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Delcy, Trump meet for first time at UN

Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodríguez and US President Donald Trump held a first face-to-face meeting on Tuesday night in New York amid the rapid rapprochement between Washington and Caracas. The closed-door gathering took place at the Lotte New York Palace hotel during a reception for world leaders participating in the ongoing 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. Trump was flanked by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and other White House officials, while Rodríguez was joined by Foreign Minister Félix Plasencia. The Venezuelan government published photos of the meeting, with the two leaders smiling for the cameras in front of the countries' flags. Rodríguez later praised the “historic”

sit-down with Trump and reported that the discussions focused on strengthening “cooperation in strategic areas such as energy and mining.” The meeting comes as Venezuela and Guyana remains locked in a border dispute, with a ruling from the International Court on the matter expected by January.



President Ali at Shield of the Americas

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali on Tuesday joined U.S. President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and leaders from across the Western Hemisphere for a high-level meeting of the Shield of the Americas on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly.

The meeting, convened by Trump in New York, focused on enhanced collective action against drug cartels and narco-terrorism, while advancing greater economic, security and multilateral coordination among participating countries. Reuters reported Tuesday that Trump used both his U.N. address and the subsequent Shield of the Americas engagement to press regional partners for stronger action against transnational criminal organisations and drug trafficking networks.

In a post on his social media handle on X (formerly Twitter), President Ali said the leaders adopted a Joint Communiqué declaring their intention to strengthen the resilience of the Western Hemisphere around three pillars — economic, security and multilateral coordination.

The meeting represented the latest engagement under the Shield of the Americas, a U.S.-led regional initiative launched earlier this year to deepen cooperation against transnational organised crime, drug trafficking and other security threats.

The initiative was formally advanced at the inaugural Shield of the Americas Summit in Doral, Florida, on March 7, when Trump hosted President Ali and leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean. Official U.S. government records confirm the March summit and identify the initiative with the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition.

Guyana was among the founding participants, alongside Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago.

President Ali subsequently said Guyana’s participation was expected to strengthen intelligence sharing, joint security operations and coordinated action against smuggling, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime.



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Guyana candidate makes case to become first Caribbean woman to lead UN

Guyana's Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett is making the case for a historic appointment as United Nations Secretary-General, saying her candidacy could break an 80-year barrier for women while giving the Caribbean its first leader of the global body.

Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana's permanent representative to the United Nations, was nominated by President Mohamed Irfaan Ali in June and has since received the endorsement of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government. The United Nations formally listed her among the candidates on June 15.

If selected, she would become both the first woman and the first Caribbean national to serve as UN Secretary-General.

"Nine men have served as Secretary-General in the UN's 80-year history. This means half of humanity – women – have never had the opportunity to serve," Rodrigues-Birkett said as she highlighted the significance of her candidacy.

She argued that appointing a woman would carry significance beyond symbolism by demonstrating to women and girls that the UN's highest office is within their reach.

"Appointing a woman Secretary



Guyana's UN Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

General will send a clear message to the men and women of this world that the day of the next half of humanity has finally arrived," she said.

Rodrigues-Birkett has also performed strongly in informal straw polls conducted by the 15-member UN Security Council.

She received nine "encourage" votes, two "discourage" votes and four "no opinion" votes in the first round. In the second poll in August, she secured eight "encourage" votes, three "discourage" votes and four "no opinion" votes, giving her the highest number of encourage votes among the candidates in that round.

The straw polls are part of the Security Council's process of assessing candidates. The next secretary-general must ultimately be recommended by the Security Council before being appointed by the UN General Assembly.

Rodrigues-Birkett has also emphasized the regional significance of her campaign, noting that no Caribbean na-

tional has previously served as UN Secretary-General.

Her candidacy comes as several contenders from Latin America and the Caribbean seek the post. The UN selection process includes candidates from Guyana, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Argentina and Senegal, among others.

Rodrigues-Birkett has argued that the current selection presents an important opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean under the informal practice of regional rotation. She has said the region could wait decades for another opportunity if successive secretaries-general serve two five-year terms.

As part of her campaign, the Guyanese diplomat has called for a more agile and effective United Nations capable of responding to conflict, humanitarian crises, climate change, development setbacks and rapid technological advances.

During an interactive dialogue with UN member states in June, she described her approach as "principled, pragmatic and responsive," while arguing that the organization must adapt as global challenges evolve.

Rodrigues-Birkett previously served as Guyana's minister of foreign affairs and has held several senior diplomatic positions.

The selection process will determine who succeeds António Guterres when his second term ends on Dec. 31, 2026.

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Health Ministry: Claims about CORTEX misleading

The Ministry of Health wishes to clarify recent statements made by Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., concerning CORTEX, which are based on unverified claims and misrepresent the purpose and function of the system.

CORTEX forms an integral part of the Ministry’s ongoing digital transformation and is designed to strengthen accountability and efficiency across the pharmaceutical supply chain from procurement and inventory management to distribution and, ultimately, the dispensing of medication to patients.

The system also operates within the Ministry’s broader digital health environment, which includes the ongoing implementation of electronic patient records and other digital tools intended to improve healthcare delivery.

Given the sensitive nature of the information managed within these systems, healthcare professionals and other authorised personnel must be properly identified and verified before being granted access. Doctors and other relevant Ministry staff were informed of the information required, the reasons for requesting it and the purposes for which it would be used.

The submission and verification of professional credentials are important safeguards that support accountability, appropriate access controls and the protection of sensitive patient information.

The Ministry therefore rejects the suggestion that CORTEX was designed to collect doctors’ banking information

as part of its health-sector functions. If any doctor believes that banking information was requested through CORTEX for an unexplained or unauthorised purpose, the Ministry encourages that individual to provide the specific request so that it can be immediately reviewed and verified. To date, no evidence has been presented to the Ministry substantiating the claim that CORTEX is collecting doctors’ banking information as part of its health-sector functions.

The Ministry welcomes legitimate questions and concerns regarding data protection, cybersecurity and the digitalisation of healthcare. Such discussions are important as Guyana continues to modernise its public health system. They should, however, be grounded in verified information.

The Ministry has consistently outlined the direction of its digital transformation. CORTEX is intended to strengthen accountability throughout the pharmaceutical supply chain—from procurement to the patient. Properly verifying the healthcare professionals operating within that digital environment is an important part of safeguarding the system and the information it contains.

The Government of Guyana remains committed to protecting personal information, strengthening cybersecurity and ensuring that the digital transformation of the health sector is implemented responsibly and securely.

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I'm Maria Voutsinas, and I'm running to be your City Councillor here in Ward 14, Toronto–Danforth. I raised my family here, and I love the diversity, cultures and small businesses that make our community feel like home. Like you, I have watched our city change. The **cost of living** keeps rising. Road **congestion**. Concerns about **safety**. I want to help find solutions we can all live with.

For over 20 years, I have served as Executive Director of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. From my office at City Hall, I have worked with all levels of government to ensure voices in diverse communities are heard. I know how the system works and how to turn **advocacy** into **action**.

I will be knocking on doors across Toronto–Danforth, listening to what matters to you and working to earn your support.

Let's build a safer, more affordable and more liveable community together.

Maria Voutsinas

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Award-winning journalist to host Tourism Conference in Guyana

Guyanese-American award-winning journalist, producer and media executive Melissa Noel will host the 2026 State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC), taking place Oct. 5-9 in Guyana.

Noel will guide delegates through the conference program, helping set the stage for five days of dialogue, collaboration and cultural exchange under the theme “Tourism Futures: Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive.”

The founder and chief content officer of Mel&N Media Group, Noel leads a culture-driven media and production company that works with cultural institutions, travel brands and international organizations to develop narrative strategies, produce live experiences and build platforms connecting culture and commerce.

“Melissa Noel brings a powerful combination of journalistic excellence, cultural insight and a deep connection to Guyana and the wider Caribbean,” said Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Secretary-General and CEO Dona Regis-Prosper. “Her ability to engage audiences and communicate the richness of Caribbean stories makes her an ideal host for SOTIC 2026. As the conference comes to Guyana for the first time, Melissa will help us create an experience that is informative, dynamic and rooted in the culture of our host destination.”

Noel has more than 15 years of



Melissa Noel — renowned Guyanese journalist

experience across news, media and entertainment. Her career includes on-air correspondent roles with One Caribbean Television and CBS Puerto Rico as well as reporting and production positions with NBC News and ABC News. She most recently served as senior news and travel editor at ESSENCE where she led coverage of

race, culture, identity and travel for a global Black audience.

Noel was named CTO Diaspora Journalist of the Year in 2024 and 2025 in recognition of her reporting and storytelling across travel, culture, identity and the African diaspora. She is also a Pulitzer Center grantee and an Ethel Payne International Reporting Fellow.

“It is a tremendous honor to return to Guyana, my country of heritage, to host SOTIC 2026,” said Noel. “The Caribbean holds extraordinary stories of creativity, resilience, identity and innovation. I look forward to helping create space for the people shaping the region’s tourism future and to welcoming delegates as Guyana shares its culture, communities and distinctive visitor experiences with the Caribbean and the world.”

A summa cum laude graduate of Howard University, Noel holds a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism and a Master of Arts in journalism from the City University of New York.

SOTIC is CTO’s principal forum for bringing together tourism ministers, commissioners and directors of tourism, private-sector executives, regional and international partners, academics, media, young people and other industry stakeholders to examine the issues shaping Caribbean tourism.

The 2026 program will place particular emphasis on data, tourism intelligence, innovation, emerging technology, climate resilience and regenerative tourism, destination competitiveness, inclusive growth and the role of the region’s next generation of tourism leaders. Guyana will host SOTIC for the first time.

For more information and to register for SOTIC 2026, visit sotic.onecaribbean.org.

GECOM officials fraudulently gave APNU+AFC over 20,000 votes

Forensic accountant Terrence Jaskaran’s analysis of certified Statements of Poll showed that the March 5 and March 13, 2020 Region Four declarations had the net effect of overturning a PPP/C lead of more than 15,000 votes and placing APNU+AFC ahead, according to prosecutor Latchmie Rahamat.

Jaskaran continued his testimony on Monday before Principal Magistrate Faith McGusty in the ongoing 2020 elections fraud trial.

Rahamat said Jaskaran had been retained by the Ministry of Home Affairs as a financial-analysis consultant and was instructed by police to examine certified SoPs obtained through a High Court order.

His task was to tabulate the figures and compare them with the Region Four declarations made on March 5 and March 13, 2020.

According to the prosecutor, Jaskaran’s tabulation of the certified SoPs showed the PPP/C ahead of all other parties by at least 15,000 votes in the overall election result.

However, Rahamat said the March 5 Region Four declaration recorded



Forensic accountant Terrence Jaskaran

more than 20,000 additional votes for APNU+AFC.

She said that increase first erased the PPP/C’s SoP-based lead and then

carried APNU+AFC beyond it. The March 13 declaration, she said, had a similar overall effect.

“The declarations of the 5th of

March 2020 changed the results of the 2nd of March election, giving the APNU+AFC the victory,” Rahamat said.

She added that the evidence presented by Jaskaran must be assessed alongside earlier testimony from persons who were present at the Ashmin’s Building, including Sasenarine Singh, Sonia Parag, Rosalinda Rasul and Lenox Shuman.

Those witnesses, Rahamat said, testified that figures were called from a spreadsheet rather than from the Statements of Poll and that the figures did not match the SoPs held by political parties.

The prosecution contends that the evidence, taken together, is beginning to show how the alleged offences were committed.

The nine accused have pleaded not guilty, and the court has not yet made any findings on the allegations.



Judiciary vital to Guyana’s investment drive – AG highlights

ATTORNEY General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall, has highlighted the judiciary’s growing importance to Guyana’s investment and economic expansion, noting that investors require confidence in the country’s ability to resolve commercial disputes through an independent and competent justice system.

Nandlall, during his “Issues in the News” programme, stated that the rapid expansion of Guyana’s economy and commercial sector has placed greater importance on the judiciary, particularly as billions of dollars in investments enter the country.

“With the rapid expansion of our economy, with the astronomical growth of our commercial sector, our judiciary assumes even greater importance,” Nandlall said.

He explained that the judiciary provides the mechanism through which disputes involving businesses, individuals and the state are resolved, making its effectiveness an important consideration for investors.

“With the billions and billions of dollars of investments that are pouring into Guyana, with the new vista of economic and commercial activities that we are embarking upon, the judiciary is the institution to settle disputes between and among businesses, between and among individuals, and between and among businesses and individuals and the state,” he said.

Nandlall said there is a direct connection between the effectiveness of the judiciary and investor confidence, argu-

ing that businesses would be reluctant to commit significant capital to a jurisdiction where disputes cannot be resolved independently and competently.

“The statistics clearly show that if the judiciary is not independent and not competent, investors will be reluctant to invest in that country,” he said.

He noted that many major commercial contracts now include arbitration clauses, allowing disputes to be resolved outside the traditional litigation process. However, he stressed that arbitration does not eliminate the need for an effective court system.

“Although companies that come to Guyana may put arbitration clauses in their contracts, they depend, and they know that they depend upon an effective, impartial judiciary to get the rewards of any judgement,” Nandlall said.

He explained that courts may be required to intervene during arbitration proceedings, including where parties require injunctions or other remedies that an arbitral tribunal may not be able to provide.

Additionally, once an arbitration concludes, the resulting award must be registered as a judgement before it can be enforced, further underscoring the judiciary’s role in the commercial dispute-resolution process.

Nandlall pointed to several major arbitrations that are expected to take place in Guyana, including a dispute involving MARAD and the dredging of the Demerara River, which he said is valued at millions of US dollars.

He also referred to the Vamed Hos-



AG Anil Nandlall

pital matter, which he said involves an ICC arbitration valued at hundreds of millions of euros and is expected to take place in Guyana under the terms of the relevant contracts.

Against this backdrop, Nandlall said ensuring that the judiciary remains both independent and competent is es-

sential to Guyana’s continued development.

“It is so crucial that we ensure that the judiciary remains independent and remains competent, because it is an indispensable factor in the development equation of this country,” he said.

Education sector joins consultations on Guyana’s labour laws

Guyana’s education sector has become the latest stakeholder group to contribute to the ongoing review and modernisation of the country’s labour laws, as the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning continues its consultations across key sectors.

Consultant Her Excellency Deborah Thomas-Felix and officials from the

labour ministry met on Friday with Dr Ritesh Tularam, Deputy Chief Education Officer – Technical, and other officials of the Ministry of Education to gather sector-specific perspectives on the review.

The engagement forms part of a broader consultation process aimed at examining Guyana’s existing labour

legislation and identifying areas where reforms may be required.

The Ministry of Labour and Manpower Planning has said the review is intended to ensure the country’s legislative framework remains responsive to changing workplace and economic conditions. Recent consultations have examined possible amendments, harmonisation or repeal of existing legislation, as well as the alignment of

Guyana’s laws with International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions and CARICOM standards.

The review is being supported by the ILO, which earlier this year sought an external collaborator to examine Guyana’s labour legislation and conduct stakeholder consultations. The resulting technical report is expected to include findings from those consultations and recommendations on possible reforms.



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EDITORIAL & OPINIONS

Women on the move

One of the sure signs that a country is well on its way to developed status is how people access the opportunities that are now available.

Specifically, the people who normally find themselves at the back of the bus, so to speak -- the marginalized, the underemployed, the women.

In societies such as Guyana's, women have often been seen as homemakers, who should be seen and not heard.

Clearly, they have decided that such status isn't good enough, and from the world stage to home, they're taking the steps to elevate themselves.

According to the country's 2026 Mid-Year Report, investments in women are being made in practical areas such as education, skills training, entrepreneurship, home ownership and protection from gender-based violence.

According to an editorial in the Guyana Chronicle earlier this month, during the first half of 2026, 3,625 women were awarded scholarships through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), while another 711 women received skills training through the Women Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) and the Board of Industrial Training.

"What stands out is the type of training being offered," the Guyanese national newspaper noted.

"Women are entering areas such as auto-electrical work, electrical installation, heavy-duty equipment operation, information technology and agro-processing. As Guyana expands its infrastructure and economy, women must have a place in these industries and access to the jobs that come with that growth."

We agree.

According to the Chronicle, entrepreneurship is another area where progress is being recorded. The report states that 1,930 women benefited from entrepreneurial training, while 79 received assistance to register new businesses and 76 received business start-up kits. Another 51 women benefited from 17 shade houses, while the We Lift initiative created op-

portunities for 450 women entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses, network and reach wider markets.

Home ownership is equally important. Some 1,547 women received house lots during the first half of 2026, representing nearly half of all recipients.

"For women, particularly those building families, owning property provides more than somewhere to live. It provides security and an asset that can create generational wealth," the paper noted.

"Progress must also mean creating environments where women are treated fairly. More than 1,700 public servants and community leaders received sensitisation in gender mainstreaming and social inclusion, while another 500 were targeted. The National Gender Equality and Empowerment Seal also promotes equal pay, career advancement, inclusive workplace policies and workplaces free from harassment and discrimination.

"The report also recognises that women cannot truly advance without protection and support. Some 2,400 people participated in gender-based and domestic violence sensitisation sessions, 1,401 received legal aid, 347 people with domestic-violence matters benefited from legal pro-bono support, and 45 survivors received shelter and other assistance."

The Chronicle concluded, "These numbers show progress, but the work cannot stop at programmes and statistics. The real measure will be how many women turn these opportunities into sustainable careers, successful businesses, home ownership and financial independence.

"Women are moving forward and as Guyana develops, that progress must continue with them at the centre of the opportunities being created."

And it's not just at home that Guyanese women are stepping out.

At the United Nations, where the 81st General Assembly is now under way, the country's Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett has become a candidate for the prestigious post of United

Nations secretary general and, if successful, will be the first Caribbean person as well as the first woman to hold the position.

Not just that, but being born into an Arawak community, she is also the first Indigenous person to eye the position.

Rodrigues-Birkett became Guyana's minister of Amerindian affairs at just 27, later serving as minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade, before accepting her current position as her country's UN Ambassador.

Now she is vying for one of the world's most influential positions.

Rodrigues-Birkett believes she has an edge due to her background - she is from a region comprising small states, and is from a country known for its multi-ethnic diversity. Nearly 20% of Guyana's population is mixed, and its other main groups include Indigenous people and people whose ancestors came from Africa, Asia and Europe.

"Caribbean small states cannot afford not to cooperate because the issues that affect them - whether it is trade or climate change - require regional and global cooperation," she was quoted as saying. "Coming from an ethnically diverse country, I know how to listen, to understand other perspectives and to find solutions together. And that's what the UN is about."

In her bid to become the UN Secretary General, replacing António Guterres when his second term ends on December 31, 2026, she has already secured the endorsement of the Caribbean community (CARICOM), and her candidacy is attracting global attention.

We wish her well.

Her bid for the prestigious job, however, only shows how far women have come in Guyana.

It's time to celebrate them as well as the Irfaan Ali government that has made sure all nationals who aspire to success in life have opportunities to do so.

Justice must move with purpose in the Mohamed case

THE EDITOR

The pace of the extradition proceedings involving Opposition Leader Azruddin Mohamed and his father, Nazar Mohamed, now demands serious public attention.

The Mohameds were arrested on October 31, 2025, following an extradition request from the United States.

Since then, legal questions arising from the proceedings have travelled through the High Court, the Court of Appeal and ultimately the Caribbean Court of Justice. The CCJ delivered its ruling on July 29, 2026, dismissing their challenge and clearing the way for the substantive extradition proceedings to continue.

Yet, before Chief Magistrate Judy Latchman,

the court has been unable to complete the evidence of a single witness.

Let that sink in. Matters connected to this case have been argued, considered and determined by three superior courts, including Guyana's final appellate court, while the Magistrates' Court remains occupied with the first witness in the substantive hearing.

Every accused person is entitled to due process, competent representation and a fair hearing. Those rights must be fully respected. They cannot become the basis for proceedings without reasonable limits, repetitive applications, prolonged exchanges and a timetable that appears increasingly disconnected from the urgency and seriousness of an extradition matter. Judicial independence must always be pro-

tected, and with that independence comes the responsibility to manage proceedings firmly, efficiently and fairly. A court controlling its own process must also ensure that its process is not overwhelmed by delay.

The question before the Magistrates' Court is whether the legal requirements for committal have been satisfied. The court is not being asked to conduct the trial that may eventually take place in the United States.

Justice must be careful, but justice must also move. The judiciary must guard against any appearance that persons with considerable financial resources and large legal teams can stretch proceedings indefinitely.

Adron Pires



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Ontario government investing \$76M to create new education opportunities

By Milan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

Ontario will create over 3,500 new seats in postsecondary institutions in Brock University and Niagara College in order to provide increased opportunities in the fields of health care, STEM, skilled trades, and education in Ontario.

According to the press release made by the government on Sept. 21, Ontario will invest \$76 million into creating 3,586 additional seats in the Niagara region, with the option to start enrolling in some of the new seats in the fall of 2026 academic year. This initiative is part of the strategy of Ontario to create over 70,000 new seats in high-demand fields in the province.

More than 1,021 spaces will be funded at Niagara College, with 346 in the area of health, 263 in skilled trades, 230 in STEM and 182 in education.

According to the province, the initiative is aimed at offering more students an opportunity to take up programs in sectors that have employers in need of workers. The newly created spaces have been made following submissions by publicly-assisted colleges and universities after working with industries within their regions and their needs.

Over 1,000 letters of support have been collected by the province as Ontario expands spaces in high-demand programs. According to the province, the submissions were considered on the basis of institutional capacity, industry needs and student demand.

The move means that students in the Niagara region will have an opportunity to pursue their career without having to move outside the region. This comes at a time when Ontario is facing high demands for workers in such sectors as health care, technology, teaching and skilled trades.

Brock University President and Vice-Chancellor Lesley Rigg stated the new funding will enable the university to grow its STEM and applied health programs, as well as meet workforce demands in the area of Niagara and surrounding regions.

The Niagara College President Sean Kennedy stated the funding will be helpful in dealing with the shortage of workers in certain sectors and will help fuel economic growth in the region.

This Niagara announcement is in line with the wider announcement of



The Ontario government is investing in education, including the skilled trades

\$1.7 billion funding by Ontario which aims to increase the number of postsecondary seats to more than 70,000 at publicly assisted colleges and universities. The government says that the increase in postsecondary seats is the biggest increase since more than a decade ago.

The first announcement of the first 30,000 of the seats was made in the month of May. At that time, the province had launched the application process for proposing certain programs for the rest of 40,000 seats.

The seat expansion plan is also related to Ontario's wider \$4-billion investment in its postsecondary education system. According to the government, this investment will raise the amount of money allocated annually for the operations of colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to \$7 billion, a 30 per cent rise.

The investment plan has been linked by the government to its plans to boost the workforce of Ontario in times of uncertainty. It claims that the training in areas like STEM, healthcare, trades and education will equip the workforce of the future.

Ontario also refers to its 2025 budget that included nearly \$1 billion for publicly assisted colleges and uni-

versities to create more than 100,000 seats in programs tied to labor market demands such as nursing, teaching, STEM and trades.

It claims that people who have graduated from these programs have better employment rates in related occupations and earn more money although there may be exceptions due to individual cases.

This news release has arrived amid continued pressure for Ontario to prepare workers with highly-specialized skills. Businesses have pointed out shortages in various industries, while the government and schools have paid more attention to making sure that students receive training that will meet the needs of the labor market.

These additional seats at Brock University and Niagara College, therefore, are to benefit both students and local employers, according to the provincial government. The former

group will have more opportunities to attend postsecondary education facilities within their reach, while the latter can have access to more graduates with special skills needed in particular fields.

The province has not indicated that all these graduates will find employment in the field of their study right after graduation. However, the province stated that this increase is meant to make postsecondary education more aligned with labor market needs.

In Niagara, the \$76 million investment is one of many aspects of Ontario's extensive efforts to increase postsecondary education. With hundreds of thousands of extra seats locally, the province sees colleges and universities as one of the main tools to provide workers in industries that are expected to be of importance for Ontario's future economy.



Port development tied to Qatar: Ali

PRESIDENT Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali said discussions during Guyana’s recent visit to Qatar centred on financing the Berbice deep-water port, even as the country continues to receive proposals for establishing a refinery in Guyana.

“We did not discuss refinery particularly, but we discussed the issue of the deep-water port that is a critical part of the investment,” he said, responding to reporters at a press conference on Monday.

President Ali said Guyana has received two additional refinery proposals since the Qatar trip.

This development adds to an earlier proposal from a UAE government and investment delegation.

“We have two other such proposals [since] this trip to Qatar,” he said.

He was careful to separate the new proposals from the Qatar engagement itself: “In that context, yes, but not in Qatar as part of the refinery project. We have the proposal from the UAE group that was here, and I think one or two other proposals,” he said.

Several proposals have been submitted to the government for a refinery in Guyana.

Asked about the pace of that investment interest, President Ali pointed out the port’s financing as the determining factor.

“How we structure it, how we can structure the financing, given the costs of this port, and having all of the type of development that will need the port. And the port will need to feed this existence,” he said.

Engineering firm, Bechtel, is conducting studies on the proposed Berbice deep-water port as the government examines how the project and its financing could be structured.

Discussions between the government and Bechtel on major infrastructure date back to 2020.

Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat said this month that the port study is expected to be completed within two months, after which the government will determine how to proceed.

The port is expected to support



Artist’s rendition of the proposed Guyana Port

Guyana’s planned second gas development, building on the Gas-to-Energy project at Wales. It forms part of the government’s wider infrastructure development plans for Region Six.

Guyana currently produces crude oil, but imports its refined petroleum products. Offshore production reached 900,000 barrels per day in November

2025.

President Ali has said a domestic refinery, together with expanded fuel-storage capacity, could strengthen Guyana’s energy security and eventually position the country as a supplier of refined products to the wider CARICOM market.

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Amerindian villages leading own development as \$41B invested over five years

A SINGLE guest cabin at Mainstay/Whyaka, an Amerindian village in Region Two has become three. The riverside lodge is filled most weekends now, and the profit has stretched further than anyone expected, financing repairs to other village buildings, upkeep for the school compound, and wages for the people who cook when guests arrive.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Browne-Shadeek, keeps coming back to Mainstay when she talks about her first year in office.

She said this is not because the numbers are the biggest, but because nobody in Georgetown told the village what to build.

“It’s a different village, different needs, different requests,” she said in an interview with the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Communities submit their own plans each year, an economic venture here, a cultural programme there, a recreation upgrade somewhere else, and the ministry funds what’s asked for.

“We just make the resources avail-



The Mabaruma Guese House in Region One

able and monitor,” she explained further. The money behind that principle is considerable.

More than \$41 billion has reached Amerindian communities over the past five years, and the ministry’s own budget now sits at \$7.5 billion. This increased from \$200 million when Carolyn Rodrigues first held the post in the early 2000s.

Of the recent totals, \$21 billion has moved through the Amerindian Development Fund, and \$14 billion more through the Low Carbon Development Strategy, which skips the ministry entirely and lands straight in village bank accounts.

What villages do with it varies. Mabaruma used LCDS money to build guest houses that are booked solidly on most weekends. Others wired every household in the community, bought furniture, or put the funds into poultry and farming.

A Village General Meeting decides, and the decision does not need the government’s approval.

The Community Support Officer programme, meanwhile, has trained more than 2,000 youths ranging small engine repair, shade house management, cosmetology, and other trades that stick.

Some have moved into healthcare work, teaching, the public service. The stipend went up to \$50,000 this year, and Santa Rosa is getting a rebuilt multipurpose centre with room for a beauty salon, a printing operation, and a recording studio.

Then there’s the Guyana Development Bank, where Indigenous youth can now borrow up to \$3 million. A decade ago, a village’s entire yearly allocation was a \$1 million presidential grant.

Minister Browne-Shadeek wants young people to pool that borrowing power into groups rather than chase it alone to invest in transportation ventures, especially, in places like Region Eight, where an ATV can be the only way in or out.

Not all of it comes down to money. The ministry is doing consultation on revisions to the Amerindian Act, and she’s careful about how she frames it: additions, not subtractions.



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Guyana’s exports to China are heavily dominated by petroleum

Guyana-China trade reaches US\$1.8 billion as exports hit record high

Trade between Guyana and China reached approximately US\$1.8 billion in 2025, with Guyanese exports to the Asian country climbing to a record US\$501 million, Prime Minister Mark Phillips has said.

Phillips disclosed the figures during a reception marking the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, describing 2025 as Guyana’s strongest year of trade with China to date.

“In 2025, two-way trade between Guyana and China reached approximately US\$1.8 billion, and Guyana’s exports to China grew to US\$501 million, our strongest performance in trade to date, which raised China to the eighth spot as our largest export destination,” Phillips said.

China also remained one of Guyana’s largest sources of imports.

According to Guyana’s Bureau of Statistics, the country imported US\$1.287 billion worth of goods from China in 2025, making China its third-largest source of imports behind Singapore and the United States.

Chinese goods accounted for 12.6 percent of Guyana’s total imports dur-

ing the year. Combined with the US\$501 million in exports cited by Phillips, the figures put two-way merchandise trade at approximately US\$1.79 billion.

The Chinese Embassy has separately cited bilateral trade of US\$2.89 billion for 2025, higher than the figures reported by Guyanese authorities.

Guyana’s exports remain heavily dominated by petroleum, which accounted for 88.4 percent of the country’s US\$20.14 billion in exports in 2025, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Phillips said Guyana’s rapidly expanding economy is creating additional opportunities for trade and investment with China as the government seeks to diversify economic activity beyond oil.

He identified infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and energy among sectors with further growth potential, while also pointing to opportunities for deeper cooperation in renewable energy, smart infrastructure, modern transportation and urban development.

Chinese Ambassador Yang Yang said Chinese companies had accumulated approximately US\$13 billion in

investments in Guyana by the end of 2025.

She cited projects including the Demerara River Bridge, six regional hospitals and the Aurora Solar Farm.

China also has a direct commercial interest in Guyana’s offshore oil industry through state-owned CNOOC, which holds a 25 percent stake in the Stabroek Block, the country’s main oil-producing asset.

17 children to undergo life-saving heart surgeries in Guyana

SEVENTEEN children with congenital heart defects are expected to undergo specialised, life-saving cardiac surgeries in Guyana later this month, as the government moves to eliminate the backlog of children awaiting complex heart procedures.

President Dr Irfaan Ali made the announcement on Saturday while engaging parents and several of the children who are expected to benefit from the programme.

The Government has engaged a specialised medical team from Apollo Hospitals in India to work alongside local healthcare professionals at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The 17 procedures are scheduled to be performed between September 28 and October 2.

President Ali said the initiative forms part of his government’s commitment to ensuring that Guyanese children requiring specialised cardiac interventions can access world-class care without families having to shoulder the burden of travelling overseas.

“One of the things that we promised every Guyanese is to invest in health-care, invest in world-class healthcare,” the President said.

He acknowledged the emotional and financial strain placed on families when children require complex procedures that are not readily available locally, noting that overseas treatment can involve significant expenses as well as challenges surrounding travel and visas.

Guyana blacklists more than 100 non-nationals amid illegal mining crackdown

More than 100 non-nationals have been blacklisted in Guyana as authorities intensify enforcement against illegal mining and efforts to ensure gold production is properly declared and sold through legitimate channels.

Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat said Wednesday that the action was taken over concerns about mining activities, including illegal operations and cases in which gold production was either underreported or not declared.

The increased enforcement has coincided with a significant rise in gold declarations in 2026, according to Bharrat.

“We have seen a significant increase in gold declarations in 2026,” he told the Department of Public Information.

The government has also expanded the network of authorized gold purchasing points as part of efforts to make legal sales more accessible to miners and strengthen oversight of the industry.

Guyana now has six Guyana Gold Board offices, up from three previously, along with four licensed gold exporters and between 60 and 70 licensed gold traders.

Bharrat said transactions involving the Gold Board and licensed dealers are recorded, while licensed traders are required to use official receipt books. The system allows authorities to trace gold from miners through the authorized purchasing and export chain.

“There is a good traceability system in place. However, you still have instances of people trying to break our



Guyana is intensifying enforcement action against illegal miners

laws,” he said.

Bharrat said enforcement is not limited to unauthorized mining but also targets the illegal sale and movement of gold and other illicit activities within mining districts.

He stressed that the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission remains

the sole agency responsible for regulating mining and issuing mining permits in the country.

In Amerindian titled areas, miners must first obtain a no-objection from the relevant village council before proceeding with the permitting process.

Bharrat said the government’s aim

is not to restrict legitimate mining but to ensure operators obtain the necessary permits, properly register their equipment and comply with the country’s laws.

“It is about ensuring everybody is in compliance with the law,” he said.

The World Guyanese Congress (WGC) is a federally incorporated non-partisan global organisation that represents the interests of citizens of Guyanese heritage around the world. The organisation focuses on the successful development of our communities globally with an emphasis on leadership development and collaborative activities in diaspora communities to strengthen the community worldwide.

The organisation is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and led by a Chairman and Executive Committee supported by an Advisory Council and various Committees as well as a Board of Governors that acts as ambassadors for the organisation. It has nine national and regional chapters:

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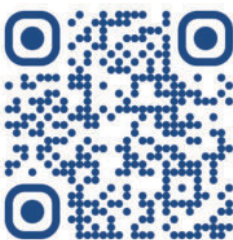
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To find out more about World Guyanese Congress and our goals and priorities. Scan the QR code, or visit www.wgc-org.com

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US EXIM backs Guyana’s transformational drive, deepwater port among projects discussed

THE United States Export-Import Bank (US EXIM) is deepening its support for Guyana’s development agenda, with financing and investment discussions ranging from the Gas-to-Energy Project Phase Two (GTE 2), a Deepwater Port, affordable housing and other major infrastructural initiatives.

The commitment was reaffirmed following a meeting between President Dr Irfaan Ali and US EXIM Bank President and Chairman, John Jovanovic, in New York, where the two sides reviewed Guyana’s transformative projects and the growing partnership between the country and the US institution.

President Ali, in a video posted to his social media, said US EXIM had demonstrated its continued commitment to Guyana’s development agenda, including by working with other international stakeholders to find solutions for existing projects.

He disclosed that the discussions included the completion of Gas-to-Energy Phase One (GTE 1), financing for GTE 2, and the involvement of US EXIM in a structure to facilitate invest-



President Dr Irfaan Ali and US EXIM Bank President and Chairman, John Jovanovic, in New York

ment in the Deepwater Port.

“US EXIM today has once again demonstrated its full commitment to this transformative agenda, and being part of some of our historic projects ahead of us,” President Ali said.

Dr Ali said the bank’s support was also expanding beyond the energy sector

into housing, security and other areas of national interest.

He also identified the proposed Amaila Falls hydropower project and the development of the Lethem Airport among the initiatives discussed as part of Guyana’s wider transformation agenda.

Meanwhile, Jovanovic said the partnership was being strengthened through Guyana’s engagement with US technology providers and companies, adding that US EXIM wanted to take the relationship to the next level.

He indicated that the completion of GTE 1 and the realisation of GTE 2 were particularly important to Guyana’s industrialisation plans, as reliable electricity and power generation would provide the foundation for economic transformation.

“The vision that you have for trans-

forming, industrialising Guyana all depends on reliable base electricity and power generation, so we want to ensure that serves as a foundational backbone,” he told President Ali.

Further to this, the bank’s chair pointed to the Deepwater Port and other critical infrastructural projects as areas where US EXIM would work alongside other international partners.

According to Jovanovic, the bank is also advancing an affordable housing construction project in partnership with US companies and businesses, reflecting what he described as President Ali’s emphasis on ensuring that major international partnerships benefit ordinary Guyanese.

He said the US viewed Guyana as an important partner in efforts to promote peace, prosperity and stability in the Western Hemisphere.

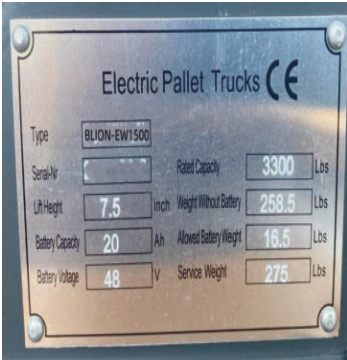


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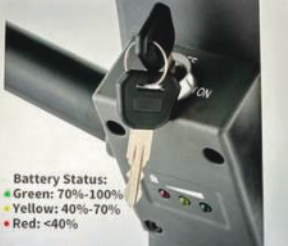
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Guyana records 271,000 visitors through July, targets 500,000 in 2026

Guyana welcomed more than 271,000 visitors during the first seven months of 2026 as the country’s tourism sector continues to grow, with the government aiming to surpass 500,000 arrivals by the end of the year.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues said the latest figures demonstrate continued momentum for Destination Guyana following significant growth recorded in 2025.

In an interview with the Department of Public Information (DPI), Rodrigues said July was particularly strong, with more than 45,000 visitors arriving during the month — the highest number ever recorded for July.

The minister attributed the sector’s performance in part to Guyana’s expanding calendar of events and continued investments in accommodation, infrastructure, training and capacity building.

Tourism has also been identified as an important component of Guyana’s efforts to diversify its rapidly expanding economy, with the government seeking to ensure that increased arrivals generate opportunities for communities and businesses across the country.

Rodrigues said the economic impact of tourism extends beyond hotels and other accommodation providers to farmers, taxi operators, restaurants, tour guides, artisans and entertainers.

“It is one thing to build the profile of your country internationally by increasing visibility and marketing of Destination Guyana, but the more important thing is expanding our economic diversification, promoting sustainability and ensuring that the benefits of tourism touches every single Guyanese,” she said.

The ministry is also seeking to expand community-based tourism, including through investments in smaller accommodations such as community-operated guesthouses and efforts to encourage more local entrepreneurs to participate in the industry.

Guyana is meanwhile preparing to host the Caribbean Tourism Organization’s State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) for the first time in October.

Rodrigues said hosting the conference reflects Guyana’s growing credibility and its rising regional and international profile as a tourism destination.

The government is optimistic that visitor numbers will accelerate during the remaining months of the year, particularly in December, which is traditionally Guyana’s strongest month for arrivals.

With more than 271,000 visitors recorded through July, the ministry is targeting more than 500,000 arrivals by the end of 2026.



Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Susan Rodrigues

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Guyana has enough water in spite of heat: Meteorologist

AS Guyana continues to prepare itself for what has already been a record-breaking El Niño season, Chief Meteorological Officer Dr Garvin Cummings is urging Guyanese to stay calm, noting that while heat remains a major concern for the Hydrometeorological Service, Guyana has stable access to water.

Answering questions and engaging in discussions during the 21st National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF), Cummings noted that rainfall in the first half of the year has ensured that Guyana's conservancies remain readily equipped, providing a stable water supply, while calling on the public to conserve water.

Speaking on Tuesday, Dr Cummings noted that Guyana saw consistent rainfall in the early months of the year, with March 2026 seeing some of the highest rainfall recorded in 2026. While Guyana is heading into drier months, Dr Cummings noted that the soil remains moist.

"We had a lot of rainfall for the first half of the year. We had some months, like March, that was really, really wet, for example. It means that the conservancies are at full supply level. It means that we have enough water to take us through. The soil moisture is pretty high, so from a crop perspective, there should be enough water to take us to the end of November," he stated.

Moving forward, Dr Cummings noted that the main aim remains on monitoring the rainfall for the rest of the year and heading into next year.

He shared, "What is happening apart from the temperatures is really not so much off the charts, because there is a good supply of water. We have enough water for the farmlands, we have enough water for foraging the livestock and the poultry and so on. So, the concern is not access to water," he said.

While Guyana has adequate access to water, Dr Cummings shared that managing and mitigating heat are the biggest challenges amid El Niño. He explained that with Guyana recording consistently warmer temperatures, greater attention needs to be paid to cattle and livestock.

"The problem is the temperatures. If we are not going back to that 27 degrees Celsius average temperature, and we stay at 30, then you have got to think about how the chickens are going to survive in the pen, or the cow and the sheep and so on are going to survive within that sort of temperature. Good water sup-



Guyanese farmers are especially susceptible to drought conditions

ply, but outside of the rainy season, the rainy period, the temperatures are still very high," he said.

In addition to the available water supply, Cummings noted that preparations are already being made to ensure farmers can access irrigation water if needed. He said the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) has already begun positioning mobile pumps to supply irrigation water to farm communities, villages and other areas in need.

Qatar "highly applicable" model for Guyana's gas-driven transformation – Ali

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has said Qatar's success in turning its energy resources into a diversified, industrialised economy offers valuable lessons for Guyana.

Speaking during a special interview on Guyana-Qatar relations, the head of state pointed to Qatar's use of natural gas to drive large-scale industrialisation and manufacturing. He also cited its investments in human capital, food security, education, tourism and sports.

The president noted that Qatar's citizen population is small, yet it has secured a strong position in the world. That is a story, he said, with many synergies with Guyana's own.

"Qatar really gives us that platform of partnership that understand the challenges of small population, but also converted those challenges into opportunities," the president said during a special interview on Guyana-Qatar relations. "That is why I see Qatar as a model that is highly applicable."

The Guyanese leader added that Guyana has even greater opportunities,

given its wide base of natural resources. These include freshwater, arable land and a diversified mining sector spanning gold, bauxite, diamond, sand and manganese.

The president said that, based on the advice received so far, the best option for Guyana is to bring its gas onshore and develop a downstream industry. He noted that the global energy matrix will eventually shift, and Guyana must start building for that now.

He rejected the view that the country should monetise its gas. He described that approach as "simplistic" and "a narrow view".

"We want to create long-term opportunity. We want to create opportunities for Guyana for the next 50, 60 years," he said. "We do that by leveraging this resource, creating value from this resource, and the value is created by the downstream industry."

President Ali outlined several industries the gas could power: an alumina plant to process local bauxite, a large-scale urea plant integrated with agriculture and distribution across the

Caribbean, hyperscale data centres and agro-processing, manufacturing and bottling.

These industries, he said, would in turn grow the transport and logistics sector, strengthen port activity and deepen connectivity with northern Brazil.

"That is why I believe gas is an important part of building out the energy sector through our own demand, creating home-based demand, local demand, by having the sophisticated investors coming in here...and create added opportunities for diversification and our long-term economic prospects," he explained.

Reflecting on his second state visit to Qatar, the president said Doha is ready to partner with Guyana at the government-to-government level and alongside the private sector. The two nations will work in the coming weeks to develop a national project framework identifying priorities.

Among the projects discussed is a deepwater port, being developed with Bechtel and expected to cost billions of

US dollars. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and US EXIM have all signalled interest in investing in the project.

According to the president, Qatar has also shown interest in several other areas: the energy sector, including distribution and transmission, infrastructure, agriculture, food security and hospitality, mining and additional offshore blocks, where it is already part of a partnership.

President Ali said Qatar has also provided some technical advice to Guyana, and its expertise in gas and downstream industries is critical to the partnership.

The president said the end goal of the transformation is a country where citizens can "aspire to be the best you can be without worrying about who is going to support those aspirations."

He described that future as one with free education and healthcare, and world-class health and education systems. It would also include zero corporate tax on agriculture and food production, and safe, clean model communities across the country.

GPL considers additional generation capacity as demand hits 255MW

THE GUYANA Power and Light (GPL) is weighing additional generation options as peak electricity demand reaches approximately 255 megawatts (MWs), leaving the utility company with limited reserve capacity to respond to further increases or disruptions.

GPL’s Chief Executive Officer Kesh Nandlall, during his appearance on the Starting Point podcast, said the utility currently has about 270 MW available through the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS), meaning the gap between available capacity and peak demand is relatively narrow.

“We have hit about 255 megawatts of peak demand, and we expect, and we have available to us about 270,” Nandlall said.

He explained that while GPL still has some additional generation that can be brought into service, this would not create the reserve margin needed to adequately cushion the system in the short term, particularly as demand continues to rise.

“We are currently looking at additional generation, immediate, immediate,” Nandlall said, while adding that a number of options are being considered.

According to the CEO, GPL is examining smaller generation units that could be installed at strategic points on the network, while also considering a larger generation solution.

This move comes as electricity demand continues to climb sharply.

Against this backdrop, Nandlall disclosed that peak demand stood at 125 MWsin 2020 before increasing to 221 MWs last year and approximately



GPL’s Chief Executive Officer Kesh Nandlall

255 MWs currently.

The customer base has also expanded from about 201,000 in 2020 to approximately 250,000, while increased activity in housing, manufacturing, hotels and other business sectors has added further pressure to the system.

Nandlall said that this rapid growth in demand has contributed to overloaded networks and transformers, with GPL crews working around the clock to address the resulting problems.

The company is also relying on

scheduled maintenance and additional generation measures to manage the system until larger projects come on stream.

Nandlall said GPL expects gas to energy to significantly strengthen available generation, with the first phase expected to eventually provide 300 MW. Based on the current plan, he said the 300 MW should be available by June next year.

However, he stressed that the increased generation would not immediately eliminate all power interruptions, noting that the transmission and distri-

bution network also requires significant investment and redundancy.

Against this backdrop, he disclosed that GPL is currently implementing an infrastructural programme valued at approximately US\$800 million, involving new substations, transmission lines and more than 200 kilometres of distribution feeders.

Nandlall said the infrastructural upgrades are intended to allow additional power to be distributed more effectively and to reduce pressure on existing circuits.

Guyana retains power to reject US migrants

Guyana retains the authority to reject any migrant proposed for relocation under a new migration cooperation agreement with the United States, President Irfaan Ali has said, insisting that the arrangement does not compromise the country's sovereignty.

Guyana recently finalized the one-year migration cooperation framework with the United States, with the first group arriving in the country on Sept. 4 through the International Organization for Migration's Assisted Voluntary Return Program.

Speaking during an interview with Al Jazeera, Ali said Guyanese authorities conduct their own vetting and have final approval over who is allowed to enter the country under the agreement.

“We can reject. We can say that we are not accepting this. That has not been taken away. The agreement is one in which Guyana has full control over what we accept,” Ali said.

All members of the first group were vetted by Guyanese authorities

and determined to have no criminal records before they were accepted.

“We do our vetting to our own satisfaction, and then we agree with the names,” Ali said. “This is not a situation where the US turns up with a plane and just show[s] people off on our shores.”

Under the framework, the U.S. government bears the full financial cost of relocating the migrants, while the IOM manages and funds their reception, housing, access to health care and other support services during their stay.

The Guyanese government has stressed that the arrangement is not a permanent resettlement program.

Those accepted under the framework are expected to remain in Guyana while their immigration status is determined. They could subsequently return to their countries of origin or relocate elsewhere.

Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud has said the agreement followed months of negotiations between

Georgetown and Washington.

U.S. Ambassador to Guyana Nicole Theriot previously said Washington was “grateful to Guyana for agreeing to assist us in resolving our migration issues.”

Ali also defended Guyana's broader treatment of migrants and its human rights record during the interview.

“We have exceptionally good human rights credentials,” he said, pointing to the country's record on Indigenous land titling and government funding for Amerindian communities.

The president said migrants already living in Guyana, including people from neighboring Venezuela and Cuba, have access to social services.

“We also have a lot of migrants coming into Guyana...from Venezuela, Cuba, wherever,” Ali said. “We treat them; they get all the social services, they get all [support] without exception.”



US deportees

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It generally means the seller is the mortgage lender (or someone acting on its behalf), because the previous owner defaulted on the mortgage.

In the Toronto/GTA market, data reported in May 2026 showed that power-of-sale transactions were approximately five times higher in 2025 than they were in 2022.

Example: A property is worth \$1M. The borrower owes \$600,000 on the mortgage and is unable to make the required payments. The lender puts the property up for power of sale at \$1M. A potential buyer makes an offer at a significantly lower price than the \$1M value. The lender is only entitled to receive the \$600,000 owed to them from the sale.

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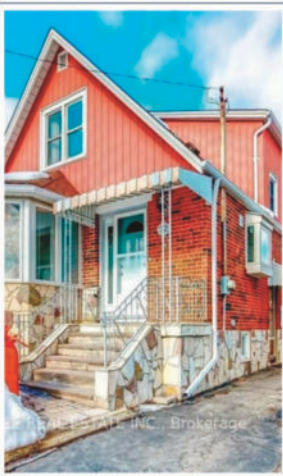
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PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has begun examining the structure of Guyana’s foreign exchange

Government assessing foreign-exchange demand concerns —President Ali says

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has begun examining the structure of Guyana’s foreign exchange amid concerns of rising demand within the local economy.

Dr Ali said during a recent press conference that he met with representatives of the country’s commercial banks and was informed that outstanding demand for foreign currency has climbed to just over US\$200 million.

According to the president, the banks reported that some of the demand represents a carry-forward from earlier months, as they have been unable to satisfy monthly requests amid the rapid expansion in economic activities.

“They estimate now, for example, their outstanding demand to date, as we speak now, is in the vicinity just over US\$200 million. That is what is in the system that is required now. So, they are looking at the structure of that demand,” the Head of State told reporters.

He said the analysis will also examine whether there are any “misdirection or financing of other operations” involving foreign currency in Guyana.

The president said the government is also examining the role of private-sector expansion in driving demand for foreign currency, including the extent to which increased demand is linked to legitimate business activity.

He disclosed that Asgar Ally is helping his office to analyse the structure of the demand, drawing on his experience and examining the increase in private-sector demand.

The president said the government will meet with the commercial banks again after his return from the United Nations to further assess the situation.

The development comes amid continued concerns over the availability of foreign currency in the local banking system, as businesses and other economic actors seek to meet growing demand.

Last year, Dr Ali had announced a series of immediate policy measures to strengthen foreign-exchange management and protect Guyana’s financial system, as the country faces unprecedented demand for U.S. dollars and a surge in credit-card transactions.

Those nine measures included:

Invoices Required for Forex Requests: Any request for foreign exchange at commercial banks must be accompanied by a copy of the commercial invoice.

Verification upon Arrival: Importers will be required to submit the invoice and bill of lading to the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) and their banks, once goods arrive, to verify that items were indeed brought into Guyana.

Conditional Access to Future Forex: If customers fail to submit verified documents, their subsequent requests for foreign exchange will not be processed.

Central Bank Clearing Window: Commercial banks will submit invoices and bills of lading to the Bank of Guyana for further verification through a newly established single-window system.

tem.

Credit-Card Restrictions: Personal credit cards must not be used to settle business obligations. “We don’t want somebody settling a US\$600,000 vehicle purchase for their company with a credit card,” Ali stressed.

Penalties for Inflated Invoicing and Capital Flight: Entities involved in over-invoicing, property transactions, or related-party transfers designed to move capital offshore will face penalties.

Declaration of Currency Sources: Persons leaving Guyana with foreign currency must declare the source, whether from banks or cambios, to enhance transparency.

hance transparency.

Local Bank Accounts for Oil & Gas Companies: All entities registered under the Local Content Law must maintain a local bank account into which foreign-currency earnings are remitted. “Local content legislation will be amended to reflect this,” Ali confirmed.

Central Bank Clearinghouse: A single-window post-clearing system will reconcile transactions among the GRA, commercial banks, and the Bank of Guyana before new forex requests are facilitated.

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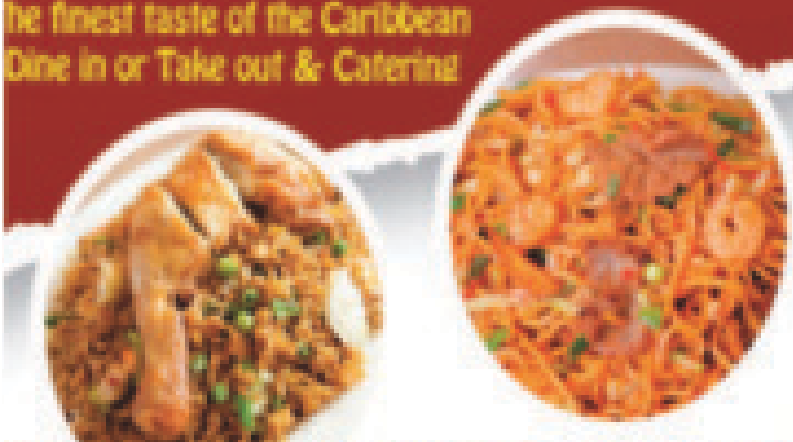
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Guyana expects ICJ ruling in Venezuela border case early next year

Guyana is expecting the International Court of Justice to deliver a ruling early next year in its long-running border dispute with Venezuela, with President Irfaan Ali expressing confidence in the country's case over the Essequibo region.

The case is now fully before the ICJ following the conclusion of oral hearings at the Peace Palace in The Hague on May 11.

“We are hoping that early in the new year, there will be a ruling at the ICJ; we are very confident,” Ali said in a wide-ranging interview with Al Jazeera.

Guyana's government said in June that all that remains is for the court to deliberate, draft its judgment and deliver the decision in a public session.

The ICJ has historically completed that process within six to eight months of the close of hearings, according to the government, placing a possible ruling between November 2026 and January 2027.

Guyana filed the case in 2018, seeking confirmation that the 1899 Arbitral Award establishing the boundary between then-British Guiana and Venezuela is valid and binding under international law.

The ICJ ruled in 2020 that it had jurisdiction over the case and rejected a further Venezuelan objection in 2023. The court has also granted Guyana's requests for provisional measures, most recently ordering Venezuela in 2025 not to conduct elections in the disputed Essequibo territory.

Venezuela has continued to reject the ICJ's authority over the dispute, maintaining during oral hearings in May



President Irfaan Ali

that its territorial claim predates and stands apart from the court process.

Asked about Venezuela's position, Ali said Guyana remained confident in its case.

“Those are words that we have heard many times, but we know the fact and the truth in relation to the 1899 [Arbitral] Award, and the court is going to determine the merits of words and facts,” he said.

Ali also said Guyana is prepared for Venezuela's response to the eventual judgment, regardless of whether Caracas accepts the outcome.

“I wouldn't say we are bracing, but we are prepared for any reaction to the court[’s] rul[ing]. We are very conscious of these words... notwithstanding the fact that Venezuela has participated fully in every aspect of the case before the ICJ,” he said.

Guyana has maintained that it will accept the court's final judgment as the definitive and peaceful resolution of the decades-old controversy.

Ali said that beyond the ruling, Guyana wants to turn its attention toward its future relationship with Venezuela and maintaining stability in

the wider region.

He said the focus would be on “building a relationship and ensuring that the region remains strong, stable, secure, and that both countries can advance its economic potential and opportunity in an environment that is free from fear.”

The president also pointed to the United States' role in supporting regional stability as the countries await the judgment, saying Guyana's relationship with Washington remains unchanged and based on principle.

United Oil moves closer to possible offshore drilling in JA

United Oil & Gas is taking another step toward potentially drilling for oil offshore Jamaica, commissioning a study to determine what equipment, costs and logistical support would be required for an exploration well.

The UK-based company has hired NRG Well Management to examine the availability and cost of offshore drilling rigs, equipment procurement timelines and the supply chain needed to support possible drilling in the Walton-Morant area off Jamaica's southern coast.

The study does not mean drilling has been approved or will definitely take place. Instead, it is intended to help United prepare for drilling if it secures an investment partner and receives the necessary approvals from the Jamaican Government.

United has been searching for a partner to help finance the costly drilling

phase of the project. The company has said its farm-out process — under which another company would invest in the project in exchange for an interest in the offshore license — remains ongoing.

The latest move follows years of exploration in the Walton-Morant area, where United holds a 100% working interest in a 22,400-square-kilometer offshore block.

United estimates that the area could contain more than 7 billion barrels of prospective resources. However, that figure does not represent a confirmed oil discovery. It is an estimate based on geological and seismic data, and drilling would be required to determine whether commercially recoverable oil is actually present. The new study will focus particularly on two potential drilling targets — Colibri and Thunderball.

United estimates that Colibri could

contain an average prospective resource of about 406 million barrels, while Thunderball could hold about 603 million barrels. Together, the two targets have estimated prospective resources of more than 1 billion barrels.

NRG will examine which offshore rigs would be suitable for the sites and how much they could cost to operate. Colibri is in water about 750 meters deep, while Thunderball is in significantly deeper water of approximately 1,900 meters.

The company will also examine how long it would take to obtain specialized drilling equipment and services, as well as potential supply and logistics support from Jamaica, the Gulf of Mexico, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad.

“This drilling study marks an important step in our operational planning to advance the Walton-Morant Licence

towards a potential future drilling programme. It will provide a current, market-based assessment of rig suitability, availability, commercial conditions, and the long-lead items required to drill Colibri and Thunderball or similar targets,” United Oil & Gas Chief Operating Officer Donal Meehan said.

“Colibri and Thunderball represent substantial exploration opportunities within the Licence, with a combined potential of over 1 billion barrels of mean prospective resources out of the 7 billion barrels of prospective resources identified on the licence to date,” he added.

“By undertaking this study now, we are positioning the Company for operational readiness ahead of future drilling, whilst providing valuable information to support our on-going work as we push to conclude the Jamaican farm-out process.”

Guyana oil exports top US\$15 billion in first half of 2026, economy grows by 33%

Guyana earned more than US\$15 billion from crude oil exports during the first half of 2026, as rising production and stronger oil prices fueled another sharp expansion of the country's petroleum sector.

According to Guyana's 2026 Mid-Year Report, total export earnings climbed 76.4% to US\$16.2 billion during the first six months of the year, driven largely by an 82.1% surge in crude oil earnings to US\$15.05 billion.

Oil export volumes increased 40% compared with the same period last year, while crude oil prices rose 28.9%.

Guyana produced 163.3 million barrels of crude oil between January and June, up from 115.7 million barrels during the corresponding period in 2025. Average daily production increased from about 639,000 barrels to approximately 902,000 barrels.

The increase came as four floating production, storage and offloading vessels, or FPSOs, operated simultaneously in the Stabroek Block for the first full six-month period following the start of production from the One Guyana FPSO in August 2025.

The government is now projecting petroleum deposits of nearly US\$6.5 billion for the full year, a 136.8% increase from the amount projected when the 2026 national budget was prepared.

Of the projected US\$6.4976 billion in petroleum deposits, US\$5.9725 billion is expected to come from the sale of Guyana's share of profit oil, while another US\$508.1 million is expected from royalties.

The upward revision reflects higher crude oil prices, increased production from the One Guyana FPSO and a larger number of projected profit-oil lifts.

The government had initially projected 309 profit-oil lifts from the Stabroek Block in 2026, including 40 allocated to the government. Updated estimates now anticipate 326 total lifts, with the government expected to receive 84.

Guyana's petroleum production is expected to expand further before the end of the year. The fifth FPSO, Errea Wittu, is expected to achieve first oil during the final quarter of 2026, while production from One Guyana continues to ramp up.



Oil exports have climbed 76.4% in the first half of 2026

Against that backdrop, the country's oil and gas sector is projected to grow by 24.2% this year.

Higher petroleum earnings are also expected to boost resources flowing through Guyana's Natural Resource Fund, or NRF. The government projects withdrawals of US\$2.3743 billion from the fund during 2026 in accordance with the NRF Act.

At the end of June, the NRF held a cumulative balance of US\$4.2942 billion, including US\$66.9 million in interest income, after US\$1.02 billion was withdrawn during the first half of the year.

The continued expansion of oil production has helped drive Guyana's broader economic growth. Real gross domestic product expanded by an estimated 33.3% during the first half of 2026, while the non-oil economy grew 10.1%, led primarily by construction, services and mining.

Overall economic growth is projected at 20.8% for 2026, with the non-oil economy expected to expand by 10.2%.

Exports outside the petroleum sector also increased during the first half of the year, rising 24.6% to US\$1.146 billion. Gold exports climbed by US\$269.8

million to US\$826.2 million during the period.

Meanwhile, Guyana's economy grew by an estimated 33.3% in the first half of 2026, driven largely by continued expansion in oil and gas, mining and construction, President Irfaan Ali announced Monday.

The country's non-oil economy also expanded by an estimated 10.1% during the period, marking a sixth consecutive year of growth following the contraction recorded in 2020.

"Our overall GDP grew by an estimated 33.3 percent in the first half of 2026. The non oil economy grew by an estimated 10.1 percent," Ali said during a news conference at the Office of the President.

The stronger-than-expected first-half performance has prompted the government to revise its full-year real gross domestic product growth forecast to 20.8%. The non-oil economy is projected to grow by 10.2% for the year.

Mining and quarrying recorded one of the strongest performances during the first six months of 2026, expanding by an estimated 40.7%.

Within the sector, oil and gas grew by 41.3%, while other mining activities, including sand, stone, manganese and

diamonds, expanded by 40%. Gold mining grew by an estimated 11.3%.

Construction, another major driver of Guyana's economic expansion, grew by 24.7%. The services sector expanded by 7.2%, while manufacturing recorded growth of 3%.

Ali said the expansion of industries across the country was creating jobs, generating income and improving economic opportunities for Guyanese.

"Industries lead to jobs. Jobs lead to more income. More income leads to better economic prospects. And that's how the economic cycle works," he said.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing collectively contracted by 0.5%, however, amid challenging weather conditions and higher transportation and input costs.

Several subsectors still recorded growth, with sugar production expanding by 19.3%, forestry by 15.4%, rice by 4.4% and fishing by 4.1%.

The country also recorded continued growth in lending during the first half of the year. Net domestic credit stood at \$1.286 trillion at the end of June, an increase of 15.5% compared with December 2025. Private-sector credit increased by 11.5%, while real estate mortgages jumped 21.2%.



Noel Tata (l) and N Chandrasekaran (r) are at the centre of the feud

India's corporate crown braces for upheaval amid boardroom revolt at Tata

This week, the board of Tata Sons - one of India's oldest conglomerates and owner of iconic British brands such as Jaguar Land Rover and Tetley Tea - defied its largest shareholder, Tata Trusts, by reappointing N Chandrasekaran as chairman and backing a public listing of the holding company.

Tata Trusts, which owns 66% of Tata Sons called the decision "illegal" under its articles of association and also opposed the listing, setting the stage for a period of prolonged upheaval and possibly a protracted legal drama at Bombay House, the headquarters of the 158-year-old company.

For the Tatas, who are no strangers to boardroom battles, a cloud of uncertainty now prevails at multiple levels.

The resolution to reappoint Chandrasekharan, while approved by the board, could be defeated at the company's Annual General Meeting as Tata Trusts is likely to vote against it, putting a question mark over his future.

The meeting has to take place before 31 December as per reports, after the previous one was adjourned for lack of quorum, but no new date has yet been announced.

"The Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) of the Board of Tata Sons which reappointed him has no power to take this decision. They can only make a recommendation. Also, their decision flies against the governance code of the company that requires executives to step down from active roles at 65. These are serious lapses," Nitin Potdar, a prominent Mumbai-based corporate lawyer told the BBC.

Chandrasekharan, who got a five-year extension, will turn 65 in 2028.

Tata Group stocks first soared and then crashed as the tensions mounted, reflecting hope and uncertainty about leadership and business continuity amid several high-stakes but loss-making bets by Chandrasekharan in sectors like semiconductors and airlines.

But beyond the leadership tussle, the bigger

question to contend with is the group's public listing, "which now looks increasingly inevitable", Nirmalya Kumar, who previously headed strategy at Tata Sons, told the BBC.

In 2022, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), classified Tata Sons as an "upper layer non-banking financial company" because of its systemic importance and investment activities. This created a listing obligation on the group.

Tata Sons sought to get out of this classification by repaying their debt and arguing that they do not borrow directly from the public markets.

But after sitting on its application for over two years, the RBI rejected the company's bid to get out of the framework earlier this month, pushing the group closer to a stock market debut.

In a statement, Tata Trusts reiterated its long-held opposition to going public and said "all available options and not a listing alone" are being explored even though its trustees are no longer unanimous in their position on the matter.

Potdar says the regulator has no power to force any company to go public and the issue will almost certainly be legally challenged by Tata Trusts. The RBI meanwhile has pre-emptively approached the courts seeking to be heard first in any matter related to the listing.

The issue has sharply divided opinion among corporate pundits.

Many in the group, including the late Ratan Tata and veteran director NA Soonawala, have long argued strongly for keeping the group private.

A publicly held Tata Sons could significantly reduce the control and special rights the Tata Trusts wield over the group.

They say the Tatas have a unique operating structure where the majority shareholder is a charity which uses dividends received from commercial arms to fund hospitals, universities and research. A listing, they say, will destroy its character by making it accountable to outside shareholders whose focus would be financial returns.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20): The Sun in your opposite sign means you will need to cooperate a lot more than you have been of late if you want to reach your long-term goals. No matter how energetic and enthusiastic you may be you can't do it all on your own.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21): You may or may not be a creature of habit but over the next few weeks you will accomplish more if you set yourself a timetable that will take you from where you are now to where you most want to be. Make that journey step by step.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21): With the Sun joining your ruling planet Mercury in the most creative area of your chart there really are no limits to what you can do. Aim high today and then aim even higher each and every day for the rest of the week.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23): It may seem as if everyone but you knows what is going on at the moment, but it probably isn't true. What is true, however, is that if you allow your emotions to make decisions for you today then you really will be out of the loop.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23): You will find it difficult to keep your nose out of other people's business today, which could lead to some interesting discoveries, but could also lead to you being unwelcome in social gatherings. No one likes it when their secrets are revealed.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): Financial matters are under excellent stars now and if you make an effort to sort out your cash situation today you will soon be in the money again. Take steps to maximize your profits and minimize your losses over the rest of the week.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): The Sun joins Mercury in your sign today and almost immediately you will notice that your thoughts are clearer and your words are sharper. Anyone who thinks they can bamboozle you with facts and figures is going to learn you are nobody's fool.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): There are a number of simple things you can do to make your life easier and the most important is to stop worrying about outside events over which you have no control. Put them out of your mind today and focus on what matters to you personally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): Everyone you meet over the next few days will be a potential ally, so ditch your suspicions and extend the hand of friendship every chance you get. If others want to be cynical that's up to them but you must think only the best of people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): Status and recognition mean a lot to you and now the Sun is moving through the area of your chart that governs how you interact with people in positions of power there will be opportunities aplenty to move up in the world. Start climbing today!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Something that did not interest you much before will suddenly become very important to you. The only danger is that you will dive so deeply into it that friends and loved ones may worry you are getting obsessive about it. Maybe you are, but it will be fun!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): You have a knack for knowing what makes people tick and that talent will come in useful over the next few days. It could certainly save you from taking the kind of bad investment advice that you have fallen for in the past. Keep your cash in your pocket.

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Trinidad PM warns wealthy, connected criminals will face prosecution as SOE ends

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has warned that wealthy and politically connected people involved in criminal activity will face the same treatment as other offenders as the country's state of emergency comes to an end.

In a statement posted on social media, Persad-Bissessar said her government is working with local and foreign law enforcement authorities to target drug trafficking and other organized criminal activity, including in some of the country's wealthiest communities.

"My Government is working with foreign law enforcement authorities and local law enforcement to ensure that the local drug mafia and those who believe they are untouchable because of their ill-gotten wealth will be prosecuted in the same manner as any other citizen," she said.

"The filthy, greedy Westmoorings, St Clair and Federation Park gangs who flood our country with illegal drugs and firearms that kill our children will be treated the same as any other gangs from Siparia, Arima or Laventille."

The warning comes as Persad-Bissessar confirmed that the existing state of emergency "is coming to the end of its authorised period."

The prime minister accused previous administrations of allowing what she described as a two-tiered justice system to develop over the past three decades,



Kamla Persad-Bissessar

in which ordinary citizens faced harsher treatment than wealthy or politically connected individuals.

"This occurred because of a two-tiered justice system where the average citizen was subjected to the heavy hand of the law, while the eat-a-food fake elite and politically connected received special privileges and treatment," she said.

Persad-Bissessar said her administration is working "to bring those days to an end," adding that everyone must now accept personal responsibility for their

actions.

She also warned that the end of the SOE would not mean a softer approach to criminal activity.

"Negotiating with or placating criminals only emboldens them to continue their criminal activities," Persad-Bissessar said. "Despite the end of the SOE, I remind you all that the cells at Teteron and MSP await you if your criminal behaviour continues."

The prime minister said her administration would continue to take "harsh

and brutal measures" against criminals who terrorize law-abiding citizens.

Her comments come as several people detained under Preventive Detention Orders during the SOE are being released ahead of its expiration.

Among them is 69-year-old businesswoman Star Sabga, whose attorney, former Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi, confirmed she was released last week.

Sabga, her niece Genevieve Hadeed and Hadeed's husband, businessman Dominic Hadeed, managing director of Blue Waters Products Limited, were detained in June in connection with an alleged plot to kill government officials, including Persad-Bissessar.

All three were placed under Preventive Detention Orders at Golden Grove Prison in Arouca on June 27.

The Hadeeds were released July 23 after Homeland Security Minister Roger Alexander revoked their detention orders. Sabga was placed under house arrest from July 27 until her release last Thursday.

Persad-Bissessar also announced that, on the advice of the attorney general, she had decided to declassify and release a report outlining wider operations undertaken by the protective services during the SOE to combat crime.

"These wider actions were carried out simultaneously during the SOE period while the main threat was being addressed," she said.

Caribbean diaspora sends \$728.6 billion home

Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the fastest growth in remittances of any region over the past decade, as the amount of money migrants sent home to low- and middle-income countries worldwide nearly doubled, according to a new United Nations report.

Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean surged 132% between 2016 and 2025, reaching \$168.6 billion last year, according to the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development, or IFAD.

Globally, migrants sent \$728.6 billion to families in low- and middle-income countries in 2025, a 94% increase over the amount recorded a decade earlier.

The growth far outpaced the 28% increase in the number of migrants from those countries over the same period, indicating that migrants are, on average, sending more money home.

Some 220 million migrants and members of diaspora communities now support an estimated 1.1 billion rela-

tives, IFAD said.

"This report is about financial flows of extraordinary scale. But more importantly, it is about families," Pedro de Vasconcellos, manager of IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances, told reporters at U.N. headquarters Monday.

Individual transfers are typically between \$300 and \$400 and are sent nine or 10 times a year, according to de Vasconcellos.

The \$728.6 billion sent home in 2025 was more than four times the amount of global official development assistance and also exceeded foreign direct investment to low- and middle-income countries.

The findings have particular significance for the Caribbean, where remittances remain an important source of income for millions of households and a major source of foreign exchange for several economies.

In Jamaica, remittances reached a record US\$3.49 billion in 2025, up 3.8% from US\$3.36 billion a year earlier, according to Bank of Jamaica data reported

by The Gleaner. Remittances were equivalent to about 15.3% of Jamaica's gross domestic product in 2024 and exceeded tourism receipts and foreign direct investment.

More recent data show that those flows have continued to grow in 2026. Net remittances to Jamaica rose 9.3% year over year to US\$292.8 million in June, the strongest monthly increase recorded during the first half of the year. Total inflows for January through June reached US\$1.78 billion, 4.2% higher than during the same period in 2025.

However, the increase has not been evenly distributed across the island.

The Gleaner reported this month that Jamaicans overseas sent US\$1.85 billion through remittance companies during the seven months following Hurricane Melissa, from November 2025 through May 2026, an increase of 7.7% over the same period a year earlier.

Kingston and St. Andrew accounted for US\$79.6 million of the US\$132.5 million increase — about 60 cents of every additional dollar sent to Jamaica

during the period. Remittance inflows to the capital climbed 11.8%.

That contrasted sharply with some of the western parishes hardest hit by Melissa. St. James, Hanover, Trelawny and Westmoreland collectively received US\$223.2 million during the seven-month period, an increase of just US\$9 million, or 4.2%.

St. Elizabeth, where Black River was devastated by the hurricane, recorded an increase of 4.1%, or US\$4.4 million. St. James, which includes Montego Bay, received US\$82.4 million — unchanged from the amount received during the seven months before the storm.

The geographic shift predates Melissa. Between 2021 and 2025, remittances collected in Kingston and St. Andrew increased 15.3%, while inflows to the rest of Jamaica declined 4.8%, according to the parish-level Bank of Jamaica data cited by The Gleaner.

The United States remains by far the most important source of remittances for Jamaica.

Jamaica finalizes procedures for US third-country national transit deal

Jamaica has moved closer to receiving third-country nationals from the United States after the two governments finalized operating procedures for a controversial agreement that will allow some migrants to temporarily transit through the island before returning to their home countries.

Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Senator Kamina Johnson Smith said Wednesday that the procedures establish the safeguards and parameters under the memorandum of understanding signed between Jamaica and the United States in June.

The arrangement will allow a maximum of 25 third-country nationals, or TCNs, to enter Jamaica every two weeks. The government has stressed that the individuals will not be permanently resettled in Jamaica and that anyone with a criminal record will be excluded.

“The arrangements were also finalized taking into account Jamaica's capacity constraints and our belief in the principles of safe, orderly and lawful migration,” Johnson Smith said during a post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House.

Despite the operating procedures now being completed, there is still no date for the first arrivals.

Johnson Smith said the International Organization for Migration, or IOM, is conducting its own assessment and has been working with the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency, the Ministry of National Security and Peace and other government agencies to ensure the necessary systems are in place.



Kamina Johnson Smith

Under the arrangement, the Jamaican government will receive the TCNs before transferring responsibility for them to the IOM, which will support them during their stay and arrange their return to their home countries through its Assisted Voluntary Return program.

The United States will fund the arrangement, with Johnson Smith emphasizing that the Jamaican government will not bear the cost.

The foreign minister also sought to distinguish the individuals from deportees, saying they are nationals of other countries who entered the United States illegally and are being assisted in returning home.

“This is a transit arrangement and one through which no criminals are to be sent,” she said.

The agreement contains several safeguards negotiated by Jamaica. In addition to the cap of 25 people every two weeks, the arrangement will be suspended if 10 TCNs apply to remain in Jamaica through asylum procedures or other humanitarian applications.

The government has previously said prospective arrivals will be subject to health screening, identity verification, criminal record checks and clearance from Jamaica's National Intelligence Bureau before being accepted. Jamaica also retains the authority to reject indi-

viduals proposed for transfer.

Johnson Smith again rejected suggestions that Jamaica had agreed to accept as many as 10,000 people, saying the limits were specifically negotiated because of the country's capacity constraints.

The MOU itself, however, will not be released publicly.

Johnson Smith said she consulted Cabinet colleagues and the U.S. government about releasing the document, but Washington did not agree to its publication.

“As indicated, this is not a unilateral arrangement; it is a bilateral arrangement,” she said, adding that the United States generally does not release such agreements.

She maintained that the government has disclosed the relevant and material provisions of the deal and said bilateral and security arrangements are treated differently under Jamaica's Access to Information framework.

The agreement has attracted scrutiny since it was announced in June, including questions about the number of people Jamaica could receive, how long they could remain and what would happen if they sought asylum. The government has repeatedly maintained that the program is a temporary transit arrangement rather than a resettlement program.

According to the government, Jamaica is among close to 30 countries participating in similar TCN arrangements, including several Caribbean Community member states.

Johnson Smith said Jamaica will continue working with the IOM/

SKN proposes new citizenship pathway for Diaspora

The St. Kitts and Nevis government is moving to expand citizenship eligibility for members of its diaspora, with proposed legislation that would create a new pathway for some second- and third-generation descendants born overseas.

The Cabinet has approved the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which is scheduled to be introduced in the National Assembly on Friday, Sept. 18. The bill would allow adults born abroad on or after Sept. 19, 1983, whose parent or grandparent became a citizen of St. Kitts and Nevis at independence, to apply to be registered as citizens.

The government said the proposed amendment is intended to address a 43-year gap in the country's citizenship laws affecting descendants of Kittitians and Nevisians living overseas.

Under the Constitution, a person born abroad can acquire citizenship by descent if a parent was born in St. Kitts

and Nevis. However, that provision has left some subsequent generations born overseas without a route to citizenship based on their family connection to the federation.

People born before independence are generally in a different position and may already be citizens under constitutional provisions.

The government said members of the diaspora have raised the issue for decades through correspondence, overseas missions and diaspora and family associations. The matter was also raised in a petition presented to the National Assembly in 2025.

Acting Prime Minister Dr. Geoffrey Hanley said the proposed legislation establishes a defined application process rather than providing citizenship based broadly on ancestry.

“This Bill corrects a gap that has existed since 1983 and our diaspora have asked for this for a long time, and this Administration has listened,” Han-

ley said.

Under the proposal, eligible adults would have to provide documentation establishing the relevant family connection and undergo security screening.

The government illustrated the change with the example of a person born in Bermuda whose mother was also born there but whose grandfather was born in St. Kitts. Under the existing constitutional arrangement, the person would not inherit citizenship through the mother because she was not born in the federation. The proposed grandparent pathway would allow the person to apply using records establishing the grandfather's birth in St. Kitts.

The amendment would also provide a route for some adults who could have been registered as children of citizens while they were minors but whose applications were never made before they turned 18.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is set to receive its first reading when

the National Assembly meets at 10 a.m. Friday.

If the legislation is passed, regulations will subsequently establish the application form, required documents and fees. The law would take effect on a date appointed by the responsible minister.

The government has advised potentially eligible members of the diaspora to begin gathering and certifying family records but not to submit applications until officials formally announce that the process has opened.



Jamaica plans new J\$8 billion maximum-security prison in St. Catherine

The Jamaican government is moving ahead with plans to construct a new maximum-security prison in St. Catherine, with the proposed facility expected to cost at least J\$8 billion.

State Minister in the Ministry of National Security and Peace Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn said preliminary work on the project has begun, although it remains in the planning stage.

The government has identified land in St. Catherine for the facility and established a committee to advance the project. Applications for the statutory approvals required for construction have also been submitted to the St. Catherine Municipal Corporation.

The proposed investment is estimated at between J\$8 billion and J\$10 billion.

According to Cuthbert-Flynn, the new prison is intended to replace aging correctional infrastructure and provide purpose-built facilities designed to improve security, rehabilitation programs



and operational efficiency, as well as working conditions for correctional officers.

“Jamaica will no longer rely on infrastructure designed by a bygone era,” Cuthbert-Flynn said while addressing the 14th annual conference of the Associa-

tion of Caribbean Heads of Corrections and Prison Services in St. Andrew.

However, construction has not yet started, and financing arrangements for the project have not been finalized.

Cuthbert-Flynn said the government has also not determined whether

the facility will be developed through a public-private partnership.

The proposed prison forms part of the government’s efforts to modernize Jamaica’s correctional infrastructure.

Oversight committee to examine school damage

Jamaica’s Ministry of Education has established a new oversight committee to monitor the repair and reconstruction of more than 300 schools severely damaged by Hurricane Melissa, with some rebuilding projects expected to continue into 2028.

Education Minister Sen. Dana Morris Dixon announced the Hurricane Melissa School Infrastructure Recovery and Resilience Oversight Committee during Wednesday’s post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House.

The committee will provide independent oversight of the government’s school rehabilitation and reconstruction program, focusing on accountability, quality assurance and transparency.

More than 300 educational institutions were severely damaged when Category 5 Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica in October 2025. While some schools require repairs, others must be completely rebuilt.

“For some of those schools ... it’s new build. The buildings don’t exist, so you’re starting from scratch,” Morris Dixon said. “Some of these [projects] are going to go into next year,



More than 300 schools were damaged by Hurricane Melissa

and some [of the larger ones] will [extend] into the following year.”

The committee has initially been established for one year and will provide the minister and the public with independent assessments of the recovery effort.

It will review progress reports from the National Education Trust and

the ministry’s Technical Services Unit, including information on project schedules, spending, construction quality, safety, defects and contractor performance.

Members will also be tasked with identifying delays, capacity constraints, unresolved approvals and other obstacles that could prevent

projects from being completed on schedule.

According to Morris Dixon, the committee will engage with contractors and other project partners through the relevant technical and contracting authorities to identify and address challenges.

It will also make recommendations on the sequencing of projects, corrective measures, contractor performance, quality improvements and risk mitigation.

Committee members are expected to conduct school visits, intervene where necessary and provide regular updates and recommendations to the minister and permanent secretary.

The committee is chaired by Rochelle Cameron and also includes Lyttleton “Tanny” Shirley, Rohan Grant, Vivette McIntosh Yates, Floretta Plummer, Dr. Elaine McCarty Nunes, Fabian Brown and Rayharna Wright.

“These are all individuals who are committed to Jamaica, committed to education, want to see this historic work happen and lead to the benefit of our children,” Morris Dixon said.



T&T PM warns another State of Emergency possible as new crime measures come

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar says she will not hesitate to declare another State of Emergency if serious security threats re-emerge, despite the passage of new legislation aimed at strengthening the country’s response to crime.

Her warning came after the Special Operations Bill was passed in the House of Representatives on Friday, September 18. The legislation is now before the Senate.

In a statement posted to social media, Persad-Bissessar described the recently ended State of Emergency as “highly successful,” saying 3,552 people were charged during the period.

“However, if serious threats to the safety and security of citizens re-emerge, I will not hesitate to put the country under another SoE,” she said.

The prime minister also issued a warning to people involved in organized crime and gang activity, saying the government would continue taking strong action against those responsible for violence and the trafficking of illegal drugs and firearms.

“I want the local drug mafia and the violent gangs to understand clearly that the cells at Teteron and MSP await again if you continue your criminal behaviour,” Persad-Bissessar said.

The Special Operations Bill provides a legal framework for joint operations involving the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and Defence Force, including provisions governing designated closed areas and military assistance to police. The legislation also requires joint protocols and separate standard operat-



T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

ing procedures for police and Defence Force personnel involved in special operations. It provides for annual reporting to Parliament on special operations and the provision of military assistance.

Persad-Bissessar said the bill is expected to pass in the Senate next week without amendments.

In her statement, the prime minister also accused the opposition People’s National Movement and some critics of the legislation of siding with criminal interests. Those claims were not accompanied by evidence in the statement.

The legislation has generated debate over the scope of the security pow-

ers it would provide and the safeguards governing their use. Persad-Bissessar maintained that her government would continue pursuing measures it considers necessary to protect law-abiding citizens. “My Government will continue to work in the best interests of our citizens,” she said.

CARICOM renews call for reparatory justice for slavery

CARICOM Secretary-General Dr. Carla Barnett has reaffirmed the Caribbean Community’s push for reparatory justice for the genocide and dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of Africans.

Barnett made the call during the opening ceremony of the Third CARICOM Regional Conference on Reparations, which began Thursday, September 17, at the Wyndham Grand Sam Lord’s Castle in St. Philip, Barbados.

The three-day conference, which runs through September 19, is being held under the theme “Reparatory Justice as the Coming Enlightenment” and brings together representatives from the Caribbean, Africa, the diaspora and international organizations.

The gathering comes months after the United Nations adopted Resolution A/RES/80/250 on March 25, 2026, which described the trafficking and racialized chattel enslavement of

Africans as “the gravest crime against humanity.”

Barnett said reparations extend beyond financial compensation and encompass recognition, accountability and transformation. She highlighted the revised CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice as a framework for addressing historical injustices and their continuing effects on Caribbean societies. She also pointed to progress made by the CARICOM Reparations Commission since its establishment in 2013 under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Hilary Beckles. Twelve CARICOM member states now have national reparations commissions or committees.

Barnett highlighted growing cooperation between CARICOM and the African Union, including the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted in 2025, as evidence of increasing international coordination around the reparations movement.

She also acknowledged the role of civil society, Indigenous peoples and young people in maintaining advocacy for reparatory justice across generations. The secretary-general said the Barbados conference provides an opportunity for participants to reaffirm shared principles, strengthen strategies and renew cooperation as CARICOM continues its campaign for reparatory justice.



Dr Carla Barnett



Grenada PM tells supporters to ‘get ready’ for general election

Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell has urged supporters of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) to prepare for the next general election, amid growing expectations that voters could head to the polls before the end of the year.

Addressing an NDC “mini-rally” on Sunday night, Mitchell called on party supporters to begin mobilizing voters by knocking on doors, ensuring people are registered and helping them identify their polling divisions.

“So when we leave here tonight... it is boots, boots, boots,” Mitchell said. “Thank you very much. I love you, and remember, get ready. The conch shell will blow.”

Mitchell has not announced an election date. Grenada's laws allow Parliament to be dissolved and an election called before the end of its five-year term.

The prime minister, who led the NDC to victory in the June 2022 general election, told supporters it was “clear you’re ready” and suggested the party was moving closer to election mode.

“Once you’re ready, and I’m ready, and we are ready, then it’s you, me, us ready,” he said.

Mitchell also said the NDC endorsed its 14th candidate over the weekend as it works to complete its slate for the 15 constituencies.

The NDC won nine of the 15 seats in the House of Representatives in the 2022 election, returning to power after nine years. The New National Party won the remaining six seats.

Mitchell expressed confidence that his party could make gains along



Dickson Mitchell shows off his voting finger after the previous election

Grenada's west coast, telling supporters in St. Mark and St. George North West that “deliverance day is coming.”

“Proper representation is coming. And we want to show you that when we say we will deliver, we deliver,” he said.

The prime minister also used the rally to highlight his administration's record, pointing to pension payments to public servants, twice-monthly salary payments and the introduction of a national minimum wage.

He also highlighted Grenada's falling unemployment rate, which declined from 16.6 percent in the second quarter of 2021 to 7.5 percent by October 2025, according to government figures. Youth unemployment fell from 42 percent to 20.2 percent over the same period.

“So when people are working, when the minimum wage is rising, poverty is going to crumble,” Mitchell said. “Poverty will decline. Dignity, re-

spect, economic growth will take place.”

Mitchell said unemployment had fallen among several demographic groups, including young women, who have historically recorded some of the country's highest unemployment rates.

The latest rally comes as political activity intensifies ahead of the next election. Mitchell has also said an election announcement will come “soon,” while the NDC has been developing its next manifesto and selecting candidates.



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Moqim breaks Kingsmen, Jangoo finishes job as Falcons lift CPL trophy

Sufyan Moqim produced a spell that will stand among the Caribbean Premier League's (CPL) greatest final performances, ripping through the Jamaica Kingsmen before Amir Jangoo and Hasan Nawaz completed a dominant chase to send the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons to their first CPL championship.

The three-year-old franchise sealed an emphatic eight-wicket victory at Kensington Oval on Sunday night, reaching 173 for two in only 16.4 overs after restricting the Kingsmen to 170 for nine.

Maaz Sadaqat had already made history by becoming the first batsman to score a century in a CPL final, but his extraordinary 114 from 58 balls could not withstand Moqim's intervention.

The left-arm spinner finished with a remarkable 4-14, the best bowling figures ever recorded in a CPL final, transforming a Kingsmen innings that had been threatening to explode into one that never quite recovered.

With Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne among a massive crowd at Kensington Oval, the Falcons then completed the job in devastating fashion.

The Kingsmen appeared to be building toward a total beyond 200 when Sadaqat and Saim Ayub combined for 80 from 46 deliveries.

At 110 for two after 11 overs, Jamaica was firmly in command.

Sadaqat had already reached his second half-century of the playoffs, bringing up the milestone from 27 balls with a two off Rahkeem Cornwall. He had arrived in the final carrying the momentum of his century against the Barbados Tridents in Wednesday's Eliminator.

Then came Moqim.

Ayub miscued a slog sweep and was caught at mid-on for 29. In the same over, captain Rovman Powell lasted only three deliveries before chipping the ball to Shamar Springer at backward point.

Suddenly, 110 for two had become 110 for four.

The collapse accelerated.

Shadab Khan removed Romaine Morris lbw for a duck in the following over, before Moqim returned to remove Hassan Khan for one and Keemo Paul for three.

By the 15th over, the Kingsmen had plunged to 127 for seven.

Moqim had changed the complexion of the final.

Yet the Kingsmen still had Sadaqat.

The young batsman responded to the collapse by taking complete responsibility for the innings, unleashing a succession of powerful strokes that



A&B Falcons celebrate after winning the CPL trophy

dragged Jamaica toward a defensible total.

His landmark moment arrived in the 17th over when he launched Joshua James for consecutive sixes before taking a single to deep cover.

The century came from 49 balls, a remarkable achievement in a CPL final, but there was no fairytale ending for the Kingsmen.

Sadaqat was dismissed from the penultimate delivery of the innings, caught by Springer at long-off for 114 from 58 balls, having struck nine sixes and eight fours.

His century had broken new ground in the competition.

But Moqim's four-wicket assault had already done the more damaging work.

Alzarri Joseph provided further support with 2-27 as the Falcons held Jamaica to 170 for nine.

The Falcons wasted little time in showing that 171 was within reach.

Rahkeem Cornwall attacked from the opening delivery of the reply, smashing Saim Ayub for two sixes and two fours in the first over before being bowled from the final ball.

Evin Lewis immediately kept the pressure on, striking Andre Russell for two fours before reaching another sig-

nificant CPL milestone.

His boundary against Ayub took Lewis to 3,000 CPL runs, while his aggressive start helped carry the Falcons to 30 for one after three overs.

Jangoo then joined the assault.

The wicketkeeper-batter punished Hunain Shah for two fours and a six as the Falcons raced beyond 50.

Jamaica appeared to have another breakthrough when Lewis miscued a pull and was caught at long-on. But the reprieve came when replay showed Russell had overstepped.

He drilled the resulting free hit for four before tearing into Ayub for two sixes and another boundary in a 17-run sixth over.

At the end of the power play, Antigua and Barbuda stood at 76 for one.

Vitel Lawes finally ended Lewis's assault in the eighth over, bowling him off the inside edge for 38 from 26 balls.

But by then, the Falcons had complete control.

Jangoo took charge of the chase, and Nawaz provided the finishing surge as the pair refused to give Jamaica another opening.

Jangoo remained unbeaten on 57 from 34 balls, hitting four fours and three sixes.

Nawaz finished on 47 not out from

35 deliveries, striking three sixes and three fours.

Together, they added an unbroken 89-run partnership from nine overs.

The final was over with 20 balls still remaining.

A championship built on two explosive acts

The final ultimately belonged to two very different individual performances.

Sadaqat produced the first century ever scored in a CPL final and almost single-handedly revived the Kingsmen after their middle-order collapse.

Moqim, however, delivered the spell that determined the contest.

His 4-14 dismantled Jamaica's momentum, leaving the Falcons with a target that their batting lineup attacked without hesitation.

Then Jangoo and Nawaz made certain there would be no late drama.

The result was a landmark night for Antigua and Barbuda: the Falcons, only three years into their existence, had climbed to the summit of the CPL.

Their maiden championship came through a final in which history was made at both ends, Sadaqat with the bat, Moqim with the ball, but it was the Falcons who walked away with the trophy.



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Monde Butter Coconut 椰子黃油餅乾
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Caribbean Delight Sun Dried Sorrel 100g 洛神花
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Redpath Dark Brown/ Golden Yellow Sugar 1kg 紅糖/黃糖
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Ajinomoto Seasoning 1kg 味素
Reg:\$8.99

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Viet Choice Rice Vermicelli 鮮米粉 375g
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lb

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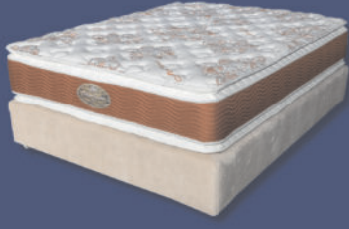
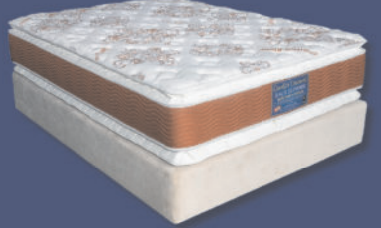
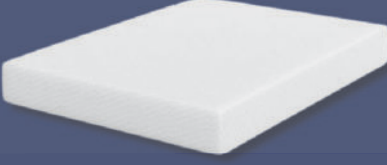
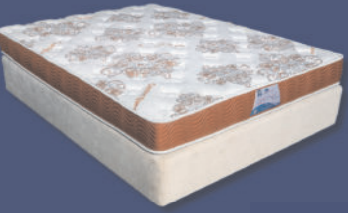
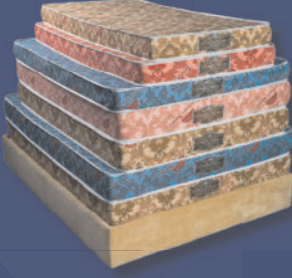
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