2025. **"We are not just building a security sector. We are building a secure security sector to secure, protect and prevent,"** he said.

The President further described the 2025 General and Regional Elections as **"the resounding affirmation"** of Guyana's democratic foundations.

**"We remain a democratic Republic, one where the people's will is not just respected, but enshrined,"** he stated.

### A CALL TO NATIONAL PRIDE

Beyond statistics and policy achievements, President Ali urged citizens to embrace a deeper sense of responsibility to the nation.

**"We must build a society where national pride is not a slogan shouted on national days, but a sacred trust lived every day,"** he said, stressing that patriotism must be reflected in environmental stewardship, unity and shared prosperity.

**"National pride is compulsory for national building,"** he added.

As the flag reached its peak, the President closed with a rallying call for unity and faith.

**"Let it be said of us that we did not merely inherit a republic. We made it better,"** he declared. **"Happy Republic Day, Guyana! May God bless you all, and may God bless our beloved Republic."**

## VICE PRESIDENT JAGDEO LEADS REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN NEW DELHI



President Ali at the nation at the 56th Republic Anniversary flag-raising ceremony

In New Delhi, Guyana's national pride was on full display as the High Commission hosted a reception commemorating the 56th Republic Anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

The event saw Honourable Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President of Guyana, attend as Chief Guest. Guests



President Ali at the nation at the 56th Republic Anniversary flag-raising ceremony

included members of the private sector, of the Diplomatic and members of the Corps, officials from Guyanese diaspora in the Government of India. The reception

provided an opportunity to celebrate Guyana's milestone, strengthen diplomatic relations, and showcase the country's achievements abroad. Attendees engaged in discussions highlighting the growing partnership between Guyana and India, while also reflecting on the nation's journey since becoming a Republic 56 years ago.

## GUYANA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY CELEBRATES 56TH REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY WITH DIASPORA IN SURINAME

Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud joined the Guyana Embassy in Paramaribo, Suriname, on February 20 to celebrate Guyana's 56th Republic Anniversary. The ceremony was attended by Head of the Diaspora Unit, Rosalinda Rasul, and Guyana's Ambassador to Suriname, His Excellency Virjinand Depoo.

Addressing the Guyanese diaspora,



The Republic Anniversary with Diaspora in Suriname

Secretary Persaud reflected on the country's journey over the last five decades and the transformative progress made from 2020 to the present. He highlighted developments across multiple sectors, noting that the nation's growth is rooted in visionary leadership and a commitment to improving the welfare of

all Guyanese.

Persaud encouraged Guyanese abroad to take pride in the country's achievements and to seize opportunities to contribute to Guyana's ongoing transformation. **"Guyana is a country that every Guyanese, at home and abroad, can be proud of,"** he said, emphasising the government's inclusive agenda and the role of the diaspora in national development.

In addition to the Paramaribo celebration, Persaud and officials held engagements in Nickerie, allowing the diaspora to learn

more about ongoing developments, explore opportunities, and share their questions and concerns with Guyanese representatives.



The Republic Anniversary with Diaspora in Suriname

# Technology, skills exchange to accelerate Caribbean's food-security efforts

HAVING set its sights on becoming the Caribbean's principal supplier of food, Guyana is looking to tap into the regional diaspora to strengthen its drive for regional food security and advanced trade co-operation.

Speaking to members of the Guyanese diaspora in St. Kitts and Nevis last week President, Dr Irfaan Ali outlined an ambitious strategy to develop a resilient agricultural ecosystem that can meet rising demand across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The plan includes investment in modern farming techniques, technology transfer and skills exchange to scale up production and streamline distribution to neighbouring nations.

"I said very clearly that our development must lead to the prosperity of the region, because we see ourselves as part, as an instrument that can allow our region to grow and prosper stronger and together," President Ali said.

By positioning Guyana as a regional breadbasket, policymakers hope to reduce import dependence across the Caribbean and bolster resilience against global shocks such as extreme weather and commodity volatility.

Technology and training will form a key to this initiative. He highlighted plans to include sharing best practices in sustainable agriculture and digitisation.

"We're also going to work on a collaboration, co-operation agreement on food security, exchange of technology, exchange of skills. And we want to create a framework that would allow the smooth movement of goods and services between St. Kitts and Nevis and Guyana."

To this end, the two Caribbean nations are expected to ink several agreements cementing these plans.

## SITUATION ROOM/DATA HUB

Just last week, Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha announced that Guyana is preparing to deepen its leadership role in regional agriculture with the creation of a high-tech "Situation Room" data centre and a new Centre of Excellence in agricultural training.

Speaking at the launch of the Farmers Connect app, Mustapha

said that within the next two months President Ali is expected to unveil a Situation Room, a central data hub for agriculture that will serve not only Guyana but the wider Caribbean. The facility, being developed in collaboration with international partners, will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean.

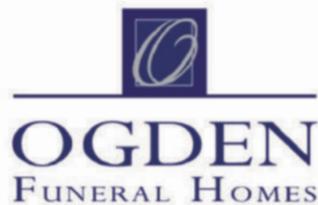
"In another month from now, or between another two months from now, you'll see, and you'll be invited, where the President will launch the Situation Room, a data centre not only for Guyana, but across the Caribbean," Mustapha said.



President, Dr Irfaan Ali addressing the Guyanese diaspora in St. Kitts

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## 225 MINING PARCELS TO BE ALLOCATED ACROSS THREE REGIONS

Miners in Regions One, Seven, and Eight are preparing to stake their claim under a new initiative that promises more land, better support, and greater transparency in Guyana's gold mining sector.

The Ministry of Natural Resources recently announced the rollout of a "Troy-like" land allocation model, building on the success of a similar system in the Issano 14 Mile area, formerly operated by Troy Resources. After that operation closed, portions of the license area were subdivided

into 27-acre parcels and allocated to nearly 100 small miners, creating structured opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The initiative proved especially beneficial for miners in Regions Seven and Eight, providing secure plots and improved prospects for income generation.

Now, the government, through the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), will extend this approach to new areas in Region One (Mabaruma/Matthews Ridge sub-district), Region Seven, and Region Eight. Within the next two to



GGMC to open new gold mining areas with larger parcels

three months, at least 75 parcels will be made available in each region, totalling approximately 225 allocations for small-scale miners. Parcel sizes will also increase to 50

acres per miner, with the option to relinquish mined-out plots and apply for new ones.

Supporting the effort, United States-based company Global

Venturing is conducting aerial surveys and mineral data collection across the mining districts. This high-quality geological data will reduce prospecting costs, minimise environmental impact, and ensure more informed land allocations.

To make gold-selling more accessible, the Guyana Gold Board will introduce mobile purchasing units, bringing buyers closer to miners in remote locations. Officials reminded all miners that by law, gold must be sold to the Guyana

Gold Board or licensed buyers, securing fair returns and supporting industry integrity.

The initiative is paired with a strong enforcement approach. In recent months, more than 400 pieces of illegal mining equipment have been seized, and nearly 100 individuals have been prosecuted. These measures ensure compliance while safeguarding the sector for legitimate operators.

For small-scale miners, the initiative represents an opportunity to operate legally, efficiently, and profitably.

Passengers at Guyana's busiest airport may not see it yet, but soon the electricity powering the terminals, lights, and equipment will come from the sun. A new 3 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant is set to make travel greener, cheaper, and more reliable, marking a major milestone in the country's push for sustainable energy.

The Government of Guyana, through the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), officially handed over the project site to Oriana Power Limited, the contractor tasked with constructing the facility. Financed through a loan from the Export-Import

## CJIA SET TO RUN ON SOLAR ENERGY

(EXIM) Bank of India, the solar plant is part of the nation's low-carbon energy agenda, aimed at decentralising power generation, strengthening energy security, and reducing carbon emissions.

Once completed, the 3 MW installation is expected to generate more than 112 million kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity over its lifespan. The energy will supply the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA,) benefiting over 1.2 million passengers annually, while reducing

operating costs and decreasing reliance on the utility grid.

The project's journey began in 2025, when the EXIM Bank of India launched a pre-qualification process that shortlisted eight companies. Three companies submitted bids, and following careful evaluation, Oriana Power Limited was awarded the contract valued at US\$2,487,170.

At the official site handover, GEA's CEO, Dr. Mahender Sharma emphasised the project's significance. "The Guyana Energy

Agency is thrilled to be part of another strategic sustainable energy investment that advances Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030," he said. "By integrating large-scale solar power into our critical infrastructure, we are making steady, tangible progress in keeping with our renewable energy goals as a nation."

Krishnan Kutty Jaigopal, representing Oriana Power Limited, assured that the company is committed



Government to install 3 MW solar PV plant at CJIA

to delivering the project efficiently, on schedule, and without cost variations. "Our objective is to ensure the successful construction and operation of the solar PV plant," he said.

The solar project represents a cleaner, greener future, providing sustainable energy to critical infrastructure and supporting the nation's low-carbon transition.

## CALL FOR INDEPENDENT FIRM TO PREPARE GUYANA'S NEXT EITI REPORTS

Behind every barrel of oil produced and every ounce of gold exported lies a growing demand from citizens for one thing, transparency.

In keeping with that principle, the government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and on behalf of the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI), has issued a call for independent firms to serve as Independent Administrator (IA) for the preparation of Guyana's 8th and 9th EITI Reports.

The assignment is more than a technical exercise. It is part of Guyana's broader effort to ensure that revenues from oil, gas, mining,

forestry and potentially fisheries are openly accounted for and clearly explained to the public.

The selected firm will support the GYEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) in producing comprehensive and accessible reports covering fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Both reports must comply with the 2023 EITI Standard and be completed in time for publication by October 30, 2026.

As an implementing country of the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Guyana is required to publish detailed reconciliations of payments made by extractive companies

and revenues received by the State. These disclosures allow

citizens, civil society and investors to see how natural resource wealth



Both reports must comply with the 2023 EITI Standard

is managed.

One of the key responsibilities of the Independent Administrator will be to conduct a Scoping Study and Gap Analysis to guide decisions on the coverage of the upcoming reports. This includes a comprehensive review of the fisheries sector and an evidence-based recommendation on whether it should be included in reporting for 2024 and 2025.

If selected for inclusion, fisheries would join oil, gas, mining and forestry as sectors examined in detail. The final reports will be organised by sector, with self-contained sections that present reconciled data,

contextual information and analysis.

Beyond compiling figures, the IA will also be required to assess the reliability and comprehensiveness of disclosures, prepare standardised summary data templates for submission to the EITI International Secretariat, and provide technical guidance to strengthen Guyana's natural resource governance systems.

For many Guyanese, the reports represent a crucial accountability tool at a time when the country's oil production continues to expand and extractive revenues play an increasingly central role in national development.

## GUYANESE CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS GAIN CENTRAL ACCESS TO GOVT TENDERS

From contractors in Georgetown to suppliers in hinterland communities, the Government Procurement Opportunities Website is set to give every capable Guyanese the chance to participate in national development projects.

Launched by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board (NPTAB) under the Ministry of Finance, the new platform (<https://eprocure.gov.gy/>) centralises all government procurement notices, including Invitations to Tender (ITTs), Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and Expressions of Interest (EOIs).

The initiative is designed to strengthen transparency, fairness, and open competition, ensuring equitable access to opportunities for contractors, suppliers, and consultants across the country. By consolidating all

information in one accessible location, the government aims to provide timely updates and maintain compliance with procurement laws and regulations. **“This platform enhances public access to government procurement information, promotes confidence in the system, and ensures opportunities are disseminated fairly,”** the Ministry of Finance stated.

For businesses and entrepreneurs, the website offers a clear, reliable way to stay informed of current and upcoming projects. Prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the site regularly, and assistance is available through NPTAB at (592) 223-7042.

The launch underscores the government’s commitment to transparency, efficiency, and inclusive participation, allowing

Guyanese from all regions to contribute to national growth and development.



Government Office Complex nears midway mark with towers rising



Government Office Complex nears midway mark with towers rising

Access to government contracts can transform small businesses, and on February 13, 2026, 115 local entrepreneurs were given the tools and confidence to pursue those opportunities through a practical

training session at the World Trade Centre Georgetown.

The session, hosted by the Small Business Bureau (SBB) in collaboration with the National Procurement and Tender

## SMALL BUSINESSES LEARN HOW TO SUBMIT WINNING BIDS

Administration Board (NPTAB), focused on bid document preparation, compliance requirements, and strategies for submitting competitive proposals.

The hands-on approach allowed participants to walk through each stage of the tendering process, from understanding bid documents to structuring their submissions, giving them the knowledge needed to compete effectively for

government contracts.

SBB’s Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Shazim Ibrahim, highlighted the importance of strengthening procurement readiness among small businesses. **“Access to Government contracts can significantly transform small enterprises. By equipping entrepreneurs with the knowledge to**

prepare compliant and competitive bids, we are expanding their opportunities for growth and long-term sustainability,”

he said. For participants like Robert Forrester, the training was a practical eye-opener. **“They gave us a very comprehensive overview of the things and the pitfalls that you need to look for in the bid preparation process, especially**

when dealing with compliance and document structure. You need to ensure that you fill all relevant documents,”

he explained. The initiative aligns with the Government’s broader strategy to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises through targeted training, expanded market access, and capacity building.

## HUNDREDS TURN OUT AS CJIA BRINGS AVIATION JOBS CLOSER TO HOME

Living just minutes away from Guyana’s busiest airport, hundreds of residents seized the chance to explore new career paths when the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) hosted its highly anticipated second annual career fair.

More than 300 residents from Soesdyke, Timehri and surrounding communities attended

the event, many arriving early with resumes in hand and high hopes for employment in Guyana’s rapidly expanding aviation sector. For them, the fair was more than a networking opportunity; it was a chance to become part of an industry transforming their own backyard.

Since 2020, the country’s aviation sector has seen significant

growth, with increased passenger traffic and new international airlines adding routes. To keep pace, more than 150 job openings are now available across airport operations and partner organisations, creating opportunities in security, logistics, administration and customer service.

Several agencies and companies participated, including the Guyana

Police Force, the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU), Banks DIH Limited and GUYOIL, all reporting strong interest from job seekers throughout the day.

Ramona Rahat Dalchand, Human Resources Manager at GUYOIL, described the fair as an excellent platform to connect with enthusiastic candidates and



Citizens attending the CJIA job fair

promote the company’s brand. Meanwhile, Administrative Manager at Roraima Airways, Ganhim Khan, praised the impressive turnout and strong community engagement.

Through initiatives like this, CJIA aims to ensure that as the aviation sector grows, nearby communities share directly in the opportunities it creates.

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GWI estimates that locally treated and bottled water can be sold for around \$100 per

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## PRESIDENT ALI MOVES TO MAKE LOCALLY BOTTLED WATER THE NORM IN GUYANA

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# FIVE MILES WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPENS



**\$468 million Five Miles Water Treatment Plant commissioned**

Bartica residents now have a reason to raise a glass, literally, as His Excellency President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali commissioned the \$468 million Five Miles Water Treatment Plant, a project aimed at meeting the town's growing water needs and supporting future development.

The facility, located along the Bartica/Potaro Road, is designed to serve approximately

6,000 residents from Four to Seven Miles and is the first in the area to use surface water sourced from a nearby stream. Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, President Ali described the plant as a **"critical investment"** and a demonstration of the government's commitment to planning ahead.

**"In every aspect of development,**

**we try, as far as possible, to ensure at least the medium-term demand is satisfied with that investment,"** he said. **"We cannot sit and wait. We have to plan continuously ahead**



**\$468 million Five Miles Water Treatment Plant commissioned**

**of time."**

The Five Miles plant forms part of the Government's \$40 billion Coastal Water

Treatment Infrastructure Programme (CWTIP), which aims to increase treated water coverage to 90 per cent by 2026. Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) is implementing the programme, which

has already seen the completion of seven large water treatment plants, fifteen small plants, upgrades to

twelve existing facilities, and 200 kilometres of transmission mains across six regions.

Constructed by Toshiba Water Solutions Inc, the plant cost \$468 million, with supporting infrastructure, including the water catchment system, pumping station, and transmission pipeline, built at a further \$68 million. A reinforced concrete access road will be added at \$71 million to ensure operational efficiency.

President Ali emphasised that the new plant is modular, allowing for seamless expansion to meet future demand as Bartica grows in housing, healthcare, aviation, and commercial activity. **"Clean water is not a**

**luxury. It is life. It is health in every glass. It is dignity in every household,"** he said.

Residents welcomed the announcement with gratitude, noting that the government has upgraded and expanded water services without increasing tariffs. Rates were reduced by five per cent and subsidies restored for senior citizens and pensioners.

Looking ahead, President Ali outlined plans to integrate wastewater management and modern sewage systems into the national water strategy between 2026 and 2030, beginning with Georgetown and aligning with new housing developments.

# NEW TRAINING INSTITUTE TO EQUIP NORTH RUPUNUNI RESIDENTS FOR TOURISM GROWTH

As tourism in Guyana continues to surge, welcoming nearly 35,000 visitors in January alone, the focus is shifting beyond record-breaking numbers to the people and communities who call the country's interior home. In the North Rupununi, Region Nine, a new initiative is set to ensure residents are not just witnesses to growth, but active leaders in shaping it.

Through a partnership between the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development

(Iwokrama) and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), a community tourism training institute will be established at Iwokrama's River Lodge in Kurupukari. The institute aims to provide practical training in marketing, hospitality, tour guiding, and sustainable tourism management, skills that will allow residents to build and manage their own tourism enterprises.

For many in the North Rupununi, tourism is not a new concept. Over the years, Iwokrama has served as a gateway for

travellers journeying from Georgetown into the heart of the rainforest. Along the way, former staff members of Iwokrama's tourism operations have returned to their villages to launch lodges, guide services, and community experiences of their own. The new institute seeks to formalise and expand that pipeline of opportunity.

CEO of Iwokrama, Dane Gobin, described the partnership as a natural alignment of goals, emphasising the Centre's longstanding commitment to



**Iwokrama and GTA team up to empower communities through sustainable tourism**

sustainability. He noted that Iwokrama remains the only internationally certified area for Recreational Services in

the region and recently renewed its Good Travel Seal certification, reflecting measurable progress in sustainable

practices.

GTA's Director, Kamrul Baksh said the collaboration strengthens Guyana's global reputation in nature-based tourism while ensuring local communities benefit meaningfully from the sector's expansion.

The Centre also expressed appreciation to the Government of Guyana and local partners, including the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB), whose support has been critical.

# HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE TO PREPARE GUYANA'S WORKFORCE FOR TOURISM BOOM

With international interest in Guyana on the rise, the government is taking bold steps to ensure the country has a skilled workforce ready to welcome visitors. A world-class hospitality institute is being established to train Guyanese in hospitality management, culinary arts, and tourism services, equipping them with internationally recognised skills to meet the growing demands of the sector.

The initiative, part of the People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Government's strategy to diversify the economy

and create sustainable employment, is designed to strengthen the country's tourism and service industries while providing pathways for young people to build rewarding careers.

Speaking on the President's Facebook podcast *Tea on the Terrace*, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues, highlighted the importance of building local capacity to meet international standards. **"We want to ensure that Guyanese are properly trained and equipped to take advantage of**



**Tourism and Hospitality Institute on track for mid-2026 completion**

**the opportunities in the hospitality and tourism sector as it continues to expand,"** Minister Rodrigues said.

The hospitality institute will complement major developments in

the tourism landscape, including new hotels, eco-tourism ventures, and increasing international attention on Guyana as a travel destination. Students will receive hands-on

instruction designed to prepare them for local, regional, and international roles, while also gaining the skills to launch their own businesses within the sector.

**"The goal is not just to fill jobs,"** Minister Rodrigues added, **"but to create pathways for entrepreneurship and leadership in hospitality and tourism."**

Once operational, the institute is expected to serve as a regional hub for training, attracting students from across the Caribbean and strengthening Guyana's

position as a competitive player in the tourism market. Graduates will be equipped to deliver high-quality services that meet global expectations and support the country's growing reputation as a destination for international visitors.

For aspiring chefs, hotel managers, tour guides, and entrepreneurs, the hospitality institute offers represents a gateway to career development, personal growth, and the chance to contribute directly to Guyana's economic expansion.

## GOVT OFFICE COMPLEX ADVANCES - FOUR TOWERS TAKE SHAPE

With foundation works completed and structural construction advancing, the Government's Office Complex in Haags Bosch, Eccles, East Bank, is moving into its next phase, marking one of Guyana's largest efforts to

modernise government infrastructure. The massive project is designed to centralise key government agencies, improving the delivery of public services and supporting a rapidly expanding national economy. For citizens, it promises

greater efficiency, easier access to offices, and modern facilities that reflect the country's growth.

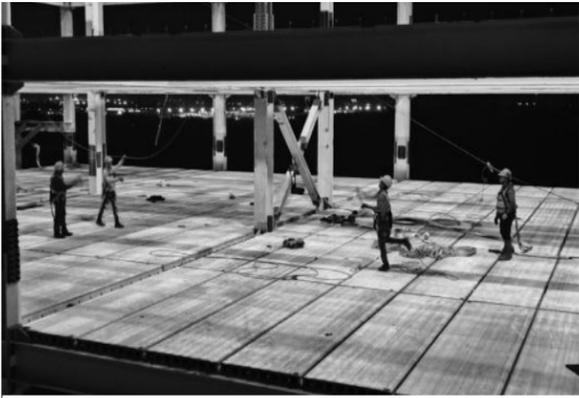
Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill reported that construction is progressing faster due to a 24-hour work cycle, a measure adopted to ensure completion by the revised deadline of January 2027. With all structural steel now on site, vertical construction across the four towers has accelerated. Towers One and Two have reached the eighth and ninth floors, respectively, while Towers Three and Four have risen to the sixth and seventh floors. Foundation slabs for the central utility building

are being poured, and staircase frames are being installed throughout the complex. Internal roads are taking shape, and the drainage network, including northern, eastern, and western channels, is well underway. The project is now approximately 50 percent complete.

Recent media reports suggested the cost of the complex could reach \$19.6 billion. The Ministry of Public Works clarified that the approved contract sum remains \$15.874 billion, with \$8.678 billion expended in 2025, representing just over 53 percent of the project value. The remaining \$7.195 billion will support the completion

of structural works, systems installation, façade finishes, and other critical infrastructure.

The ministry reaffirmed that the project remains within its approved budget framework



Government Office Complex nears midway mark with towers rising



Government Office Complex nears midway mark with towers rising

When completed, the 12-storey complex will comprise four towers supported by a large parking facility, designed to accommodate more than 6,000 employees.

and underscored transparency and accountability as central to delivering a facility meant to serve Guyanese for generations.

## CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS ON MORUCA HOSPITAL

For years, families in Moruca faced long, costly journeys by boat and road whenever serious illness struck, trips that often meant travelling to Georgetown for services unavailable at home. Now, that reality is beginning to change.

Excavation has officially begun for the new \$4.6 billion Moruca Regional Hospital in Region One, a 50-bed facility that promises to bring advanced, life-saving care directly to hinterland communities.

During a recent visit to the site, Health Minister Dr. Frank Anthony described

the project as transformative, noting that residents will soon have access to services that were once only available along the coast. The hospital will feature a fully equipped

Accident and Emergency Department, modern laboratory, pharmacy and advanced diagnostic imaging, including CT scan and X-ray capabilities, technology never before available in

the region.

For parents, the inclusion of adult and paediatric Intensive Care Units means critically ill loved ones can be stabilised close to home. For expectant mothers, a specialised delivery suite will offer safer, more supportive birthing conditions.

Operating theatres will allow both routine and complex surgeries to be performed within the region, easing the financial and emotional burden families often face when forced to travel long distances for treatment.

Specialised services in ophthalmology,



The new hospital promises that quality healthcare is not reserved for those on the coast

audiology and dental care will also expand access to treatment that residents frequently had to postpone or forgo altogether.

The facility will include an on-site oxygen plant, ensuring a reliable supply during emergencies and reducing dependence on

external sources.

For the people of Moruca, the new hospital promises that quality healthcare is not reserved for those on the coast, but is a right for every Guyanese, no matter how remote their community.



The new hospital promises that quality healthcare is not reserved for those on the coast



Round-the-clock care arrives for Diamond, Grove families

When work doesn't follow a 9-to-5 schedule, childcare can become a constant worry. In Diamond/Grove, that worry is easing as a state-of-the-art Day and Night Care and Early Childhood Development Centre opened its doors, providing round-the-

clock care for children up to age 12.

The facility, built to accommodate up to 100 children, offers a safe, nurturing environment where little ones can learn, play, and rest while their parents fulfill work commitments that extend into nights or

weekends. For families working in healthcare, security, manufacturing, or other demanding sectors, the centre represents more than convenience. It is peace of mind.

The 'day and night' programme was conceptualised by Dr. Vindhya Persaud, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, as part of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) 2020-2025 manifesto. During a tour of the facility, Dr Persaud encouraged parents to register, noting that the service is being offered free to working families.

The centre also

## NEW CENTRE OFFERS 24-HOUR CARE FOR CHILDREN UP TO AGE 12



Round-the-clock care arrives for Diamond, Grove families

provides employment opportunities for childcare professionals and support staff, further benefiting the local community.

Looking ahead, the government has earmarked \$300 million in Budget 2026 to complete a similar centre at Providence and begin

construction on four more facilities across Regions Two, Five, Six, and Ten. Officials have also expressed willingness to co-invest with qualified private partners to expand the availability and quality of childcare services nationwide.

For parents in Diamond/Grove, the new centre is a lifeline, ensuring that while they work, their children are safe, cared for, and supported every hour of the day.

# 600 WORKERS POWER LINDEN-MABURA ROAD PROJECT

As Guyana strengthens its connection with South America, the Linden-Mabura Road project is advancing steadily, driven by more than 600 workers who are helping to transform one of the country's most critical transportation corridors.



Linden-Mabura project creating jobs and skills

The roadway, which will link Guyana to Northern Brazil, is expected to significantly boost trade, tourism and cross-border exchange, while shortening travel time between the two nations. For the hundreds employed on site, however, the project represents more than a regional link, it is also a pathway to new skills and opportunity.

Heavy-duty mechanic Maxim Wilson described the

construction site as a place of cooperation and growth.

"We learn languages here, and we communicate with cooperation and understanding between us," Wilson said. "I know the potential that the company has will be able to carry us to our highest stage."

Truck operator Axel Marks shared a similar sentiment, noting that

the experience has reshaped his outlook.

"I advance myself, elevating myself because I want to be a truck driver," he explained. "Being here, I am seeing things differently."

Health, Safety and Environment Officer Mekeda Richardson said the initiative is equipping Guyanese workers with valuable professional experience.

"It is a good

experience, and it is a good look for Guyanese people because we are getting the experience from professionals," she said. "We can perform at our best, and they give us the support when it's needed."

According to the Ministry of Public Works, the project has reached 65 per cent completion. Eighty-five kilometres of the final asphalt layer have been laid, while 88 kilometres of asphaltic binder course are complete. The road's structural foundation is also well advanced, with 90 kilometres of base course and 98 kilometres of sub-base finished.

Drainage works, critical for long-term durability, have

surpassed 22 kilometres, with additional sections underway. Bridge construction is progressing at key locations, supported by structural safety testing and piling works.

Finishing touches are also taking shape.

500 turnouts and several kilometres of kerbs and medians are now complete.

Once finished, the Linden-Mabura Road will serve over 50,000 Guyanese, strengthening the movement of goods between the coast and



Linden-Mabura project creating jobs and skills

Thirty kilometres of hinterland. Completion is expected by August 23, 2026, marking a major milestone in Guyana's regional infrastructure development.

## FARMERS' CONNECT APP PUTS REAL-TIME SUPPORT IN THE HANDS OF GROWERS

For farmers rising before dawn to tend their crops, timely information can mean the difference between profit and loss. Now, that information is just a tap away with the launch of the new Farmers' Connect application by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Designed to modernise the sector and place real-time support directly in farmers' hands, the app provides market

prices, weather updates, pest and disease alerts, and soil compatibility guidance. It also allows farmers to connect with buyers, agro-processors and exporters, cutting down on guesswork and improving access to markets.

One of its standout features is AI-assisted crop diagnostics, enabling farmers to identify plant diseases and receive treatment recommendations instantly, without

waiting days for a field visit.

Farmer and Executive Director of the Black Food Sovereignty Alliance, Anan Lololi, welcomed the initiative, noting that access to ecological farming information is critical. Retired teacher-turned-farmer Roulette Bacchus described the platform as a "great initiative," saying it will help farmers stay connected and access reliable information quickly.

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha said the app is part of a broader push to digitally transform the industry and position Guyana as a global agricultural powerhouse.

Beyond boosting productivity, the platform allows farmers to report flooding and field challenges, ensuring faster responses and stronger support across the sector.

## STEEL TOWERS RISE AS GOVT PUSHES STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT POWER GRID

Steel towers are rising and substations are taking shape across Regions Four, Five and Six, signalling a new chapter for Guyana's power sector. The ongoing upgrades are designed not just to strengthen the grid, but to improve daily life for thousands of citizens.

Recently, Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, convened a high-level project management meeting with representatives of Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL), Inter Energy Holding, PowerChina International Group



Minister Indar leads critical meeting to fast-track electricity infrastructure upgrades

Limited and Kalpataru Projects International Limited to review progress under the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS) expansion programme.

For residents in

communities such as Chateau Margot, Enmore, Williamsburg and No. 53 Village, Corentyne, the works promise steadier voltage, fewer outages and greater confidence for households and

businesses alike.

Under the programme, new 69/13.8 kV distribution substations are being constructed, alongside major 230 kV transmission lines stretching from the eastern bank of the Demerara River to the Berbice River. The project also includes smart distribution technologies and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at Sophia and Goedverwagting, allowing for improved monitoring and backup support during peak demand.

Minister Indar

reaffirmed the Government's commitment to close coordination among all stakeholders, noting that collaboration is critical to strengthening grid resilience.

As Guyana continues

to expand economically, the modernisation of the DBIS stands as a key pillar in ensuring that homes stay lit, businesses remain productive, and communities are powered for progress.



Minister Indar leads critical meeting to fast-track electricity infrastructure upgrades

## WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS GEAR UP FOR WELIFT 6

Five years ago, many of the women now preparing for WeLift 6 were just starting out with small ideas and limited resources. Today, they are refining export plans, exploring financing options and forging partnerships with major institutions, all in preparation for taking their brands to the world.

Nearly 150 women-owned small businesses gathered at the Grand Coastal Hotel for a high-level stakeholder engagement hosted by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security. The event, held ahead of WeLift 6, created a space where entrepreneurs could connect directly with

investors, regulatory agencies and private sector leaders who can help scale their operations.

Scheduled for March 6-8, 2026, at the Arthur



Women entrepreneurs participating in the stakeholder engagement

Chung Conference Centre, this year's expo is themed "Made by Guyanese Women for the World". The message is clear: women

entrepreneurs are being positioned not just for local recognition, but for international markets.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr. Vindhya

Persaud underscored the ministry's commitment to expanding opportunities for women. She noted that after five years of

WeLift, the growth has been evident, not only in revenue and production, but in the confidence and capacity of the women themselves. She encouraged participants to capitalise on the presence of financial institutions, certification bodies and industry leaders gathered in one room.

Representatives from organisations such as the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, the Small Business Bureau, the Guyana Office for Investment, commercial banks, the National Insurance Scheme and the Guyana Revenue Authority engaged directly with business owners, offering clarity on



Women entrepreneurs participating in the stakeholder engagement

and export procedures. Private sector entities, including the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana and the Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown, also explored partnership opportunities.

From its modest start with just 75 businesses, WeLift has evolved into a major platform

empowerment, now targeting participation from 400 enterprises. As the sixth staging approaches, the energy is unmistakable, Guyanese women are no longer simply building businesses; they are building brands ready for the global marketplace.

## NEW MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS TO UNLOCK DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN REGIONS SIX AND NINE

Better access, safer travel, and new opportunities are on the horizon for residents of Regions Six and Nine as plans for new municipal airports move ahead.

The Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation (MoPUA) has issued a landmark Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design, construction, and financing of two new municipal airports, marking a decisive step in the government's drive to modernise Guyana's aviation infrastructure and strengthen regional connectivity.

In Region Six,

qualified firms are being invited to submit proposals under the National Competitive Bidding process for the Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing of a Code 3C Municipal Airport at Rose Hall, Canje, Berbice. The ministry said the new facility will enhance domestic and regional air transport, unlocking fresh opportunities for tourism, trade, and economic growth along the East Berbice corridor.

At the same time, the ministry is seeking proposals for a Code 4E

Municipal Airport in Lethem, Region Nine. This transformative project is expected to position the Rupununi as a key aviation gateway connecting southern Guyana to Brazil and the wider Latin American market. Designed to accommodate larger aircraft, the Lethem airport could significantly expand cross-border passenger movement and commercial activity.

Complementing these flagship developments, the ministry is also inviting bids for the rehabilitation and upgrading of priority hinterland and



Two new airports to strengthen regional connectivity and trade

coastal airstrips. These works will improve flight safety, reliability, and year-round access for remote communities, ensuring better support for medevac services,

essential government operations, and the movement of goods and supplies.

For communities long challenged by distance and limited

transport options, these airport projects signal new possibilities for connection, opportunity, and sustained national development across Guyana.

## FOUNDATION WORKS BEGIN ON MAJOR GEORGETOWN SEAFRONT RESORT



View of the construction Site

Foundation works have officially begun on the 256-room Hilton-branded Georgetown Seafront Resort and Convention Centre, with heavy machinery now active along the Georgetown seawall.

Valued at \$63 billion,

the project is among the largest hospitality investments currently underway in Guyana. Major foundation works are progressing following the 2025 Investment Agreement signed between Go-Invest and the project's

international developers.

Beyond its luxury appeal, the development is expected to create significant economic opportunities. More than 450 jobs are projected during construction and operations, benefiting both skilled and unskilled workers. Local content requirements are built into the project, ensuring Guyanese businesses and employees play a central role in its execution and long-term operations.

When completed, the resort will feature 256 rooms and a modern convention centre capable of seating more

than 2,000 persons, positioning Georgetown to host major regional and international conferences. Planned

wellness centre, sports facilities, a swimming pool, and family-friendly attractions.

In late 2025, Chief



Hon. Peter R. Ramsaroop visit to Qatar

amenities include restaurants and lounges, retail spaces, a spa and

Investment Officer and Head of Go-Invest, Peter R. Ramsaroop, met

with senior executives of the project company in Qatar to finalise strategic investment arrangements and accelerate implementation timelines as part of efforts to attract large-scale developments aligned with Guyana's tourism and non-oil growth agenda.

As construction advances along the coast, the resort is emerging as a visible symbol of Guyana's push to strengthen its tourism infrastructure and diversify its economy beyond oil.

# GUYANA'S FIRST LARGE-SCALE DAIRY FARM PROMISES JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR REGION 10 RESIDENTS

In Region 10, the Moblissa savannah is being transformed into a hub of opportunity as Guyana's first modern dairy farm prepares to train a new generation of agricultural professionals while producing fresh milk for the nation.

Prime Minister Mark Phillips recently toured the construction site of Demerara Dairies Incorporated (DDI), a 200-acre, US\$20 million facility along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

Set to begin milk production by mid-2026, the farm is more than a production centre. Prime Minister Phillips praised the initiative



Prime Minister tours DDI farm

for its potential to transform the country's agricultural and agri-industrial sectors while providing learning opportunities for students. "In addition to producing milk and other dairy products, this facility will serve as a destination for dairy practitioners

and a learning centre for students, from the University of Guyana to schools across Region 10 and beyond," he said.

The Moblissa savannah has been carefully converted into high-quality pasture to support advanced dairy operations. The project is expected to

create approximately 100 jobs, primarily for residents of Linden, while offering hands-on training for young Guyanese technicians, veterinarians, and engineers through collaboration with international experts.

"This project demonstrates what is possible when the private sector, government, and local communities collaborate," Prime Minister Phillips added. "It will advance food security, provide education and training, and generate employment opportunities for Guyanese."

The Prime Minister also commended DDL's leadership for maintaining high standards in design, worker facilities, and site management, describing the project as a model

Distillers Limited, joined the Prime Minister on the tour, along with other representatives from DDL, as the landmark facility moves closer to completion, a sign of



Prime Minister tours DDI farm

of modernisation within Guyana's productive sectors.

Mr. Komal R. Samaroo, Executive Chairman of Demerara

opportunity, innovation, and growth for Region 10 and the country.

# NEW DIGITAL DESIGN LAB SUPPORTING SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AT GTI



GTI students gain access to industry-standard design tools

What may look like a simple upgrade to a computer lab is, for many Government Technical Institute (GTI) students, a transformative step toward careers in engineering, construction and design.

Karpowership has officially launched the

Karpowership-GTI AutoCAD Technology Lab at the GTI, equipping the space with high-performing desktop computers to support AutoCAD-based instruction.

The new lab enhances an existing classroom and expands

students' access to digital design tools widely used across engineering, architecture and technical disciplines. For students who previously had limited access to modern computing equipment, the upgrade represents a critical shift toward hands-on, industry-aligned training.

The initiative forms part of Karpowership's ongoing skills development efforts in Guyana, focused on strengthening technical education, building local capacity and supporting youth employment. In honour of its founder, Rauf Osman Karadeniz,

the company donated the computers as a contribution to long-term educational development.

Principal Collis Bess welcomed the support, noting that modern equipment plays a vital role in preparing students for real-world applications.

"Access to updated technology significantly improves how we deliver our technical programmes," Bess said. "It allows students to practice using the same digital tools they will encounter in professional

environments."

The launch ceremony brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, faculty, students and members of Karpowership's global and local teams, underscoring the importance of partnerships between industry and educational institutions.

Speaking at the event, Beyza Özdemir, Americas Regional Director of Commercial Operations at Karpowership, emphasised the company's commitment to investing in communities alongside

its operations.

As Guyana continues to expand its infrastructure and industrial sectors, initiatives like the new AutoCAD lab are helping ensure that local students are not only observers of that growth, but active participants in shaping it.

The AutoCAD Technology Lab is expected to support approximately one thousand first and second-year full-time engineering students yearly, across multiple programmes at GTI and further strengthening students' exposure to industry-standard digital tools.

Families waiting to build their first homes and communities grappling with heavy truck congestion could soon see major improvements, as the government moves forward with new infrastructure works and secure truck parking facilities across several regions.

The administration has invited bids for a series of development projects in Regions Three, Four, Five and Six, aimed at improving access to housing schemes while making neighbourhoods safer and more organised.

Through the Ministry of Housing and Water, key infrastructure works

will be undertaken in Stewartville, Region Three; Great Diamond, Region Four; and Burma, Region Five. These projects will focus on constructing roads, improving drainage systems, and installing essential utilities, all critical steps in helping land allocates gain access to their lots and begin building.

For many residents, these works represent more than construction activity. They signal the transition from receiving land to finally being able to turn that opportunity

into a home.

Alongside housing infrastructure, the government is also advancing plans to create dedicated, secure parking facilities for heavy-duty trucks. The initiative is intended to reduce roadside congestion, ease traffic flow, and enhance public safety, particularly in residential communities where large trucks often occupy roadways.

Truck parking facilities will be constructed at Metenland to Meer-Zorg Phase Two, and Hermitage to Wales

in Region Three; and Hope to Enmore and Grove in Region Four.

Communities in Region Six will also benefit, with facilities planned for Smithson Place in East Canje, Berbice, and Number 75 Village on the Corentyne.

The projects form part of the government's wider housing drive, backed by a \$159.1 billion allocation in Budget 2026 to advance housing development nationwide. Continued infrastructure works are planned for both new and existing schemes.

# SECURE TRUCK PARKING FACILITIES PLANNED TO REDUCE ROADSIDE CONGESTION



These dedicated truck parks aim to bring safer, more organised communities

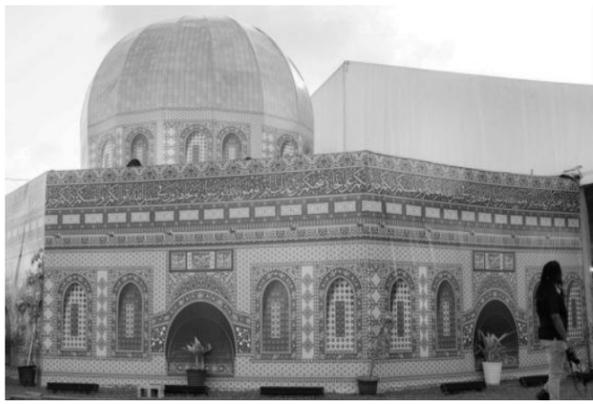
This year alone, at least 15,000 households are expected to receive house lots, while an additional 8,000 lots are set to be distributed. The government also

plans to issue no fewer than 7,000 certificates of title, helping thousands of families secure legal ownership of their properties.

## RAMADAN VILLAGE RETURNS BRINGING FAITH, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Soft lantern light and the sound of Quranic recitation filled the Muslim Youth Organisation (MYO) grounds as hundreds gathered for the opening of Ramadan Village 2026. Held just days before the start of the holy month, the launch drew over a thousand Guyanese into an atmosphere rich with devotion, cultural pride, and shared anticipation.

The evening featured melodic Quranic verses, traditional Islamic songs, and heartfelt reflections, setting the tone for the sacred month ahead. For many, Ramadan Village has grown beyond an event, it is a cherished gathering space where faith, heritage, and community come alive. Designed to welcome Muslims and non-Muslims alike, it has become a vibrant showcase of learning,



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha meeting with farmers

fellowship, and the inclusive spirit of Ramadan.

This year, more than 80 vendors enliven the venue with colourful stalls offering traditional Islamic attire, fragrant delicacies, and educational displays to deepen understanding of the holy month.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who introduced the concept, described the village as a living expression of Islam's

openness and unity, drawing curiosity even beyond Guyana's borders. "When I

travel around the world, even in the Middle East, people ask about the concept of the Ramadan Village," he said. "What this Village brings to life is inclusivity."

The President reflected on fasting as more than abstaining from food and drink, calling it an awakening of consciousness. Hunger and thirst, he explained, remind believers of their Creator and of their responsibility to humanity. He urged citizens to use

Ramadan as a season of accountability and self-examination, drawing on Quranic teachings that emphasise personal

and national unity.

Open every weekend from Friday to Sunday, 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Ramadan Village offers



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha meeting with farmers

responsibility. "We must hold ourselves to account before we are brought to account," he said.

He also encouraged Guyanese of all faiths to embrace the month's spirit of reflection, noting that fasting and spiritual discipline are values shared across religions. Ramadan, he said, should inspire humility, compassion,

a tranquil environment where prayer, education, and fellowship blend seamlessly. A special feature this year is a Farmers' Market organised by First Lady Arya Ali, with proceeds supporting the less fortunate, reinforcing Ramadan's principle of charity.



Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha meeting with farmers

## PRESIDENT ALI URGES DEVOTEES TO RENEW COMMITMENT TO HUMANITY AT MAHA SHIVRATRI



Scene from the Maha Shivratri celebrations at the Cove and John Ashram

Devotees from across Guyana gathered at the Cove and John Ashram to mark Maha Shivratri 2026, used the sacred occasion to pause, reflect, and strengthen bonds within the country's multi-religious and multicultural society.

At the event,

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered the feature address, urging citizens to use Maha Shivratri as a moment for self-examination, reflection, and a renewed commitment to humanity. He stressed that spirituality must go hand in hand with compassion, responsibility, and social justice.

"Have we lost our conscience? Have we lost our consciousness? Today is about rekindling with our conscience," President Ali said, explaining that true spirituality cannot flourish in societies marked by hunger, anger,



Scene from the Maha Shivratri celebrations at the Cove and John Ashram

conflict, or social decay. He highlighted that consciousness involves recognising a higher moral responsibility in everyday actions and understanding what is expected of individuals as human beings.

"Today is just a reminder that conscience exists and

that consciousness exists so that we can take it through the rest of the year and the rest of our lives," the president added, encouraging citizens to remain selfless and mindful in their conduct. He also reminded attendees to

honour the struggles and sacrifices that shaped the nation, urging especially young people to view institutions and movements through the lens of history and service rather than fleeting impressions.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, also addressed the gathering, describing Maha Shivratri as one of the most auspicious Hindu observances, rich in spiritual and practical significance. He said the festival symbolises the triumph of positive forces over negativity and called on citizens to include in their prayers those who

protect the country's sovereignty and security.

Minister Nandlall highlighted Guyana's identity as a multi-religious and multicultural nation, noting that Hindu, Muslim, and Christian observances often coincide, reflecting the country's unity in diversity. "We are able to celebrate our distinct cultures under the banner of one Guyana," he said, cautioning that these freedoms should never be taken for granted, as many people worldwide still face persecution because of their faith.

## PRESIDENT ALI ENCOURAGES STEADFAST FAITH DURING VISITS TO CHURCHES IN KITTY

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali visited two churches in Kitty, emphasising how prayer and belief can uplift individuals, families, and the wider community.

At the Revealed World Christian Centre on William Street, the President reflected on the quiet strength found in faith, noting that it fosters positivity



President Ali visits Kitty Churches

and hope that radiates outward to enrich society. Pastor Sermon and his congregation offered prayers for President Ali, his family,

his leadership, and the people of Guyana.

President Ali also joined Bishop Ronald Surujbally and his congregation at the Newtown Assembly of God Church, where he highlighted the church's enduring role as a pillar of the community. He praised its contributions to the nation's moral and social fabric and encouraged members to

remain steadfast in their faith.

The visits underscore President Ali's engagement with faith-based communities and his recognition of the vital role that spiritual institutions play in supporting families and strengthening social cohesion.



President Ali visits Kitty Churches

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# GUYANA ENGINEERING THE FUTURE - PRESIDENT ALI TELLS GLOBAL TECH AND ENERGY LEADERS AT 2026 CONFERENCE



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

Meet with us. Let us guide you... because in every challenge, there is opportunity," he said.

## Regional Cooperation and Investment Opportunities

Roodal Moonilal, Trinidad and Tobago's Energy Minister, expressed interest in partnering with Guyana and Suriname to revitalise regional energy infrastructure, including restarting operations at the Pointe-à-Pierre (Petrotrin) refinery. He proposed a regional forum for Energy Ministers to



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

collaborate and optimise investments.

Now in its fifth year, the Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo combines workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities for energy leaders and policymakers across the Caribbean and South America. The event

facilitates collaboration, showcases innovation, and positions Guyana as a regional energy and technology hub, demonstrating the nation's commitment to sustainable growth, diversification, and forward-looking economic development. This year conference ran from February 17 to 20.

# PRESIDENT ALI CONNECTS WITH GLOBAL INDUSTRY LEADERS



Guyana Energy Conference and Supply Chain Expo 2026

Saudi Eksab; Carlos Pascual, Senior Vice President and Head of Geopolitics and International Affairs at S&P Global; and representatives from China National Offshore

Oil Corporation, LS Energy Solutions, and BB Energy.

President Ali also engaged with AI expert and conference speaker Dr Amir Aziz. Senior Minister within the



President Ali holds strategic meetings with energy, finance, and tech leaders



President Ali holds strategic meetings with energy, finance, and tech leaders

Office of the President responsible for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, along with other Cabinet Ministers, joined the discussions.

The meetings underscore Guyana's growing engagement

with global energy, finance, and technology leaders as the country expands its role in the international energy sector.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant concept confined to Silicon Valley labs. It is poised to transform classrooms, hospitals, governments and industries worldwide. That urgency brought global leaders together in New Delhi for the largest AI summit ever staged, marking a historic moment for the Global South.

The six-day India-AI Impact Summit drew hundreds of participants, including heads of state, technology executives and global policymakers, for high-level discussions on governance, equity and the societal impact of rapidly advancing AI systems. It was the first time a summit of this scale on artificial intelligence was hosted



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo in discussion with Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

in a developing nation. Guyana's Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, attended the gathering, where he was welcomed on arrival by India's Minister of State for Home Affairs,

Nityanand Rai. He later joined other leaders for talks hosted by India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Addressing delegates, Modi underscored the importance of fairness and accessibility in the AI revolution.

"We must democratise AI. It must become a tool for inclusion and empowerment, particularly for the Global South," he said.

The summit featured influential global figures, including French President Emmanuel Macron, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, and

Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai.

Guterres delivered one of the strongest warnings of the forum, cautioning against the concentration of AI power in a few hands.

"The future of AI cannot be decided by a handful of countries, or left to the whims of a few billionaires," he said, calling for a multibillion-dollar global initiative to help developing nations build their own AI capabilities. "AI must belong to everyone."

On the sidelines, Dr Jagdeo held discussions with Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra

Ramgoolam, India's Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

The summit marked the fourth in a series of international gatherings aimed at coordinating global action as AI systems grow more powerful and influential. For developing nations like Guyana, the conversations in New Delhi reinforced a critical message: the AI revolution must expand



Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo with Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius

opportunity, not deepen global inequality.



# Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



## GOLDEN ARROWHEAD LIGHTS UP THE HUDSON RIVER, NY



The Golden Arrowhead took centre stage on the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie, New York, as the iconic bridge was illuminated in vibrant colours on the night of February 23. The stunning display began at 6:00 pm and continued until 6:00 am the following morning, casting a radiant glow over the Hudson River.



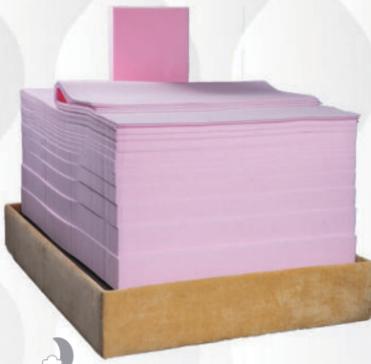
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# Canada: Standing Up For It's Rights

By Donald Ramotar

FORMER GUYANA PRESIDENT

The assumption of the Donald Trump's administration to power in the United States following the elections of 2024, has been changing the world in fundamental ways. President Trump seems to believe that because the United States is the most powerful country in the world, it can do as it pleases. It can order countries around and demand their resources and get them at his will.

In the process, the US administration has inflicted great sufferings on peoples in many parts of the world. It is its enormous military and over generous economic and political support for Israel that has allowed the apartheid, fascist regime of Isreal to unleash a genocide on the Palestinian people that is continuing. Educated estimates put the death of the Palestinians at some three hundred thousand souls. Many bodies are still being found under the mountains of rubble.

Some we understand will never be found because bombs that generate heat greater than of the sun were used on the poor, helpless people in the Gaza and many just evaporated.

The poor but brave people of Yemen have been bombed by the US and Israel because they showed tangible solidarity to the Palestinians.

Iran has been attacked and bombed by the same two brutal regimes. It appears that it would be attacked again, because Isreal does not want any country in their region that can stand up to their terrorism.

In the Caribbean, on the flimsy pretext of drug trafficking, the President of Venezuela and his wife were 'kidnapped'. To give some credence to its false charge small fishing boats are being bombed and more than one hundred souls have died.

No effort was made to stop and search those boats; no evidence is being provided to the Caribbean people nor the wider international community to validate the claim of drug trafficking. President Trump seems to have come out from the wild west; shoot first and ask questions later.

Cuba, that island that has done so much for mankind, is now experiencing maximum pressure from the US. This is shameful. It is clear they are pushing for regime change.

It was expected that this lawlessness would create push backs. And it did. However, the most effective resistance did not come from where we traditionally expect, Russia and/or China but from a totally unexpected source, Canada.

Canadian patriotism has been ig-



Prime Minister Mark Carney in Davos

nited, by the US President and his inner circle due to measures and statements they are making about Canada. He described the country as the US's 51st state and, derogatorily called the Prime Minister "Governor Trudeau or Governor Carney". He imposed economic sanctions, including tariffs on his faithful neighbour.

During the elections campaign in Canada, last August, the Trump administration openly supported the opposition. Mr. Pierre Poilievre was favoured by President Trump, and he made no effort to hide his open interference into the internal politics of Canada, as he had earlier done with Argentina and Honduras.

This interference seems to have infuriated the Canadian voters and they voted for the Liberals again.

Mark Carney, the new Prime Minister of Canada seem to have embodied the sentiments of Canadians very early. During the elections campaign he spoke about standing up to bullies, and it was obvious he was referring to the Trump administration.

Many at that time thought that it was idle talk and did not expect Carney to really stand up to his more powerful southern neighbour. After all the

Canadian and US economies are deeply integrated. Some 80% of Canada's exports goes to the United States. Canada, having the smaller economy is in greater danger of being hurt than the US, in an economic conflict.

Carney recognised this and started to take steps to protect Canada's economy from external pressures. His speech at the Davos meeting on January 20, 2026, was classic. It indicated his intentions to free Canada from dependence and to assert its sovereignty very clearly and boldly, a speech I hope Caricom leaders would not only read, but take an example from.

He laid out the realities of today's world plainly, when he said "... it seems that every day we're reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry, that the rules based order is fading, that the strong can do what they can and the weak must suffer what they must..."

He went on to add, "And faced with this logic, there is a strong tendency for countries to go along to get along, to accommodate, to avoid trouble, to hope that compliance will buy safety. Well, it wouldn't."

That was a clear warning to the

European nations, and others, that seem ready to lie down and to allow the US to walk all over them.

Judging from his own experience with US/Canada relations Carney, pointed out that "... great powers (here he could have said the US because it is only the US that is guilty, authors note) have begun using economic integration as weapons, tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited..." He went on to add "... You cannot live within the lie of mutual benefit through integration, when integration becomes the source of your subordination."

Carney then went on to urge his audience to "...develop greater strategic autonomy," he urged nations to be principled – "principled in our commitment to fundamental values" and he emphasised sovereignty.

Since that speech we have seen that Prime Minister Carney is taking steps to defend his country. He has begun to diversify Canada's economic relations in a hurry. He has made agreements with China, India, Indonesia and with Brazil, and is aggressively continuing on this path.

Canada's foreign policy is taking on a distinct independence. He has expressed his disgust at Netanyahu, despite American pressures and said Canada would arrest him if he dared to put a toe on Canadian soil. He has expressed sympathy with the people of Cuba who have had to endure an economic war imposed by the United States for almost seven decades.

Prime Minister Carney must know that the United States will not want to accept Canada's newfound freedom. He probably knows that the US deep state will do everything to frustrate his efforts. For all we know the CIA must already be in Canada to stir up trouble. Already we are hearing talks that Alberta, an oil producing area of Canada, will join the USA. Vice-President J.D. Vance has been making provocative remarks in this direction.

Knowing something of the CIA, from publications such as "Inside the Company" by Philip Agee, one would not be hard pressed to believe that it is on the march to destabilise Canada, economically and politically.

Carney has shown real courage to stand up for his country; he is serious about independence and sovereignty. His actions are becoming examples to those leaders who feel that nothing can be done to stand up for their rights in the face of powerful opponents. Prime Minister Carney's stance has earned him the admiration and respect of democratic forces the world over!

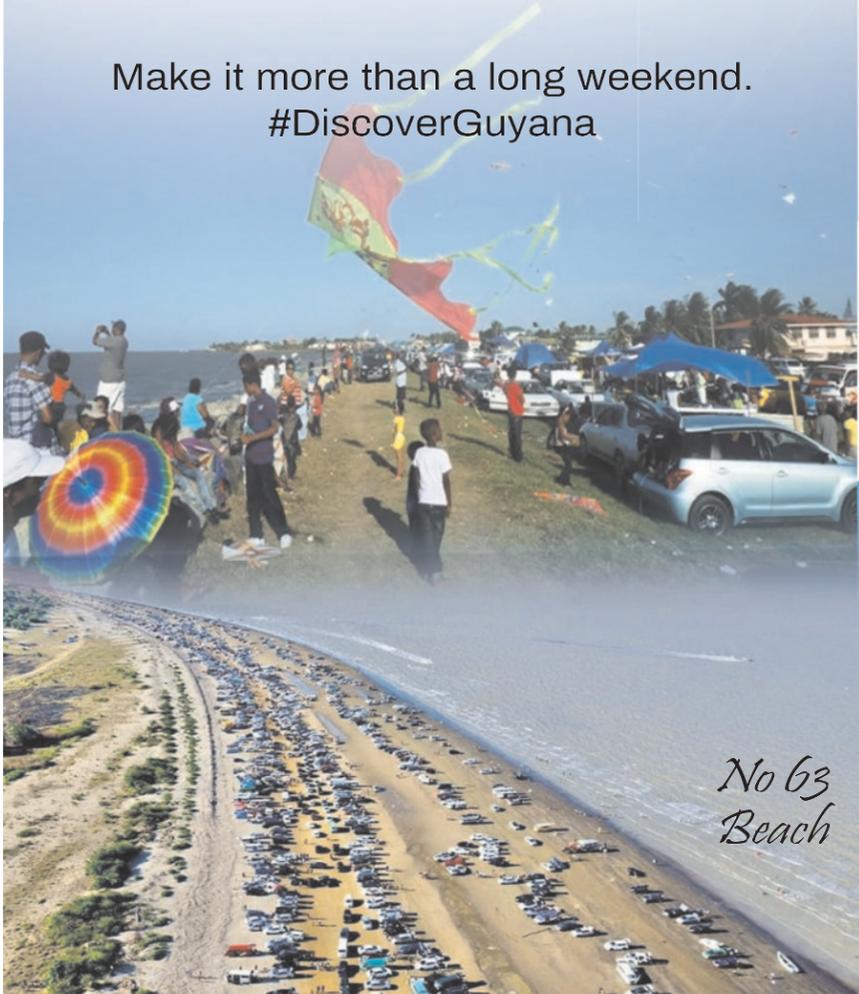


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