



Canadian
SUPERBILT
SHUTTERS
& **BLINDS**



We Sell Only The Best Brands
Motorized Roller Blinds & Shutters

HunterDouglas



MAXMAR
WINDOW FASHIONS

ALTEX

John Persaud, CEO C: (416) 239 - 2863 B: (416) 201 - 0109

sales@superbilt.com canadiansuperbiltshutters.com

KEEPING ALIVE THE TIES THAT BIND

NOW IN OUR 43rd YEAR: 1983 - 2025

INDO CARIBBEAN WORLD

Vol. 43 • No 3 • October 1, 2025 • Tel: 905-738-5005 • 312 Brownridge Dr. Thornhill, ON L4J 5X1 • indocaribbeanworld.com • indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com

Our Community Is Thriving!



The Boss took charge last weekend in Toronto. Written by Cherryll BTW and directed by THABITI, the highly-entertaining performance took place at the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate General on September 27-28 under the auspices of Consul General Simone Young. In photo, third from right, front row, is Consul General Young; fourth from left is Acting Consul General Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette, with supporters and members of the visiting ensemble The Tobago Drama Guild. *Photo by Russell Lutchman.* More on Page 10.



Toronto Arya Samaj honoured Janet Naidu (left) and Ramnarine Sahadeo on September 27 at its Dinner and Awards gala. The event celebrated achievement, service, and cultural heritage, recognising Naidu and Sahadeo for community service. More on Page 18.

One people, one diaspora, One Guyana rising together

— At a meeting with the Guyanese diaspora in New York on September 23, held alongside the 80th United Nations General Assembly, President Dr Irfaan Ali spoke of unity, transformation, and inclusivity, describing overseas nationals as indispensable partners in Guyana's development. His message reverberated across borders, resonating northwards with our Guyanese communities here in the GTA, and further abroad.

By Romeo Kaseram
An LJI Special Report

New York — “Guyana is no longer the land that people run from. We are now the land that people are running towards”, President Dr Irfaan Ali declared to applause, urging his diaspora audience to recognise both the pace of change at home and their essential role in shaping it.

Ali's remarks were made on September 23 in New York, where he and First Lady Arya Ali joined a packed diaspora reception during the government's attendance at the 80th United Nations General Assembly. The gathering of nationals abroad, alive with anticipation and nostalgia, provided the backdrop for Ali's call to reunion, revisiting, and renewal.

He opened by naming the “Guyanese spirit” as one of resilience, love, unity, and service, a spirit he argued was now shaping a new era of national transformation. He praised the People's Progressive Party/Civic's victory as a triumph over the politics of division, declaring that “the object of the future is a united Guyana, One Guyana in which all our people will shine.”

With that framing, he turned his full attention to members of the New York diaspora in the packed hall.

“Thank you for always helping and keeping Guyana alive in your hearts even while you have built lives in this great city of New York,” he said. His gratitude extended to those who had supported him politically as well as those who had not: “Because you too have a right, a sacred right – the right to choose who should lead you. And my government respects that right as being foundational to democracy.”

For Ali, remembering the past meant acknowledging dictatorship and despair, but not remaining captive to it. Instead, he urged a collective embrace of the future.

“That, my friends, is the essence of One Guyana. A new birthing, a new spirit of opportunity, one that benefits

See Page 16: Ali urges



Guyana's First Lady Arya Ali (left to right), with President Dr Irfaan Ali, and top chutney singer Terry 'Guyana Baboo' Gajraj, at the meeting with members of the diaspora, which was held in New York last week. *Facebook photo*

LIFE INSURANCE



Paul Ram,
Life & Investment Broker

MONEY FREEDOM INC.

AGE	\$100,000 M/F	\$250,000 M/F
30	10.00/09.09	13.73/11.70
35	11.00/09.90	15.30/13.05
40	12.78/11.70	19.13/16.43
45	16.02/13.59	25.88/19.80
50	22.05/17.73	36.88/26.65
55	27.27/20.43	56.03/40.95
60	39.69/28.62	88.65/61.43
65	62.28/43.20	142.20/94.50

Also offered: *Non Medical & Mortgage Insurance *No Load Funds *No Penalty RESP *Critical Illness *Universal Life *Dental & Drug Plans *Disability. (E&O)
Companies represented: Assumption, BMO, Canada, Empire, Equitable, Foresters, Industrial Alliance, Manulife, RBC.

Instant quote online: www.moneyfreedom.ca
Tel: 416.414.2204



ALI'S ROTI

* Eat In or Take Out * We also Cater

Specialising in West Indian Dishes - Trinidad Style Cooking

1446 Queen St. W. Toronto
(1/2 Block East of Lansdowne,
North side, W. of Dufferin)

Only HALAL Meat Served

Tel: 416-532-7701

Now two generations serving our community

JAY BRIJPAUL
416-418-BRIJ [2745]

ANJIE BRIJPAUL
416-745-2300



\$899,900

Sunlit Corner Suite!

Warm, sunlit 2-storey detached home, on desirable corner lot in family-friendly comm. Well-designed layout has laminate flooring, finished basement, & added space for entertainment, work, or guests. Master bedroom has own ensuite & walk-in closet. Private yard for relaxing, entertaining. Minutes from schools, parks, shops, transit, blending comfort, convenience, & charm – ideal place to call home!



\$799,900

Your Dream Home Awaits!

Perfect blend of comfort, sophistication & modern living in this maintained, updated home. Has 3+1 spacious bedrooms, 3 luxurious bathrooms for growing families & array of modern upgrades. Backyard is an oasis with underground wiring & certified outlets for a peaceful retreat to relax or to host gatherings!



FOR LEASE \$2,100

Stacked & Stylish

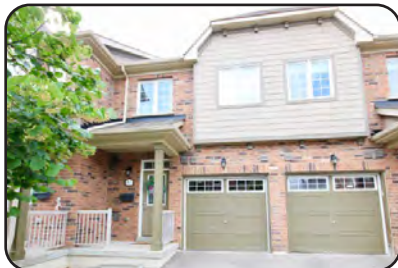
Well-kept 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom ground-level stacked townhouse in Brampton's sought-after Sandringham-Wellington area. Open-concept layout, no carpet, almost 530 sq ft living space for single professionals, couple. Near park, Trinity Mall, schools, transit, hospital, Highway 410, well-kept complex, low-maintenance living in prime location.



\$1,239,900

Elegantly Upgraded

Style, comfort, & functionality - 9-ft smooth ceilings on main floor, rich hardwood throughout, engineered hardwood in upstairs bedrooms. Pot lights on main floor, basement, bedrooms, & exterior, with motion-sensor driveway light. In kitchen: granite countertops, built-in microwave, oven, warmer. Central vac & floor pan. Designed for modern family living, entertaining.



\$799,000

Sleek & Spacious Stunner!

3-bdrm, 4-bath townhome blends style, space, unbeatable location. Bright open-concept layout with hardwood flring on mn & 2nd flrs - clean, modern vibe. Upstairs, spacious primary bdrm has walk-in closet & updated ensuite, 2 spacious extra bdrms - room for entire family. Prime Brampton area by schools, parks, shops, transit, & major hwys, a move-in-ready home!



\$885,000

Here's a Charmer!

Spacious, beautifully updated 5-level backsplit - space, style, functionality combined. Built as 5 bedrooms, made into four, offers extra room to relax & grow for busy family, multigenerational living. A spacious private corner lot, long driveway, lush greenery, rare oversized garage. Lots of space to host family gatherings, or to enjoy a quiet afternoon.



\$659,000

Style, Space, & Sunlight

Beautifully maintained, modern freehold townhome, spacious laminated main floor, large windows, cozy den with walk-out to private yard space & ensuites in both rooms! Upstairs enjoy bright, spacious living room, family-sized kitchen, abundant natural light! Rare layout enhances 2 primary rooms! Steps away from lake, Oshawa Centre, parks, public transit, amenities & more! Roof (2020), Furnace (2021).



\$1,539,000

Smooth, Smart & Rambling

Home will win you over when you step in. Airy, open-concept main floor welcomes with striking cultured stone accents in foyer & kitchen, setting tone for style. Rich Pergo laminate floors from room to room for a warm, cohesive vibe. In a peaceful, family-oriented neighbourhood, close to top schools, shopping, main highways. More than a home – a hidden treasure waiting to be uncovered.

TheBrij.com

3,500+ HOMES

* Sales mean both buyer and seller transactions from 1990 to 2016, Team Sales combined.

Jay Brijpaul, Broker, FRI

Direct: 416-418-2745 (BRIJ)

Office: 416-745-2300 ext 5292

96 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto M9W 1N7

RE/MAX

West Realty Inc. Brokerage
Independently Owned and Operated

The Brij Team

Anjie Brijpaul, MA
Broker

Office 416.745.2300

Fax 416-745-1952

anjiebrijpaul@gmail.com

Faith leaders, Toronto police build bridges of trust

By Romeo Kaseram
An LJI Community Report

He also spoke with heartfelt appreciation for Superintendent

On September 18 in Etobicoke, Chief Demkiw's words, and Brother Omar's blessed invocation, translated into action with media coverage showing religious leaders, officers, and the community walking shoulder to shoulder, building bridges through presence, prayer, and perseverance.



CMIC, VOV to hold Diwali Gala and Fundraiser 2025

For more information, call Rani Sethi, **416-930-8853** – email: rani@cmiccanada.com; Janty Ramkumar, **416-879-8805**; Radha Rajaram, **416-732-0604** – email: radharani.rajaram@gmail.com.

Unlock 100 Intriguing Tales Available in all formats

If you enjoy reading the 1,000-word supernatural short stories in this newspaper, you will discover more mysteries in the full-length versions of these stories in:

100 Intriguing Tales of the Unexplained

A portrait of a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored shirt and a patterned tie. He is resting his chin on his right hand, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light color.

100 Intriguing Tales of the Unexplained





This book is packed with ghost stories, scientific oddities, and unsolved enigmas. Every one of the 521 pages offers immersive and fascinating storytelling.

✓ **Click here to order book;**
✓ **also order here**

Available in hardcover, softcover, ebook, and audiobook, it's perfect for every lifestyle. Order now and explore the unexpected!

VEDIC BOOKS

- **Complete set of the Vedas**
 - **The Upanishads**
 - **Bhagavad Gita**
 - **Ramayan**
 - **Philosophy of Vedas**
 - **Vedic Thoughts**
 - **Vedic Vision - Sanskar Vidhi**
 - **Quest - The Vedic Answers**
 - **Vedic Marriage Ceremony**
 - **Introduction to the Commentary on the Vedas**
 - **Life & Teachings of Swami Dayanand**
 - **Light of Truth**
 - **Wisdom of the Rishies**
 - **Gems of Vedic Wisdom**
 - **Anand Gayatri Katha**
 - **Daily Prayer**
 - **Vedic Philosophy**
 - **Whose Wealth?**
 - **Mahabharata**
 - **... and many more**
- 
- 



Call AVM Bookstore
416-805-2685 or 905-824-2685



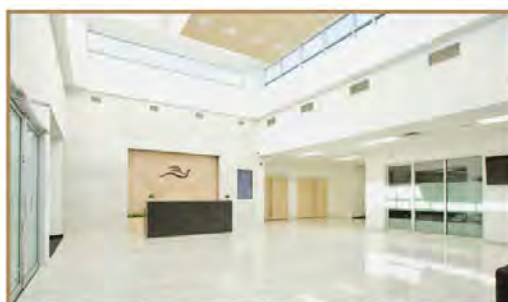
**AJAX | BRAMPTON
CREMATORIUM**
& VISITATION CENTRE
Compassion | Care | Convenience

**As the experts in funerals we can offer many options
that *fit your traditions*, wishes & budget**

Lock in funeral costs and protect against inflation and price increases.
Make decisions now and protect your family from the emotional
burdens of planning a funeral.



Ample Parking



State-of-the-art Facilities



Puneet Aujla
Chief Executive Officer

**Burlington Crematorium & Visitation Centre
Coming Soon...**

BRAMPTON
Crematorium & Visitation Centre



905-458-2222

30 Bramwin Court,
Brampton, ON L6T 5G2

AJAX
Crematorium & Visitation Centre



289-372-3300

384 Finley Avenue,
Ajax, ON L1S 2E3

Frequently Asked Questions

66

Why Choose Brampton or Ajax Crematorium & Visitation Centre?

- Serving families since 2012 with expert guidance for all faiths and traditions.
- State-of-the-art facilities, on-site crematoriums, and reception services.
- Assistance with CPP benefits and government paperwork.



66

What If I Travel Frequently?

- A one-time travel protection plan covers all transportation costs if you're 100km or more from home, including for a partner or dependent.



66

Why Pre-Arrange Your Funeral?

- Reduces stress and financial burden on loved ones.
- Locks in today's prices to avoid future inflation.
- Ensures your wishes are honored.

66

Can I Transfer My Pre-Arranged Funeral to You?

- Yes! Contact Brampton (905-458-2222) or Ajax (289-372-3300) for seamless assistance.

66

Do You Offer Repatriation Services?

- To the Caribbean: Full management of permits, flights, and documentation.
- From the Caribbean: Coordination with local authorities and return to Canada.

66

What Sets Us Apart?

- Cultural Understanding: Honoring traditions.
- Comprehensive Facilities: On-site crematoriums and spacious receptions.
- Affordable & Transparent: Flexible options since 2012.
- Community Trust: Compassionate care for over a decade.





Marking 30 years of faith and service, the United Muslim Association (UMA) in Etobicoke celebrated its mosque and community building with members, friends, and dignitaries. UMA President Imam Jabar Ally reflected on the organisation's journey in fostering prayer, learning, and compassion; also in attendance were Honorary Consul Mani Singh and Toronto Consulate staff, who participated in recognising UMA's enduring role in Toronto's Muslim community. In photo, at centre, Singh with UMA members, family, and friends. *Facebook photo*



A Queen's College reunion took place at the Avenue Restaurant in Toronto late last month that included One Love Family Services' leader, Habeeb Alli, (right in top photo), Syed Hyderali (top right, back row) from New York, and attendees from Toronto. Also, One Love recently collaborated with Service to Humanity, and the People's Progressive Party/Civic in Guyana to donate backpacks for its back-to-school drive. In photo below, in Guyana for the donation were One Love's Ali Shaw (left to right), Lenox Shuman, who also donated backpacks, and Service to Humanity's Shanta Youngkam.



Led by its President & CEO Wendy Beckles (second from right), Sheppard Village Inc recently hosted MP Jean Yip, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility; MPP Raymond Cho (second from left); MPP Aris Babikian (at right), and Raghav Monga for MPP Andrea Hazell on a tour of its facilities. The event saw the visiting officials meeting with residents and staff during LTC Community Engagement Day.



Union, government, and community leaders gathered last month to honour Chris Campbell's retirement after 30 years of trade union leadership. Campbell, who made history as the first Black president of Carpenters' Union Local 27, was praised for his work in creating opportunities for the marginalised. Among those celebrating Campbell's stellar career was Ontario Associate Minister Charmaine Williams, MPP for Brampton Centre, who lauded his trailblazing efforts with official recognition and personal, heartfelt thanks. In photo, MPP Williams presents Campbell with official recognition from Ontario's provincial government.

KISSOON Law Office

NEW LOCATION

Suite 304 1 Greensboro Drive
Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 1C8
(Near 401 & Kipling Avenue)



**Dhaman Kissoon's
Areas of Practice:**

- CRIMINAL LAW
- IMMIGRATION LAW

Lawyers available for referrals
Family Law, Real Estate
Law, Corporate Commercial
Law, Personal Injury Law,
Civil Litigation

Tel: 416-234-1446
Fax: 416-234-0154
Email: dkissoon@bellnet.ca
Website: www.kissoon.ca

Editorial

Guyana rebuilding

For decades, Guyana’s narrative was cast in depar- tures. Villages emptied as our families sought dig- nity and stability elsewhere, our footsteps leading from Berbice to Liberty Avenue in Queens, from Essequibo to Albion Road in Etobicoke. We spoke of Guyana in the past tense, our nation remembered more than lived.

But last week in New York, President Dr Irfaan Ali offered a striking reversal: “We’re no longer the land that people run from. We’re now the land that people are running towards.” His words, lifted up on applause from a room crowded with members of the diaspora, rippled north to Scarborough, Brampton, Mississauga, and throughout the GTA. They touched the old ache of leaving, making resonant new stirrings in us of returning to the homeland.

Ali’s speech was not delivered to the United Nations alone; in this case, it was delivered to a united nation, One Guyana, aimed at Guyanese abroad who continue to keep the homeland alive in memory and conversation.

Ali’s central claim was that our diaspora is not a sen- timental audience, but a vital partner in the national transformation now gathering pace. The moment is con- sequential: Guyana, once overlooked, is today a reference point in global debates on food, energy, and climate secu- rity. His call was not for applause and approval, but for participation.

His invitation rests on three themes. The first is unity. Invoking his vision of One Guyana, Ali spoke of democra- cy reclaimed, of division and despair rejected. In thanking not only his supporters but also those who voted against him, he signaled that transformation must be anchored in respect for choice.

The second is tangible, measurable change. Infrastructure once imagined is becoming visible: the new Demerara Bridge is almost ready; negotiations are under- way for crossings at Berbice and Corentyne, and tens of thousands of new homes. For diaspora families anxious about health emergencies, Ali pledged a “world-class” sys- tem anchored by foreign partnerships and new hospitals.

Education is being reshaped through new schools, digital classrooms, a commitment to universal secondary access, and 40,000 scholarships under the GOLD program.

The third is inclusion. Ali was insistent that transfor- mation cannot rest only on steel and concrete, but on the foundation of people. Women are promised expanded child-care facilities, relief on essential health products, and stronger protections from violence. The elderly are offered raised pensions, telemedicine clinics, and mobile health units. Youth are promised free education, sport infrastruc- ture, and entrepreneurial support.

These pledges mirror the intergenerational reality of diaspora households abroad: grandparents, parents, and children, each receiving recognition in the national story.

Woven into this new fabric of nation building was pride. Once forced to explain “where Guyana is”, our dias- pora now hears the homeland being spoken of as a leading light. For those of us who left decades ago, such recogni- tion is not trivial; it is light at the end of the tunnel.

Skepticism, of course, lingers. We recall promises unmet. Ali confronted this directly: “You don’t have to take my word for it... this is development happening in real time.” Bridges built, pensions raised, jobs created, all visible markers that the present differs from the past.

His speech closed where it began, with the image of return. “Come home. Come and see for yourselves,” Ali urged. Homecoming need not be permanent; it could mean investment, mentorship, a season spent renewing ties. The message was unmistakable: Guyana’s ascent will not be sustained by those at home alone, but also by we who left decades ago, and now choose to reconnect.

For our diaspora, the decision is before us; that to remain spectators would be to miss the turn of history. Guyana’s narrative has shifted from loss to renewal; its next chapters await contributions being written in Georgetown, Toronto, Brooklyn, and Berbice. What was once a land of exodus is now one of return and possibility; it is our home- land calling us back to rebuild.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of this publication. Letters to be published will be edited where necessary. Publisher: Harry Ramkhelawan Editor: Romeo Kaseram Columnists/Writers/Photographers: Vidur Dindayal, Kamil Ali, Dwarka Laxhan, Dhanpaul Narine, Ryan Singh, Nalini Mohabir, Ramesh Ramkalawan, Russell Lutchman. Contact Information: Indo Caribbean World Inc. 312 Brownridge Drive, Thornhill, Ontario. L4J 5X1 (905) 738-5005; indocaribbeanworld@gmail.com Website: www.indocaribbeanworld.com

New improved ICCA food drive issues call to Share Yuh Rice

In a few short weeks, families will gather for an annual tradi- tion – Thanksgiving dinner. It is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for, and to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives.

In many households, keeping with tradition, a baked turkey will be the centre-piece of dinner.

In Caribbean households, it might be a bit different. Maybe mutton curry with dhal and rice, or chow mein, fried rice, fried chicken, and even pasta.

Whatever is on the menu, the annual fall fest is a prime time to be with family and friends. Perhaps, “even knack wan drink or two”; or maybe more.

The food will bring us together, give us a reason to pause, celebrate, and share moments of joy with each other.

As we do this, enjoying our annual favourites or Caribbean classics, many in our community may not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving in a similar fashion.

The latest *HungerCount* report from Food Banks Canada shows usage has reached record highs across Canada.

In 2024, nearly two million Canadians visited a food bank in a single month, up 30 percent from the year before.

Food bank rates in Toronto are not a cost for services, but a measure of record-high demand, with 3.49 million client visits in 2024, nearly four times pre-pandemic levels.

More than one in ten Torontonians now rely on food banks to meet basic needs.

The growing food insecurity crisis is a worsening problem that has been augmented by rising food prices, economic insta- bility, and insufficient wages to cover basic needs, impacting millions of Canadians – many from the Caribbean community.

Food insecurity and food bank use are significantly higher in racialised communities, caused by systemic barriers like low wages, inadequate social assistance, and higher rates of poverty.

Newer immigrants also experience elevated rates of food bank use, facing challenges with employment, language, and social support.

Earlier this summer, the Indo-Caribbean Canadian Association (ICCA) launched a new and improved food drive program – the *Share Yuh RICE* (Raising Indo-Caribbean Essentials) Food Drive.

Share Yuh RICE was established on the mandate to encour- age our community to think about those in need, and to ensure



Ryan Singh

that Caribbean essential food products are available in local food banks.

Most of us have probably donated to a food drive before. A box of KD, cans of beans, or jars of tomato sauce.

Traditional non-perishable foods are helpful and go a long way to supporting individuals and families who receive support from food banks.

But stop and think. If your family had to rely on food banks, would those traditional foods sat- isfy your appetite?

As mentioned, many of us will soon be enjoy- ing large meals, and that includes Caribbean favourites.

At the core, food is important to us, and our own food is sacred. This is why we encourage everyone to consider donating Caribbean-specific non-perishable food items.

Simply think about what you enjoy eating. Think about what reminds you of home. Imagine providing that joy to another person or family.

Share Yuh RICE asks that you literally share your rice.

In June, ICCA launched five permanent drop-off boxes at locations across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Today, we operate seven locations, receiving items daily.

Our team of volunteers routinely picks up items and delivers those to local food banks that we identify to serve Caribbean clients.

Connecting the donations made to the community is vital to the success of the food drive, and we remain committed to ensuring the food is delivered to trusted community partners.

And when we sit down for Thanksgiving, ICCA will launch our Holiday Blitz – over 20 donation locations across the GTA from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

The holidays bring us together, they bring warmth and joy, so we ask that you help to share this with our neighbours and friends who need support this holiday season.

And don’t worry. If you don’t have time to make a physical contribution, we will do the shopping for you! We accept direct monetary contributions by EMT to finance@indocaribcdn.com for the food drive.

Our volunteers will purchase products on your behalf, and we will deliver them to a local food bank. We’ll even send you a receipt so you can see how your donation is working.

For more information about the *Share Yuh RICE Food Drive*, please visit indocaribcdn.com/fooddrive.

Cold water ripples on shore, ink gets washed away by time

It felt like a small ripple, almost nothing at all, when it hap- pened. I held the door for an older woman as she exited the office where passport photos were being taken. She paused and said, “You’re already here?” I was puzzled at her familiarity. Then she explained, “I thought you were the taxi driver.”

The moment was an insidious ripple on a morning beach; not a crashing wave, just an unexpected wash, cold fingers of water touching the toes. It disturbed me. I had been ‘mis-seen’.

Ironically, in her gaze, I was not a citizen arriving at the national, level playing field for a passport photo; not even a neighbour heading to the line-up; instead, reduced to a role, a function. A “taxi driver”, the gaze not penetrating beyond the epidermal; instead, invoking the ste- reotype of immigrant labour, an entire body reduced to service.

I smiled, surprising even myself. It was a smile that was both shield and silence. A shield, to not be dragged into an argument about self-assertion; silence, because smiling erased the sting only on the outside, but as we all know, never within.

Then later that week, yet another ripple, this time at the public library. I approached the circulation desk with a book in hand, saying, “I’d like to renew my book at your desk. I can use the self-checkout, but I’m being nostalgic for when books had pockets, with a grid where the due date was stamped in ink.”

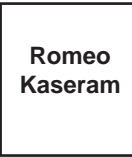
The young woman’s face was itself a book with blank pages. That analog world was foreign. Instead, she became overly accommodating, even patronising: “You don’t have to use the self-checkout if it makes you uncomfortable. You can always come to the desk if you can’t use the computer.”

I did not say I was incapable. I said I was remembering. But nostalgia was misread as incapacity. In her eyes, I was not a patron choosing one form of ritual over another. I was someone older struggling to keep up. Another ripple: not racialised this time, but generational. Not a taxi driver; instead, digitally deficient.

Both moments seemed trivial. Yet when I set them beside each other, they no longer felt so light. This is how easily our declared selves can be overwritten by someone else’s script. At the passport photo office, my presence was reduced into labour; at the library, my recall of the analog was displaced into incom- petence. In both cases, I declared my presence, asserting who I was; yet was told, in subtle ways, that I was someone else.

The anguish is not in the scale of the slight – it is in the rep- etition, albeit with different flavours. Ripples accumulate, and as we know, a beach is never still. These everyday encounters carry the weight of the older tides that took us to these shores.

Franz Fanon once wrote of being “sealed into crushing



objecthood” when looked at through the colonial gaze. His moment of realisation in being pointed at on a train in Lyon haunts me like my repetitive, rippling waves.

Then Homi Bhabha reminds us of ambivalence, the not-quite colouration in misrecognition that simultaneously includes and excludes. My smile at the passport photo office was caught in that third space, neither affirmation nor refusal.

And then we have the library with its neo- liberal commons now offering us the sleek self- checkout as individualised progress, efficiency, inevitability, and automation that are forcing us to leave behind human interaction and shared rituals.

Our modern-day click-and-scan world has long erased the old stamped grid inserted before the back cover in library books. That grid was once a small map of shared belonging: one book, many hands, a lineage of due dates inked across months and years. To read its contours as a text was to reaffirm the com- mons, an inked, inscribed assertion that knowledge was shared.

But today, nostalgia has little place in the neoliberal script. Better to read it as deficiency: recalling the past means you cannot keep up, therefore you must be shunted to the margins.

If one anecdote speaks to colonial residues that follow us into the diaspora, the other speaks to modernity’s rush to automate us out of our own memories. Both incidents were modes of “mis-seeing”. Both episodes cast us into roles we do not choose.

And here is our shared truth: where the ripples meet, “other- ing” does not always arrive with a shout. It arrives with a polite remark at a government desk, with a smile of pity across a circu- lation counter. It arrives wrapped in the language of helpfulness. It arrives almost innocuously in ripples, not heaving waves.

Perhaps that is why the anguish lingers. A crashing wave we might resist with force. A ripple we endure, half-believing it is too small to matter. Yet the water is cold all the same, and a chill runs up the legs and ices the heart.

I think again of the stamped grid, faded now into memory. Then it was only a pocket of cardboard and a rubber stamp, yet it marked us as participants in a cycle larger than ourselves. Every book carried its public history, inked in a hand that belonged to no single reader. I see now that its erasure is not just about efficiency. It is also about invisibility: to make shared history disappear, and to reshape us into solitary barcodes.

Our task will always be to call out the ripples for what they are; to show how small displacements echo larger tides. And to remember that beneath the polite surface of everyday life, the undertow is always there ready to sweep us away to the margin.



David Dabydeen



Maria Kaladeen



Mark Tumbridge



Amar Wahab

Remembering the cultural luminary, philanthropist, and iconic Ameena Gafoor

Dear Editor,

It is now over a year since Dr Ameena Gafoor passed away on August 26, 2024. Gafoor was an iconic Indo-Caribbean woman who was born in Guyana in 1941.

From humble beginnings, she rose to become a cultural luminary, researcher, writer, publisher, and philanthropist.

She published a major work titled *Bibliography of East Indian Writing, 1838-2018*. Her fictional memoir *Lantern in the Wind* was published in 2020.

Ameena was the founder and editor of *The Arts Journal*. An historic 13 volumes were published between 2004 and 2018. Not since the pioneering literary journal, *Kyk-Over-Al*, has such a monumental publishing project in the arts been undertaken in Guyana.

Gafoor was conferred with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Guyana in 2022. Vice-Chancellor Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin and Ameena's husband, Dr Sattaur Gafoor, were present.

In 2020, she established the Ameena Gafoor Institute for the Study of Indentureship and its Legacies (AGI), the only such body in England and Europe.

Under the Directorship of Professor David Dabydeen, AGI works closely with the University of Cambridge. The Cambridge Visiting Fellowships in Indentureship Studies began last year, the very first such posts anywhere in the world. We of the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre (ICC) are pleased to have partnered with the Ameena Gafoor Institute in hosting some of our virtual programs.

The following are excerpts from an ICC Thought Leaders' Forum held on September 8 last year. The ZOOM program was chaired by Shakira Mohommed and moderated by Shalima Mohammed, both from Trinidad. There were four speakers in the program. The topic was *An Iconic Indo-Caribbean Woman - Dr. Ameena Gafoor: Her Life and Legacies*. [Click here to go to the unedited recording of the program.](#)

Time to make cricket a family affair again

Dear Editor,

I remember the days of my youth in Guyana when my father would give me season tickets to see the cricket greats of the 1970s.

He would take me to the pristine and prestigious Georgetown Cricket Club Ground (Bourda). He would leave me there all day and return after work to take me home.

I would sit in the Bourda south stand with my little blue transistor radio listening to Tony Cozier and Joseph "Reds" Pereira call the game ball by ball.

I saw the likes of Ian and Greg Chappell, Jeff Thompson and Denise Lillee, the great Vivian Richards, Alvin Kallicharan, and Clive Lloyd.

Not forgetting the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Colin Croft, Joel Garner, Andy Roberts, and Michael Holding. Later, Malcolm Marshall was added.

Cricket was not only fun, but a serious game. My friends and I would stay up until 1:00 a.m. listening to the Packer series in Australia.

Then we knew more about cricket without



Ameena Gafoor

Professor David Dabydeen said: "Ameena Gafoor's legacy is the Ameena Gafoor Institute which was co-founded by Ameena Gafoor and her three sons. The Institute's website is comprehensive and is renewed on a regular basis; it is not a static website. The website contains the most comprehensive bibliography on Indentureship that exists. It has about 2,000 views a month. The *Journal of Indentureship* comes out twice a year and it has thousands of readers because it is open access, and it is free to everyone.

"I think that shows you something of the potential readership and audience for Indentureship studies and its legacies. I thank Ameena Gafoor for having that Vision in 2020-2021 to establish the Institute. She did not want it named after herself. Ameena being completely modest, meek and kind, said, 'No, don't name it after me.' I said, 'No, it will be named after you.'"

Professor Amar Wahab said: "To give you a snapshot of the kind of work that Mrs Gafoor has made possible by the decision of one person, to say 'Yes! I will support. I will fund an Institute'. It opens up possibilities for all types

TV and the Internet.

I recently signed up for the cricket channel and watched the CPL. I was disappointed with the level of cricket that was played.

What I saw was mediocre cricket from the batting to the bowling to the fielding. I saw cricketers who already had their bat raised, ready to hit the ball even before it was delivered.

Gone are the days when one tapped the bat at the crease, reading the line and length of the ball. The basic *yorker* seems unplayable. The middle order batsmen crumbled like dominoes.

We need to bring back the glory days of cricket. It is a sport that can truly unite the country.

I was proud to see so many Guyana flags being waved. Let us make cricket a true family affair. I'm sure a lot of revenue was made by the franchises and businesses.

But the real losers were the fans.

Daniel Singh, Guyana, via email.

of impacts to begin to happen and to have radical change where it actually begins on the ground, and then it begins to spread laterally and begin to draw many people into its orbit."

Dr Maria Kaladeen said: "I want to acknowledge the considerable impact that Ameena Gafoor had on my own professional life. I had the opportunity to meet Ameena once at the 2017 conference held at Senate House in London to mark 100 years since the abolition of Indentured labour in the British Empire. The memory of meeting with her has stayed with me because of her total humility for everything that she achieved; her openness and the rapt attention she gave each speaker during the conference.

"It was abundantly clear that she was wholly invested in the work that we were all doing. As a relatively new researcher, her financial commitment to the creation of a space where scholars of indenture could come together and share their work was inspiring.

"Ameena Gafoor has, to my mind, secured the study of Indentureship for another generation, and is both a mother to that next generation and a scholar working within the system. I am endlessly grateful both to her and to her family."

Dr Mark Tumbridge said: "The first thing to say is that all of her writing is beautifully written; when you read Ameena, it reads really well. There is not any sort of sentence that is awkward or clunky. Her style is very polished; the sentences really trip off the tongue; very easy to read. I am just going to read one sentence from *Lantern*, Page 16: 'Not a single star could be detected in the pitch blackness of the eastern sky; no fireflies dancing under the calabash tree, only the haunting perfumes. Jasmine ... queen of the night wafting in the pre-dawn breeze and the whining of a hungry mongrel somewhere in the night.' I thoroughly recommend you to get hold of a copy and read it."

Dr Kumar Mahabir, Executive Director, Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre, via email.

AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE



The Caribbean Children Foundation

Angel Gala

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2025

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM

WOODBINE BANQUET HALL, 30 VICE REGENT BLVD

ETOBICOKE (HWY27, SOUTH OF REXDALE BLVD)

TICKETS: \$75.00

☐ NEW FOR 2025: ELEGANT SIT DOWN DINNER

☐ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RAFFLE PRIZES ☐ CASH BAR

☐ FORMAL ATTIRE

Twitter  Hashtag #TCCFAngels

visit tccfangels.com

FOR TICKETS AND INFO CONTACT:

Jay: 416-418-2745 • Ojha: 905-672-2287 • Vic: 647-280-6712

Jankie: 905-303-5817 • Kumar: 416-498-9962 • Ray: 416-278-9302

Amit: 647-703-1283 • Donna: 416-741-4970 • Deeka: 416-281-5525

Guyana can become a successful blend from other global economic pioneers

Dear Editor,

Guyana is now not only growing fast, but we are more well-known around the world. Our oil discoveries have given us a fiscal cushion that few countries enjoy. But our population is small, our skills' gap is wide, and our low-lying coast demands urgent investment in sea defences, drainage, and power before we invite thousands of new residents.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel. Other countries have pioneered pathways that balance opportunity with safeguards. New Zealand, for example, tightened its investor programme by requiring capital to flow into productive businesses, not passive real estate.

Thailand has built flexible long-stay products that range from affordable short-term "nomad" visas to premium tiers with multiple privileges. Malaysia's MM2H programme uses a tiered approach that welcomes retirees and middle-income investors alike. And Singapore's Global Investor Programme is highly selective, attracting only those who commit to deep ecosystem building.

Each of these models offers lessons. Guyana can adopt the flexibility of Thailand, the accessibility of Malaysia, the prudence of New Zealand, and the selectivity of Singapore, but scaled to our size and conditions. We need a programme with three clear tracks: one for remote workers, one for skilled and trades professionals, and one for serious investors who will create jobs.

The Remote Worker Visa can attract Canadians, Americans, and Europeans who earn their income abroad, but wish to live and spend locally. Thailand's success shows that such workers stimulate restaurants, rentals, and tourism without straining the job market.

For Guyana, the key is clear tax rules and renewable two-year permits that ensure foreign income circulates here without confusion or abuse.

The Skilled and Trades pathway is perhaps the most urgent. Our hospitals, construction sites, and ICT firms struggle to find enough trained hands. New Zealand's skilled residency model proves that structured, multi-year permits can bring in workers where shortages are real. Guyana can adapt this by prioritising nurses, welders, electricians, and coders, while guaranteeing



New Demerara Harbour Bridge

apprenticeships so our own youth are not left behind.

The Investor track must be carefully designed. We cannot open the floodgates to speculative land purchases that drive up housing prices. Instead, we should follow Singapore's example: channel funds into accredited projects that strengthen our economy: eco-tourism lodges, renewable power, broadband backbones, and resilient housing.

Smaller investors could start with \$100,000-200,000 in approved projects, while larger investors could scale to multi-million-dollar anchor ventures.

But a residency programme without infrastructure is a house without foundations. We must deliver reliable broadband to pilot towns like Bartica and along the Demerara corridor. We must finish the new Demerara River Bridge so commutes are predictable. We must expand garbage collection, drainage and sea defence so coastal housing is clean and safe. And we must stabilise power through the gas-to-energy project and community microgrids. Only then can residents and newcomers live and work securely.

This sequencing is vital. First build the places to live and

the networks to work, then invite the world in. If we launch too soon, without resilience, the result will be congestion, blackouts, and discontent. If we plan carefully, Guyana can become a magnet for digital professionals, skilled trades, and investors who want to grow with us.

The benefits reach far beyond oil. Each remote worker brings new spending to local restaurants and tour operators. Each skilled worker helps build the schools, clinics, and bridges our people need. Each investor who puts capital into broadband or eco-lodges helps make Guyana a tourism destination, not just an oil state. A stronger tourism industry, in turn, spreads jobs into every village and riverine community.

Guyana has always been a crossroads of peoples and cultures. Now we can be a crossroads of talent, skills, and investment. By blending the best of New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore into a uniquely Guyanese programme, we can strengthen our economy, diversify our future, and show the world that this country is not just a place to drill oil, but a place to live, work, and thrive.

Dr Walter H. Persaud, Guyana, via email.

Chapel Ridge

Funeral Home & Cremation Centre



in partnership with







Vilo
Licensed Funeral Director
(416) 993-0826



Christeen
Licensed Funeral Director
(416) 258-6759



Indra Seelal
Funeral Director Assistant

Complete Funeral Package Pricing \$4395.00 Includes HST

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE

- Same Day Funeral Service with 1 hour visitation prior to service, including all professional fees and preparation
- Batesville Grey Doeskin Casket
- Cremation and Witnessing Fee at North Toronto Crematorium or St John's Dixie Crematorium in Mississauga
- Coroner, Death Registration and BAO Fee

Not included: Flowers, Limousines, Clergy or Musician Fees, Urns

Facilities with Crematorium and Chapel on-site also available in Mississauga



2 Stalwart Industrial Drive, Gormley
(close to Highway 404 and Stouffville Road)

Newly built large Chapel with Crematorium on-site - everything in one place!

8911 Woodbine Ave., Markham (4 blocks north of Hwy 7)
info@chapelridgefh.com • www.chapelridgefh.com

905-305-8508

info@northtorontocrematorium.com
www.northtorontocrematorium.com

289-578-1288

8 indocaribbeanworld.com | October 1, 2025

Mani Singh

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

“The King of the Jungle”

Residential & Commercial Real Estate Specialists



Mani Singh
Sales Representative

647-274-4172

Email: manisinghhomes@gmail.com

- ★ It's the Experience that Counts!!
- ★ Members of RE/MAX Hall of Fame!
- ★ Winner of the RE/MAX Lifetime Achievement Award!
- ★ Father & Son Professional Real Estate Team
- ★ When Experience and Professionalism matter to you



Tej Singh
Sales Representative



www.manisinghhomes.com

RE/MAX[®]

West Realty Inc., Brokerage

Bus: 416-745-2300 • ReMax West Realty • 96 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto, ON M9W 1N7

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS!



CG Young (right) with Acting CG Ramsubagh-Mannette; in photos, the cast and the audience at the performance. Photos by Russell Lutchman



Tobago's The Boss takes charge on Toronto stage

— The Tobago Drama Guild's fourth tour to Toronto brought the vibrant spirit of Tobago's theatre to the diaspora, as its tragic-comedy *The Boss* filled the Consulate General with energy, laughter, and resonating applause.

...
Toronto – The Tobago Drama Guild's return to Toronto last weekend drew rousing applause as it staged *The Boss* at the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate General.

Presented under the auspices of Consul General Simone Young, the two-day event showcased the Guild's latest tragic-comedy, written by Cherryll BWT and directed by THABITI. The performance, held at the Consulate General, was greeted with what Cherryll later described as "tremendous support" from the Toronto diaspora.

She noted that the reception in Toronto was one of approval and approbation, underscoring the enthusiasm of audiences who have welcomed the Guild over multiple visits.

This year marked the company's fourth visit and staging in Toronto, strengthening ties between artists in Tobago and the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in Canada.

Cherryll also expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the role played by the Consulate General in Toronto, noting the efforts of Consul General Young and Acting Consul Tracey Ramsubagh-

Mannette in ensuring the performances were a success.

"The Consulate General did all it could to make this event happen," Cherryll said, adding, "The office assisted with the marketing, especially reaching out to patrons, and advising us on how to navigate the space at the Consulate itself."

For Consul General Young, the partnership with the Guild was both natural and necessary. Speaking with *Indo-Caribbean World*, she highlighted that the Tobago Drama Guild, now celebrating its 26th anniversary, "continues to be a proven avenue for the theatre arts in Tobago", and for young people who are aspiring to enter the thespian field.

She also emphasised the broader importance of the Consulate General supporting groups like the Guild, which she described as forging vital cultural bridges.

It was important for the Consulate General to support the Guild in its work to open opportunities and expand options for promising thespians in dramatic arts, she declared.

Consul General Young underscored that the Guild's presence in Toronto represented more than a theatrical tour; that it symbolised an enduring cultural connection. With its origins rooted in Tobago, the Guild's performances brought Caribbean stories, humour, and creativity to audiences abroad, offering a bridge between the homeland and the diaspora, she said.

SHIPPING
WEEKLY TO:
ANTIGUA, ARUBA,
BARBADOS, DOMINICA,
GRENADA, GUYANA, JAMAICA,
ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT,
AND TRINIDAD

R&S Cargo Express Inc.
Air Land Or Sea We Deliver For Less
2715 Rena Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4T 3K1

WESTERN UNION
MONEY TRANSFER

JUMBO BARRELS NOW AVAILABLE!

SPECIALS TO GUYANA
SHIP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS
PLEASE CALL FOR PRICES & SPECIAL RATES
WE SHIP FOR LESS
CHECK THE OTHERS AND COMPARE

Shipping all personal and household items to your destination in 6 weeks or less!

905-677-6400
rscargoexpress.ca rscargoexpressinc@yahoo.ca

VISITING GUYANA SOON?
FOR AN ENJOYABLE STAY
FURNISHED
2-BEDROOM SUITE
ALL AMENITIES INCLUDED
LOT 128 NEW ROAD,
VREED-EN-HOOP
WEST COAST
DEMERARA GUYANA
CONTACT:
416-738-8078

Mother, educator, advocate: Bibi Ali's nurturing hands cross borders

– For Bibi Shariman Ali, the September 1 re-election of her son, Guyana's President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, felt less like a surprise than destiny fulfilled; it was an achievement shaped by ancestral resilience, enduring family values, and her quiet philanthropy across Guyana and Canada's diaspora communities.

...

An Ongoing Diaspora Feature Series

The general election held in Guyana on September 1 delivered a resounding victory for the People's Progressive Party/Civic and a second term for Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali as Guyana's President. But while the scope of President Ali's victory may have been a surprise to some, it was not to his biggest supporter – his mother, Bibi Shariman Ali.

"From a very young age Irfaan was interested in public service, and helping to make life better for other people," says Bibi Ali, adding, "He worked hard to get a good education, and the necessary experience to be a good leader for the people of Guyana. And he has always conducted himself with integrity, honesty, and humility as President. This is why I believed the people of Guyana would return him to office."

While Bibi Ali is too humble to take any credit for her son's success, it is clear that he learned from an exceptional role model in his early life.

Native to Leguan Island in the Essequibo Region, Bibi Ali has spent most of her life quietly helping others succeed through her work as an educator, curriculum developer, policy maker, and children's rights advocate in both the private and public sectors. And with the support of husband Mohamed Osman Ali, she has raised two successful sons: Mohamed Aqtar Ali, and Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali, with whom she shares a close bond and similar values grounded in the Islamic principles of human dignity, self-reliance, social justice, and equality.

Bibi Ali credits her ancestors for instilling in her, and in both sons an independent spirit, a strong work ethic, and a selfless approach to life.

As she notes, her maternal ancestors go back five generations to her great-great-grandmother, Gulzari Zurawan, who left India in 1893 for Guyana with six family members after her husband's death.

"Indentureship was difficult for everyone, and it must have been even harder for a single mom of five children," she says, adding, "But Gulzari had the courage and determination to make a better life for her family in Guyana, despite the personal sacrifice it required. I am proud that Gulzari is my ancestor and humbled by what she achieved."

Bibi Ali says she saw those qualities in her Nani, Jameran Dildar, and her mother, Hafezan Ayube, and she has tried to incorporate them into her own life, beginning at a young age.

"As a child growing up in the countryside of Leguan Island, I had my share of household chores," she says.

She recalls, "These included fetching water for the family, going to catch fish with my father, bringing meals to him when he worked in the backdam, and cleaning the house. I also walked long distances to school. This prepared me to work hard, live with little, be respectful, help others, and love family."

These qualities helped her succeed in a number of roles, including as a young teacher at the Western Hogg Island School, where in 1973 she began a 49-year career in education.

"I was just 16 years old when I was offered my teaching job at Hogg Island," she recalls.

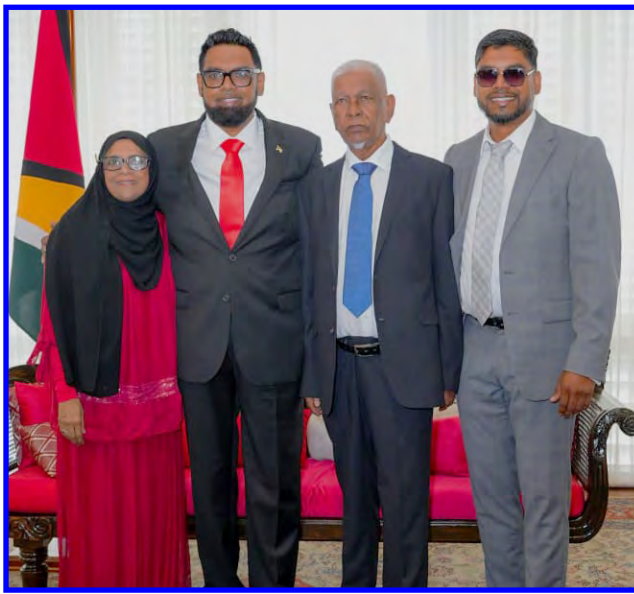
Additionally, "Friends warned me that it would not be an easy assignment, especially with the harsh terrain and simple living conditions in the area. But I was not deterred by the challenge then, nor any that followed. Resilience is a quality that runs in our family."

Four years later she completed her Teachers' Training, and moved to Cornelia Primary school, then later to Leonora Primary, after which she went to Leonora Secondary on the West Coast of Demerara.

In 1996, she went to work at the National Educational Resource Centre in the Test and Curriculum Development unit at the Guyana Ministry of Education. She was then promoted within the ministry, eventually retiring as Deputy Chief Education Officer of Development.

In addition, from 2008 to 2012, she was a member of the Children's Rights Commission of Guyana.

After her retirement from the Ministry of Education in 2012, Bibi Ali became a Research Assistant at Trent University



The Ali family (left to right) mom Bibi, son President Ali, dad Mohamed Osman, and son Aqtar



Community Food Drive food boxes donated to the Empowered Life Church, a religious group distributing food hampers to the needy; second, left, Winston Kassim; sixth, left, Bibi Shariman Ali; seventh, left, Kamen Kassim; and far right, OGF's Jerry Karamat



Winston Kassim (left to right), Dr Doobay, Leonard Secharan, Bibi Shariman Ali and Mohamed Osman Ali at the acceptance ceremony during the donation of an ambulance by York Region to the Doobay Gafoor Medical and Research Centre of Guyana

in Peterborough, Ontario. A few years later, she was appointed Principal of Brock Elementary School in Pickering, which under her guidance from 2014 to 2022, became one of the leading Islamic private schools in Ontario.

During her time in Ontario, Bibi Ali met a number of Guyanese-Canadians who were leaders in their fields.

The Guyanese diaspora in Canada is more than 100,000 strong, and their contribution to their adopted country has been huge. These contributions include leadership in the arts, business and community sectors, where the efforts of Guyanese-Canadians have helped to improve the lives of thousands of people in Canada and their native Guyana.

In particular, she collaborated with two leading Guyanese-Canadians here in the GTA: Vishnu Mandir's leader, Dr Budhendranauth Doobay; and Winston Kassim, a retired bank executive and community leader.

Dr Doobay and Kassim are the only two Guyanese Canadians who are recipients of Canada's highest civilian honour – the Order of Canada. Similarly, both leaders are also recipients of Ontario's highest honour, the Order of Ontario.

Their exemplary work in the community, particularly in Guyana and with the Guyanese diaspora in Canada, appealed to Bibi Ali, and she soon joined them as a patron and fund-raiser

in support of many charitable initiatives.

One of these initiatives was helping the Doobay Gafoor Medical and Research Centre (DGMRC) in Annandale, Guyana. The DGMRC is a registered not-for-profit organisation which provides specialised health care services (including dialysis) at affordable costs, promotes educational awareness, and conducts research.

Thanks to her efforts, the needy in Guyana benefited from nearly 1,000 life-saving dialysis sessions at reduced prices.

She also participated in a special event in Toronto to thank York Region for donating an ambulance to the DGMRC, where her presence also helped to create greater awareness of the clinic's work in Guyana.

"Mrs Ali was and remains a tireless advocate of our work in Guyana," says Dr Doobay.

He adds, "She encouraged many individuals to donate directly to our charity in support of the expansion and maintenance of our medical centre."

Bibi Ali's charitable work extends into other worthwhile spheres as well. She served as a patron to help raise funds to address food insecurity in the GTA during the winter of 2024 under the auspices of the One Guyana Forum (Canada), and in cooperation with the Canada Guyana Chamber of Commerce, Global Medic, and various churches, mosques, and temples.

"By having Mrs Ali as our patron, we were able to attract support from key community organisations and large corporations, which enabled us to raise more money and help more people," explains Kassim.

In total, through the efforts of Bibi Ali and her colleagues, the Community Food Drive was able to raise enough money to help more than 10,000 needy people, many from the Guyanese diaspora, by providing them with large food hampers filled with a two-week supply of food.

She has also been involved in donating wheelchairs to people in need.

"Through her sincerity and integrity, Mrs Ali was able to recruit many friends and colleagues to donate directly to our charitable efforts," recalls Kassim, adding, "But she did so modestly, never seeking recognition or praise for her selfless work."

Kassim adds that Bibi Ali's humble approach to her charitable endeavours reminds him of the Muslim Hadith (saying): "The left hand shouldn't know what the right is doing."

"While Mrs Ali has done a great deal of charitable and community work in her lifetime, she has always done so with great discretion and has never sought recognition for her efforts," Kassim declares, further noting, "This is an example of the integrity with which she approaches everything she does."

Since returning to Guyana, Bibi Ali has been a part-time lecturer at the University of Guyana, and has continued with her charitable work, including helping to facilitate the construction and repairs of homes for poor people impacted by natural disasters.

In reflecting on her long and successful career and life, Bibi Ali notes there are a few achievements that stand out as being the most rewarding.

Among what stands out, she says, are raising two children with the support of a loving husband, serving as role models, and instilling in them the principles of human dignity, self-reliance, social justice, and equality.

"Even though teachers don't get rich from our profession, we do get rich by seeing our students grow and succeed," she adds.

Also, "The same applies to being parents. Osman and I take satisfaction in knowing that our sons, Aqtar and Irfaan, have taken their place in society and become such good people."

As for being the mother of the President of Guyana, she says the fact that someone from the countryside, whose parents were teachers, could still reach the nation's highest office is encouraging and humbling.

"I am proud of what Irfaan has accomplished so far in moving the country forward, and in his desire to make living conditions better for everyone regardless of their background," she says.

And she adds, "But I truly believe the best is yet to come. That's why I was not surprised by the level of support he received from voters in the recent election."

In light of these accomplishments, it might be safe to say that the spirit of Bibi Ali's ancestors is still alive and well in her entire family, including Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali.



Kamla Persad-Bissessar



Ralph Gonsalves UN photos

Leaders differ on regional remedies

— At the United Nations General Assembly on September 26, Caribbean leaders delivered starkly different visions of the region’s future. Trinidad and Tobago’s Kamla Persad-Bissessar insisted that peace is a “false ideal”, Barbados’ Mia Mottley and St Vincent and the Grenadines’ Ralph Gonsalves warned against militarisation, while Jamaica’s Andrew Holness called for a global campaign against gangs.

Caribbean heads of government used the 80th UN General Assembly to voice sharply divergent assessments of the dangers confronting their nations and the remedies needed to safeguard their people.

In her address, Trinidad and Tobago’s Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar stood before the Assembly and declared, “The notion that the Caribbean is a Zone of Peace has become a false ideal. The reality is stark – no such Peace exists today.”

She painted a stark picture of her nation’s struggle with violent crime, stating, “In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago, with a population of 1.4 million, recorded 623 murders – 40 per 100,000 – with over 40 percent gang-related.”

Over the last 25 years, she added, “Trinidad and Tobago has had over 10,000 murders, which is equivalent to losing one percent of the adult population.”

And in a departure from her regional counterparts, Persad-Bissessar expressed gratitude to Washington for its military role in the Caribbean.

“Therefore, Trinidad and Tobago is particularly grateful for the US military presence in the southern Caribbean, this has been very effective in inhibiting the innumerable activities of drug cartels within our country,” she said, earning applause from the Trinidad and Tobago delegation.

She reinforced her point using blunt language, declaring, “This is not phobia or hyperbole; it is simply the stark-naked truth.”

Persad-Bissessar warned illegal migration has been “rerouted into the eastern Caribbean”, driving drug, arms, and human trafficking into Trinidad and Tobago.

She also acknowledged that deportation efforts for hundreds of migrants have been “difficult”. Yet she remained resolute, affirming, “Unless forceful and aggressive actions are taken, these evil drug cartels will continue their societal destruction... they do not adhere to morals and ethics, and, therefore, we will fight fire with fire within the law.”

However, Barbados’ Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley struck a different note, urging de-escalation as tensions rose between the US and Venezuela.

“I need not tell you, therefore, what a war can do. It is not acceptable for our islands, our countries, to be viewed as collateral damage,” she said during her 30-minute address.

Mottley pointed to the recent US strike near Venezuela, and the three days of Venezuelan

military exercises in response.

“There has been a build-up in military assets in the last few weeks in the Caribbean by both sides,” she cautioned, adding “We believe that any such build-up could occasion just an accident, and, if it does, a simple accident can put the southern Caribbean at disproportionate risk.”

For Mottley, dialogue remains the only durable safeguard. “Almost all wars end as a result of dialogue. Let us make a greater effort to have the necessary conversations to prevent war. It is too simple.”

Echoing the same concern in his address, St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves described “the foreign militarisation of the waters around Venezuela” as “exceedingly troubling”.

He told the Assembly: “St Vincent and the Grenadines call for the scaling back of actions and rhetoric, which are so inimical to cordial neighbourly relations.”

He reminded member states that “repeatedly, the countries of the Caribbean and Latin America have unanimously declared our area a zone of peace. We urge our American friends to abide by this declaration”.

While acknowledging the need to confront trafficking and transnational crime, Gonsalves rejected unilateral shows of force.

“A unilateral militarisation is decidedly not the way to go,” he said, urging Washington and Caracas to “sit down maturely and talk through these problems so that we can have a resolution”.

Meanwhile, Jamaica’s Prime Minister Andrew Holness offered yet another perspective, centering his remarks on organised crime.

“National criminal networks involved in cybercrime, trafficking arms, narcotics, and people, are an existential threat to states,” he warned, adding, “Gangs are now global syndicates with resources that rival nation states.”

Holness said his country had reduced its homicide rate by more than 50 percent in recent years, but cautioned that progress was fragile, noting, “Unless these networks are totally dismantled, our gains remain fragile.”

He called for “nothing less than a global war on gangs, a co-ordinated international campaign to cut off the flow of weapons, money, and the influence that sustains them.”

He said that effort would require full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, tighter export controls, and rigorous post-delivery verification by arms-exporting countries.

“The Caribbean has created regional security mechanisms, but these efforts alone cannot match the scale of the threat,” Holness added.

Additionally, “What we need is a unified front, with the same urgency, resources, and co-ordination the world has applied to terrorism. Only then can we turn the Caribbean, and indeed the wider region, into a true zone of peace.”



Ask Jay...

Please send your questions to
TheBrij@TheBrij.com or call: 416-418-2745

IS YOUR DEPOSIT TRULY SECURE? IMPORTANT INFORMATION CANADIAN HOMEBUYERS SHOULD KNOW

Recently, one of my clients deposited funds for a home they purchased. The money was transferred into the seller’s brokerage account. My client had just read the news: a large Ontario brokerage, iPro Realty, had shut down after regulators found millions missing from its trust accounts. My client asked, “Is our money safe?” Their question was very reasonable. When you make a deposit, often tens of thousands of dollars, you are trusting not only your realtor, but also the brokerage that holds it. If that trust is broken, the consequences can be severe.

In August 2025, the Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO) closed iPro after discovering \$10.5 million was missing from consumer deposit and commission trust accounts. iPro Realty Ltd was a brokerage that operated 17 offices across southern Ontario with approximately 2,400 agents.

After the shortfall was identified, it took months for the public to be informed, and for law enforcement to become fully engaged. RECO had not inspected iPro for four years. When the shortfall became public, RECO agreed not to pursue charges under specific statutes for the co-owners, which caused friction and eroded trust in how rules are enforced.

Although oversight responsibility is shared, regulators act as the system’s safeguards. Recent scandals have revealed the failures of regulatory bodies, and this issue must be tackled. Implement meaningful sanctions, including fines, restitution, and bans where appropriate. Merely shutting down the brokerage is not enough; principals must be held accountable when laws or regulations are broken.

As a practicing realtor, I value trust highly. The relationships I build with each client are based on transparency, accountability, and professionalism. Recent changes in Canadian real estate are not just headlines, they serve as warning signs. When oversight fails, corners are cut, or a culture of complacency sets in, the impacts affect everyone: clients, realtors, brokerages, and the reputation of our profession.

Deposits, such as large sums made early on (like pre-construction), pose real financial risks. Many people do not fully understand how trust accounts are managed, what protections are in place, or the effectiveness and transparency of regulatory oversight. The iPro case exposed how people’s life savings are stored in trust accounts with notable oversight gaps.

As a consumer, ask if the deposit is held in a brokerage’s trust account that is regularly reconciled. Obtain written confirmation or receipts showing where your money is stored. Inquire about any protections or insurance coverage in place.

For example, in Ontario, there is a consumer deposit insurance program under RECO. Do your due diligence on the brokerage – has it had any issues in the past? Learn how to verify if a Realtor is in good standing. Be aware of the steps to take if disputes arise, including claim processes and legal options.

Beyond paperwork and contracts, trust remains essential in real estate. A good realtor clearly explains the process, discloses any conflicts of interest, and consistently prioritises your interests. If something feels “off”, trust your instincts; it is okay to walk away. The truth is, most realtors are dedicated professionals who genuinely care about their clients. However, as recent failures demonstrate, consumers must also be proactive. By asking the right questions, you not only protect yourself, you also help raise the industry standard.

Purchasing or selling a home is one of the most important financial choices you will make. Trust is not just a word we use in real estate; it is the foundation of every successful deal. When trust is upheld, both clients and professionals benefit.

LAW OFFICE

GENERAL PRACTICE

Chet Sharma

B.A., B.S.W. (Hons), LL.B
Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

- Immigration Law
- Criminal Law
- Divorce & Family Law
- Notarisations, Affidavits
- Power of Attorney, Wills

OFFICE

416-285-1550

Emergency:

416-284-9191

By Appointment Only

150 Lawson Road, Toronto, ON M1C 2J4





MUNGOL SINGH

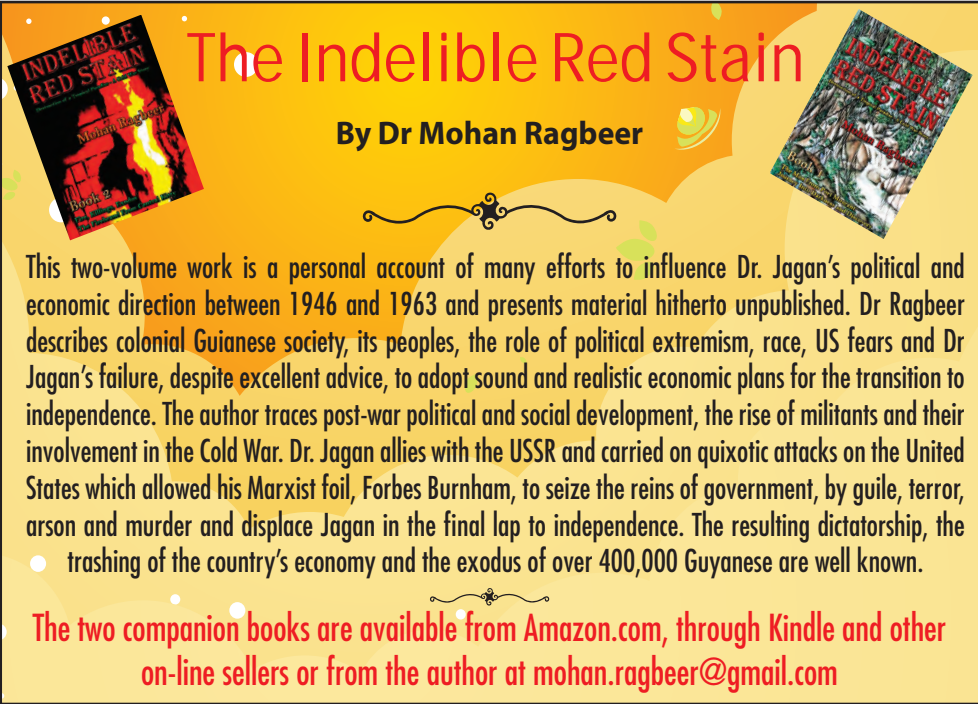
BARRISTER SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC

ROMA S. MUNGOL (SINGH)
 LL.B. - LONDON ENGLAND
 (SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT
 OF ENGLAND AND WALES)

SPECIALTY: FAMILY LAW
 OTHER: CRIMINAL LAW | REAL ESTATE LAW | WILLS & ESTATES LAW

40 WESTMORE DRIVE, SUITE 202
 ETOBICOKE, ON M9V 4C2

(416) 745-SING (7464)
 FAX: (416) 745-1464
 ROMA@MUNGOLSINGH.CA



The Indelible Red Stain

By Dr Mohan Ragbeer

This two-volume work is a personal account of many efforts to influence Dr. Jagan's political and economic direction between 1946 and 1963 and presents material hitherto unpublished. Dr Ragbeer describes colonial Guianese society, its peoples, the role of political extremism, race, US fears and Dr Jagan's failure, despite excellent advice, to adopt sound and realistic economic plans for the transition to independence. The author traces post-war political and social development, the rise of militants and their involvement in the Cold War. Dr. Jagan allies with the USSR and carried on quixotic attacks on the United States which allowed his Marxist foil, Forbes Burnham, to seize the reins of government, by guile, terror, arson and murder and displace Jagan in the final lap to independence. The resulting dictatorship, the trashing of the country's economy and the exodus of over 400,000 Guyanese are well known.

The two companion books are available from Amazon.com, through Kindle and other on-line sellers or from the author at mohan.ragbeer@gmail.com



Play more. Stress less.

Switch your home and auto insurance today to enjoy one-on-one personalized service and coverage uniquely tailored to you.

Get in touch today.



Sherry A. Harrikissoon
 Insurance Agency Inc.
 Sherry Harrikissoon, Agent
 13311 Yonge St Unit 103
 Richmond Hill ON
 905-773-9782



Desjardins Insurance

Desjardins, Desjardins Insurance and related trademarks are trademarks of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, used under licence.



LOTUS

Funeral and Cremation Centre Inc.

Seating capacity for 500. Adaptable rooms for smaller funerals. Can accommodate larger gatherings.

121 City View Drive, Toronto, Ontario M9W 5A8

Conveniently located to serve Toronto and areas west of the City including Etobicoke, Brampton, Bramalea and Mississauga. Cremations are done on the premises without leaving the building. Large gatherings can view start of cremations. Media available to broadcast proceedings.

YOUR COMMUNITY FACILITY OWNED AND OPERATED BY KAMAL BHARDWAJ, ONTARIO LICENCED SOUTH ASIAN FUNERAL DIRECTOR. WE ARE PROFESSIONAL, RESPECTFUL AND CARING.

Tel: 647-547-8188
 info@lotusfuneralandcremation.com
 www.lotusfuneralandcremation.com



Pre-arrangement plans available. Free executor support for Canada Pension Plan and Survivor Benefits. In-home services offered if desired.

Engaged NY diaspora hears President Ali speak on Guyana’s modernisation

By Dhanpaul Narine

“When people return home, they are awe-struck,” said Guyana’s President Mohamed Irfaan Ali. Fresh from his election victory, the Guyanese leader was given a rousing welcome in New York.

Ali took time off from his visit to the United Nations General Assembly visit to meet and greet the hundreds that turned up at the Russo’s On The Bay in Howard Beach. It was his first visit to New York since the election, and he had a lot to share.

He said that Guyana is united by love and unity. There were those from the old order that thrived on division, but the 2025 election showed that race was defeated. Guyana was not on the path of race hate anymore. It was on the path of peace and unity.

What Guyanese are witnessing is a transformation that is people-centred. The objective of the future is a united Guyana, he said. The idea is to have a One Guyana, in which all talents will grow.

Ali expressed gratitude to the audience for its consistent support.

“Thank you for always helping and keeping Guyana alive in your hearts, even while you have built lives in this great city of New York,” he said.

The Guyanese diaspora is one of the largest in the world in relation to its population size. It is a common belief that more Guyanese live abroad than in Guyana. Remittances are in the millions, and form a substantial portion of the country’s GDP.

Ali repeated what he said at his inauguration; he is not the President of some Guyanese, he is the President of all Guyanese. It did not matter whether one voted for him or not. His job was to serve all.

The essence of One Guyana is to embrace the future with confidence. Everyone is part of One Guyana, regardless of residence. It can be from the villages of the Rupununi to the twinkling lights in the diaspora, and beyond.

People are taking pride in seeing the images of a Guyana in transformation. President Ali spoke of an incident in the plane on his way to New York. The pilot had asked to see him, who then expressed to Ali his satisfaction at the progress Guyana is making, and how the region is proud of Guyana.

Ali declared this is no time to be negative, adding, “The story of transformation is told by every visitor.”

Indeed, many have remarked that they can see the progress with the commissioning of schools, hospitals, roads, and soon to be the new Demerara Harbour Bridge.

The Guyana that is being built will be a world leader in climate change, in food security, energy security, in the field of innovation, entrepreneurship, driven on a technological backbone never seen before, and embracing Artificial Intelligence for rapid transformation.

He called on Guyanese to be the best citizens, and the best lovers of their country. He said he is aware of the strong connection between the diaspora and the homeland. Many people left Guyana decades ago and built good lives abroad, but a large part of their hearts beat “to the rhythm of Guyana”.

Ali said that his administration is building a country to welcome the diaspora, especially in the health and education sectors. He signed agreements with top medical schools in the US to provide health care. Investment opportunities will be made available to Guyanese overseas. The diaspora unit will be modernised to cater to the needs of the diaspora.

Development is happening in real time, he affirmed. The Guyana of yesterday has given way to modernisation and progress. People are not running away from Guyana anymore.

Instead, they are running to embrace the progress in the homeland. Ali said to loud applause that as he walked toward US President Donald Trump, the latter said, “You are from the great country of Guyana.”

Ali was realistic in saying that everything is not perfect, but that life is getting better. He pointed out that infrastructure will be expanded from the Demerara Harbour Bridge to other bridges across the Berbice and Corentyne rivers, and policies for gas to energy and agro- processing are in the works.

“We intend to build 40,000 homes in the next five years,” he declared to more applause. He addressed health care, saying, “We are building a world class health system”.

Education too is being modernised with state-of-the-art facilities, and scholarships will be increased. Despite the cash grants and removal of taxes on a number of items, he was careful to point out he was not in the business of creating a “hand-out” culture, or dependency.

Rather, the aim is to spread the wealth to all, and to expand opportunities. He referred to the fact that in the last five years, more than 50,000 house lots were distributed.



Guyana’s President Irfaan Ali and First Lady Arya Ali

Ali dealt with the transformation of communities and villages. He said thousands of street lights would be installed, and the plan is to make the streets and roads safe. He is in favor of a national security system to bring safety and comfort to citizens.

He thanked First Lady Arya Ali for her efforts in beautifying the country. One of the salient takeaways focused on Georgetown, the capital city. Ali said that in the next three years, his government plans to transform Georgetown and other urban centres.

He touched on an important aspect of politics, which is to bring joy to the people, and to make them proud of their country. He also outlined plans to make villages safer with the installation of cameras and ‘Eyes in the Sky’ or drones.

The cost of living was addressed. The gas to energy project will slash electricity tariffs in half, and this means more money in the pockets of Guyanese. Ali said that plans are underway to expand the airport, and promised that passengers will walk through an experience when they land there. The airport will celebrate bio-diversity and nature, and will be a beauty to behold.

He then spoke to three groups in Guyana: women, children and the elderly. Policies will be enacted to protect them and to ensure that they can perform to their maximum potential. They include building day-and-night care centers, providing more scholarships, and fighting domestic violence. Pensions will be raised and telemedicine will be introduced, and a world class indoor arena will be constructed.

Hundreds took photos with the President and the First Lady, and left in an upbeat mood. Many remarked that Guyana is on the right trajectory, and pledged to do their bit to support the progress.

The next day saw President Ali in another role. This time he was addressing the United Nations General Assembly. In a powerful and hard-hitting speech, he lauded the UN as a premier institution for multilateralism. But he observed that all is not well with the state of the world. There are wars, the adverse

See Page 15: Diaspora hears

SAVE THE DATE

cmic

45th GRAND

DIWALI

Gala and Fundraiser

SUN 12 OCT 2025 @ 4 PM

H Holiday Inn

970 DIXON ROAD, REXDALE, TORONTO

ADULTS - \$125 | CHILDREN (under 12) - \$50

Dress Code: Traditional Attire

For ticket purchases & event information, kindly contact:

Rani Sethi - 416.930.8853 rani@cmiccanada.com

Janty Ramkumar - 416-879-8805

Radha Rajaram - 416.732.0604

radharani.rajaram@gmail.com



Mani Singh



Jerry Karamat



Janet Naidu



Tamesh Lilmohan

Diaspora leaders in TO respond to Ali’s NY call for engagement

– As Guyana’s President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s September 23 address in New York reverberated across the diaspora, Guyanese in Toronto added their own voices in a chorus of support. Four community leaders offered reflections that blended assurance from the Consulate General, pragmatism, cultural pride, and organised engagement, underscoring how Ali’s call for unity echoed well beyond his New York delivery.

By Romeo Kaseram
An LJJI Special Report

Toronto – President Dr Irfaan Ali’s address to Guyanese in New York did not end with the enthusiastic applause from the gathered diaspora. Instead, its echoes rippled swiftly across borders, including Toronto, where the voices of community leaders responded with pragmatism, pride, and readiness to match his call for unity and transformation.

Honorary Consul Mani Singh at the Consulate General of Guyana in Toronto framed Ali’s remarks as both personal and governmental.

“He spoke at both a personal level and at the level of the PPP/ Civic government,” Singh said, adding, “While he expressed appreciation for the support of the diaspora in returning his government to power when speaking to the diaspora in New York, at the same time he was speaking to the entire Guyana diaspora, including us here in the GTA.”

Singh also noted that Ali’s words were not bounded by the geography of its New York location. Instead, his address reached into the GTA to the diaspora, binding scattered communities into the embracing narrative of “One Guyana.”

Singh stressed Ali’s appreciation for diasporic support in sustaining democracy, and signalled Toronto was on the radar as a future, yet to be determined stop, on the President’s future engagements.

“While no date and time have been fixed, when his time allows, President Ali will make his way to Toronto,” Singh said.

He assured that the Consulate General remains committed in ensuring diaspora engagement is effective and heard.

“The Guyana Consulate in Toronto is ready and willing to offer guidance, to establish connectivity to personnel and offices in Guyana to ensure that the diaspora’s ideas are listened to; that they have access, and are being heard by the appropriate authorities,” he said.

Meanwhile, for Tamesh Lilmohan, Chartered Professional Accountant, Ali’s speech was a reminder of both opportunity and responsibility. He urged diaspora members to recognise that Guyana’s systems, while improving, cannot yet replicate the efficiency of North American bureaucracy.

“When the diaspora goes to Guyana, they must be able to taper their expectations,” he said, adding, “It took Canada and America over 100 years to arrive at this state in their processes. We are being invited to return to Guyana, but we must not shout out our disappointment. We have to taper our expectations.”

At the same time, Lilmohan emphasised that Guyana must “up its ante” by enacting legislation, revamping institutions, and strengthening banking. However, he was clear that the opportunities now opening up in technology, digitisation, agriculture, harbours, and many more, are vast enough to accommodate both locals and overseas Guyanese.

“We have a President and a government that are bold, taking the initiative, seizing the opportunity to move the country forward to new horizons,” he affirmed.

For Janet Naidu, founder and president of Guyanese Canadians for Unity, Ali’s words in New York resonated deeply with diaspora values.

“Many of us who left the shores of Guyana decades ago

continue to keep close attention to Guyana’s development and expanding growth,” she said. Ali’s recognition of the diaspora’s role, she added, echoes the mission of groups like hers that work to sustain Guyanese cultural heritage in Canada.

Naidu highlighted the importance of inclusivity and diversity, saying, “We also recognise the importance of equality, the value of the diversity of our peoples in fostering inclusion and unity as we continue to stay engaged in our country’s beauty and potential.”

She found Ali’s language of spirit particularly affirming, declaring, “It is heartening to hear President Ali reflect on our new Guyana as experiencing ‘a people-centred transformation built on service, glued together by love, and forward looking through the eyes of unity.’”

For Jerry Karamat, one of the co-founders of the One Guyana Forum (OGF), Ali’s call for diaspora participation aligns squarely with the online forum’s mission.

“The One Guyana Forum, and its membership in the Guyanese diaspora in the GTA and beyond, warmly welcome President Ali’s recent address to the diaspora in New York. His call for unity, inclusivity, and partnership speaks directly to our mission here in the OGF,” he stated.

With over 400 members spanning real estate, public service, entrepreneurship, and healthcare, the OGF has pledged to act as a collective bridge.

“Our membership spans real estate, public service, entrepreneurship, and many other fields, and we are ready to contribute expertise, capital, and mentorship as Guyana undergoes its remarkable transformation,” Karamat noted.

Guided by Ali’s vision of One Guyana, the OGF “reaffirms its commitment to strengthening ties, mobilising talent, and ensuring our diaspora remains an active partner in Guyana’s forward trajectory,” Karamat concluded.



In photos, members of the New York Guyana diaspora, and officials, with Guyana’s President Dr Irfaan Ali and First Lady Arya Ali. Facebook photos

Diaspora hears President Ali’s message: From division to unity, negativity to progress

From Page 14

effects of climate change, the perilous nature of sustainability, shrinking economies, diminishing funds for peacekeeping, and an increase of funding in militarism.

Ali warned that power should not be allowed to triumph over principle, and might should not override right. He thanked the team from Guyana for their exceptional work.

He said that a dark shadow looms over the UN. These include genocide in Palestine, annexation of Ukrainian lands, the persecution of women in Afghanistan, gang violence in Haiti, problems in Sudan, trafficking, crimes and illegal immigration. Some of the new challenges are cybercrimes and terrorism.

He criticised Israel for its attack on Gaza, stating, “What we are witnessing is not warfare but mass extermination, a systemic slaughter of Palestinian men, women and children.” Palestinians are starved of food, water, and hope, he declared. He called on the international community to take action. Impunity, he

said, must never triumph over justice. He wanted an end to the genocide, and implored Qatar, Egypt, and the US, to continue to work for a peaceful solution.

Ali also spoke to the situation in Ukraine and Haiti. He wanted to see an urgent end to the Russia-Ukraine war. Guyana supports Ukraine’s sovereignty, he said.

Focusing on Haiti, he said that the international community has to act decisively. Gang violence, displacement, and shortages of food have pushed the nation into despair. Restoring security is paramount. The root causes of Haiti’s problems must be addressed, and UN intervention, with local leaders at the helm in decision-making, is also recommended.

Ali then turned his attention to Guyana. He said that there have been repeated threats to its borders from Venezuela. Despite the ICJ rulings, Venezuela has persisted with talks about annexing Guyana’s territory. This is a flagrant violation of international law. Guyana has respect for international law, but

it will not cower.

He asked for a new conversation on Cuba, including the lifting of the embargo.

In dealing with gender parity, he cited Guyana as an example with the provision of facilities and support, so women, girls and the elderly can be protected.

He touched on climate change, indicating that Guyana supports steps to limit global warming.

Ali’s visit to New York was an unqualified success. The meet-and-greet brought hundreds of Guyanese up to date with the progress in Guyana and there was widespread agreement that the progress was real and transformative.

His speech at the United Nations struck the right notes: from wars and hunger, to the need for the UN to act swiftly to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. Ali raised the profile of Guyana internationally, and there is little doubt that the country is being seen in a new light in the global community.

Ali urges diaspora to partner in Guyana's national transformation

From Page 1

all Guyanese," he declared.

Ali's central message was that the diaspora is not peripheral to Guyana's progress, but integral to it.

"We don't view Guyana as just a country. We see it as a nation, and every member of the diaspora is entitled to be part of our present and our future," he said, pledging to modernise the Diaspora Unit, led by Rosalinda Rasul, into a "bridge" connecting overseas Guyanese to tangible opportunities.

He added, "Very soon, we will be putting together some investment opportunities for you here in the diaspora and our private sector and citizens at home. I ask you to examine those opportunities and make full use of them when they come your way."

His words resonated with nationals not only in the hall in New York, but also here in the GTA. The insistence conveyed was that diaspora contributions in expertise, capital, networks are not optional extras, but core drivers of development woven into a single fabric located in Queens and Scarborough, Brooklyn and Brampton, with all of it folded into the same embrace.

Ali also recast Guyana's trajectory with an image that struck at the heart of the migrant story.

"For those who left a long time ago, the Guyana of today is not the Guyana of yesterday. We're no longer the land that people run from. We're now the land that people are running towards."

He recalled a moment on his recent airline flight: "On my way to New York for the UN meeting, the pilot asked to see me... he wanted me to know that the region is proud of the Guyana that is unfolding, and that people in every corner of the world are speaking of the Guyana that is unfolding."

The applause that followed was not confined to New York. It could just as easily have erupted in Toronto, where similar memories of departure and sacrifice remain alive. The journey from villages in Berbice or Essequibo led to Liberty Avenue as often as to North York and Mississauga in the GTA; now, the call to "come home" stretches across the same diaspora arc. In Ali's narrative, there were not two audiences across borders, but one people, still joined by the same umbilical.

Among the most practical concerns voiced by overseas Guyanese has long been health care, whether relatives visiting or retiring at home would receive the care they expect. Ali tackled the concern head-on.

"Only today, we signed another agreement with Northwell, who will be implementing our emergency medical services in Guyana," he said, adding, "No Guyanese, whether at home or visiting, should ever have to question the quality of health care they receive."

He cited partnerships with Mount Sinai Hospital and Northwell Health, the construction of 12 new state-of-the-art hospitals, and upgrades across all 10 Regions. Regional hospitals in Berbice, Essequibo, East Coast, East Bank, and West Demerara are already commissioned.

For diaspora families abroad, the reassurance was clear. Many recall journeys back to Guyana punctuated by anxiety about health emergencies. The promise of a system "world-class" in scope sought to erase that anxiety. The echo of those words travelled as easily to elders in Toronto as to the packed room with its attentive, applauding New York audience.

If health care was one anxiety, education was another diasporic aspiration. Ali framed education as "the foundation of opportunity" and a sector undergoing rapid change.

"We are providing free university education, almost 40,000 scholarships under the GOLD program," he said.

Additionally, "We are modernising the system with new schools, smart classrooms, and science labs. We are investing in better trained teachers, aiming for 100 percent trained teachers in our schools."

Over the past five years, more than 40 schools have been built and hundreds renovated. Soon, he pledged, Guyana will achieve universal access to secondary education. Parents are supported directly through the 'Because We Care' cash grant, transportation grants for schoolchildren, and expanded school meals programs.

For second-generation diaspora youth in places like Toronto or New York, often balancing Canadian or American opportunity with ancestral connection, the idea that Guyana too now offers world-class pathways was a weighty recognition. Ali's message was that opportunity is no longer bound to geography; that it also belongs to the wider,



In photo above, President Ali addresses members of the diaspora gathered in New York; in photos, members of the diaspora with President Ali and First Lady Arya. Facebook photos.



national Guyanese family.

Ali stressed that transformation is not only about bridges and terminals, but about people.

"It must also be about people. A truly rising nation is one that

lifts every citizen, not just a few," he affirmed.

He also outlined targeted measures for women with removal of taxes on personal health and hygiene products, expanded scholarships and employment opportunities, daycare and night-care centres, and stronger protections against domestic violence.

Then there was the elderly with raised pensions, mobile health units in rural communities, expanded residential care facilities, and telemedicine clinics.

And for the youth, there was free education at every level, expanded sport facilities including a cycling velodrome and high-performance centre, and support for entrepreneurship.

Such policies, aimed at inclusivity, reflect the inter-generational reality of diaspora households abroad. Whether in Scarborough or Brooklyn, families caring for aging parents, ambitious children, and working mothers heard Ali's words as a continuation of their own daily struggles and triumphs.

Ali also highlighted Guyana's visible transformation in infrastructure and housing.

"We've already delivered an impressive new bridge across the Demerara River... negotiations are underway for a four-lane bridge across the Berbice River, a bridge across the Corentyne River with Suriname, a second gas-to-energy plant, a deep-water harbour, and the expansion of the Demerara Harbour," he said.

And Housing was a central pledge, with Ali declaring, "We intend to build 40,000 homes in the next five years. In the last five years alone, we distributed more than 50,000 house lots."

He promised that the new airport terminal would be "an experience to celebrate biodiversity", one that would make visiting Guyana feel like "walking through an experience that the heaven beholds".

For diaspora members who built lives in Toronto through construction, trades, and real estate, the imagery resonated. Infrastructure was not abstract; it was the language of dignity, community, and return.

Ali directly addressed safety, another concern for overseas nationals.

"Serious crime continues to decline and is at an all-time low," he said, pointing to the deployment of drones, CCTV networks, and technology-driven policing.

"We have employed what we call 'Eyes in the Sky' with modern drones... keeping our streets and communities safe," he added.

The message was reassurance; that Guyana is not only building homes and hospitals, but also ensuring families feel secure within them.

Ali underlined that Guyana is no longer overlooked, but is becoming centred in global focus.

"Tonight, as I walked towards [US President Donald Trump], he looked at me and he said, 'You are from a great country, Guyana,'" he recalled.

"Today, Guyana is recognised globally as a leader in food security, energy security, and climate security. The world is looking to us for solutions. Guyana once ignored, once dismissed, now stands tall."

For a diaspora accustomed to explaining "where Guyana is" to Canadian colleagues or American neighbours, Ali's words were vindication. Recognition abroad translates into pride at home, knitting together far-flung communities under the same rising banner.

Beyond megaprojects, Ali spoke of transforming daily life. "We are installing tens of thousands of new street lights... we are beautifying our communities. In the next three years, we will transform Georgetown. We will bring pride in our neighbourhoods. We will create joy among our children."

For those who recall growing up in villages with darkened streets and neglected canals, the promise of livable, safe, and beautiful spaces touches on deep nostalgia. The improvements are not only for those in Guyana, but for the diaspora who yearn to see the places of their childhood renewed.

Ali ended his uplifting address where he began: with unity and shared purpose.

"That is a Guyana we are building. And that is a Guyana that belongs to all of us - those who stay, those who return, and those who live abroad but never stopped caring."

He invoked faith and labour: "With God, everything is possible. For faith without work is death. And you are assured that your President and the team that we lead are committed... to doing the work that will enable belief and faith to give us a remarkable future that we all want for our beloved country."

Collapse to survival: Chanders and the anatomy of West Indies' decline

— In *Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright*, Shivnarine Chanderpaul steps out on the front foot not only as one of West Indies cricket's most durable batsmen but as a voice of survival amid collapse. Trinidad and Tobago's journalist and writer, Andy Johnson's review notes how the text gathers voices that together tell a story of grit, humility, and enduring instruction for today's cricketing crisis facing the West Indies.

...

Shivnarine Chanderpaul was never built for glamour. His stance was crablike, his movements unorthodox, his presence almost self-effacing. Yet it was precisely in this ungainly crouch that the "Tiger" bore the weight of an empire in decline. As Andy Johnson writes in his review of *Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright*, this is the story not only of a batsman but of a survivor, one who kept the flame alive through storms that continue to lash West Indies cricket today.

The book opens with Deryck Murray, whose dual roles as wicket-keeper for the West Indies and later diplomat lend gravitas to his reflection.

Murray writes: "Shiv's individual success is all the more remarkable when placed in the context of the turmoil of West Indies cricket, during much of his time on the team." He recalls the mid-1990s, when defeat by Australia in 1995 shattered illusions of supremacy: "Almost immediately thereafter, West Indies cricket was in free fall reaching a No 8 ranking."

Yet Murray insists that Chanderpaul's testimony matters, not as a manual of solutions, but as a compass for administrators still struggling to find direction.

As he wrote, "The descent from a number one ranking into the lower echelons was a virtual free-fall. The journey back to the top will be long and arduous, so it is important to go back to the basics armed with the experience of the immediate past."

That emphasis on experience as guide gives way to Narinesingh's more personal register. He declares: "What emerges is the ascendancy of an individual whose skill, application, discipline and deep desire to achieve for his self-esteem, team, country and region" shine through every page. Narinesingh insists that such a career "deserves recognition and serves as a model for generations of youth to consider, not only in sport but in their various paths in life."

Then comes Sir Hilary Beckles, tightening the narrative's tension. He remembers the hostile landscape in which Chanderpaul was asked to flower: "This was no climate for the young man." After a string of early appearances, including the Cornhill Test Series in England, Chanders' scores were modest, yet Beckles is adamant that these numbers "hardly reflected his ability". Instead, he argues the problem was the institutional decay into which the young Guyanese cricketer had been thrown.

Johnson arranges these voices not as disconnected observations, but as movements of a symphony. Murray offers prescription, Narinesingh celebration, Beckles critique. Together they deepen the central theme: Chanders was forged in fire, and his story is a parable, moreso, and exegesis, for our region's survival.

Edmund Blunden adds textural flourishes to the narrative with his remembrance of Chanderpaul's debut series in 1994. He situates Chanders within the extraordinary theatre of Brian Lara's ascendancy.

"Shiv's debut appearance in this 1994 series was remarkable and memorable. It was not just a brilliant debut but he was witness to events which inspired him for the rest of his life," he writes.

Those events included Lara surpassing Garry Sobers' record of 365, Ambrose reducing England to 46 all out, and the camaraderie from the constellation of established stars such as Desmond Haynes and Richie Richardson.

Beyond the boundary of Unity Village, Chanderpaul's defiance endures

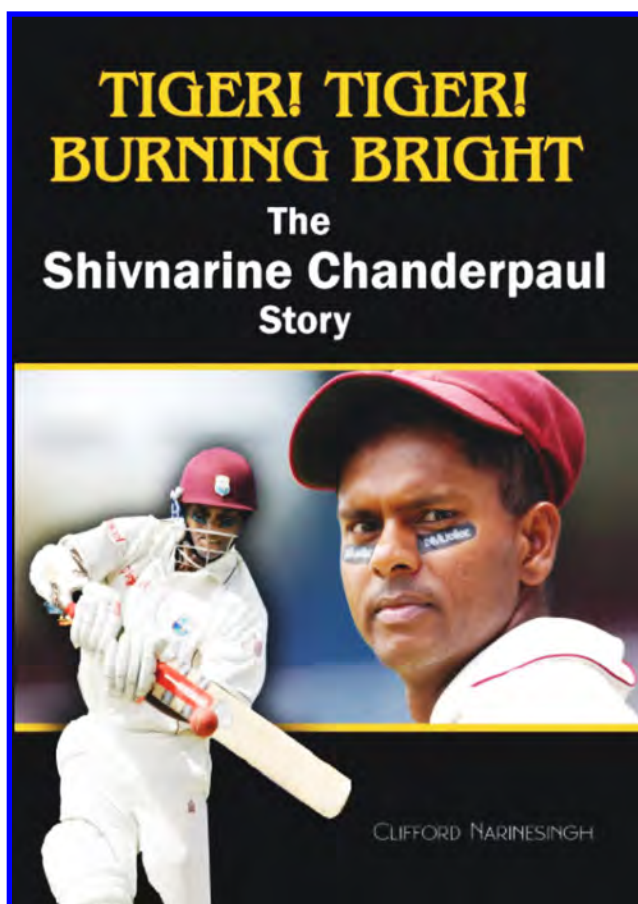
— From a soaked concrete strip in Unity Village to the crease at Bourda and beyond, Shivnarine Chanderpaul built a career on grit, patience, and an unorthodox stance that defied convention, yet delivered more than 11,000 Test runs. His journey, rooted in modest beginnings and sharpened by hours of batting against family and neighbours, remains one of cricket's most enduring stories of resilience, reinvention, and standing tall.

...

By Romeo Kaseram
An LJI Diaspora Feature

Shivnarine 'Tiger' Chanderpaul was born on August 16, 1974 in Unity Village, Guyana, to father Kamraj and mother, Uma. Ian Bishop, writing in *Wisden Cricketer's Almanack*, the article appearing on the website *ESPNcricinfo*, tells us Chanderpaul's achievements on the field are "inextricably linked to his upbringing", and that, "He was born into humble surroundings... in a fishing village on the north-east coast of Guyana aptly named Unity Village, whose ethnic mix comprises a population of East Indian and African descent."

Bishop adds: "As if it was preordained, [Chanderpaul] recounts how he grew up no more than a couple of minutes'



Yet Blunden emphasises that Chanders was not merely a spectator. At Kensington Oval, he saved West Indies from humiliation with a top score of 77, salvaging respectability and resisting the follow-on.

However, most indelible was Antigua, where Lara toiled toward history, and Chanders stood at his side.

As Chanders recalls: "During the Test in Antigua, it was a touch-and-go event as Brian was tiring after his 300. He seemed to be losing his focus. He was telling me it was hard to go further. I tried to comfort him – told him to relax and he would reach the record. Just keep fighting. You have reached so far already. You have a little further to go."

When Lara reached the mark, chaos engulfed the ground. Chanders remembers the intimacy of the moment: "Brian was hugging me. It was very special. I will always remember that milestone. I was happy to be part of it."

In his review, Johnson highlights how Blunden concludes this section: that Chanders' career was propelled by "determination, application and skill, a seriousness of purpose and keenness of discipline – all ingredients for success in any venture".

At the same time, he notes that what makes the book so compelling are the passages that humanise the "Tiger".

From an early age, Chanderpaul's life was divided between cricket and the sea. He left school at 13, choosing instead to spend his days at practice, or accompanying his father on arduous fishing trips.

Chanders' own words are humanising as they bring these early memories to life: "We had to man the sails, hoist them up, work the rudders and at times I would bail water out from a flooded boat. Some of this I would do almost naked, because I had to preserve my clothes when we were further out to sea and casting the nets."

He adds: "As I got older, I had to man the sails and my hands were then unusually hardened, as I had to pull the ropes. This prepared me for the difficult catches I would take during Test

walk from the village cricket ground. Heroes and role models were something that he neither sought nor found beyond his immediate family: he counts himself fortunate to have grown up in 'a relatively stable home environment. To have both parents at my side actually supporting me was a big help.'"

Bishop notes father Kamraj was an admirer of Alvin Kallicharran; and that together, father and son "literally carved out a pitch on the [village] cricket ground's periphery so as not to inconvenience the two village teams" sharing the main centre strip. He played for the village team at eight years old, which Chanderpaul himself describes as "an experience in itself, going out there to play with big men". Exposure to the game among adults imbued the young man with an early love for batting, and as he told Bishop, "I would bat for hours and hours against my father, uncle (who had trials for Guyana), or anyone else who would offer to bowl – male or female."

Bishop also comments on Chanderpaul's small stature, which as he notes, is lifted with extreme boldness, bravery, and a confrontational stance. As Bishop reports, Chanderpaul once reminisced "about soaking a concrete strip at Unity with water and having the bowlers throw or bowl the ball at high speed, gather-

ing pace off the slippery surface". He adds, "Once [Chanderpaul] was struck and began to cry, but his father said: 'No crying here, if you want to play with the men you have got to be tough'."

The next step for the young Chanderpaul was the big league, his father taking his son's career in hand and journeying to the Everest club in Georgetown. There was no room at the club; however, he was accepted at the Demerara Cricket Club, where he played with the Under-16 team – at the time, he was ten years old. Bishop tells us it was later, when a family friend, impressed by the young man's play, recommended to Kamraj he take his son to "the most prestigious club in the country, Georgetown CC".

Chanderpaul made his Test debut at the Georgetown ground, Bourda, in the match against England in March, 1994; at the time, he was 19 years old. In Chanderpaul's words, it was "a shock that made my hair stand on end"; he scored, in Bishop's words, a "solid if somewhat nervous 62". Bishop adds it was a score that reassured the doubters who queried his Test selection.

In its player profile of Chanderpaul, the *ESPNcricinfo* website tells us it was a problematic Test start for the young cricketer: "[First], a low conversion rate of around one hundred to every

matches. My teammates would be surprised to know my hands never hurt on those occasions."

Here our Tiger acquires a touching, palpable humanity. He is not just a statistical entry on a scorecard, but a young boy hardened by saltwater, his hands callused with rope burns, his resilience, and sense of stability, forged on a tossing sailboat. Johnson seizes on this, underscoring Chanders' "remarkable sense of gratitude", acknowledging his refusal to scorn the "base degree by which he did ascend."

Notably, the book does not paper-over or flinch from Chanders' struggles as captain, and Johnson makes much of these passages. Sponsorship wars between *Cable and Wireless* and *Digicel* fractured the team; six senior players were deemed ineligible because of personal contracts, leaving Chanders to lead a diminished side.

Our protagonist remembers the ordeal with resonating clarity: "They seemed not interested in playing under my captaincy. In Australia it was quite noticeable as umpire Rudy Kursten approached me and spoke to coach Bennett King, telling him about the players' behaviour on the field."

Criticism was public and cruel. In a regional match against Jamaica, Chanders' set a field to trap an effervescent Chris Gayle luxuriating in heaving boundaries, only for commentator Colin Croft to dismiss it as "the worst field placing" he had ever seen. Chanders' bristled at the hurtful critique: "I had been captain of Guyana's team for ten years, and I know about captaincy."

Even years later, the wounds lingered. After receiving an award from UWI St Augustine, Chanders encountered Croft on a flight. "Colin Croft saw me on a plane flight and ignored me," he recalls. In such recollections, the Tiger's endurance acquires its sharpest edge: not the resilience of technique, but of a spirit under siege.

Johnson's review insists that the power of *Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright* lies in its timeliness. The West Indies are once again in decline, their ranking low, their institutions frayed. In this setting, Chanders' story becomes less about the past and more about the present.

Blunden, reflecting on Chanders' trajectory, concludes: "The varying forces of success and failure were the challenges he faced. For him there were periods of agony, but in the larger equation he emerged a successful, well-developed batsman whose name is well established, recognised, and worthy of emulation."

Narinesingh echoes this sense of example: "The overriding theme details the cricketing performance of one whose challenge was to save his team from the abyss into which it was falling."

For Johnson, such words make the book more than biography. It becomes a mirror held up to the present, a reminder that the Tiger's lesson in discipline, humility, and persistence is enduring, as it is indispensable, if our West Indies cricket is to climb again.

Johnson closes by returning to the image of Chanders at the crease: crouched, crablike, yet immovable. His career was never about the elegance of cover drives or the flamboyance of sixes lofted into the stands. It was about survival, about refusing to yield when collapse seemed inevitable.

In that sense, Johnson suggests, Chanders is not just a figure of memory but a manual for the future. *Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright* reminds us that the road back for West Indies cricket will be "long and arduous", as Murray warns.

But in the unorthodox stance of the Tiger lies a truth: brilliance alone will not save the team, but resilience just might fend off the follow-on.

See Page 22: Signature 'tiger's' crouch

TAS honours Naidu, Sahadeo

— The Toronto Arya Samaj/Vedic Cultural Centre held its Dinner and Awards Gala on September 27, bringing together more than 150 guests in Markham to celebrate achievement, service, and cultural heritage. The evening honoured two leaders, Janet Naidu and Ramnarine Sahadeo, for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Markham – The Toronto Arya Samaj/Vedic Cultural Centre on 14th Avenue in Markham came alive with music, speeches, and camaraderie on the evening of September 27 when the organisation hosted its annual Dinner and Awards Gala. The event has become a fixture in the cultural calendar since 1997, recognising individuals for their achievements and contributions to community life.

This year’s awardees were poet and cultural activist Janet Naidu, and retired lawyer and community pioneer Ramnarine Sahadeo. Both now join the elite list of honourees who have been recognised by the Arya Samaj for nearly three decades.

Host for the evening was Khel Baldeo, who guided the programme with warmth and engagement. Guests enjoyed a multi-course dinner and cultural performances, alongside the formal presentations.

The presence of the Honorary Consul General of Guyana in Toronto, Mani Singh, underscored the evening’s significance. Singh, speaking on behalf of himself and the government of Guyana, extended congratulations to the honourees, and presented them with One Guyana tokens, noting his long familiarity with their decades of service.

Naidu, who has published four collections of poetry, has given voice to themes ranging from ancestry to resilience. Her first book, *Winged Heart*, was shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature in 2000.

She is the founder of the Pakaraima Writers’ Association, which showcases Guyanese writers through readings and local events, and a past president of the Association of Concerned Guyanese.

Naidu was introduced on stage by retired Headmaster Peter Deboran, before receiving

her award from TAS President Adit Kumar. Sahadeo, a retired lawyer, is remembered for his tireless representation of refugees in the 1980s, when his advocacy helped influence Canada’s review of criteria for refugee status. Many Guyanese benefitted from this shift.

His service extended to Guyana through initiatives such as the *Adopt-a-School* programme, launched at the call of then President Dr Cheddi Jagan following the 1992 elections.

Sahadeo also spearheaded the *Getting a Bhagwad Gita to Every Home* project, which achieved international recognition. He was introduced by philanthropist Syd Deonarain, before receiving his award from Honorary Consul Singh.

Music was woven into the fabric of the evening, with contributions from Pt Dave Ramoutar, his daughter Priya Ramoutar, Kevin Dhar, Nanda Ramoutar, and Nadia Umadas.

A special highlight came when past award recipient Dr Ganraj Kumar offered a song dedicated to the honourees. One of its verses carried a simple blessing: “*Congratulations Srimati Janet and Ramji Bhai. May you continue to be prosperous and may your courtyard always be in bloom.*”

A commemorative booklet was published to mark the occasion, and both honourees expressed gratitude in their acceptance remarks, thanking the Arya Samaj for recognising their work.

In closing the evening, Kumar expressed appreciation to donors, community members, and the organisation’s loyal volunteers whose commitment ensured the gala’s success.

He noted that the strong turnout was a reflection of the deep respect and admiration the community holds for the awardees, and he emphasised the importance of volunteerism in sustaining the mission of the Arya Samaj.

“Your attendance in such large numbers is a strong validation of your respect and appreciation for our awardees. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here to lend your support. A big thank you also to our loyal team of volunteers who always rise to the challenge,” Kumar said.



Award winners Janet Naidu and Ram Sahadeo (centre with plaques) with TAS officials and guests; TAS president, Adit Kumar is second from right; while Honorary Consul Mani Singh is in the front row, fifth from left. In photos, guests and volunteers at the dinner and awards event



Toronto Arya Samaj
proudly presents

AN EVENING OF BHAJANS

In Celebration of Arya Samaj's 150th Anniversary
and Rishi Dayaanand's 201st Birthday

25th Oct 2025 | 5 P.M.

Vedic Cultural Center
4345 14th Avenue
Markham, ON
L3R 0J2

For more information, please contact
Adit Kumar (Pres.) at 647-866-1926
Lita Henry (Sec.) at 647-984-2893
Pt. Dave Ramoutar at 416-918-4038

FREE ADMISSION



Stuart Young



Roshan Parasram

Appeal Court rules State breached rights

— The Court of Appeal has ruled that Trinidad and Tobago's border closure policy during the Covid-19 pandemic breached the constitutional rights of two nationals, marking a watershed moment in the country's legal history. Senior attorney Anand Ramlogan, SC, later said those responsible should "bow their heads in shame".

...

Port-of-Spain – Three Court of Appeal judges have declared that the former government's handling of the border closure policy during the Covid-19 pandemic violated the constitutional rights of two women who were locked out of Trinidad and Tobago for months.

The ruling, delivered by Justices Ronnie Boodoosingh, Nolan Bereaux, and Mark Mohammed, found that the State had breached the women's rights under Sections 4(a) and (b) of the Constitution, which protect the right to liberty and the right to the protection of the law.

The case involved Raehanna Lorick, who travelled to Canada on February 19, 2020, for medical treatment, and Joanne Pantin, who went to Miami on March 14, 2020, to assist her daughter. On March 22, the borders were closed, and both women were denied re-entry for several months. The Appeal Court reversed the 2022 ruling of trial judge Betsy Ann Lambert-Peterson, who had found in favour of the State.

The judges ordered that Lorick and Pantin be compensated for the periods they were prevented from returning home, from May to August 5, 2020, for Lorick; and June 11 to September 9, 2020, for Pantin. Their legal costs will also be paid by the State. The compensation is to be assessed by a judge in chambers.

In the court's 60-page judgment, Justice Bereaux drew parallels between the constitutional breach and past injustices of slavery and Indentureship.

"The trials inflicted upon our ancestors by slavery and the slave trade, with the mass deprivation of liberty and lives, are matters of record. So too, the trials of Indentureship. We must never surrender or compromise our hard-won rights and freedom, for which our ancestors paid so dearly. Such compromise usually begins with the most innocuous of Executive actions," he wrote.

He added, "As judges, we are sworn to uphold the Constitution and the law. No matter how compelling the emergency, the Executive must always be held accountable for infringements of the rights and freedoms of our citizens. As a people, we must demand nothing less."

The judges also noted that "citizens were shooting in the dark, unable to tailor their

applications or challenge decisions effectively", as the criteria for border re-entry were only made public after the women filed their claim in 2020.

Bereaux acknowledged the pandemic's difficulties, but said accountability remained essential.

"Having survived largely unscathed, through the skilful efforts of the Executive, it is now easy with hindsight to apportion blame," he stated.

Speaking after the judgment, attorney Anand Ramlogan, SC, who represented the women alongside Denelle Singh, Jared Jagroo, and Natasha Bishram, condemned the policy as a "stinging indictment" of the State's handling of citizens during the pandemic.

"This judgment vindicates their rights by saying that the State treated them in an unjust

and unfair manner in breach of their constitutional rights," Ramlogan said.

He added, "If there was no transparency by the government in how they approached the question of reopening the borders and who would get to come in first, and how they would manage that process, it was shrouded in mystery, secrecy, and it was very obscure. And it provided fertile soil for favouritism, political nepotism, and unfair and unjust treatment."

He further alleged that "political financiers and friends" were allowed re-entry while others were denied, calling the situation a "human disaster" and stating that former officials, including then-national security minister Stuart Young, then-health minister Terrence Deyalsingh, and Chief Medical Officer Dr Roshan Parasram, should "hang their heads in shame and disgrace".

Ramlogan described the Appeal Court ruling as a "watershed moment in our legal history" and "solid reinforcement for the Constitution", praising it as a development in "constitutional jurisprudence as it relates to the right to liberty and freedom of movement".

He recalled that former government minister Young had refused to publish the criteria for re-entry, a decision the Court described as "the epitome of arbitrariness".

According to Ramlogan, this secrecy meant "distressed and aggrieved citizens were essentially 'shooting in the dark'."

He added, "Stuart Young was, in effect, playing God by secretly deciding who could return home and who could not. The secretive and mysterious manner in which the government managed the process of re-entry meant that it could literally pick and choose who it wanted to help without any form of transparency and accountability," he said.

Govt insists all is well with Caricom partners

— Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has defended her position on US military presence in Caribbean waters, saying it has not strained relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Caricom partners, despite her divergence from several regional leaders during last week's United Nations General Assembly.

...

Port-of-Spain – Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has dismissed claims of diplomatic tension between Trinidad and Tobago and Caricom, despite her differing stance from regional leaders on the role of the United States military in Caribbean waters.

At the United Nations General Assembly in New York last Friday, Persad-Bissessar argued that the long-standing description of the Caribbean as a "zone of peace" was misleading. Supporting the US position, she endorsed a stronger stance against narco-trafficking, saying, "fighting fire with fire within the bounds of international law" was necessary.

Her remarks contrasted sharply with those of Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, both of whom urged diplomacy between the US and Venezuela to ease regional tensions.

Although Persad-Bissessar did not hold formal bilateral talks with Caricom leaders during the high-level UN week, Foreign and Caricom Affairs Minister Sean Sobers attributed this to scheduling conflicts rather than strained relations.

After her engagements in New York, Persad-Bissessar travelled to Washington, DC, where

she met with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and also held discussions with representatives of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and the UN Secretary General.

According to regional media, a planned meeting with Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness last Friday did not materialise. Sobers confirmed the cancellation was due to time limitations, reiterating that "no animosity existed between Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of Caricom".

In her comments earlier this week, Persad-Bissessar maintained that regional relations remained intact.

"I have not seen nor heard of any such tension. We are each sovereign democratic states entitled to pursue such action and policy in the best interests of our citizens. Therefore, we can respectfully agree to disagree," she said.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne supported her right to a different position, telling the media, "To each his own. We respect diversity of views."

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit also responded to media questions, cautioning against disunity. Speaking in Roseau earlier this week, he

said, "We all have to lead our countries with humility, recognising that we are just passing through... But we have to be careful that we don't try to sow seeds of discord, disunity, and tension among ourselves, with ourselves. It is not good for anybody for that matter."

He added, "Every country expresses themselves as sovereign nations. People have divergent views on a particular matter. This is not unusual."



Andrew Holness



Anand Ramlogan

Persad-Bissessar criticised for ‘no zone of peace’

— At the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar cast aside the illusion of the Caribbean as a “zone of peace”, grounding her words in the stark realities of murder, gangs, and drug trafficking. However, her remarks stirred dissent at home, where critics warned against aligning Port-of-Spain too closely with Washington.

New York – Addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 26, Prime Minister Kamla

Persad-Bissessar spoke with blunt urgency declaring the Caribbean was no longer the peaceful sanctuary it is often imagined to be. “The notion that the Caribbean is a Zone of Peace has become a false ideal. The reality is stark – no such peace exists today,” she declared.

She voiced a painful truth, declaring, “For too many in our region, peace is not daily life but an elusive promise glimpsed, and never grasped. In its absence, our citizens pay a terrible toll.”

Persad-Bissessar pointed to Trinidad and Tobago’s own statistics as evidence of unraveling: a country of 1.4 million recording 623 murders in 2024, a rate of 40 per 100,000, with gangs responsible for more than 40 percent of the killings. Over the last 25 years, she noted, more than 10,000 murders have scarred the nation, “equivalent to losing one percent of the adult population”.

Her words drew the connection outward, situating Trinidad and Tobago’s pain within the larger geography of Latin America and the Caribbean, where homicide rates range from 20 to more than 60 per 100,000.

“So the reality is being a zone of peace is still an elusive peace that we are pursuing,” she said.

Persad-Bissessar’s UNGA’s speech acknowledged what many in the region view with suspicion with the presence of US military forces in the Caribbean, particularly off Venezuela’s coast. Twice, she expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for that presence, insisting it is necessary to counter narco-trafficking.

“President Trump’s comments on the effects on countries of relentless narco and human trafficking, about organised crime, illegal immigration are correct,” she said, placing Trinidad and Tobago’s vulnerability within a global context of migration and crime.

She drew a sharp line between legal and illegal migration.

“Illegal immigration neglects all checks and balances and will only create long-term disorder as most illegal immigrants will not be able to assimilate into the existing societies, inevitably leading to greater poverty, crime, and cultural antagonism,” she said. Then, with unsparing bluntness, she added: “This is not phobia or hyperbole; it is simply the stark, naked truth.”

Her warning was rooted in geography: with increased US southern border protections, the routes of drug cartels and gangs have been rerouted into the eastern Caribbean. She stated that Trinidad and Tobago now sits on the frontline of this reconfiguration, absorbing the violence of trafficking in drugs, arms, and human lives.

But if her words were forceful abroad, they were divisive at home. Two days later, on September 28, the Movement for

Social Justice (MSJ) issued a sharp rebuke.

Political leader David Abdulah argued that Persad-Bissessar’s address did not project an independent foreign policy, but instead echoed pages from Washington’s latest narrative.

“This was not the articulation of a foreign policy position that speaks to us standing for a more just, equal, environmentally sustainable and peaceful world,” Abdulah said, adding, “Instead, it catered to Washington’s current playbook.”

He noted on climate change that Persad-Bissessar dismissed activists as “antagonistic”, while ignoring what he called the most antagonistic act of all, the US’ withdrawal twice from the Paris Climate Accord.

Abdulah pressed the question on whether Trinidad and Tobago would continue to honour its commitments under the agreement.

On matters of security, Abdulah’s criticism cut deeper. He rejected support for US military deployments, pointing to reports of summary executions of traffickers at sea, noting: “Trinidad and Tobago is now being seen as sanctioning extra-judicial killings,” he said.

He added, “Her earlier statements about ‘killing them all violently’ cannot be taken back, and her comment that the fight against narco-trafficking must be done within the law rings hollow.”

He acknowledged the suffering inflicted by drugs and gangs, but argued that solutions must be multilateral.

As he stated, “unprecedented” cooperation already exists among the US, European nations, and Caricom, including intelligence sharing, training, and legislative reforms. “Have they succeeded in ending the scourge of drug trafficking? No, but they are all joint activities,” he declared.

Abdulah further stated that in contrast, current US military actions in the southern Caribbean are unilateral and misdirected.

He noted, “The very UN that our Prime Minister said is a key institution has reported that Venezuela is not a producer or major transhipper of drugs. The US DEA reported the same facts. The US deployment of military assets is not about fighting drug traffickers. If that were the intention, those assets would be located where the majority of drugs transit.”

It also appeared that former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley took an oblique jab at Persad-Bissessar following her speech.

Mere hours after her address, Dr Rowley took to his Facebook page and posted a video with the note, “When Trinidad and Tobago had leadership that it could be proud of.” The video featured Rowley speaking about an impasse among the US, the European Union, and Venezuela, where there had been a demand for regime change in that South American nation.

At the time, as prime minister, Rowley said he led the Caricom delegation to the UN to enforce the Caribbean as a zone of peace. His reference to “the Caribbean as a zone of peace” may have also

been an oblique counter to Persad-Bissessar’s dismissal of that very notion, when she told the UNGA that gangs had taken over, and many people were being murdered, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago.



Persad-Bissessar at the UNGA last week
Persad-Bissessar stitches diplomacy into discount

New York – Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar last week found herself responding to matters not about state craft and foreign policy, but on fashion. Not one to skirt the issue, she was responding to the swirl of online commentary, not about her address at the United Nations General Assembly, but more about her choice of dress, a Carolina Herrera ensemble in a Knit Midi Pencil Skirt and Crystal Bow Cardigan.

Putting the ensemble together, dubious social media accountants quickly tallied its cost, creatively tailoring it to be around TT \$30,000.

Persad-Bissessar avoided the needling delicately, taking on her online critics with aplomb.

“It’s not \$30,000, so let’s start there,” she said, before conceding the obvious, “but it was beautiful”, cutting the \$30,000 figure down to size while elevating the tone off the ledger into laughter.

Persad-Bissessar explained that her clothes were purchased with her own earnings, not the public purse, and added the kind of detail beloved by both bargain-hunters, critics, and of course, online shoppers, noting that the garments were “on sale”.

“No government money was used. I work hard for my money. I can spend my money as I see fit,” she said, reminding nationals that even Prime Ministers enjoy the rare satisfaction of cornering a good discount, sometimes in the bargain bin.

Yet she also pointed to a deeper expectation stitched, and perhaps bespoke, into the embroidery of her office, which was representation.

“When the Prime Minister goes abroad, they want their Prime Minister to look good,” she declared. Then, with the rhythm of a schoolroom refrain, she offered her seamless credo: “See good, be good, do good, and look good. Very important.”



Indera Sagewan
Economists issue HSF warning

Port-of-Spain – Economist Dr Roger Hosein has warned that withdrawals from the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF) must not be used to fuel consumption or recurrent expenditure in the upcoming national budget.

Hosein issued his caution during a pre-budget discussion held via Zoom last week, alongside economists and colleagues Dr Indera Sagewan and Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie in a session moderated by businessman Vivek Charran.

Hosein’s comments followed Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar’s announcement that her government’s first national budget would be presented in early October, with promises of mechanisms for job creation and revenue generation.

Referring to past practices, Hosein said it would be a mistake to repeat earlier policies.

“Imbert borrowed heavily to fuel recurrent expenditure. We have to move away from that now,” he stated.

He added that if government accessed the HSF, then “it must be strongly tied to widening supply space that could generate foreign exchange. Other than that, we cannot take the HSF to fuel consumption. We cannot take the HSF for recurrent expenditure.” Hosein further argued that the success of the budget would depend on whether it formed part of a larger, sequential economic plan.

“It cannot be one-off. It has to have a sequential logic and strategy to it that is aimed at increasing the stock of reserve while simultaneously reducing external debt. All of that while improving the labour force participation rate,” he said.

He described the labour force participation rate as “the big monster in the room that is hardly ever given any attention”.

According to Hosein, the current rate of 54.8 percent should rise to 70 percent. He warned that Trinidad and Tobago has the second lowest labour participation rate in Caricom, underscoring the urgency of policy intervention.

Echoing Hosein’s caution, Sagewan also addressed the issue of deficits. While she accepted the need for a substantial deficit, she stressed that its real measure lay in whether the government took steps to reduce fiscal imbalances by the next budget cycle.

“If I was the minister of finance I would run the highest possible deficit that I can that would not compromise that,” Sagewan said, adding, “So, it is a balancing act, but I do not know that in this moment the government has done enough work to be able to make the kinds of cuts that are being suggested.”

Sagewan also warned against using the HSF for recurrent expenditure, instead urging its use for productive investment.

“If the government intended to use the fund, which most likely they will be, I will like to hear that draw-down linked directly to doing what [Hosein] is saying. Investing to push the production possibility curve outward,” she stated.

In his presentation, Tewarie focused on inefficiency and corruption, saying Trinidad and Tobago could no longer afford wasteful expenditure.

“If you want to deal with these things you have to make up your mind to cut and prune and begin to look at how you can get rid of inefficiencies, loss of wastage, and deal out corruption from the system,” he said.

He singled out unprofitable or mismanaged State enterprises, questioning the rationale for continued subsidies: “You can decide that you are going to make a ten percent cut to all of them, or a 20 percent cut or whatever, and they would then have to try with a board of management to manage their business.”

He was candid on patronage, saying, “We saw over the CEPEP debacle how horrible it is, and out of that CEPEP debacle we saw how corruption is rooted in families, in communities, sometimes in gangs. We saw as well how the corruption in a society makes the corruption almost unendable.”

Shah Rukh Khan tops IMDb list as Bollywood’s most prolific star

— *Shah Rukh Khan has been crowned Indian cinema’s most prolific headliner in IMDb’s 25-year analysis of Bollywood stardom, reaffirming his dominance in the global film landscape. The report also highlights shifting audience trends, new generational voices, and the enduring reach of stars such as Deepika Padukone, Aamir Khan, and Aishwarya Rai.*

Shah Rukh Khan has emerged as Indian cinema’s most prolific star, featuring in 20 of the 130 most popular films released between January 2000 and August 2025, according to a new IMDb report.

The IMDb study, *25 Years of Indian Cinema*, based on over 9.1 million user ratings worldwide, places Shah Rukh Khan at the very top of the rankings. His films consistently dominated in the early 2000s, with eight of the 25 most popular films released between 2000 and 2004, and the No 1 movie for five consecutive years.

Even in years without a release, Khan’s star power endured. In 2024, he appeared in the IMDb *Top 10 Popular Indian Celebrities* list every single week, underlining his staying power in an increasingly fragmented industry.

Khan responded with humility, saying, “It’s pleasantly surprising and encouraging to see the impact the films that I have been a part of have made. The goal has always been to entertain people and win over their love through storytelling. It’s always been my belief that the power of cinema lies in the fact that it can transcend boundaries of language and culture,” he said.

He added with a nod to his iconic dialogue, “To see that my films have entertained people not just in India but elsewhere is very fulfilling. I am thankful that my journey over these 25 years has been highlighted in the IMDb report... can’t help but say, ‘*Picture abhi baaki hai*’ (The movie is not yet complete).”

While Shah Rukh Khan is hailed as the *Badshah*, Aamir Khan holds sway in crossover global markets. His 2009 blockbuster *3 Idiots* remains the most popular Indian movie worldwide, with 468,000 IMDb ratings and an aggregate score of 8.4. It tops charts in the UK, Europe, and Australia. *Dangal* carries that crown in the UAE and China, while *Taare Zameen Par* resonates in Brazil.

Hrithik Roshan ties Aamir in second place, with both actors securing 11 films on the top-130 list. Deepika Padukone follows



Shah Rukh Khan

closely in third with ten films, while Ajay Devgn claims fifth place with seven.

Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra, and Rani Mukerji appear in the list with six films each, while Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai, Akshay Kumar, and Ranbir Kapoor are represented with five apiece.

Emerging stars, among them Rashmika Mandanna, Rajkumar Rao, and Vijay Sethupathi, have secured four entries each, signaling Bollywood’s expanding geography of talent.

One of the report’s most striking findings is the prominence of women. In June 2024, IMDb released a decade-long popularity ranking based on weekly charts from 2014 to 2024. Deepika

Padukone led the list, surpassing male counterparts. She was followed by Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Alia Bhatt. The late Irrfan Khan ranked fifth.

Reflecting on her career, Padukone said: “When I began my journey, I was often told how a woman must or is expected to navigate her career in order to be successful. However, from the very beginning, I was never afraid to ask questions, ruffle feathers, walk a more difficult path and challenge the *status quo* in order to reshape the mould we have all been expected to fit into.”

She added: “The faith my family, fans and collaborators have had in me, have also empowered me to make the choices and decisions that I have, hopefully forever altering the path those after me will tread.”

Alia Bhatt’s decade-long streak, from *Highway* (2014) to *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022), and Aishwarya Rai’s continued influence through Ponniyin Selvan and Cannes appearances confirm a shift in Bollywood stardom’s gendered balance.

IMDb’s report emphasises how stardom itself has transformed. In the early 2000s, 13 male leads dominated the 25 most popular films. By contrast, the past five years have featured 23 different male stars, with only Prabhas, Allu Arjun, Suriya, and Vijay recurring.

As IMDb summarised: “Stars were once engines of success, but today they are a component of a larger machinery. They function less as guarantors of success and more as multipliers of a movie’s intrinsic strengths. The fans of today may line up for a selfie, but they may not show up for the movie.”

The observation underscores how audience expectations, streaming platforms, and global reach have redefined star power. The Indian film industry now thrives less on singular dominance and more on collective diversity.

The rankings illuminate two parallel truths. Shah Rukh Khan remains Bollywood’s global symbol, bridging language and culture through his enduring body of work. Meanwhile, the diversification of stardom, marked by Deepika’s rise, Aamir’s global resonance, and the presence of new-generation actors, signals an evolving cinematic ecosystem.

As Khan himself put it: “The goal has always been to entertain people and win over their love through storytelling.” The numbers back him up, but so does the cultural resonance that continues to ripple across continents.

Deepika Padukone opens up debate on gender dynamics, workplace culture

— *Deepika Padukone’s withdrawal from two major projects, Kalki 2898 AD and Spirit, has fueled industry-wide debate about workplace expectations, gender dynamics, and work-life balance in Indian cinema, even as IMDb’s 25-year report placed her among the top stars of the era.*

Deepika Padukone’s recent exits from two high-profile films have sparked both controversy and conversation across the Indian film industry.

Earlier this month, production house Vyjayanthi Movies announced her departure from *Kalki 2898 AD* in a formal statement on X (formerly Twitter).

“This is to officially announce that @deepikapadukone will not be a part of the upcoming sequel to *Kalki 2898 AD*. After careful consideration, we have decided to part ways. Despite the long journey of making the first film, we were unable to find a partnership. A film like *Kalki 2898 AD* deserves that commitment and much more. We wish her the best with her future works,” the statement read.

A source later told NDTV that Padukone sought a 25 per cent increase in her acting fee, limited her schedule to seven hours per day, and requested five-star accommodations for her 25-person crew. The producers reportedly offered concessions such as a luxury vanity van to facilitate longer hours, but no agreement was reached.

Her earlier exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s *Spirit* was also tied to workplace demands. Reports suggested she had asked for an eight-hour workday, a share of profits, and an exemption from delivering dialogues in Telugu.

Vanga appeared to respond with a pointed critique, writing on X: “When I narrate a story to an actor, I place 100% faith. There is an unsaid NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) between us. But by doing this, you’ve ‘DISCLOSED’ the person that you are.... Putting down a Younger actor and ousting my story? Is this what your feminism stands for?”

The disputes have sparked wider debate in Bollywood about how working conditions and contractual expectations are negotiated, particularly for women at the top of the industry. Padukone herself addressed the issue indirectly, stressing she has never shied away from challenging norms.

“When I began my journey, I was often told how a woman must or is expected to navigate her career in order to be successful. However, from the very beginning, I was never afraid to ask questions, ruffle feathers, walk a more difficult path and challenge the *status quo* in order to reshape the mould we have all been expected to fit into,”



Deepika Padukone

Padukone told IMDb.

She added, “The faith my family, fans and collaborators have had in me, have also empowered me to make the choices and decisions that I have, hopefully forever altering the path those after me will tread. IMDb’s *Report on 25 Years of Indian Cinema*

further validates and strengthens my belief that honesty, authenticity, and resilience matter, and that by being true to your core beliefs with consistency, change is possible.”

Padukone’s remarks came as IMDb released its *25 Years of Indian Cinema* (2000-2025) report, analysing the top five most popular Indian films each year over a quarter century. Out of 130 films featured, ten starred Padukone, placing her fourth among actors with the most popular titles.

Her recognition alongside the controversies has underscored the duality of her current public image: both a polarising figure in ongoing industry debates, and a consistent performer in shaping Indian cinema’s global reputation.

Despite the turbulence, Padukone’s career momentum appears intact. She recently confirmed she will reunite with Shah Rukh Khan in the upcoming film *King*, which will also feature Suhana Khan.

US tariff move on foreign movies sparks contrasting responses in Bollywood

— *The announcement by US President Donald Trump to impose a “100% tariff” on films made outside the US has drawn sharp reactions across the global film industry. Indian filmmakers expressed divided opinions, with some viewing the move as a threat while others suggested it might unexpectedly strengthen domestic cinema.*

US President Donald Trump’s declaration of a sweeping tariff on international films has unsettled the global film industry and sparked contrasting responses from Indian filmmakers. Earlier this week, Trump revealed his plan in a series of posts on *Truth Social*, arguing that America’s movie business had been weakened by international productions.

“California, with its weak and incompetent Governor, has been particularly hard hit! Therefore, in order to solve this long time, never ending problem, I will be imposing a 100 percent Tariff on any and all movies that are made outside of the United

States,” he wrote.

He further claimed that foreign countries had “stolen” America’s moviemaking business, comparing it to taking “candy from a baby”.

Filmmaker Anurag Basu suggested that Trump’s measure, though widely criticised, might inadvertently work in India’s favour. He argued that a reciprocal tariff on Hollywood films could push Indian audiences toward local productions.

“Trump’s tariff on Indian movies could be a blessing in disguise if we reciprocate on Hollywood releases, higher ticket prices for foreign blockbusters here would drive audiences to domestic films, more than offsetting any US losses. Think of it as box-office *karma* with better exchange rates,” Basu said.

Basu added that such a shift could foster stronger support for Indian cinema in the long term, bolstering the industry’s resilience and self-reliance.

Not all filmmakers shared Basu’s optimism. Kabir Khan dis-

missed Trump’s plan as both vague and impractical.

Speaking to NDTV, he remarked, “I have no idea what he means when he says, ‘Made outside of the United States,’ because every second Hollywood film is shot outside of the US, the VFX is executed outside of the US. And tariff on what? The ticket price? His statement is too broad to be understood properly. Firstly, let’s see if he remembers this tomorrow when he wakes up.”

Khan’s criticism reflected broader concerns within the industry about the feasibility and clarity of such a policy, especially given the multinational nature of film production and post-production processes.

In the US, Trump’s announcement sent shockwaves through Hollywood, which depends heavily on global audiences and cross-border collaboration. Industry analysts warned that any reciprocal measures by other nations could disrupt international box-office performance, and complicate production pipelines that rely on worldwide talent and resources.

Umpire ‘Dickie’ Bird exits the cricket field, making a final call for light

— An umpire of rare eccentricity and grace, Harold ‘Dickie’ Bird transcended cricket through humour, fairness, and devotion. Beloved by players and spectators alike, he made the white coat and cap his stage, leaving behind a legacy as enduring as the game he so adored.

Harold ‘Dickie’ Bird, who has died aged 92, was more than a cricket umpire: he was a national treasure whose life was stitched entirely into the fabric of the game. Though he never married and left no children, he leaves behind a vast extended family of players, fans, colleagues, and admirers whose tributes flow with both laughter and loss.

Born in Barnsley in 1933 and christened Harold, his nickname Dickie, conferred by an affectionate schoolmate, went on to keep its line and length.

Cricket soon became his calling. As a player, he was technically gifted, but often overcome by nerves, “shaking, trembling, and terribly anxious”, as contemporaries recalled.

He made his way through Yorkshire and then Leicestershire, but the bat was not his destiny. His true belonging came later, in the white coat, under the weight of responsibility, the sky’s changing light, and the forefinger raised to send a batter back to the pavilion.

Bird flew in rarefied air, standing in 66 Test matches and 69 ODIs, including three World Cup finals, becoming instantly recognisable in flight across the cricketing world. Known for giving few dismissals, especially leg-before-wicket, his decisions carried an authority built on fairness.

David Gower, the former England captain, captured it best: “He certainly set himself high standards as an umpire, but that smile on his face at all times ... you just knew that Dickie was in the place that he loved best.”

Bird’s umpiring was punctuated with quirks. He was forever scanning the skies for rain, once halting play for bright sunshine at Old Trafford, or sharing the covers with spectators during a



Harold ‘Dickie’ Bird

bomb scare at Lord’s in 1973. His eccentricities became part of the game’s folklore.

Beyond the boundary, Bird dedicated himself to charitable work, founding the Dickie Bird Foundation in 2004 to help disadvantaged young people in sport.

For his services to cricket, he was appointed MBE, later elevated to OBE for his charitable work.

Barnsley honoured its son with the freedom of the borough in 2000, and a statue by sculptor Graham Ibbeson, unveiled in 2009, raised on a plinth three years later to save his raised finger from local pranksters, who mischievously hung empty fish-and-chip boxes from it.

Bird was never far from incident. During the 1975 World Cup final, his cap was stolen mid-match; years later, he claimed to have spotted it on a bus conductor’s head. His autobiogra-

phies, selling more than a million copies, brimmed with such stories.

He once admitted that loneliness shadowed him in later years, especially during the pandemic, yet he offered advice with characteristic bluntness, care, and in perhaps an echo of his former craft of standing behind the stumps: “Please get out. If you just walk around the block; get out of the house.”

Sister, Marjorie Wyatt, offered the most intimate portrait: “Dickie was always proud of putting Barnsley on the map; he was Barnsley through and through. He was very caring ... What I will remember most about him was that he was always good at making decisions!”

Tributes poured in from all quarters. Former UK Prime Minister David Cameron called him “a national treasure ... At 92 he had a good innings. Farewell friend.”

Geoffrey Boycott, recalling their youth, said: “Players all over the world respected and admired him for his firmness, fairness, and he did it with a sense of humour.”

Kevin Pietersen described him as an “absolute legend of English cricket ... a remarkable character that will be missed dearly.”

From India, Anil Kumble mourned “one of cricket’s brightest souls,” while Australia’s Merv Hughes remembered “a great bloke as well.”

Bird’s presence at grounds, even into his late eighties, continued to delight. Only days before his passing, he was spotted at Oakwell supporting Barnsley FC, applauding with the same joy he once brought to cricket’s great stages. He remained Yorkshire’s honorary president, a cheerful constant at Scarborough festivals.

He leaves behind a game made fairer, lighter, and more humane by his touch. His eccentricities became part of cricket’s character, his fairness its conscience, his humour, and its reprieve.

West Indies end series with confident win while Nepal get taste of landmark success

— West Indies salvaged pride with a ten-wicket win in Sharjah, but Nepal’s 2-1 triumph ensured history as the associate nation claimed its first-ever series victory over a full ICC member.

The West Indies ended their three-match T20 series against Nepal with a commanding ten-wicket win in Sharjah on September 30, yet it was Nepal who celebrated a landmark 2-1 series success, achieving their first over a full ICC member.

For West Indies, captained for the first time by Akeal Hosein and featuring six debutants across the short tour, the series posed more questions than answers for head coach Daren Sammy and assistant Rayon Griffith.

For Nepal, the result was historic. Despite defeat in the final game, Kushal Bhurtel’s consistent performances, capped by his 39 off 29 in Sharjah, secured him the Player of the Series award and underlined his side’s growing stature on the international stage.



Nepal celebrate a wicket during the series

Batting first for the third time in the series, Nepal managed only 122 in 19.5 overs. After a cautious start reaching 41 without loss in the powerplay, Jason Holder broke through in the seventh over, before the innings unraveled. West Indies’ attack, which had struggled earlier in the tour, finally clicked.

Promising left-arm seamer Ramon Simmonds produced

career-best figures of 4-15 in three overs, striking crucial blows in the middle and death stages. Jediah Blades backed him up with 2-20, while Hosein and Holder took one wicket each. Nepal lost their final eight wickets for just 47 runs, their lowest total of the series.

The Caribbean batting line-up, which had faltered badly in the second T20 when dismissed for 83, found fluent form in the finale. Openers Amir Jangoo and Ackeem Auguste dominated throughout, racing to the target in 12.2 overs.

Jangoo was the aggressor, bringing up his maiden T20 international half-century with back-to-back sixes off Bhurtel in the 11th over. He sealed the game with another maximum, finishing unbeaten on 74 from 45 balls, decorated with six sixes and five fours.

Auguste provided measured support with 41 not out from 29 deliveries, including four fours and two sixes. Together, they ensured the West Indies ended the series with authority, even as Nepal took away the larger spoils of the series.

In his signature ‘tiger’s’ crouch, Chanders stands tall amid West Indian ruins

From page 17

ten fifties, and secondly, his physical frailty, widely thought to be hypochondria.”

Chanderpaul’s so-called “hypochondria”, itself a myth, “was exploded when a large piece of floating bone was removed from his foot late in 2000”. Suitably liberated, “he set about rectifying his hundreds problem, scoring three in four Tests against India in 2001-2002, and two more in the home series against Australia the following year, including 104 as West Indies successfully chased a world-record 418 for victory in the final Test in Antigua”.

These were the early years when West Indies faced what still remains its systemic and perennial problems; despite this, Chanderpaul kept his “own standards at a remarkably high level”, and as *ESPNcricinfo* notes, “On the few occasions that West Indies tasted success during his career, Chanderpaul’s contributions were vital”. For example, in the Champions Trophy triumph in 2004, he contributed greatly with a consistent performance. He celebrated his ascension to the West Indies’ captaincy, which he held from 2005-2006, with a double century before home fans in Guyana.

The website *Cricbuzz*, like others, notes Chanderpaul’s left-handed batting stance as being “crab-like”. *ESPNcricinfo* describes it as “the crabbiest technique in world cricket”; but despite this stance, Chanderpaul “prove there is life beyond the coaching handbook”. It adds, “He never seemed to play in the V, or off the front foot, but used soft hands, canny deflections, and a whiplash pull-shot... While the cricket world was obsessed with Brian Lara’s unquestionable talent, Chanderpaul showed



Shivnarine ‘Tiger’ Chanderpaul

that there were alternate ways to be consistent and prolific in Test cricket over a long period of time, becoming only the second West Indian to score 10,000 Test runs.”

Wikipedia tells us Chanderpaul’s batting stance evolved during his international career, and with these subtle changes came a similar transformation to his aggression. According to *Wikipedia*, “He was first selected for the West Indies based on his attacking style of play; he cites Rohan Kanhai as one of his early influences. It was from Kanhai that Chanderpaul took his nickname, ‘Tiger’. He maintained this style during the early part of his international career, but as the batting of the West Indies side around him grew weaker, he developed a more defensive style of play, and turned himself into what *ESPNcricinfo*’s

Vaneisa Baksh described as ‘the anchor of the team, the solid man.’ The Australian spin bowler Shane Warne described Chanderpaul as ‘a bloke you needed to crowbar away from the crease,’ and he is often labelled as ‘limpet-like.’”

For his Test figures, Chanderpaul played 164 matches, scoring 11,867 runs, with twice highest scores of 203 not out against South Africa, and Bangladesh, and an average of 51.37; he scored 30 centuries, and 66 half-centuries. He played 385 First Class matches, scoring 27,545 runs, with a highest score of 303 not out, with an average of 53.17, and 77 centuries.

Chanderpaul announced his retirement from international cricket on January 23, 2016. He later signed a Kolpak deal with Lancashire in 2017, and again for the 2018 season. He also remained committed to First Class cricket in Guyana.

Today, Chanderpaul’s influence extends beyond his own record-breaking career and into the growth of American cricket. Since 2022, he has served as head coach of both the USA senior women’s and U-19 women’s teams, a role designed to bring consistency and high-performance pathways to developing players.

He was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame that same year, a recognition of his 11,867 Test runs and tireless service at the crease, and he continues to mentor new generations of cricketers through coaching and scholarship programs, most recently with the RSR Cricket Scholarship Program in early 2025.

Long settled in Orlando, Florida, with what the ICC described as “long-standing links with American cricket”, Chanderpaul remains committed to nurturing the sport, ensuring his legacy is not only measured in runs but also in the players he teaches to stand tall through his inspiration and guidance.

Tensions mar Asia Cup trophy handover

— Drama overshadowed triumph as India's Asia Cup victory over Pakistan descended into controversy, with the winning team refusing the trophy and medals amid a dispute with ACC chief Mohsin Naqvi, leaving celebrations marked by protest rather than presentation.

India secured their ninth Asia Cup title with a five-wicket win over Pakistan in Dubai last Sunday, yet the post-match narrative was defined less by on-field runs and wickets than by an unprecedented off-field awards ceremony standoff that left the champions without their trophy or medals.

The final at Dubai International Stadium saw Pakistan post 146 after a promising start, only to collapse dramatically against India's left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who returned figures of 4-30.

Then India stumbled early in their chase, losing three wickets in the first three overs, before Tilak Varma anchored the innings with an unbeaten 69.

Supported by Shivam Dube's 33 and Sanju Samson's 24, Varma guided India home with

two balls to spare.

"It is one of the best innings of my life," Varma said, adding, "It was a bit pressured, but I wanted to stay in and finish the game."

The on-field triumph was quickly overshadowed by off-field drama. The presentation ceremony was delayed for more than an hour after India's players refused to accept the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, who is both Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president and chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

According to BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, "It's one thing that I have never seen in my career, that a champion team is denied its trophy. We took the call on the ground about not taking the trophy."

Naqvi refused to vacate the podium, and insisted on presenting the trophy, even as Indian players declined to receive it. Eventually, the trophy was removed altogether before the live broadcast began.

Simon Doull, the host of the presentation, then announced, "I have been informed by the Asian Cricket Council that the Indian cricket team will not be collecting their awards



India's Suryakumar Yadav (at right) pretends to hold the Asia Cup last Sunday tonight. So that does conclude the post-match presentation."

Tilak Varma, Abhishek Sharma, and Kuldeep Yadav collected individual awards, but refused to shake hands with Naqvi, instead heading straight back to the dressing room. Captain Suryakumar Yadav did not speak during the ceremony.

As Pakistani players received their runners-up medals from Bangladesh Cricket President Aminul Islam, India celebrated privately, Yadav lifting an "imaginary trophy" in front of teammates as fireworks crackled overhead.

The fallout then spilled into Tuesday's ACC meeting in Dubai. Indian representatives Ashish Shelar and Rajeev Shukla clashed with Naqvi over the missing trophy, which Shelar said had been "taken away".

The debate escalated to the point that Shelar logged out of the virtual meeting in protest before rejoining later. Ultimately, it was decided that the five Test-playing members of the ACC: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh,

and Afghanistan, would meet offline to break the deadlock.

The tension was evident even in protocol: Shelar pressed Naqvi to formally congratulate India on their Asia Cup victory after he initially praised Mongolia's new membership, and Nepal's series win over the West Indies. Naqvi eventually relented.

The dispute added another layer to a rivalry already strained by political and military tensions between both nations.

Earlier this year, India and Pakistan engaged in a four-day conflict following a militant attack in Kashmir. Even before those hostilities, cricket encounters between the two nations had been limited to neutral venues or ICC tournaments.

Pakistan captain Salman Agha lamented the fallout, saying: "I think what has happened in this tournament is very disappointing. If they think they disrespected us by not shaking hands, then I say they disrespected cricket."



Kate Cross

Now Kate Cross' career at the crossroads

— Veteran England bowler Kate Cross has lost her central contract after 12 years and 140 wickets, admitting the news "was one of the toughest weeks" of her career as she comes to the crossroads, and weighs her future in the game.

England seamer Kate Cross, long regarded as a reliable leader of the attack has confirmed that her central contract with the national side was not renewed, a decision she learned on the eve of the Women's Hundred in August. The 33-year-old, who debuted in 2013 and has taken 140 wickets across formats, now faces an uncertain future after being overlooked for the Women's World Cup.

Cross' career spans eight Tests, 76 ODIs, and 18 T20 internationals. She remains one of only eight women to have taken more than 100 ODI wickets for England, with her strike rate of 33.4 second only to Sophie Ecclestone's 32.2. A member of the 2013-2014 Ashes-winning squad, she became England's senior seamer following Katherine Sciver-Brunet's retirement in 2023. However, her role diminished rapidly over the past year.

After a back injury kept her out of the most recent Ashes in Australia, Cross returned against West Indies before being dropped in the India series this summer.

"I started the India series opening the bowling for England as vice-captain, and I finished that series not even making the 13," she reflected, adding, "That felt like a lot of trust had been lost quite quickly."

Cross recounted on her *No Balls* podcast that she was told during her post-season appraisal in August that her contract would not be renewed.

"I went down to Loughborough and I think I was in there for about six minutes and I drove myself back home," she said. She described the experience as "a pretty savage day", recalling how she had prepared her statistics for discussion, but "didn't get a chance to open my book".

She credited a representative from the Professional Cricketers' Association for sup-

porting her.

"Looking back I am so pleased I took him in," Cross said, adding, "I chatted him through what I thought my scenario was about an hour or two before I went into the appraisal and I was inconsolable."

Cross also learned during The Hundred that she had been omitted from the World Cup squad, compounding a difficult month. Head coach Charlotte Edwards later approached her about being a reserve.

"That's the bit I'm finding tough, because the end point isn't now for me," Cross said.

"If an injury does go down, I have to go and be ready to play for England in a World Cup," she added.

Edwards had told her before the final ODI against India that it was a "must-win game", and she was not part of the squad. For Cross, who prided herself on being dependable, the exclusion stung deeply.

"As a cricketer who's always prided myself on being a reliable bowler for your captain, that was pretty tough to hear," she revealed.

Despite recent domestic success in winning The Hundred with Northern Superchargers, and helping Lancashire in the One-Day Cup, Cross admitted she is unsure about continuing professionally.

"I'm so aware that my international career had to come to an end at some point," she said.

She added, "But I think it's just the speed of it. I honestly think in a couple of months, a couple of years' time, I might look back and be really pleased at how quickly it all happened."

For now, she plans to step back over the winter before deciding whether to pursue a domestic contract.

"I also sat here questioning whether I want to play cricket again," she said candidly.

Cross added that while Edwards had "kept reaching out" to talk, she was not ready.

"The chat might make her feel better, but I don't think I'm ready for that yet. That almost feels like something that might happen next year, or in two years' time, or maybe never," she said.

Community Thanksgiving Lunch

Free TURKEY LUNCH
100 People
FREE ENTRY

MONDAY OCT 13TH

twilight 55 Nugget Ave, Scarborough
Lunch will be served during 1pm - 3pm

FREE reservation: Ticketgateway.com/thanksgiving

SCAN TO RESERVE

If you have a loved one or Have a neighbour that would appreciate a Complimentary Turkey Lunch, please let them know. Info 416-309-9754

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UNITNTCHARITY



FALL SPECIALS!!!



Reg.: \$799 Now: **\$399**

Available with Grey or Blue Chairs



5 Pcs Dining Set

Reg.: \$2199 Now: **\$1299**



2 Pcs Sofa & Loveseat - Canadian Made

Reg.: \$1499 Now: **\$799**



7 Pcs Pub Set - Includes Table & 6 Chairs

Reg.: \$1499 Now: **\$999**



7 Pcs Dining Set - Includes Table & Six Chairs

Reg.: \$2199 Now: **\$1599**



4 Pcs Sectional Set - Canadian Made

Reg.: \$3999 Now: **\$2499**



8 Pcs Bedroom Set - Queen Size

Reg.: \$1999 Now: **\$1299**

Accent Chair only \$149



2 Pcs Sofa Set - Sofa & Loveseat

Reg.: \$999 Now: **\$699**



LED Vanity Table with USB Charging

Reg.: \$1499 Now: **\$899**

Floor Model Clearance



2 Pcs Sofa Set & Loveseat

Reg.: \$2399 Now: **\$1699**

Limited Stock

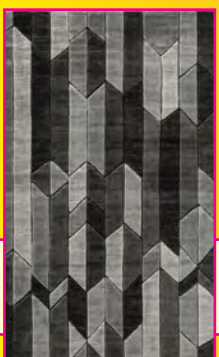


2 Pcs Power Recliner Sofa Set

Reg.: \$499 Now: **\$199**



Single Size Folding Bed With Mattress



Accessories & Rugs

Up to 50% OFF

Financing Available • 12 months • No Interest • No Payment

While Supplies Last



**2575 STEELES AVE E, UNIT #14-17
BRAMPTON ON L6T 5T1**

TEL: 905-790-0560 • FAX: 905-790-3702

customerservicestephensfurniture@hotmail.com • www.stephensfurnitureltd.com

