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President Ali urges stronger Guyana-Canada partnerships as investment opportunities expand

Guyana President Irfaan Ali on Friday called for a reset in Guyana-Canada economic relations, urging Canadian investors and policymakers to move more aggressively to capitalise on opportunities in Guyana's rapidly expanding economy.

Addressing participants at the Guyana-Canada Business Forum in Toronto, the president said Guyana no longer has to convince the world of its potential, noting that the country has consistently "punched above its weight" even before the emergence of the oil and gas sector.

He pointed to Guyana's leadership in climate policy, renewable energy advocacy, agriculture and mining, while highlighting the country's growing role in global energy security.

"Today, we don't have to spend much time introducing Guyana," President Ali stated, before he said, "The fact that you invested your own resources to be at this forum tells me that you've already done your homework and are ready to look at the opportunities."

The head of state reflected on Canada's historic role in Guyana's development, including support for democratic governance, institutional strengthening, electoral reforms and human capital development.

However, he expressed concern



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney with Guyana President Irfaan Ali

that Canada, once Guyana's largest trading partner, has not evolved quickly enough to match the scale of opportunities now emerging in the country.

"Canada was our largest trading partner. This forum allows us to reflect

on whether we have done enough to respond to the changing opportunities and the new economy of Guyana," he said.

President Ali identified several sectors where Canadian expertise could play a major role, including hydroelec-

tricity, smart grids, transmission systems, pharmaceutical manufacturing, agro-processing, tourism, manufacturing and data centres.

He noted that despite Canada's global reputation in hydroelectricity and energy systems, no Canadian firms responded to recent expressions of interest for Guyana's second major power plant project.

"You have enormous experience. You have tremendous liquidity waiting to be deployed. Yet, in all of the expressions of interest, you can't find one Canadian firm," the president said.

The president emphasised that Guyana's development strategy is centred on balanced partnerships that include local private sector participation and technology transfer.

"We have advanced the stage in our development where we don't want a one-sided relationship. We want a balanced relationship. We want our local private sector to grow, own things, be profitable and make money," he stressed.

During his visit to Canada, President Ali met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on May 8, where the leaders emphasized the "strong" ties between Canada and Guyana.

Carney conveyed his best wishes for the Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce's Business Forum taking place in Toronto, celebrating 60 years of Guyana's independence and diplomatic ties with Canada.

"The Prime Minister looks forward to visiting Guyana in the future," a statement from his office said. "The Prime Minister and the President agreed to remain in close contact."

The Canadian Government said Guyana and Canada enjoy a "close relationship" built on more than 50 years of "deep people-to-people ties, important trading connections, a longstanding development program, and our security partnership."

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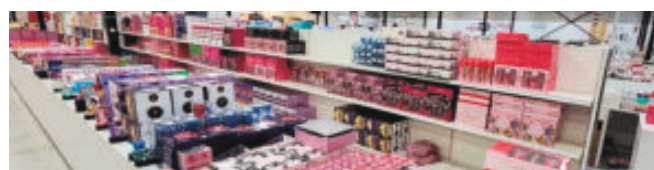


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Pharmacists to expand services

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The Ontario government has announced changes to the practice for pharmacists and other health professionals, expanding the range of services they are allowed to provide within the province's healthcare system.

According to the Ministry of Health, the changes are intended to increase access to care and reduce pressure on hospitals and physician offices by allowing more health professionals to perform services traditionally handled by doctors or nurses. The measures were announced on May 11 as part of changes to many healthcare professions. Under the changes, pharmacists will be allowed to prescribe medications for additional minor illnesses and renew or adapt more prescriptions without requiring patients to visit a physician for simple adjustments. Pharmacists in Ontario were previously granted authority to prescribe treatments for a list of common conditions, including conjunctivitis, dermatitis and urinary tract infections.

The announcement also includes new responsibilities for registered nurses, respiratory therapists and medical laboratory technologists. These professionals may receive authority to perform additional clinical tasks and diagnostic activities under revised regulations.

Ontario says the changes are intended to improve patient access to frontline services, particularly in communities experiencing shortages of family physicians or long wait times for appointments.

In recent years, provinces across Canada have expanded the responsibilities of pharmacists and other regulated professionals as health systems continue facing staffing shortages and growing patient demand. Several provinces now allow pharmacists to prescribe treatments for certain minor conditions, administer vaccines and provide medication services.

Data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information has shown continued pressures in primary care systems nationally, including problems accessing family doctors in some regions and increased dependence on walk-in clinics and emergency departments for non-emergency care. The Ontario government has stated that increasing access to non-emergency care may help shorten wait times by allowing patients to get treatment or routine care from a wider range of providers. Colleges and hospitals will continue overseeing licensing standards and professional requirements connected to the new responsibilities.

The province also indicated that changes to the system are expected to be phased in as regulations are updated and guidance is finalized for individual jobs.



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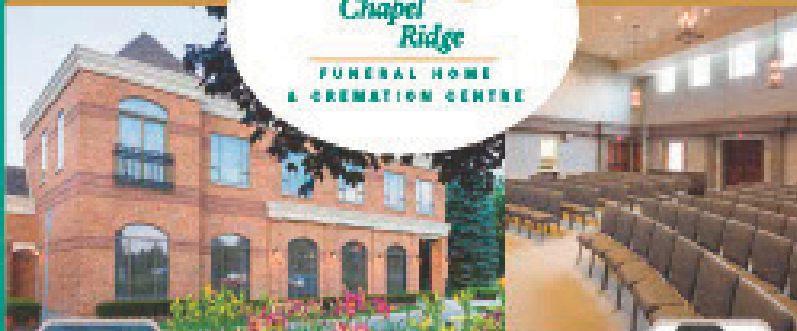
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“NO SHRED OF EVIDENCE” - GUYANA RIPS VENEZUELA’S CASE APART AT WORLD COURT

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Members of the delegation of Guyana during the ICJ hearing on the validity of the 1989 Arbitral Award



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PRESIDENT ALI, CANADIAN PM CARNEY DISCUSS INVESTMENT, TRADE AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN TORONTO

PAGE 7



LABOUR MOVEMENT BACKS PRESIDENT ALI

PAGE 11

NEW GUYANA-ST KITTS AND NEVIS AGREEMENTS TARGET FOOD SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Guyana's legal team mounted a sweeping and forceful defence of the country's sovereignty before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), dismantling Venezuela's claims to the Essequibo region and urging judges to uphold the 1899 Arbitral Award that settled the border controversy more than a century ago.

Appearing before the court at the Peace Palace in The Hague during oral hearings in the case concerning the Arbitral Award of October 3, 1899, Guyana argued that Venezuela's attempt to invalidate the award is rooted in speculation, distorted history and legally baseless claims.

Leading Guyana's case, Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd described the proceedings as "existential" for the country, noting that more than 70 per cent of Guyana's internationally recognised territory is at stake.

"For the Guyanese people, it is tragic even to think about having our country dismembered," Minister Todd told the court.

Throughout the hearings, Guyana's legal team stressed that Venezuela accepted and implemented the 1899 Award for more than six decades before abruptly challenging it in 1962.

Renowned international lawyer Paul Reichler described Venezuela's case as a "mythological narrative" built on unsupported allegations of fraud, conspiracy and coercion.

"Venezuela... is in historical reality the aggressor, having obstructed and delayed Guyana's independence and



Ambassador and Director of the Frontiers Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Donnette Streete



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



Dr Nilufer Oral, International law professor



Guyana's former foreign secretary, advisor on borders and agent at the ICJ in the border case with Venezuela, Carl Greenidge



Lead Council Phillipe Sands



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hugh Todd



President Ali at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas



President Ali at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas

threatened it ever since," Reichler argued. He rejected Venezuela's portrayal of itself as a victim of colonial manipulation, pointing instead to historical records showing Venezuela actively pursued arbitration with Britain and welcomed the 1897 Treaty of Washington which paved the way for the 1899 Award.

"This is nothing more than a cynical inversion of history," he said. A major focus of Guyana's arguments centered on Venezuela's reliance on the controversial "Mallet-Prevost Memorandum," which Caracas claims proves the arbitration was tainted by a secret political arrangement between Britain and Russia.

Guyana's lead counsel, Philippe Sands, dismissed the memorandum

as unreliable and unsupported by evidence. **"The story of this document is so fantastical that it could rather feature in a novel,"** Sands told the court. He noted that the original memorandum has never been produced or authenticated and first surfaced in a 1949 journal article written by American lawyer Otto Schoenrich.

"There is no evidence to show that this supposed document is anything other than a creation of Mr Schoenrich's imagination," Sands also highlighted factual inaccuracies within the memorandum, including references to British jurist Lord Russell allegedly influencing the tribunal despite never participating in the arbitration proceedings.

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"It follows that claim cannot be true," he added.

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Greenidge further challenged Venezuela's narrative, telling the court it was Venezuela, not Britain, that pushed for arbitration.

"The history is clear, and established by the

measures issued by the ICJ.

International lawyer Edward Craven urged the court to order Venezuela to reverse actions taken in defiance of the court's directives, including legislation incorporating the Essequibo into Venezuela, official maps depicting the territory as Venezuelan land, and elections conducted

the court.

Guyana's Ambassador and Director of Frontiers, Donnette Streete, underscored the devastating implications of Venezuela's claim.

"For a small developing nation, the loss of nearly three-quarters of its territory would not be a border adjustment. It would be the dismemberment, indeed, the effective destruction of the country," Streete said.

Attorney General Anil Nandlall, SC, echoed those concerns.

"For Guyana and its people, the stakes could scarcely be higher," AG Nandlall stated. **"The loss of the territory claimed by Venezuela would eviscerate Guyana. Indeed, the country as we know it would cease to exist."**

Venezuela, during its presentation, challenged both the court's jurisdiction and the validity of the 1899 Award, arguing it resulted from fraud and that the 1966 Geneva Agreement replaced it with a framework requiring negotiated settlement.

However, Guyana



Paul Reichler making his presentation before the ICJ in The Hague

evidence before the court," Greenidge said. **"It was Venezuela that insisted on arbitration."**

According to Greenidge, Venezuela later enlisted the support of the United States to secure the arbitration agreement with Britain.

"And, ultimately... Venezuela secured the arbitration agreement on which it had been insisting for more than a decade," he stated.

Guyana also accused Venezuela of repeatedly violating provisional

for a so-called "state of Guyana Essequiba."

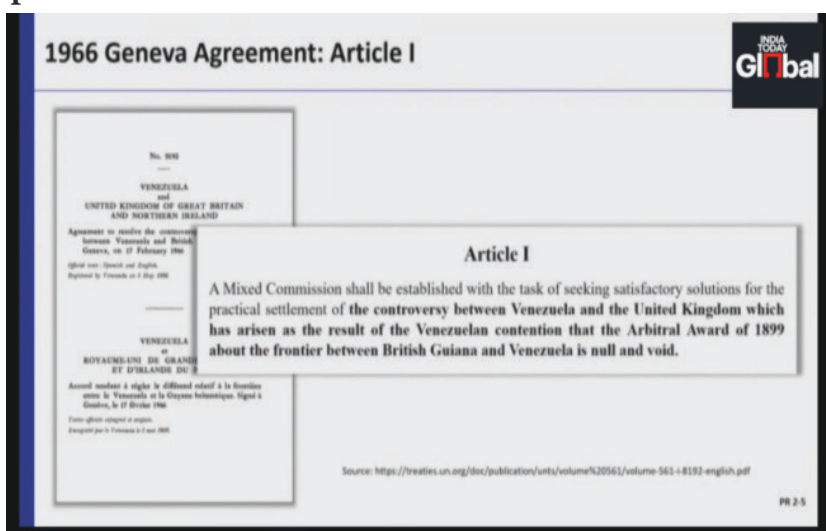
"The orders plainly have been violated, and this calls for appropriate remedial measures," Craven argued.

Meanwhile, international law expert Professor Nilufer Oral presented extensive historical evidence showing Venezuela consistently recognised and complied with the 1899 Award from 1899 until 1962.

"There were no deviations, not a single one throughout this period," she told

firmly rejected those claims, insisting the Geneva Agreement did not invalidate the award and that the ICJ has already confirmed its jurisdiction in earlier rulings.

The hearings will continue with Venezuela scheduled to present its final arguments on Monday, May 11, before the court deliberates on a judgment that could permanently settle the decades-old border controversy.



ENERGY FUTURE MUST BE BALANCED, NOT ONE-SIDED - PRESIDENT ALI TELLS WORLD LEADERS



President Ali at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas

Standing before a packed audience of global energy leaders, investors and policymakers, President Dr. Irfaan Ali made a case that was as much about people as it was about power: the world, he said, must rethink how it approaches energy, not as a simple transition, but as a delicate balancing act.

Delivering the feature address at the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2026, in Houston, Texas, President Ali framed the global energy debate in human terms, pointing to a widening gap between those who have access to reliable energy

and those still waiting. **"The world is not simply switching from one energy system to another,"** he said. **"It is trying to close a growing gap between supply and demand."**

That gap, he explained, is shaped not just by technology, but by money, and where it flows. While global energy investment reached record levels in 2025, he noted that nearly two-thirds went into clean energy, leaving fossil fuels, and, more critically, developing regions, competing for the remainder.

For countries in the Global South, where demand is rising fastest, the imbalance is more than a statistic. It is a daily reality affecting development, industry, and quality of life.

Against this backdrop, President Ali positioned Guyana as a country walking a careful line, one that refuses to choose between economic growth and environmental



President Ali at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas

responsibility. On one hand, Guyana is now one of the world's fastest-growing oil producers. On the other, it remains one of the planet's most significant carbon sinks, with forests covering about 85 per cent of its land and absorbing more than 150 million tonnes of carbon each year.

"We care about the world, and we are demonstrating it," he said.

That balance is not accidental. It is rooted in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, which aims to use revenues from oil and gas to fund a cleaner, more resilient future.

At the heart of this effort is the Gas-to-

Energy project on the West Bank Demerara, designed to deliver more affordable and reliable electricity while reducing emissions. Across the country, solar farms are expanding, hydropower projects are advancing, and investments in wind energy and energy storage are taking shape.

For many Guyanese, these initiatives are more than policy, they represent the promise of lower electricity costs, better infrastructure, and new economic opportunities.

But President Ali also warned that the global push toward renewable energy is not without its own consequences. The demand for critical minerals, he said, brings environmental risks of its

own, from deforestation to water stress.

"Are we addressing one environmental crisis while creating another?" he asked.

It is precisely this tension, he argued, that makes the case for **"energy balance"** rather than a one-track

governments, investo and industry leader to see Guyana not ju as an oil producer, b as a model for a mo inclusive and sustaina energy future.

"The future energy will not be defined by what we abandon," he said. **"will be defined by ho**



President Ali at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas

transition.

Beyond its borders, Guyana is also looking to deepen regional ties, exploring energy partnerships with Brazil, Suriname and French Guiana to build interconnected systems that improve energy security and efficiency.

As his address drew to a close, the President extended an invitation, to

wisely we manage what the world still requires, and how fairly we ensure that no country and its community is left behind."

Moments later he officially opened Guyana's booth at the conference, an exhibit not just of opportunity but of ambition.

"THIS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE-" PRESIDENT ALI SHARES VISIONARY AWARD WITH NATION

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali turned a moment of personal recognition into a tribute to an entire nation, dedicating his Visionary Leadership Award to the people of Guyana.

Accepting the honour from the Bilateral Chambers on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2026, the President made it clear the award was not his alone.

"I receive this Visionary Leadership Award not as a trophy to be displayed but as a mirror," he said, **"one that reflects not merely my own efforts but the collective vision of every colleague, mentor and citizen... working towards a brighter horizon for our nation."**

In a room filled with global industry leaders, policymakers and executives, President Ali paused to invite applause,



President Ali accepts leadership award as symbol of Guyana's collective rise

Guyanese at home and abroad, crediting them for the country's rapid transformation and growing international profile.

He framed Guyana's progress as more than economic statistics, grounding development in everyday realities.

"Economic growth has tangible and visible benefits," he said, pointing to better nourishment for children, improved classrooms, accessible healthcare and families rising out of poverty.

While Guyana's oil

firmly on the global map, the President cautioned against equating natural resources with true prosperity.

"Oil and minerals are gifts of the earth. Prosperity is a gift we give ourselves," he noted, emphasising the importance of careful management, inclusive policies and investment in people.

He also urged global partners to stay committed in the face of challenges, describing this period as one that demands resilience and shared purpose.

"This is not the time to quit... this is a time to be strengthened in faith and purposeful in our endeavours," he



President Ali accepts leadership award as symbol of Guyana's collective rise



said. The award recognises President Ali's role in advancing Guyana's economic transformation and strengthening international partnerships. But for him, the recognition ultimately belongs to the people whose efforts continue to shape the country's future.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, NOT OIL OUTPUT, WILL DEFINE GUYANA'S LEGACY – PRESIDENT ALI

In a world fixated on oil wealth, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali is asking a different question: who truly benefits? For Guyana, he says, the answer must include every citizen, especially those in its most remote communities.

Addressing investors, energy executives and operators at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, the President outlined a vision for development that goes beyond production

figures and economic headlines.

“The measure of Guyana’s success will not be how many barrels we produce,” he said. **“The measure will be: did every citizen have access to opportunity?”**

At the heart of this approach is a deliberate strategy to channel oil and gas revenues into long-term, people-centred investments. From new roads and airstrips to expanded health facilities, the government is working to



President Ali attending the event at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University

connect hinterland and Indigenous communities to essential services that have long been out of reach.

These investments are not only improving lives but also unlocking new economic possibilities, particularly in eco-tourism, where Guyana’s natural assets can generate sustainable income for local communities.

Education is another cornerstone. With university education now free, more young

Guyanese are gaining access to tertiary learning. At the same time, a nationwide rollout of STEM centres, developed in partnership with ExxonMobil, is introducing students to science, technology, engineering and mathematics from an early age.

“Today, you can train all of them in Guyana and offer that training to the rest of the world,” President Ali said, pointing to the country’s growing capacity to develop its own skilled workforce.

In healthcare, investments are being directed toward building high-quality facilities, with the aim of making the sector both a national asset and a regional service hub.

Efforts are also underway to ensure ordinary Guyanese

benefit directly from the country’s growth. Through the Guyana Development Bank, small and medium-sized businesses are gaining

accountability and long term planning.

“We prefer to invest in opportunities that create wealth,” the



President Ali attending the event at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University

easier access to financing, while local content legislation ensures that opportunities in the oil sector circulate within the domestic economy.

Transparency remains central to the strategy. Under the Natural Resource Fund, all oil revenues must be publicly disclosed, reinforcing

President said, rejecting a short-term approach in favour of building human capital as a sustainable growth.

In the end, the message was clear: Guyana’s transformation will not be judged by the scale of its oil production but by how meaningful it improves the lives of its people.



President Ali attending the event at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University

US FIRMS ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND PRESENCE IN GUYANA

Senior Minister within the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, has held a series of high-level meetings with United States government officials and private sector representatives during the 2026 SelectUSA Investment Summit in Maryland, aimed at deepening economic and commercial ties between Guyana and the US.

The summit, held from May 3 to May 6, brought together government and business leaders to explore investment opportunities and

strengthen bilateral partnerships.

Among the engagements was a meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere in the US Department of Commerce, Isabella Cascarano, where discussions focused on advancing shared economic interests, expanding private sector partnerships, and identifying new avenues for trade and investment.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building a more resilient and diversified economic relationship between the two countries.

Dr Singh also met with Special Advisor for the United States’



Bilateral discussions between Guyana and the US at the SelectUSA Investment Summit

to the US President and Senior Director for Global Supply Chains at the National Security Council, David Copley, where he underscored

continued support for the country’s democracy and territorial integrity.

The discussions also explored opportunities for future collaboration

in key sectors where US expertise and investment can support Guyana’s ongoing transformation.

Additional meetings were held with Under Secretary of Commerce

and representative of the US Chamber of Commerce led by Vice President for the Americas Program Ann McKinney.

During the engagements, Dr Singh highlighted Guyana’s rapid economic growth and encouraged greater participation by American companies in sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, technology and manufacturing while also expressing the government’s desire to see more Guyanese businesses entering the US market.

Guyana’s delegation included representative from GoInvest, AmCham Guyana and several major private sector companies.

A Guyana Defence Force (GDF) rank is recovering in Georgetown after being injured during a patrol that came under fire along the western border in Region Seven.

Lance Corporal Akeem Douglas sustained two gunshot wounds to his right leg after a GDF patrol escorting civilian boats came under attack in the Black Water area along the Cuyuni River. The patrol had been transporting personnel and cargo from Makapa

GDF RANK RECOVERING AFTER GUNFIRE ATTACK DURING RIVER PATROL

incident occurred.

Despite the attack, ranks responded swiftly,

returning fire and safely guiding the convoy out of danger.



The officials visiting the injured rank at the

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips visited Douglas at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, where he is receiving treatment, and wished him a full and speedy recovery. The visit signalled the government’s continued support for members of the GDF tasked with safeguarding the country’s territorial

integrity.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony and Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Omar Khan, along with other senior officers.

The GDF has since reported that patrols encountered hostile fire on two additional occasions the following day along the Cuyuni

River. In both incidents ranks responded in accordance with operational procedures and exited the area safely, with no further injuries.

The force continues to maintain an active presence along the western border, reinforcing security in the region and ensuring the protection of nearby communities.

"GUYANA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS" - PRESIDENT ALI RALLIES DIASPORA, INVESTORS IN HOUSTON

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali delivered an energetic and deeply personal appeal to Guyanese living abroad and international investors on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, Texas, urging them to see Guyana not just as an emerging oil producer, but as a country on the cusp of transformation.

Addressing a packed gathering at Guyana Night, one of the featured events surrounding Guyana's presence at the global energy conference, President Ali spoke passionately about the country's future and the role partnerships will play in shaping it.

"Guyana is open



President Ali courts investors at OTC

for business," the president declared, as he outlined opportunities spanning energy, agriculture, tourism, technology and entertainment.

But beyond investment pitches and economic statistics, the president's message centered on confidence,

ownership and national pride.

"The work that we have been doing as a collective has shown that Guyana is not only an investment destination but it's a destination of confidence, a destination of trust, a destination

of profitability, a destination of predictability," he told the audience of business leaders, investors and diaspora members.

President Ali painted a picture of a rapidly evolving Guyana where oil revenues are being used to diversify the economy and create

He highlighted plans for hyperscale data centres, a deepwater port, expanded cultural infrastructure, and investments in sports and entertainment aimed at building the country's "orange economy."

Still, he stressed that development must include Guyanese people

through partnership we can create win-win scenarios," he said, while emphasising meaningful participation for local businesses and citizens.

In one of the evening's most heartfelt moments, the president called on the diaspora to champion "Brand Guyana" and resist negativity surrounding the country's rapid rise.

"Brand Guyana is larger, more important than any one of us," he said. **"That is what we want to succeed."**

Closing his address, President Ali reminded attendees that while Guyana has made remarkable progress, the country's greatest work still lies ahead.



President Ali courts investors at OTC

opportunities far beyond the energy sector.

at every level. **"We believe that**

Guyana and Brazil's trade relationship has expanded dramatically in recent years, with bilateral trade increasing from approximately US\$58 million in 2020 to US\$1 billion in 2026, according to Brazil's Ambassador to Guyana, Maria Cristina de Castro Martins.

The ambassador made the disclosure during a local radio interview on Wednesday, describing the growth as a major advancement in economic cooperation between the two countries.

According to the ambassador, Guyana's exports to Brazil are largely dominated by crude oil, which accounts

TRADE BETWEEN GUYANA AND BRAZIL JUMPS FROM US\$58M TO US\$1B



CEO of Go-Invest, Dr Peter Ramsaroop

for about 98 per cent of shipments, while Brazil exports machinery and industrial equipment used in Guyana's construction, mining, extractive and oil production sectors.

Responding to the development, Chief Investment Officer at the Guyana Office for Investment (GoInvest), Dr Peter Ramsaroop, said the rapid expansion reflects the strengthening relationship between Guyana and Brazil under the leadership of President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

He noted that cooperation between the two countries has intensified across several areas, including trade, infrastructure, agriculture, logistics and private sector

collaboration.

Dr Ramsaroop pointed to several major infrastructure projects that are positioning Guyana as a strategic gateway between the Caribbean and South America. These include the upgraded road link between Guyana and northern Brazil, expanded port facilities such as the Tristar terminal, plans for a deepwater port in Berbice, expanded logistics infrastructure and plans to transform the Lethem airport into an international hub.

According to him, these developments are expected to generate new opportunities in trade, transportation, tourism, manufacturing and industrial development.

"We are seeing increasing interest from companies in sectors such as large-scale agriculture, agro-processing, logistics, construction, manufacturing, energy support services and infrastructure development," Ramsaroop said.

He added that stronger ties with Brazil are expected to benefit businesses in Lethem and Region Nine through increased economic activity, improved transportation corridors and enhanced connectivity.

Dr Ramsaroop said the expanding partnership supports President Ali's Vision 2030 agenda aimed at strengthening regional integration, food security and economic diversification under the One Guyana initiative.

GUYANA READY TO DEEPEN STRATEGIC TIES WITH EUROPEAN UNION - PM PHILLIPS

Prime Minister Herdmanston Lodge in Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has underscored the importance of Guyana's partnership with the European Union (EU), describing the relationship as essential for advancing cooperation in climate action, trade, governance, health, renewable energy and sustainable development.

The Prime Minister made the remarks during a reception commemorating Europe Day 2026 and the 76th

anniversary of the

addressing the importance of diplomats, government officials and invited guests, Prime Minister Phillips said the Guyana-EU partnership is rooted in shared values, mutual respect and a commitment to a rules-based international order.

"The partnership between Guyana and the EU is strong because it is essential. Together, we can shape a future that delivers

our peoples of the Caribbean and of Europe," he stated.

The acting Head of State also highlighted the importance of multilateralism and international law, noting that a rules-based order ensures that even small states have a recognised voice in shaping global affairs.

Prime Minister Phillips pointed to the significant growth in Guyana-EU relations over the years, particularly in climate change, biodiversity

partner in global climate solutions," he said.

He also praised the

port infrastructure, agro-processing, logistics and digital innovation.

The Prime Minister further highlighted ongoing health partnerships through the PharmaNext programme, which includes an €8.9 million investment in Guyana.

Additionally, he stressed the importance of advancing visa-waiver arrangements with EU and Schengen countries to strengthen people-to-people connections, business opportunities and institutional partnerships.

Prime Minister Phillips was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Mignon Bowen-



PM Phillips praises strong Guyana-EU relations at Europe Day celebration

"As a country that maintains over 85 per cent of its forest cover and serves as a vital global carbon sink, Guyana sees

expansion of cooperation under the EU's Global Gateway Initiative, which supports investments in areas

GUYANA NOW A TOP INVESTMENT DESTINATION - IDB INVEST CEO



Accompanied by his team, Scriven toured several project sites

Guyana now a top investment destination – IDB Invest CEO

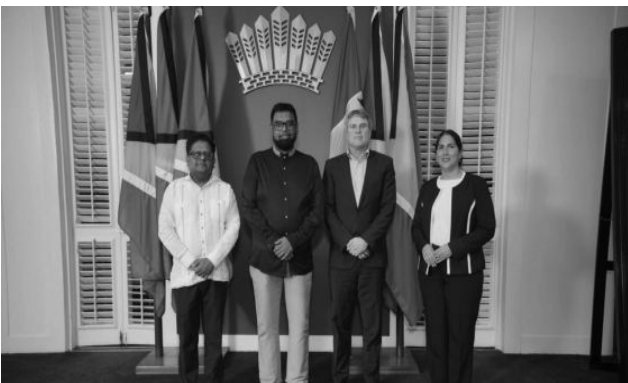
Just a few years ago, investment opportunities in Guyana were difficult to pinpoint. Today, the country is being described as one of the Caribbean's most attractive destinations for private-sector investment.

That transformation, according to IDB Invest CEO James Scriven, is no accident.

Speaking during an appearance on *Growth in Motion* on the National Communications Network, Scriven reflected on how Guyana's investment

landscape has evolved rapidly, driven by deliberate policy direction and stronger engagement with investors.

“When I first came, the pipeline of projects was limited,” he said. **“But when I**



Accompanied by his team, Scriven toured several project sites

met the president and government officials, I realised something was changing.”

That change has since translated into real opportunities. During his recent two-day visit, Scriven said new prospects identified already exceed US\$300 million, signalling strong momentum for future investments.

Accompanied by his team, Scriven met with President Dr Irfaan Ali, toured project sites, and participated in the opening of the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, one of several ventures supported by IDB Invest financing.



Accompanied by his team, Scriven toured several project sites

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, said the shift marks a significant turnaround in Guyana's relationship with the institution.

“For many years, IDB Invest did little or no business in Guyana,” he noted, explaining that only four transactions totalling US\$6 million were completed over three decades.

That changed after 2020, when the government re-engaged the institution and encouraged a stronger presence in the country.

In just over five years,

IDB Invest has approved approximately US\$264 million in financing for private-sector projects

footprint, including the establishment of a local office and recruitment of Guyanese staff. This has helped accelerate engagement with businesses and identify viable projects.

“We are extremely optimistic about the future of Guyana,” he said. **“You will be investing a disproportionately large amount of money in the country.”**

Beyond traditional lending, IDB Invest is also exploring equity participation and local currency financing, aimed at broadening access to capital and supporting long-term economic transformation.

For local businesses, the message is clear: opportunities are expanding.

The visit also included a roundtable discussion with private-sector representatives where potential partnerships and financing options were explored.

across a wide range of industries. These include investments in agro-processing, port development, telecommunications, hospitality and small business financing.

At Demerara Distillers Limited, funding has supported expanded production of milk and fruit juice, boosting food security. Investments in Muneshwars Limited have strengthened port capacity, while financing for One Communications is enhancing digital connectivity.

Scriven said the institution's growing

For entrepreneurs starting businesses, workers stepping into new industries and investors exploring fresh opportunities, Guyana's economic boom is no longer abstract—it is being felt in everyday life.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that momentum is set to continue. In its April 2026 outlook, the IMF projects that Guyana will remain among the world's fastest-growing economies through 2027.

After recording a remarkable 43.8 per cent growth in 2024 and 19.3 per cent in 2025, the



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh

economy is expected to expand by 16.2 per cent in 2026 and 19.7 per cent in 2027, outpacing regional peers such as Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Across Guyana, the impact is visible. Roads and bridges are under construction, housing developments

IMF PROJECTS MORE YEARS OF RAPID GROWTH FOR GUYANA

are expanding, and new businesses are emerging, supported by growing investment in healthcare, education, agriculture and services.

Senior Minister with responsibility for Finance, Ashni Singh, described the current period as unprecedented.

“We're experiencing astronomical rates of economic growth... this is really a very special period in Guyana's economic history,” he said during the programme *Growth*

in Motion on the National Communications Network.

While oil production remains a key driver, the government is focusing on diversification to ensure long-term resilience. Increasingly, private-sector activity is playing a central role.

Institutions such as IDB Invest have expanded their footprint, committing more than US\$260 million in financing across sectors.

For local companies, that investment is translating into real growth. Demerara



An aerial view of a section of Guyana's East Bank corridor

Distillers Limited has expanded production while investing in solar energy, and Muneshwars Limited has boosted port capacity at Georgetown.

In the retail sector, Unicomer Guyana is developing a major

commercial complex while financing through the Institute of Private Enterprise Development is helping small businesses, especially women and youth, access capital.

INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED OVER VIDEO TARGETING CANU CHIEF JAMES SINGH

Authorities have launched an investigation after a video circulating on social media appeared to contain threats directed at Director of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU), James Singh.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said any

official is a serious criminal matter, and law enforcement agencies are working to determine the origin, authenticity, and intent of the video. Measures have also been activated to ensure the safety and security of those targeted.

The development comes amid intensified

operations. In the first quarter of 2026, CANU removed more than 371 kilograms of narcotics from circulation and disrupted several trafficking networks through intelligence-led operations.

The Government has made clear that intimidation will not

efforts, stressing that threats against law enforcement officers will be met with the full force of the law. Officials say the national campaign against organised crime will continue with strengthened coordination and resolve.



Head of the Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit

PRESIDENT ALI, CANADIAN PM CARNEY DISCUSS INVESTMENT, TRADE AND REGIONAL STABILITY IN TORONTO

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on Friday met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto, where the two leaders discussed strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, innovation and climate initiatives.

During the meeting, President Ali and Prime Minister Carney engaged in discussions on areas of mutual interest and benefit to both countries, including investment opportunities, technological innovation, climate action and global biodiversity efforts.

Prime Minister Carney noted that

Guyana and Canada share deep historic and cultural ties, pointing to strong business and family connections between the two nations, as well as a shared commitment to peace, stability and territorial integrity.

The Canadian Prime Minister also congratulated President Ali on his re-election and praised Guyana's rapid economic growth under his administration.

The leaders highlighted the longstanding relationship between the two countries, strengthened by a Guyanese diaspora of



President Dr. Ali meeting with Canadian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mark Carney, at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto

more than 100,000 people living in Canada. Guyana also remains one of Canada's largest trading partners within the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Discussions also focused on Canada's role as a reliable trade and investment partner and

opportunities to expand Canadian investments across several sectors, including energy, technology, agriculture and mining.

Prime Minister Carney also extended wishes for the Guyana Chamber of Commerce Business Forum current taking place in Toronto as part of activities marking Guyana's 60th Independence Anniversary and several decades of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He also expressed interest in visiting Guyana in the future.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact as Guyana and Canada continue to deepen bilateral cooperation.

"THAT IS NO ORDINARY NUMBER" – PRESIDENT ALI TOUTS MASSIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT SURGE TO CANADIAN INVESTORS



Scene from the Guyana-Canada Business Forum

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali says the world is no longer watching Guyana from a distance, it is investing heavily in its future.

Speaking at the Guyana-Canada Business Forum in Toronto, President Ali revealed that foreign direct investment in Guyana has climbed to nearly 35 per cent

of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), calling it a clear sign of international confidence in the country's political stability, economy and long-term direction.

"That is no ordinary number," the President told business leaders and members of the diaspora gathered at the forum.

"That tells

you about global confidence, investors' confidence, confidence in the political system, confidence in the government, confidence in the economy."

For President Ali, the figures represent more than economic success. They reflect a country rapidly redefining itself on the global stage.

He said Guyana has moved beyond the phase of having to explain its potential to international investors, noting that the country is now widely recognised for its economic transformation and strategic importance.

While oil and gas have accelerated

growth, the President stressed that Guyana's ambitions stretch far beyond petroleum. He pointed to opportunities in healthcare,



Scene from the Guyana-Canada Business Forum

education, tourism, agro-processing, manufacturing, artificial intelligence and data centres as part of the country's next

development push.

"We have embraced AI as a development partner of the future," he said, explaining that

technology is already being integrated into healthcare, immigration systems and public services.

President Ali also

made a direct appeal to Canada to deepen its involvement in Guyana's development, saying Canadian companies have been slower than others to seize emerging opportunities.

He identified hydroelectricity, agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and smart infrastructure among the sectors ripe for investment.

"The government's role is to create the environment through systems and policies," he said. "The role of business making more development and growth is the role of the private sector."

PRESIDENT ALI PITCHES A CHANGING GUYANA TO PACKED DIASPORA AUDIENCE IN TORONTO

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali made a direct appeal to Guyanese living abroad, urging them to return home, invest and play a role in shaping what he described as a rapidly transforming Guyana.

Addressing a packed gathering of Guyanese at the Pearson Convention Center in Toronto, President Ali spoke candidly about his Government's plans to improve lives, modernise services and create new opportunities



President Ali engaging the Guyanese diaspora in Canada at the Pearson Centre in Brampton, Ontario

and abroad.

The engagement drew members of the diaspora from across Canada, many eager to hear firsthand about the

country's development and the opportunities now emerging in sectors ranging from business and technology to agriculture and infrastructure.

"The time is not to slow down," the President told the audience, drawing applause as he outlined an ambitious vision for the next four years.

President Ali said his administration is focused on transforming not only Guyana's economy, but also the

its people through better healthcare, education, housing, roads and public services.

He encouraged overseas-based Guyanese to see themselves as part of the country's future, stressing that their skills, investments and experience could help accelerate national development.

Throughout the engagement, the President highlighted the progress Guyana has made in recent years



President Ali engaging the Guyanese diaspora in Canada at the Pearson Centre in Brampton, Ontario

the need to continue expanding opportunities and raising living standards across the country.

The event formed part of President Ali's ongoing outreach to

the Guyanese diaspora as Guyana marks its 60th Independence anniversary and continues to position itself as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

"WE DID NOT GET HERE BY ACCIDENT" - DR. SINGH ON GUYANA'S JOURNEY TO GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Once seen as a small player on the global stage, Guyana is now commanding attention as a leader in climate policy and carbon markets, an evolution that reflects decades of planning, persistence and vision.

Speaking on the Starting Point podcast, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, described the country's rise as anything but accidental.

"Small Guyana, tiny little Guyana, occupying such positions of leadership... These things don't happen by magic," he said. **"They require vision,**

credibility and hard work."

At the heart of Guyana's transformation is its pioneering role in carbon trading. The country is among the first in the world to achieve jurisdiction-scale certification of carbon credits, allowing it to participate at scale in international carbon markets. This has translated into tangible benefits, including a landmark US\$750 million agreement with Hess Corporation and additional sales to international airlines seeking to meet global emissions targets.

For ordinary Guyanese, these deals represent more than policy success, they signal new opportunities



President Ali announces major relief for rice farmers

tied to the country's vast forest resources, which are now recognised as valuable environmental assets.

Minister Singh credits much of this progress to the early groundwork laid under the Low Carbon Development Strategy, first introduced during the presidency of Dr.

Bharrat Jagdeo. That strategy championed the idea that standing forests could generate economic value while preserving the environment, a concept that has since gained global traction.

Today, Guyana's carbon credits are internationally certified and are being used to support emissions

reductions in sectors such as aviation, placing the country firmly at the forefront of climate action.

But the story of Guyana's rise extends beyond environmental leadership. According to Dr. Singh, the nation's emergence as one of the world's fastest-growing economies is rooted in reforms that began decades ago.

Following 1992, successive administrations focused on rebuilding institutions, restoring economic stability, and strengthening partnerships with organisations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

From a struggling economy in the late 1980s, Guyana has transformed into a country that now helps shape global economic conversations. I consistent growth, strong macroeconomic management, and stable policy framework have made it an increasingly attractive destination for investment.

As international interest continues to grow, Guyana's experience is becoming a model for how smaller states can navigate complex global challenges, proving that size is no barrier to leadership when backed by clear vision and sustained effort.

Guyana's rapid economic transformation has attracted another major international player, with global professional services firm KPMG officially entering the local market, its first new country expansion in six years.

The move has been welcomed by Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, who described it as a strong vote of confidence in one of the hemisphere's fastest-growing economies.

"You clearly made the right decision," Minister Singh said

at the launch event, encouraging the firm to grow its Guyana operations into a major regional hub.

KPMG, which operates in more than 130 countries with over 300,000 professionals, offers audit, tax, advisory and risk management services to governments and businesses worldwide. Its arrival is expected to support Guyana's expanding oil and gas sector, as well as growing industries in construction, finance, healthcare and logistics.

Minister Singh pointed to the country's economic shift in recent years, from having no oil production to

GLOBAL AUDIT GIANT KPMG OPENS DOOR IN GUYANA AS ECONOMY SURGES



Guyana's growth story attracts KPMG in first new market in six years

now producing over 900,000 barrels per day, as a key driver of investor interest. He

also highlighted strong growth in non-oil sectors, including tourism, agriculture, education

and infrastructure development.

Major national projects such as a new

highway linking Guyana to Brazil, expanded ports, bridges, hotels and energy development were cited as part of the country's broader transformation.

Dr. Singh said Guyana's strategic location makes it an ideal base for companies seeking access to the Caribbean and northern South America, adding that the government remains committed to maintaining a stable and business-friendly environment.

OVER 289,000 GUYANESE RECEIVE \$100,000 CASH GRANT AS ROLLOUT TOPS \$29B



Cash grant distribution accelerates, nearly 290,000 citizens already paid

More than 289,000 Guyanese adults have so far received the government's \$100,000 cash grant as the

nationwide distribution continues across both urban centres and hinterland communities. Finance Minister

Dr Ashni Singh, in a Facebook video update, said 289,565 citizens have benefited to date, with 265,281 receiving payments directly into personal bank accounts, reflecting strong uptake of the digital system.

Residents in remote and hinterland areas, where banking access is limited, have mainly received cheques under a multi-channel delivery approach.

Overall, the value of transfers distributed has reached almost \$29 billion, according to the minister.

Dr Singh described

the rollout as a significant administrative achievement, highlighting the role of the online registration portal in processing large volumes. He said that despite initial challenges, the system has proven reliable.

"I believe this is an extremely impressive result, and I want to thank everybody who was involved in implementing this, particularly the developers of the portal, which has proved its value and utility," he said.

To qualify, applicants

must be Guyanese citizens aged 18 and older as of February 28, 2026, hold a valid national ID card, digital ID or passport, and maintain a personal bank account at a local commercial bank. Applicants must also be physically present in Guyana at registration.

The grant forms part of the PPP/C Government's 2025 manifesto commitments aimed at deepening financial inclusion and expanding access to affordable financing for citizens and SMEs.

It follows an earlier 2024 \$100,000 cash

grant programme which benefited more than 600,000 people and distributed over \$6 billion in disposable income.

The government also previously implemented a \$25,000 per household cash grant in 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of broader social support measures.

The administrative has described the programme as part of ongoing efforts to provide direct financial relief, stimulate household spending, and strengthen economic resilience across Guyana, particularly among low and middle income families nationwide over time effectively long term.

RICE FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW \$3B SUPPORT PLAN



President Ali announces major relief for rice farmers

Hundreds of rice farmers gathered at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre left with a renewed sense of hope, following a major announcement of financial support aimed at easing the pressures facing the industry.

At the centre of that relief is a \$3 billion allocation, announced by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, designed to directly assist farmers grappling with rising global costs and shifting market conditions.

For farmers like those in attendance, the support is a lifeline.

Under the initiative, farmers cultivating 50

acres or less will receive \$15,000 per acre, while those with larger holdings will get \$10,000 per acre. The assistance will come in the form of cash transfers, with a clear focus on those actively working the land.

“This is about supporting the backbone of the industry,” President Ali said, stressing that the benefit is intended for genuine producers, not absentee landowners.

Rice has long been a pillar of Guyana’s agricultural economy, but in recent months, farmers have been contending with a wave of

global challenges. Rising fertiliser and fuel costs, shipping disruptions, and geopolitical tensions have all combined to squeeze profits and increase uncertainty.

Addressing the gathering, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo pointed to the scale of those pressures. Fertiliser prices have surged by as much as 50 per cent, while fuel costs have risen by about 30 per cent, factors largely beyond the control of local producers.

“These things are out of our control,” he said, noting the global ripple effects linked to tensions in key oil supply routes.

Yet amid the challenges, both leaders emphasised that the government’s response has been consistent. Over the past few years, billions of dollars have been injected into the rice sector through subsidies, flood relief, and tax reductions. When paddy prices declined in 2025, farmers received a \$300 per bag subsidy, while earlier interventions

included fertiliser support and the removal of key taxes and fees.

For many farmers, these measures have made the difference between survival and

support cultivation.

These projects are expected to open up tens of thousands of acres of new agricultural land, creating opportunities for expansion and

For those who depend on rice for their livelihoods, the message from the government was clear: they are not facing these challenges alone.



President Ali announces major relief for rice farmers

collapse.

Beyond immediate relief, the government is also investing in the long-term resilience of the industry. Major drainage and irrigation works are underway in Regions Five and Six, including hundreds of kilometres of canals and dams, along with the installation of pumps to

increased production.

Farmers will also soon benefit from new drying and storage facilities, allowing them to hold onto their harvests and avoid selling at unfavourable prices.

“That gives farmers greater bargaining power,” Dr. Jagdeo explained.

“Our job is to work with you, alongside you,” President Ali told the gathering, signalling that the \$3 billion initiative will be shaped with direct input from farmers themselves.

In a time of global uncertainty, the partnership may prove just as valuable as the financial support itself.

VP CALLS FOR URGENT PRODUCTION DRIVE TO TACKLE COST OF LIVING

Guyana must urgently produce more of what it consumes or risk further increases in food prices driven by global instability, Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo has warned.

Speaking during a consultation convened by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Dr. Jagdeo told farmers that local production is not keeping pace with changing consumption patterns, leaving the country exposed to rising costs.

“We’re not producing enough beef. We’re not producing enough mutton in the country based on what people are eating... so prices keep going up,” he said.

He explained that Guyana is increasingly importing food it could produce locally, while demand for meat continues to rise



The consultation with the farmers

changing diets.

“More people are eating meat now. They’re wealthier, they eat more chicken, they eat more meat and the prices are going up,” he added.

Dr. Jagdeo pointed to everyday market realities, noting that imported meat products are often significantly more expensive in Guyana than abroad, partly because of limited local supply and reliance on external markets.

He said the situation is being made worse

including the recent US-Iran conflict, which has disrupted oil markets and shipping routes. These shocks, he warned, are expected to push up the cost of imported



goods, including food.

“For a country that still relies heavily on imports, we are not insulated from that reality,” he said.

The Vice President also highlighted past efforts to boost production, using cassava as an example of how supply constraints can quickly distort prices. He recalled that when government support increased, prices surged sharply, undermining the viability of planned investments.



The consultation with the farmers

Turning to livestock and agriculture more broadly, Jagdeo said Guyana must move away from low-productivity farming models and begin treating agriculture as a modern industry.

“If they go into it as an industry, I’m sure we can compete with any part of the world,” he said. **“But if you do it at a low productivity level, then the country suffers. Ordinary people suffer.”**

He stressed that

stable staple, but warned that rising labour costs and global pressures could threaten even the sector if productivity does not improve.

As food prices continue to climb globally, Jagdeo said the solution lies in stronger local production, improved efficiency, and a more strategic approach to food security, warning that without it, the cost-of-living burden will ultimately fall on ordinary households.

COMMONWEALTH CAN LEAD ON CLIMATE FINANCE AND SMART URBANISATION – VP JAGDEO



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo at the Commonwealth roundtable on the Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation

Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo is urging Commonwealth countries to seize emerging opportunities in climate finance and technology, arguing that access to funding and smarter planning tools will determine how well developing nations manage rapid growth.

Speaking at a Commonwealth roundtable on sustainable urbanisation in Scotland, Dr. Jagdeo highlighted the need for practical support to help countries design cities that are liveable, productive and resilient, while creating jobs and expanding economic opportunity. The discussion centred on the Kigali Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation, adopted in 2022, and brought together member states, experts and civil society groups to examine how urban growth can be better managed.

Dr. Jagdeo pointed to the success of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub as an example of what targeted support can achieve. The initiative,

which grew out of work he presented at the 2014 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Colombo, has since helped mobilise nearly US\$500 million in climate financing, supported more than 100 projects and deployed expert advisers to over 15 countries.

“The progress of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub is welcome and important. It shows what can be achieved when countries are given practical support to turn home-grown ideas into investable projects,” he said.

But he warned that the scale of today’s climate and development challenges demands far greater support, particularly as cities expand and infrastructure demands increase. According to the vice president,

better data and the use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, will play a crucial role in helping countries plan effectively.

Drawing on discussions at a recent AI summit in New Delhi,



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo at the Commonwealth roundtable on the Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation

Dr. Jagdeo said artificial intelligence is already

improving planning and accelerating decision-making globally. However, he cautioned that developing countries risk being left behind if systems are not trained using their data.

“If AI models are not trained on data from small and developing countries, it will not work for them,” he said, adding that investments must now be made in both traditional planning tools and AI-driven solutions.

During the visit, Jagdeo also toured programmes at Dumfries House focused on sustainable urban development, skills training and community support. The initiatives include training in construction, sustainable agriculture, heritage crafts, STEM education, and health and wellbeing, all aimed at creating pathways to employment.

Discussions also examined expanding collaboration with Guyana to support sustainable urban growth, aligned with the government’s push to ensure rapid development is matched by strong planning, high quality design and long term resilience.

The vice president noted that Guyana has already made major strides in delivering key infrastructure including roads, bridges, housing and drainage systems, alongside expanded services and economic opportunities. As development accelerates, he said the focus is now shifting toward improving quality, integration and sustainability.

The goal, he added, is to ensure that growth not only transforms the landscape, but also delivers better living standards and long-term resilience for all citizens.

ST GEORGE’S UNIVERSITY JOINS GUYANA-LED GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE

St George’s University has officially joined the Global Biodiversity Alliance (GBA), marking another step in the expansion of the Guyana-led initiative aimed at protecting the planet’s natural resources.

President Dr Irfaan Ali presented the certificate of membership to the university’s president, Dr Marios Loukas, during a ceremony at State House.



President Ali welcomes St George’s University to Global Biodiversity Alliance

Welcoming the institution, President Ali noted that the alliance

and organisations, including recent additions such as Germany and the United Nations.

He described the university’s entry as a meaningful commitment to global progress.

“This organisation will drive global change that will enable the survival of science, culture and indigenous livelihoods,” the President said.

Launched in 2025,



President Ali welcomes St George’s University to Global Biodiversity Alliance

the GBA brings together international partners, governments, academic institutions and protection worldwide.

NEARLY 16,000 PUPILS SIT NGSA

After months of extra lessons, late-night studying and classroom preparation, more than 15,900 pupils across Guyana sat the National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA), putting their hard work to the test.

A total of 15,935 candidates were registered to write the examinations on April 29 and 30, continuing a trend of strong participation and underscoring the importance of the

and families alike.

On the first day, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali extended words of encouragement, reminding students that their preparation had equipped them for the moment.

“Approach each paper with calm, focus and determination... your potential is limitless, and your future is bright,” he said.

At schools across the country, including



Students take big step forward with NGSA examinations

Primary School, where 156 pupils wrote the exams, Minister of Education, Science, Research

met with students, urging them to remain calm and confident.

knowledge... just give your best effort,” she told them.

Behind each student’s effort is a system of support. The Ministry of Education introduced targeted interventions, including extra lessons, virtual classes and collaborative sessions where students were taught by different teachers across subject areas to strengthen their understanding.

The push builds on last year’s record performance, when 15,784 pupils sat the NGSA, the highest

COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Par said the focus extends beyond academic results, emphasising the importance of holistic development.

“I am looking forward to better results... but also to our children developing in a wholesome way,” she said.

As the exams conclude, students now await their results, but for many, the journey itself marks a significant achievement and the beginning of a new

LABOUR MOVEMENT BACKS PRESIDENT ALI



Scene from the Labour Day event at State House

The labour movement has thrown its support behind President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, with trade union leaders praising what they describe as a new and more inclusive approach to governance. Speaking at this

President stands apart from previous heads of state in his engagement with workers and organised labour.

He pointed to what he described as unprecedented support for the labour movement, including the introduction of a dedicated Labour Day budget for the first time in the country's history.

"In his first term he was extremely good, in this second term he has been better," Duncan said, adding that President Ali demonstrates a **"different style"** of leadership marked by accessibility and regular

made a conscious effort to maintain direct dialogue with workers' representatives

Day event that also featured a broader government message focused on worker

workers can own things," he told the gathering.

Hundreds in attendance, including nurses, sugar workers, public servants and private sector employees, listened as the president expanded on the idea of social justice, framing it as more than wages or benefits.

"Social justice is when we develop programmes that are across the board," he said, referencing pensions, education grants and healthcare support.

A significant part of his address focused on retirement and dignity in old age. He described retirement as the true measure of a society's commitment to its workforce, pointing to ongoing investments in pensions, healthcare services and elder care support.

He also highlighted growing demand from Guyanese abroad who are returning to register for the non-contributory pension, calling it a sign of the programme's reach.

The proposed Guyana Development Bank was also featured as a tool to help workers

turn ideas into businesses and expand income opportunities beyond traditional employment.

Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning Keoma Griffith reinforced



Scene from the Labour Day event at State House

the importance of continued dialogue between government and unions, describing the labour movement as strong and resilient more than 60 years after independence.

As the event closed, workers were also offered free services including eye testing and basic health screenings, small but practical reminders of the day's broader theme: that labour is not only being recognised, but increasingly included in the country's development story.



Scene from the Labour Day event at State House

and explore new opportunities for worker development, including pathways into entrepreneurship.

He also reminded those gathered that organised labour represents one of the largest collective voices in the country, signalling its continued influence in national affairs.

The endorsement came during a Labour

empowerment and long-term economic inclusion.

President Ali used the occasion to outline plans to give workers greater ownership in national development projects, including opportunities to invest in major infrastructure and energy ventures through structured programmes.

"We have to carve out a specific programme through which our



Scene from the Labour Day event at State House

year's Labour Day celebrations held on the lawns of State House, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana, Carvil Duncan, said the

consultation with unions.

Duncan, who said he has worked with every president since independence, noted that the current administration has



Scene from the Labour Day event at State House

GUYANA FESTIVAL RETURNS AFTER 12 YEARS WITH THREE DAYS OF CULTURE AND CELEBRATION

After a 12-year hiatus, the Guyana Festival is making a vibrant return, promising three days of culture, entertainment and national pride as the country marks its 60th Independence Anniversary.

From May 15 to 17, the Guyana National Stadium will be transformed into a lively cultural hub, showcasing the country's heritage under the theme **"Sound, Soul and Taste"**.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues said the event is expected to be one of the biggest highlights of the independence celebrations.

"This event will be massive... come and celebrate our culture. Come and celebrate Guyana," she said.

The opening night



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues

on May 15 will be free to the public and will feature performances by cultural groups, the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Defence Force. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali is expected to deliver the feature address.

Visitors will also experience the **"Taste of Guyana"** food village, where dishes representing the country's diverse ethnic groups will be on display

alongside modern culinary creations.

On May 16, the celebration continues with cultural showcases and the much-anticipated Night of Legends concert, honouring veteran artistes including Sammy Baksh, Charmaine Blackman, Bonny Alves, Celia Samaroo, Terry Gajraj and Rita Forrester.

The final day will feature a national cook-out competition and the

One Guyana Concert, highlighting the next generation of local musical talent.

Beyond music and food, the festival will offer craft exhibitions, poetry and comedy tents, children's activities and locally produced films.

General admission is set at \$1,000, while children under 12 enter free. A special festival passport will provide access to all events and include discounts and prize draws, with rewards such as airline tickets, electronics, hotel stays and even a BYD vehicle worth \$5.5 million.

Minister Rodrigues said the festival is more than entertainment, it is a celebration of national identity, unity and progress, inviting Guyanese at home and abroad to be part of the country's evolving story.

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ARRIVAL HONOURING THE MANY F

Across Guyana, May 5, Arrival Day 2026 was marked with cultural displays, reflection and community gatherings as citizens honoured the diverse peoples who shaped the nation's history.

The observance served as a reminder of the country's multicultural foundation and the unity forged through centuries of migration and settlement.



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JOURNALISTS HONOURED ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



Government, media mark milestone year

From covering breaking news to navigating the fast-moving world of digital media, Guyana's journalists gathered to reflect on the responsibilities that come with telling the nation's stories, as the country marked World Press Freedom Day 2026.

Inside the elegant halls of the Pegasus Hotel, Prime Minister Mark Phillips underscored the

enduring importance of a free and independent press.

"Foremost among these institutions is the press, not merely as a channel of information, but as a foundational pillar of democratic society," he said.

For many in the room, those words resonated deeply.

Veteran journalists and young reporters alike have witnessed

the transformation of Guyana's media landscape, from a time when sections of the press operated under pressure, to an environment that now allows for greater openness and engagement.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, acknowledged that the shift did not happen overnight. Reflecting on the country's post-independence history, he pointed to periods when press freedom was constrained and journalists worked under difficult conditions.

However, he noted that since 1992, there has been a steady effort to strengthen democratic institutions and protect fundamental rights.

"We have seen Guyana undergo deliberate

and sustained transformation," Minister McCoy said, adding that today's media operates in a



Government, media mark milestone year

climate that supports critique, dialogue and the free flow of information.

Still, the role of the modern journalist continues to evolve.

Prime Minister Phillips highlighted the challenges of a rapidly changing digital landscape, where misinformation,

disinformation and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are reshaping how news is

produced and consumed. He stressed that maintaining public trust requires balance, freedom of expression paired with responsibility, accuracy and ethical conduct.

Beyond words, the government signalled its ongoing support for the sector through initiatives such as

The Government of Guyana has strongly rejected recent claims by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) regarding the state of media freedom in the country, describing the assessment as **"deeply flawed, misleading and rooted in outdated assumptions."**

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy said the report fails to reflect current realities and instead relies on isolated, dated incidents that do not represent the present media environment.

At the same time, the

government reaffirmed its commitment to press freedom, stressing that it condemns all forms of intimidation or harm against journalists and remains supportive of a free and independent press.

Minister McCoy argued that the report presents a narrow view of media access by focusing heavily on press conferences, which he said does not reflect how modern governments engage with the media. He noted that ministers

and the President routinely interact directly with journalists through interviews, public engagements and digital platforms.

He also pointed to President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali as an example of what he described as a highly accessible leadership style, citing frequent media interactions and openness at national and international events.

The minister highlighted Guyana's ongoing digital

transformation, including expanded internet access and government service platforms, which he said have improved information flow and public engagement across the country, including in hinterland regions.

He rejected suggestions of systemic media intimidation or economic pressure, stating that the media landscape remains plural and constitutionally protected, with both

state and private outlets operating freely.

On concerns about state advertising, Minister McCoy said allocations are based on reach and responsible public spending rather than political considerations.

He also pointed to continued investment in media development, including training initiatives and infrastructure upgrades aimed at strengthening the sector.

While reaffirming

the Guyana Media and Communication Academy and engagement with international partners like the Media Freedom Coalition.

For attendees, the event was also a moment of recognition. Tributes were paid to past and present members of the media fraternity, individuals who, often behind the scenes, have helped shape public discourse and safeguard the public interest.

Two honourees with decades of experience were given the Lifetime Achievement Award; Shanta Gobardhan and Francis Quamina Farrier. Farrier was unable to travel to receive his award but it was collected by Russel Lancaster.

As conversations flowed over lunch, one message stood out: Guyana's media has grown alongside its democracy, and its role remains as vital as ever.

RSF REPORT DOESN'T REFLECT TODAY'S MEDIA LANDSCAPE- MINISTER MCCOY

"A FREE PRESS IS ABOUT TRUST" - MINISTER MCCOY AT WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY CONFERENCE

Press freedom must go hand in hand with responsibility, trust and ethical journalism, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Kwame McCoy told an international audience at the closing of the 2026 World Press Freedom Day Conference in Zambia.

Addressing media practitioners, policymakers and civil society representatives, Minister McCoy said press freedom should not be viewed in isolation, but as a shared responsibility essential to democratic development.

"In Guyana, press freedom is not merely aspirational. It is a lived and protected reality," he said, pointing to the country's governance framework that supports a pluralistic and independent media environment.

Linking the discussion to Guyana's 60th Independence anniversary, the Minister said the milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the institutions that underpin democracy, including the press.

He described the media as a vital pillar of

national life, responsible for informing citizens, holding leaders accountable and shaping public discourse.

"A free press is not simply about access. It is about trust," Minister McCoy said, stressing that credibility depends on fairness, accuracy and professional integrity.

He argued that when reporting is balanced, public confidence in institutions is strengthened, contributing to a healthier democracy.

Minister McCoy also called for a shift in the

relationship between governments and the media, urging both sides to move away from confrontation and toward constructive engagement.

"Transparency must replace doubt, and accountability must be mutual," he said, adding that trust allows the media to function as a partner in national development.

Turning to modern challenges, he highlighted the rise of artificial intelligence and digital platforms, warning of increased risks from



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy, speaking at the 2026 World Press Freedom Day Conference in Zambia

misinformation and declining editorial standards, while acknowledging opportunities for

innovation.

He urged media houses to embrace digital transformation while maintaining strong verification practices, and called on governments and international partners to support frameworks that protect information integrity.

Minister McCoy concluded that the future of press freedom will depend on collective commitment to responsibility, collaboration and safeguarding the public's right to accurate information.

Guyana ‘more confident than ever’ of ICJ victory as border hearings conclude

GUYANA has emerged from the final oral hearings in its historic border controversy case against Venezuela at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) “more confident than ever” that the world court will uphold the 1899 Arbitral Award and definitively affirm the country’s lawful boundary.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlal, SC, made the declaration on Monday following the conclusion of proceedings in The Hague, Netherlands.

As oral hearings concluded at the ICJ at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, Nandlal described the completion of proceedings as a triumph for international law and the rules-based global order, while warning that any refusal by Venezuela to comply with the court’s eventual ruling would place Caracas in breach of fundamental international obligations.

“The very fact that this case reached the ICJ, and that the written

and oral phases of the proceedings were carried out to their completions, represents a triumph for the rule of law and the rules-based international order,” Nandlal said in a statement issued shortly after hearings ended.

“Disputes between States must be resolved peacefully, finally and in conformity with international law. They must not be allowed to fester indefinitely. They must never be resolved by threat or use of military force.”

The oral hearings, held between May 4 and May 11, saw Guyana and Venezuela present arguments in two rounds of pleadings before the ICJ — the United Nations’ highest judicial body.

The court will now deliberate before issuing its final judgment on the merits of the case, a ruling Nandlal stressed will be legally binding on both countries.

At the centre of the controversy is Guyana’s request for the court to affirm the legal validity of the 1899



AG Anil Nandlal led the Guyana team at the Hague

Arbitral Award, which established the international boundary between then British Guiana and Venezuela.

Guyana argued the award conclusively settled the border more than a century ago, while Venezuela maintains its claim of invalidity.

Importantly, the ICJ has already

ruled that it has jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter on its merits. In a December 2020 judgment, the court rejected Venezuela’s challenge to its authority and ruled it has the power to determine the validity of the 1899 award and the land boundary.

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NEW FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY OPENS UP EAST BANK BACKLANDS FOR DEVELOPMENT

What was once a stretch of forest, farms and largely untouched land behind the East Bank Demerara corridor is quickly being transformed into a major artery of development, as works advance on the four-lane highway from Buzz Bee Dam to Land of Canaan.

During a recent visit to the project area, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, pointed to the sweeping changes taking place far beyond the familiar public road, noting that many Guyanese have never seen the scale of activity unfolding in these backlands.

The East Bank corridor remains one



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

of the country's busiest routes for commuters and commercial traffic, and the new highway extension is designed to ease congestion while strengthening long-term economic activity. The project will also open access to vast tracts of land that were previously difficult to reach.

"Tens of thousands

of Guyanese would have never come here and would not know of the type of development that is going on in the deep recesses of these backlands," Minister Nandlall said, as heavy equipment moved across the emerging roadway.

He described the initiative as another major transformation project, explaining that the four-lane highway is being carved out behind the existing East Bank corridor, creating a new transportation and utility route through previously undeveloped areas.

Beyond easing traffic, the highway is expected to unlock tens of thousands of



Aerial view of the construction works for the new Buzz Bee Dam to Land of Canaan four-lane highway

acres of land, much of it privately owned or held under lease. Former swamp and agricultural lands are already being positioned for housing, commercial expansion and industrial development.

Earlier this year, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali also visited the corridor, outlining

the project's broader economic significance. He noted that land value along sections of the East Bank has risen sharply, with some parcels now valued at hundreds of millions of dollars per acre following major infrastructure investments.

Contracts totalling \$52.5 billion were

awarded for the highway extension, which will connect seamlessly with the Great Diamond + Craig Highway and the Heroes Highway. The broader network begins at Mandela Avenue and continues along Hero Highway through Cra and Buzz Bee Dam and extends to Land of Canaan, with future links planned towards the Linden-Soesdyke Highway.

As the new roadway takes shape, what was once remote backland is steadily being repositioned as a new corridor of growth bringing development deeper into the East Bank and creating fresh opportunities for housing, commerce and industry.

HIGHWAY COMMUNITIES SEE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS DEVELOPMENT EXPANDS



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

Residents along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, particularly in Yarrowkabra and surrounding communities, are beginning to see tangible improvements in their daily lives as government investments take shape.

During a recent community engagement at the Hauraruni/Yarrowkabra Neighbourhood Democratic Council, Minister within the Office of the Prime



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy

Minister Kwame McCoy said ongoing projects

are part of a broader plan to transform the corridor into a hub of opportunity.

"This is not the end of it," he told residents. "We are continuously working to expand opportunities and infrastructure along this corridor."

Among the most

visible changes is the ongoing upgrade of the Soesdyke-Linden Highway, which will include street lighting and road signage to improve safety. At the same time, new housing developments are reshaping the area.

In Yarrowkabra, the Hyde Park housing scheme is set to



Residents at the meeting

deliver 500 homes, with a focus on single parents and women. The first 27 women-led households have already been allocated homes. Nearby in Hauraruni, construction is advancing on hundreds of houses for young professionals, with the first batch expected soon.

Minister McCoy assured residents that development will be inclusive. "No one will be left without access to land and a home," he said.

Beyond housing, digital transformation is also reaching the community. Minister of

Public Service Zulfikar Ally announced that the government will roll out its electronic ID card service directly to residents, making it easier to access services.

Linked to this is the My Guyana Citizen Portal, which allows users to book appointments and access government services from home.

As development continues, residents are being encouraged to embrace new opportunities and play a role in shaping the future of their communities.

ENTREPRENEURS GET MAJOR BOOST WITH OPENING OF LETHEM BUSINESS HUB

In Lethem, a new chapter is unfolding for farmers and small business owners, as a modern Business Incubator Centre and Agro-Processing Facility promises to turn raw produce into market-ready products.

The \$181 million facility was officially commissioned by Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues, who described it as a transformative

Nine.

Designed to support entrepreneurship and agro-processing, the centre provides access to equipment such as dehydrators, industrial blenders, and packaging machines — tools that allow farmers to preserve, package and add value to their goods.

"This incubator will transform how agricultural output is utilised in this region," Minister Rodrigues said.

longer be limited to selling perishable goods."

For many in the hinterland, this means new opportunities to earn, expand and compete in wider markets. Instead of rushing to sell fresh produce before it spoils, agro-processors can now extend shelf life and improve product quality.

Developed by the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and implemented by

Bureau, the facility is part of a broader push to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises and unlock economic potential in communities.

Minister Rodrigues encouraged residents to take full advantage of the centre, describing it as a launchpad for innovation and growth.

The initiative is also expected to strengthen local value chains and create pathways for sustainable development

With regional officials and international partners in attendance, the opening signals growing confidence in Lethem as

a hub for business, agro-processing and cross-border trade.



New Lethem facility opens doors for agro-

WORKING PARENTS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE IN MOCHA

In the growing Mocha/Perseverance community, a new Early Childhood Development Centre is offering more than childcare, it is creating peace of mind for parents and a nurturing start for young learners.

The facility, which combines day and night care with early childhood education, was recently inspected by Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud, along with officials from the Child Protection Agency



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Vindhya Persaud

and the education sector. The visit confirmed that the centre is fully equipped with the necessary safety features, furnishings and systems to support children's development in a secure and stimulating environment. For parents working non-traditional hours,

the introduction of night care is expected to be a game changer. The service allows families to access reliable supervision while ensuring children continue to benefit from structured learning and care.

Minister Persaud noted that the model builds on successful centres already operating in Region Three, with plans to replicate it in other communities.

The project also supports local enterprise, with elements such as



A section of the centre

furniture produced by small businesses.

As more centres come on stream, the initiative reflects a broader push to invest

in children, strengthen families and build resilient communities from the ground up.

MAJOR CHILD PROTECTION REFORMS AIM TO SPEED UP RESPONSE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Guyana's child protection system is undergoing major reforms aimed at ensuring faster responses, stronger accountability, and more coordinated action in cases of abuse and family violence.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Vindhya Persaud said the changes are designed to close long-standing gaps in the system and ensure that no child protection case is delayed or left unattended.

Speaking on the *Starting Point* podcast, Dr Persaud outlined the rollout of a Rapid Response Programme now being implemented across several regions.

The initiative allows for immediate intervention in urgent cases, including outside of working hours, through coordinated action between police officers and child protection officials.

She stressed that child safety cases require careful handling and joint responsibility. **"When it comes to children, police cannot remove a child alone. A child protection officer must always be there with them,"** she said.

A key feature of the reform is a strengthened digital case management system that will allow real-time tracking of every report, from the moment it is made

to its final resolution. The minister said this will improve transparency and ensure accountability at every stage.

"What I want is for every case that comes to our attention to be tracked. I want to know who took the report, when it was taken, and what happened next," she explained.

The upgraded system will also speed up critical processes such as medical examinations, forensic interviews, and legal referrals, reducing delays that can increase trauma for child victims.

While acknowledging staffing challenges in some regions, Dr Persaud said



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, on the Starting Point Podcast

targeted recruitment and continuous training are being rolled out to strengthen national coverage.

Alongside child protection reforms, the ministry is also expanding support

services for families and addressing domestic violence through both social and legal interventions.

A major component is the 'Brave Centre' initiative; safe, confidential spaces

where men can speak openly about mental health, relationships, fatherhood, anger management, and emotional wellbeing with trained professionals.

"We needed to move with the times... looking at emotional, verbal and economic violence," Dr Persaud said, referring to the Family Violence Act of 2024.

The updated law broadens the definition of abuse beyond physical violence to include emotional, verbal, and economic harm, while also introducing stricter timelines to prevent delays in justice.

NEW INITIATIVE TARGETS COURT EFFICIENCY

A more efficient justice system could mean fewer delays, clearer processes, and quicker resolutions for citizens navigating the courts.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, said ongoing reforms and capacity-building initiatives are designed to deliver exactly that, as Guyana intensifies efforts to modernise its criminal justice system.

Speaking at the opening of a specialised training on criminal trials and appeals hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, at the opening ceremony of a training on criminal trials and appeals

under the Partnership of the Caribbean and European Union (PACE) on Justice Project, Minister Nandlall said the initiative directly supports government efforts to reduce case backlogs and improve

court system. He explained that delays in justice delivery have long been linked to outdated case management processes, limited digital infrastructure, and gaps in evidence handling and data management across

"The PACE justice project aims to support national authorities to reduce current and prevent future backlogs of criminal justice cases in Guyana," he stated.

The programme is introducing modern technology, including integrated software and hardware for key justice institutions such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the judiciary. These systems are expected to improve communication between agencies, streamline document preparation, and support the digitisation of court

Alongside the technological upgrades, judicial officers, prosecutors, and other justice sector actors are being trained in areas such as restorative justice, criminal mediation, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and forensic investigation.

Minister Nandlall said these efforts build on earlier legislative reforms, including the Bail Act, the Restorative Justice Act, plea bargaining legislation, and the abolition of preliminary inquiries, all aimed at speeding up case flow and improving efficiency.

that restorative justice centres have already been established in six regions, with plans underway to expand coverage nationwide. At the same time, amendments to strengthen laws such as the Sexual Offences Act, including the creation of a sex offenders registry, are progressing.

The Attorney General further highlighted emerging challenges such as cybercrime, organised crime, and money laundering, noting that Guyana is working closely with international partners, including the United Nations, to strengthen its legal framework.

SOPHIA PRIMARY GETS NEW WING AS EDUCATION EXPANSION CONTINUES



\$233M Sophia Primary expansion commissioned

A new wing at Sophia Primary School in Greater Georgetown was officially commissioned by the Ministry of Education, as government continues efforts to improve learning conditions and expand access to quality education across Guyana. The \$233 million extension is expected

to significantly reduce overcrowding at the school while providing a more modern and comfortable environment for teachers and pupils.

The new facility includes nine classrooms, offices for the headmistress and deputy headmistress, as well as a dedicated auditorium designed to support school activities and student development.

Speaking at

the commissioning ceremony, Minister of Education Sonia Parag encouraged students to take pride in their surroundings and help maintain the new facility.

“You have to treat your facility with care and consideration,” the minister told pupils, urging them to become ambassadors for cleanliness both inside and outside the school compound.

She also encouraged students to lead by

example through positive behaviour and respect for others.

Highlighting government’s ongoing investment in education, Minister Parag revealed that over the past five years, more than 100 schools have either begun construction or are expected to be completed.

“We are building classrooms, we are building schools,” she said, noting that the country is steadily

moving toward universal access to secondary education.

Principa Education Officer for Georgetown, Immanuel Bridgewater, described the commissioning as a proud moment for the Sophia community, saying the new wing represents hope and opportunity for students.

Assistant Chief Education Officer Rabindra Singh also urged teachers to continue strengthening trust within the community through quality education and student support.

Safer schools ahead as education ministry works toward national anti-violence plan

From classroom conflicts to schoolyard tensions, the Ministry of Education is moving to introduce standard anti-bullying and anti-violence procedures across schools nationwide, in a bid to create safer and more supportive learning environments.

Education Minister Sonia Parag said the initiative forms part of a broader effort to strengthen discipline and improve student behaviour, while

SAFER SCHOOLS AHEAD AS EDUCATION MINISTRY WORKS TOWARD NATIONAL ANTI-VIOLENCE PLAN

ensuring schools are spaces where children can learn without fear.

Speaking on the ongoing consultations, the minister said the process is designed to gather practical solutions from educators, parents and the wider public before a national framework is finalised.

“When I thought of having that consultation with the public, it was to get from the public and different stakeholders their

recommendations on solutions,” she explained.

The planned guidelines will set out standard operating procedures for how schools respond to bullying and violent behaviour, covering everything from classroom conduct to school assemblies. The aim, she said, is consistent behaviour management across all institutions.

Minister Parag also emphasised that moral



Education Ministry moves to standardise anti-bullying measures in schools

education must go beyond theory and be reflected in students’

everyday actions.

“Moral education is teaching you how to have a good or better behavioural pattern,” she said. **“It shouldn’t just be theory. It should be practical as well.”**

The ministry intends to compile feedback into a national policy document, with the long-term goal of having anti-bullying and anti-violence measures enshrined in law.

At a consultation earlier this year, Parag

reaffirmed a zero-tolerance stance on bullying in all forms, noting that real solutions must be both firm and compassionate.

Addressing the issue, she said, requires a collective effort involving schools, parents, communities and policymakers working together to reshape behaviour and culture in the education system.

The framework is expected to be completed in the coming months.

STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO BECOME ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS AT EARTH DAY EXHIBITION

Students are being encouraged to put down their phones, step outside and take a more active role in protecting Guyana’s natural environment.

Education Minister Sonia Parag delivered the message at the inaugural Earth Day exhibition at the Guyana-China Friendship Park, where she cautioned that excessive time on social media is distancing



Minister Parag urges students to trade screen time for green time at Earth Day event

young people from nature.

“We cannot take away technology,”

she said, **“but we must find a balance.”**

Minister Parag urged students to spend

more time in green spaces, explaining that interaction with the environment supports mental well-being and helps build a stronger sense of responsibility and emotional balance.

She said environmental stewardship should not only be a government priority but a shared responsibility among young people.

The Minister

highlighted ongoing efforts to expand access to green spaces, including initiatives supported by the Office of the First Lady, but stressed that their success depends on citizens actively using and protecting them.

She also pointed to Guyana’s involvement in global environmental initiatives, including the Global Biodiversity Alliance, noting the importance of

addressing biodiversity loss.

To further strengthen awareness, the Ministry of Education is rolling out environmental clubs in schools to promote activities such as tree planting and habitat protection.

“You are the next generation of leaders,” Minister Parag told students, encouraging them to see environmental protection as part of their future careers and everyday lives.



Kariako welcomes first community bus

Residents of Kariako Village in the Barama River are celebrating

STUDENTS IN KARIAKO GET SAFER RIDE TO SCHOOL WITH NEW BUS SERVICE

transportation has long been a daily challenge.

The new service is already being hailed as a game changer, especially for schoolchildren who previously faced long and difficult journeys to reach classrooms. With the bus now in operation, students are expected to

reliable travel, improved attendance, and reduced fatigue.

For parents and teachers, the change means greater peace of mind and a more consistent learning environment.

Beyond education, the transport service

healthcare, markets and administrative services, while helping farmers and small vendors move goods more efficiently and reduce travel costs.

The initiative follows a commitment made by Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Browne-Shadeek

the community, where residents highlighted transportation as a pressing need.

For many in Kariako the new bus represents more than convenience; it is a connection to opportunity, service and a better quality of life.

REGION 1 GETS NEW MATERNAL WAITING HOME AMONG OTHER FACILITIES

For expectant mothers, miners, and families in remote communities, getting medical attention is becoming less of a struggle and more of a certainty, as healthcare services expand across Region One.

In communities like Port Kaituma and Eyelash, new and upgraded health facilities are bringing care closer to home, offering convenience and, in some cases, life-saving services.



Region One communities see major health boost

maternal waiting home. For expectant mothers travelling from

people can benefit from them," Dr Anthony said.

The addition of a fully equipped operating theatre is expected to significantly reduce the need for emergency transfers to Georgetown, allowing surgeries to be done within the region. Within weeks, specialist teams are expected to begin clearing a backlog of cases, bringing relief

to patients who have been waiting for care.

Technology is also reshaping how healthcare is delivered. Through an Artificial Intelligence-powered diagnostic system, doctors can now analyse digital X-rays within seconds, detecting conditions such as pneumonia and tumours with high accuracy. The system is linked to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, enabling specialists—and even overseas experts, to provide second opinions in real time.

Beyond infrastructure, there is a strong focus on building people.

More than 300 residents have already been trained in nursing and allied health fields,

with over 200 more currently in training. The aim is to create a sustainable local workforce, ensuring that communities are served by professionals who understand their needs.

Progress is also evident in public health.

illnesses. Additional upgrades including a new digital X-ray wing at the Pakar District Hospital, are further strengthening the region's healthcare network.

Dr Anthony emphasised that these



Region One communities see major health boost

Malaria cases have dropped dramatically, from over 16,000 in 2020 to just over 800 last year—reflecting expanded prevention and surveillance efforts.

Meanwhile, in the mining community of Eyelash, a newly commissioned health post is already making a difference. Equipped with a clinical section and living quarters for staff, the facility ensures round-the-clock care, offering vaccinations, maternal services and treatment for common

investments are part of a broader vision, to ensure that geography no longer determines the quality of care.

"Not because you're living here means you must get a different quality," he said. "The same level of care available on the coast must be accessible right here."

For many in Region One, that vision is no longer distant, it is becoming reality, one community at a time.



Region One communities see major health boost

At the Port Kaituma District Hospital, residents gathered as Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony commissioned a suite of new services, including a modern operating theatre, an upgraded maternal and child health unit, digital X-ray capabilities and a

far-flung villages, the waiting home could mean the difference between a safe delivery and a dangerous journey.

"This is not just about investing in buildings and equipment. We want to make sure these services are functioning and that



Region One communities see major health boost

GUYANA EYES CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION - VACCINATION PUSH ACCELERATES



Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) Assistant Director Dr Rhonda Sealey-Thomas

A technology-driven audit is driving a major crackdown on road violations and licence fraud in Guyana, as President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali moves to restore confidence in the driver licensing system and make roads safer.

Speaking at a recent Guyana Defence Force event, the President said a list of persons implicated in widespread

issuance will soon be published. "The reconciliation is ongoing, and very soon a list will be published of persons who will be asked to come in and explain the issues," he stated.

The audit revealed serious discrepancies, including practical driving certificates issued to candidates who failed the theoretical exam,

individuals who did not meet basic requirements. In December 2025, President Ali gave violators a six-week window to come forward or face prosecution, licence suspension, and public disclosure.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandlall, SC has been instructed to prepare amendments to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act for Parliament, aiming to close loopholes, strengthen penalties for dangerous driving, and ensure mandatory sanctions for serious offences.

"We had increased the fines and have some of the harshest penalties for different traffic offences, drinking and driving and all of these things. The enforcement



Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony during the launch of Guyana and Caribbean Vaccination Week 2026 at the Umana Yana in Georgetown

we're improving enforcement with the cameras," the President noted, highlighting enhanced surveillance and technology as key tools in compliance.

President Ali emphasised that road safety is critical for national development. "We cannot develop a society without care and without attention

may believe are small details, but very important details, if our society is to be disciplined," he said.

The reforms mark a significant step towards safer roads, stricter accountability, and renewed public trust in Guyana's licensing and traffic enforcement systems.



WORKPLACE SAFETY TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT OSH MONTH ACTIVITIES

As Guyana's economy accelerates, leaders are sending a clear message: development must never come at the cost of human life.

That message was reinforced by Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the opening of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Symposium 2026 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, where stakeholders gathered as part of OSH Month activities.

"Safety will not be traded for speed," the Prime Minister declared, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening workplace standards even as major development unfolds across sectors like energy and infrastructure.

He noted that Guyana has made steady progress in modernising its occupational safety

systems, with ongoing policy reviews and reforms helping to reinforce national frameworks. Still, he urged continued collaboration among employers, workers and regulators to ensure standards keep pace with growth.

Beyond physical safety, Phillips highlighted a growing focus on mental well-being in the workplace, pointing to stress, burnout and work-life balance as critical issues affecting productivity.

"Sustainable productivity is inseparable from balance," he said.

That broader approach was echoed by Minister of Labour and Manpower Planning, Keoma Griffith, who outlined both progress and ongoing challenges.

Speaking during the OSH walk and later at the launch of the OSH



Launch of the OSH Village

Village, he reported that more than 6,000 workplace inspections between 2020 and 2025 reached over 27,000 workers nationwide, contributing to a notable decline in workplace incidents.

However, recent figures remain concerning. Between January and April this year, 13 workplace fatalities and 64 non-fatal incidents were recorded.

"This increase is unacceptable," Minister Griffith said, calling for stricter compliance and

enforcement across all sectors.

At the OSH Village, designed to raise awareness and connect workers with employers, the minister stressed that safety is fundamental to national development.

"Occupational safety and health is not optional, it is the backbone of productivity, dignity and sustainable growth," he stated.

He also emphasised that safe workplaces must go beyond preventing physical injuries.

"We should not be working

in high-stress environments... or be susceptible to depression and unhappiness on the job," he added.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud reinforced the call for supportive work environments, urging organisations to address issues such as harassment and exploitation. She pointed to initiatives like the

improve workplace culture.

The OSH Village supported by corporate partners including SBM Offshore and ExxonMobil, features a job fair and interactive sessions aimed at educating workers while opening doors to new employment opportunities.

As activities continue, OSH Month is shining a spotlight on a simple but powerful



The OSH symposium

Gender Equality and Empowerment Seal as tools to promote accountability and

idea: that a safer, healthier workforce is essential to building stronger Guyana.

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESS ACROSS GUYANA

For many Guyanese, accessing government services once meant long trips, multiple offices, and uncertain timelines. Today, expanding digital platforms are beginning to change that experience, bringing services closer to citizens and strengthening accountability across the country.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance Gail Teixeira said Guyana's investments in connectivity and locally developed digital systems are transforming how citizens interact with the state. Delivering the feature address at the National Stakeholders Forum, **"Strengthening Access and Accountability through Digital Platforms"** at



Members of various civil society groups in attendance at the National Stakeholders Forum

the World Trade Centre in Georgetown, she noted that the country is now better positioned to benefit from digital governance.

With more than 900,000 cell phone owners and expanded internet access reaching hinterland, riverain and rural communities, Minister Teixeira said

Guyana has become a far more connected society. Reliable Wi-Fi and ICT hubs in Indigenous and remote areas, she explained, are removing what was once a Georgetown-centric approach to accessing information and services.

That connectivity has enabled platforms

such as Citizen Connect, telehealth services, the housing single-window system, electronic ID initiatives, and online job and skills portals. These tools allow citizens to request services, lodge complaints, seek appointments and engage ministries directly, strengthening participation in decision-making.

"The more citizens can participate through the use of digital platforms, that is, in fact, enhancing our democracy and our human rights platforms,"

Minister Teixeira said, linking the initiatives to constitutional provisions that promote citizen involvement in governance.

She also highlighted the anti-corruption benefits of digitisation. The housing single-window system, for



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira, and Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency, and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally

example, has reduced the need for applicants to visit multiple agencies, limiting opportunities for delays and bribery.

Beyond convenience, the minister noted that digital platforms

provide real-time data helping the government respond more quickly to complaints and community needs. When

outreach engagement will continue, she said technology now offers an additional pathway for citizens to connect with government, regardless of where they live.

WORLD CHAMPION ROSANNA FUNG SHINES ON EUROPEAN STAGE

Fresh off her 2025 IFBB World Championship win, Guyana's Rosanna Fung continues to make her mark internationally, earning second-place finish at the prestigious

bodybuilding stages. Competing against an elite lineup and before a supportive home crowd, Fung delivered a standout performance on one of Europe's top professional

While the result fell just short of the top spot, her team described the outing as another important step in her growth at the professional level.

The achievement

reinforces Fung's position among the sport's rising global competitors, as she continues to build momentum on the international circuit.

Attention now



Rosanna Fung secures second at IFBB Malta

Barbados Pro Show where she is expected to be a strong contender for first place.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has since congratulated Fung, commending her discipline, dedication and continued representation of Guyana on the world stage.

CATS' GOLD STANDARD WIN LIFTS GUYANA'S PROFILE IN GLOBAL AVIATION TRAINING

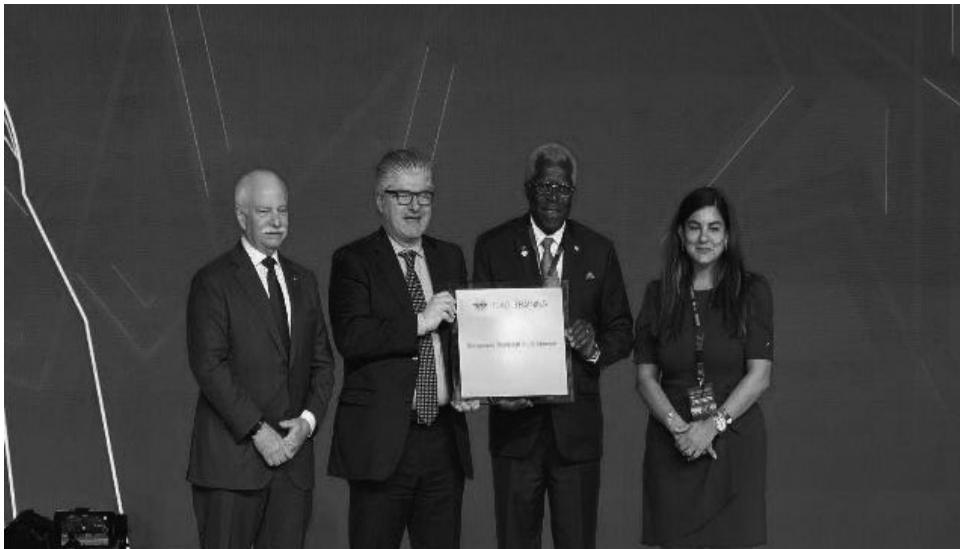
The classroom at the Civil Aviation Training School is no longer just a place where aspiring aviation professionals learn the basics. It is now part of an elite global network shaping the future of aviation training.

Guyana's Civil Aviation Training School (CATS) has been elevated to Gold Standard under the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) TRAINAIR PLUS Programme, a milestone that signals both institutional growth and a broader ambition for the country's aviation sector. The recognition was formally conferred during the ICAO Global Implementation Support Symposium in Marrakech, Morocco.

The jump from Bronze to Gold places CATS among a select group of training institutions worldwide certified to design and deliver ICAO-approved aviation courses that meet and exceed international standards. For instructors and students alike, the upgrade represents years of steady work, refinement, and commitment to quality.

Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority, Lt. Col. (ret'd) Egbert Field, described the achievement as a collective effort built on discipline and dedication.

"This achievement reflects the unwavering commitment of our



Guyana's Civil Aviation Training School earns ICAO gold

instructors and staff to deliver world-class aviation training," he said, noting that Gold Standard status strengthens Guyana's presence on the global aviation stage.

Beyond the

certification, the recognition carries real-world impact. The school can now develop new ICAO-approved programmes and expand its reach to aviation professionals across the Caribbean, South

America and beyond. Officials believe the elevation will accelerate partnerships, increase enrollment, and help build a stronger regional aviation workforce.

That future is already taking shape. Since first joining the

ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS network, CATS has trained students from Guyana, Suriname, Barbados, The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and Saint Lucia, both in-person and virtually. With Gold status, those classrooms are expected to become even more diverse.

The TRAINAIR PLUS Programme itself is a global network designed to harmonise aviation training quality worldwide. By joining its top tier, CATS moves from participant to leader, and positions Guyana as an emerging hub where regional aviation professionals can train to international standards without leaving the hemisphere.

NEW STRATEGY TARGETS STRONGER MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS

A renewed focus on teacher training, early literacy and targeted student support is at the centre of a new strategy aimed at improving Mathematics performance across Guyana's education system over the next five years.

Minister of Education Sonia Parag said the approach combines long-term reforms with immediate interventions to better prepare students for the National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) and the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate examinations.

Speaking during an interview, the minister explained that strengthening how teachers are trained will be critical to improving classroom delivery. As part of that effort, the

ministry will review the curriculum at the Cyril Potter College of Education to ensure trainee teachers are equipped with modern teaching methods and assessment techniques.

"We need to look and see what they're being taught, how they're being taught and how that is going to translate into the classroom. Delivery is important," she said.

The strategy also places heavy emphasis on literacy and numeracy at the primary level. For the first time in 2026, the ministry introduced a literacy assessment programme for Grades Two and Four, with the goal of ensuring every child is literate by Grade Four. Numeracy assessments for those same levels are expected to begin in 2027.

These measures build on the Mathematics Intervention Programme launched in 2024 for Grades 10 and 11 students. The initiative included past-paper booklets, scientific calculators and targeted support through Math Monitors, contributing to a 32 per cent pass rate in 2025, a five per cent improvement in performance.

The programme has also expanded to hinterland regions, with additional Math Monitors deployed to Regions One, Seven, Eight and Nine. Schools in those areas have also benefited from digital learning tools, including smart boards to enhance classroom instruction.

Students are also accessing lessons through the Guyana Digital School, launched

in December 2025, which provides free online support for NGSA and CSEC Mathematics, along with other subjects.

Another initiative gaining attention is the introduction of "Maths Tents" where students from multiple schools gather for focused Saturday instruction. The sessions target problem areas such as consumer arithmetic, fractions and construction, identified through assessment data and mock examinations.

The instructors are specially selected educators rather than students' regular teachers, offering fresh approaches to explaining core concepts and reinforcing understanding. The sessions also aim to reduce exam anxiety while strengthening problem-solving skills.



Minister Parag being interviewed on MoE's strengthened Maths strategy with Kiana Wilburg

Minister Parag said to reinforce classroom learning. feedback from students has been encouraging, noting that many welcomed the additional support and opportunity



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SKILLS CONNECT DELIVERS 438 JOB MATCHES SINCE LAUNCH

A growing number of Guyanese are finding work and services more easily thanks to the government's Skills Connect app, which is already helping to match skilled workers with people in need of their services.

Minister of Public Service Government

Efficiency and Implementation Ally said the platform has facilitated 438 job connections since its launch, connecting electricians, plumbers and other service providers directly with clients.

The app has also attracted strong interest

with 1,872 user profiles and 232 registered service providers, signalling demand for a more efficient way to access skills.

Speaking at the National Stakeholders Forum at the World Trade Centre in Georgetown, Minister Ally said the initiative

reflects a more modern, customer-focused approach to public service.

Plans are already underway to enhance the platform with digital contracts, allowing users to agree on terms electronically and reducing disputes over pricing and services

OVER 21,000 WOMEN TRAINED AS GUYANA BUILDS 'ECOSYSTEM OF CARE'

Thousands of women and men trained under the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) are now positioned to step into Guyana's emerging care economy, creating new pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the *Starting Point Podcast*, Minister of Human Services and Social Security Dr Vindhya Persaud said the initiative is designed not only to provide training, but to build a structured system that supports long-term economic independence, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Over the past five years, more than 21,000



A WIIN graduating class from Mainstay Whyaka, Region Two

women have benefitted from WIIN's free training programmes, equipping them with skills in areas such as early childhood development, elder care and patient support, fields that are increasingly in demand.

"We have invested significant financial resources and time into

women to enter the care economy," Dr Persaud explained.

The government is now moving a step further by developing a co-investment model that will allow trained individuals to find employment, form partnerships, or launch their own services within the sector.

Central to this effort is the expansion of childcare services across communities. According to the minister, access to reliable childcare is critical in removing barriers that have long prevented many women from fully participating in the workforce.

Already, more than 100 women have received grants to establish early childhood centres, while several facilities have been upgraded to serve as centres of excellence, models for future community-based services.

"What we are building is an ecosystem of care... putting care directly

into communities," she said.

Training is also expanding into specialised areas such as special needs education, widening the

like the WeLift platform are helping participants connect to digital marketplaces, access cashless payment systems and explore export opportunities,



Three aspiring seamstresses trained through WIIN

scope of services and opportunities within the sector.

Beyond skills development, initiatives

ensuring that women are not only trained, but empowered to grow sustainable businesses.

SOLAR INITIATIVE SPARKS NEW GENERATION OF WORKERS

For many of the participants in Guyana's expanding solar energy programme, the journey has been about far more than technical training, it has been a turning point.

Gabriel Gilkes, a communication apprentice in the second batch of the Guyana Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Programme (GUYSOL), describes the past seven months as life-changing. Travelling across Regions Five, Six and 10, he has gained hands-on experience in data management while visiting project sites and engaging directly with the work on the ground.

"I'm just so happy that I've been given

that chance to show what I'm all about," Gilkes said.

Others, like Rajnie Persaud, are building skills that extend beyond the classroom. Through her work in procurement and finance, she reviews documents and identifies discrepancies, experience she believes is setting the foundation for long-term career growth.

But the programme's impact is perhaps most visible among its female participants.

Through a dedicated Women in Solar Apprenticeship initiative, dozens of women have been trained in installation and linked



Three aspiring seamstresses trained through WIIN

to jobs on project sites. Among them is Shania Richardson, one of 21 young women from Linden who recently completed a five-week training programme.

Now equipped to install, commission and maintain solar systems,

Richardson says the experience has given her confidence and a clear vision for the future.

"I plan to develop an entrepreneurial idea and start my own business later in the year... most likely a solar panel

company," she said.

For 20-year-old Angelica Francis, the opportunity has sparked a new sense of purpose. Originally from Region Nine and now living in Region 10, she said the programme has opened doors she never imagined.

"I am a housewife, I don't really do anything much... so being in this training right now is really amazing for me," Francis shared. **"I've learned a lot."**

Social Management Specialist Chitra Singh-Samaroo explained that the training was designed to be accessible while still technical, allowing

entry-level participants to gain practical skills in solar photovoltaic installation.

After completing the training, participants move into apprenticeships on solar farms or utility-based operations, where they apply what they have learned in real-world settings.

With eight solar farms under development, five already operational, GUYSOL is not only advancing renewable energy but also creating pathways for inclusion, empowerment and opportunity across Guyana.

Residents along the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara are set to benefit from improved waste collection services following the distribution of 10 new garbage compactor trucks to Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) in Region Four.

The move is part of a wider national effort to strengthen solid waste management and improve sanitation across Guyana, with communities already seeing the impact of more reliable garbage collection.

For many residents, the new trucks represent more than infrastructure,

streets, healthier surroundings and a better quality of life.

With this latest rollout, a total of 59 NDCs nationwide are now equipped with garbage compactor trucks, bringing the government closer to its goal of ensuring every local authority has the tools needed to manage waste effectively.

The distribution spans multiple regions, from coastal communities to riverain

ensuring a more balanced approach to sanitation services across the country.

Municipalities are also benefiting, with trucks delivered to towns such as Linden, Mahdia, Mabaruma, Lethem and several municipalities in Region Six.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand, said the rollout is ongoing, with additional trucks expected in the coming

"This is not the end of the distribution of garbage trucks," she stated, while stressing that communities should no longer have to contend with overflowing bins near schools, health centres or along streets.

The initiative forms part of a broader push to modernise waste management systems, reduce environmental hazards and support local authorities in delivering essential services.

As more communities



Garbage trucks roll out to East Coast, East Bank communities

programme is steadily changing the landscape, making cleaner, more livable environments a reality for citizens across Guyana.

CRIME DROPS 10% - POLICE CREDIT TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY SUPP

Guyana is recording a notable decline in serious crime, with overall incidents down by 10 per cent as the Guyana Police Force (GPF) expands intelligence-led policing and technology-driven enforcement.

Commissioner of Police Clifton Hicken said murders have fallen by 18 per cent, rape by 49 per cent, and break-and-enter and larceny by 15 per cent. Robbery

has also declined, alongside the removal of 51 illegal firearms from circulation.

Speaking on the programme *Police Round-up*, the Commissioner said the improvements are the result of coordinated operations, increased patrols and real-time intelligence gathering across divisions.

Central to the strategy is the use of

surveillance technology and command centres that allow officers to monitor criminal activity as it happens, particularly in high-risk areas such as Georgetown.

“For those persons who are inclined to do the wrong thing, the cameras will find you,” Hicken said. **“You’re going to be charged, and you’re going to go before the**

court.”

The initiative forms part of a broader shift from a “safe city” model to a nationwide “safe country” approach, with plans to expand command centres across all regions.

Police are also strengthening community engagement through decentralised outreach, placing officers directly within neighbourhoods to

build trust and improve information sharing.

Sports and youth programmes are being used to further connect with young people and reduce the likelihood of involvement in crime.

Authorities say public cooperation remains critical, noting that timely reports from citizens continue to help prevent and solve cases.

With technology, intelligence and



Commissioner of Police Clifton Hicken

community partnerships working together the police force said it expects further reductions in crime the months ahead.



Traffic Chief, Mahendra Singh

Guyana’s push to improve road safety is gaining momentum, with more than 51,000 electronic traffic

51,000 E-TICKETS ISSUED AS GUYANA'S DIGITAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM TIGHTENS ROAD SAFETY

tickets issued since the introduction of the Safe Road Intelligence System (SRIS), a digital enforcement platform aimed at reducing dangerous driving and road fatalities.

Traffic Chief Mahendra Singh said the system, launched on April 1, 2025, represents a major shift in how traffic violations are monitored and enforced across the country.

“This safe road initiative is technologically driven... with safeguards built in to prevent bias or interference,” Singh explained in an interview with the Department of Public Information.

According to data from the system, more than \$205 million has already been collected in fines, with over half of the issued tickets being

paid.

The SRIS is currently active along major corridors including the Heroes Highway, Mandela to Eccles Interlink, the East Coast Public Road and sections of Region Three. Authorities report a noticeable reduction in serious and fatal accidents in these monitored areas.

While minor collisions still occur,

Singh said the drop in severe crashes signals improved compliance among motorists.

However, he warned that reckless driving remains a concern, with some drivers still engaging in speeding and unsafe manoeuvres in an attempt to navigate traffic quickly.

He said the system is designed not only for enforcement but also to change behaviour over

time, encouraging safe and more responsible road use.

As the programme expands nationwide officials say it will be supported by public education campaigns and continuous technological upgrades aimed at strengthening compliance and saving lives on Guyana’s roads.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OR BE CHARGED - GOVT TELLS LITTERBUGS

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is warning that Guyanese must take greater responsibility for keeping their communities clean, or face stricter enforcement measures.

The warning came from Minister Priya Manickchand as the government handed over garbage compactors to 10 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils across Region Four, covering the East

Coast and East Bank of Demerara.

While the new equipment is expected to improve waste collection, the minister stressed that infrastructure alone will not solve the problem.

“We all have to take responsibility not to drop our private garbage... or bulky waste on the road,” she said.

Minister Manickchand said a public awareness campaign will soon be

launched but warned that voluntary compliance may not be enough.

“If we can’t do that on our own, then we’re going to have to force compliance,” she added.

The ministry is currently engaging the Guyana Police Force and the Environmental Protection Agency on stronger enforcement, including fines and court action for littering and illegal dumping. Municipal and

magistrates’ courts are already prepared to hear such cases.

Officials are also considering appointing environmental wardens nationwide and taking action against blocked drains caused by indiscriminate waste disposal.

Under existing regulations, individuals can be fined \$50,000 for littering, while companies face fines of up to \$100,000.

The minister said



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand

the preferred approach is education, especially through schools, to build long-term environmental responsibility.

“We’d like to do this the soft way,” she said, **“but in the meantime, stop dropping your**

garbage all over the place.”

The message is clear: cleaner communities will depend not only on government service but on how responsible citizens choose to act.

Government ministries are now monitoring thousands of capital projects across Guyana’s 10 regions in real time through a new digital Oversight Monitoring Dashboard developed by the National Data Management Authority.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfiqar Ally said the system allows officials to track project progress, view site photos, monitor spending and verify

NDMA DASHBOARD LETS OFFICIALS MONITOR WORKS ACROSS ALL 10 REGIONS



work completion without leaving their offices.

“If they don’t update the oversight dashboard, the system will say who is not doing their work,” he explained, noting that the platform strengthens accountability by flagging delays and non-compliance.

The system, built entirely by Guyanese professionals, eliminates

foreign software and forms part of a wider government push toward digital transformation.

Already, the administration has introduced one-stop service centres in Regions Three and Five, while mobile platforms like GovConnect allow citizens to book government services more easily.

Another app. Skills

hundreds of job seekers with employers, helping bridge gaps in the labor market.

These innovations are aimed at improving efficiency, increasing transparency, and making government services more accessible to citizens across the country.

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GUYANESE BOXER ELTON DHARRY CROWNED WORLD CHAMPION

It was a night of pride and celebration for Guyana as veteran boxer Elton Dharry

etched his name in history, capturing the International Boxing Organization (IBO)

Super Bantamweight World Title.

Fighting before an energetic crowd at the Pegasus Hotel and Suites Courtyard, Dharry delivered a determined performance in a gripping 12-round

Guyanese boxing.

The 40-year-old champion, visibly emotional, credited President Dr Irfaan Ali for inspiring his return to the sport and renewed commitment to training. Also in attendance,



Allicock, Dharry shine on big night for Guyanese Boxing



Allicock, Dharry shine on big night for Guyanese Boxing



Allicock, Dharry shine on big night for Guyanese Boxing



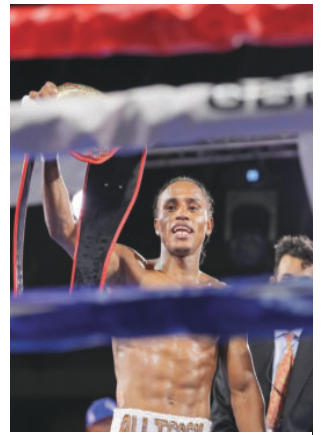
Allicock, Dharry shine on big night for Guyanese Boxing

bout against Tanzania's Salmin Kassim. When the final bell rang, he was unanimously declared the winner, sealing a landmark victory for

the Head of State witnessed another standout moment as Olympian Keevin Allicock secured the National Featherweight

Championship of Guyana. Allicock claimed victory via technical knockout after opponent Dexter Marques was ruled unfit to continue due to injury.

The evening highlighted the growing strength of local boxing talent, with both victories drawing strong support from patrons and reinforcing Guyana's presence on the international stage.



Allicock, Dharry shine on big night for Guyanese Boxing

PM PHILLIPS PRAISES DOMINOES TOURNAMENT AS MODEL OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SPORT

The spirit of friendly rivalry and national unity took centre stage in Amelia's Ward as the Prime Minister's Annual One Guyana Dominoes Tournament brought together 48 teams from across the country in a lively display of sport and camaraderie.

Teams from all 10 regions, including Mahdia, Bartica and Lethem, competed for more than \$2.5 million in prizes, with three women's teams adding to the growing diversity of the competition.

Prime Minister



Dominoes tournament brings Guyana together

Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, who attended the event alongside Mrs Mignon Bowen-Phillips, said the tournament has grown into a premier national fixture that brings people from all walks of life together.

"As we build

Guyana, we want our people not only to come together competitively in sports, but to interact with each other in camaraderie," he said.

The event, hosted at Shanghai's Residence by Mr Aubrey "Shanghai"

Major in collaboration with the Georgetown Dominoes Association, continues to expand in popularity, with organisers now eyeing regional and even international growth.

Major expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's continued support, noting the tournament's steady rise over the years.

On the courts, competition was intense as Team Shooters emerged victorious after a closely contested final against

Team Saddam. Team Turning Point placed third, while Bottom End finished fourth. Shooters' Navindra Kooblall was named

Dressed Team. Beyond the scores, the tournament once again highlighted dominoes as more than a game, but a space for



Dominoes tournament brings Guyana together

Most Valuable Player, while Team Storm took home honours for Best unity, connection and shared Guyanese pride.



Iwokrama ranks 37th in World Eco list

Guyana's Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development has been named among the world's top eco-tourism destinations, earning a place at number 37 on Travel and Tour World's "50 Best Eco Tourism Destinations in the

IWOKRAMA NAMED AMONG WORLD'S TOP 50 ECO-TOURISM DESTINATIONS FOR 2026

World for 2026."

The recognition places one of the Guiana Shield's most biodiverse rainforest reserves in the global spotlight, highlighting its role in conservation, scientific research and community-based

tourism.

Spanning vast stretches of pristine rainforest, Iwokrama is home to iconic wildlife such as jaguars, giant river otters and harpy eagles. Visitors to the area experience guided rainforest trekking,

canopy walkways, river excursions and birdwatching in one of the world's richest ecological zones.

A key feature of the centre's model is the involvement of members of Indigenous communities, who serve as guides, educators and cultural ambassadors, sharing traditional knowledge through storytelling and craft-making.

Iwokrama also operates eco-lodges, renewable energy systems and strict conservation



Iwokrama ranks 37th in World Eco list

protocols, ensuring low-impact tourism while supporting long-term environmental protection.

The centre's sustainability efforts were further recognised with the Green Destinations Good

Travel Seal Certificate, first awarded in 2023 and renewed in 2026, underscoring its ongoing commitment to responsible tourism and conservation.



Iwokrama ranks 37th in World Eco list



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



CELEBRATING GUYANA THROUGH FOOD AND CULTURE

Fresh, hot and proudly Guyanese, Taste of Guyana returned to Main Street on May 8 as part of Guyana's 60th Independence celebrations. Launched in 2017, the event continues to showcase the country's rich food culture, local talent and beloved traditional flavours for Guyanese at home and across the diaspora.



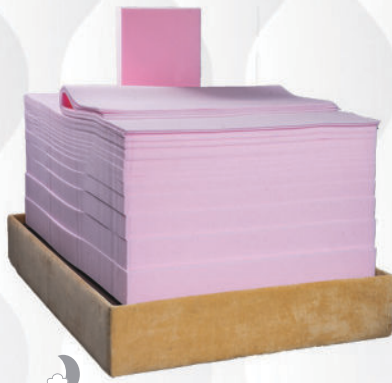
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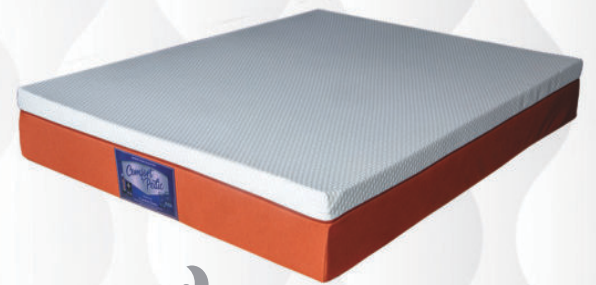
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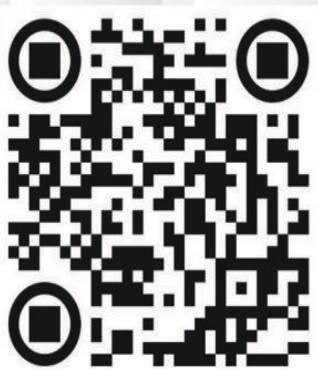
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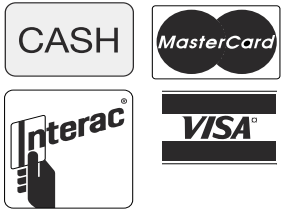


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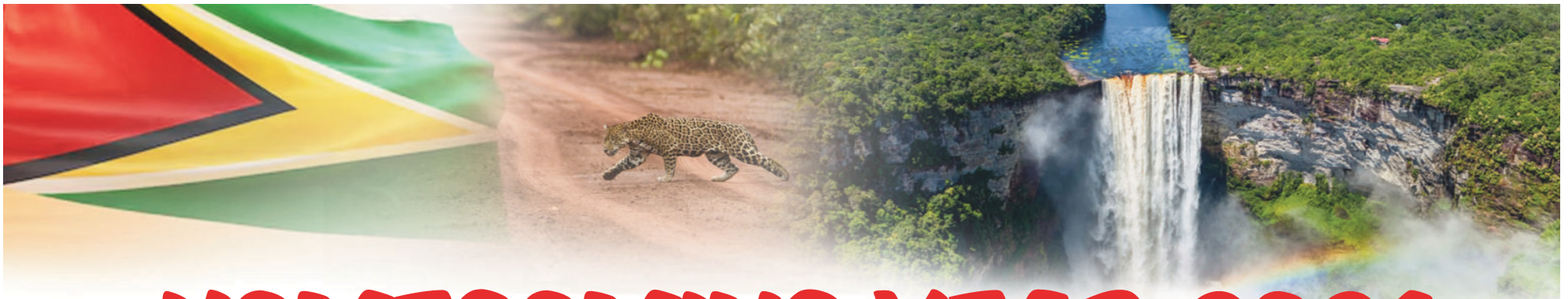
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