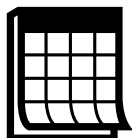


VOLUME 38  
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# NEWSLETTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Georgetown  
Chamber of Commerce & Industry



OCTOBER IN REVIEW



UPCOMING  
EVENTS



NEW  
MEMBERS



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## WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In October 2025, the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry approved the applications of its newest cohort of members. We would like to take the opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to:

Bold Enterprise Solutions & Technologies Inc.
Purple Heart Security Enterprises INC
Pantheon Construction Inc
MARC Enterprises
The Sweet Spot
Home Service Guyana Inc.
Fulkrum Technical Resources Inc.
Marlog Guyana Inc.
Lesters Enterprise
ARVChicken
Confidence Cleaners
Golden Key
CASL Guyana Inc

## EVENTS

### Energy Insights Breakfast



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on October 2 hosted its 'Energy Insights Breakfast Brief' that was geared towards ensuring that local businesses are informed of current and emerging opportunities for their advancement, including contracts and capacity-building initiatives being undertaken by oil industry operatives. The event also provided a platform for attendees to benefit from an overview of the government's strategic plans for economic development and modernisation of the business landscape, while delivering updates on operations within the oil and gas industry.

Held in the Atlantic Ballroom of the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre, the event saw the keynote address being delivered by His Excellency, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who shared an overview of infrastructural development undertaken by his Administration while addressing the importance of strategic and sustainable development. In highlighting the impact of the petroleum sector, the President stated, "Oil is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end, it is a means of accelerating, a catalyst, a steppingstone. If oil is the fuel, then sustainable development must be the destination," adding that if not managed properly, the resource can impoverish a nation.

Furthermore, H.E. Dr. Ali underscored the key role that the private sector plays in supporting the advancement of the country by bolstering the impact of investment and revenue. He emphasised, "It is business that transforms wealth into work, into commerce, and into opportunity and the government's role is to create that enabling environment. The government's work is to develop the policy framework that supports innovation, that supports transformation, and that supports quality jobs. The business community has an important role to play in translating wealth into opportunities and improved standard of living. The beating heart of any economy is the business community."

The President also updated attendees on decisive actions being taken to support the business community by modernising the banking sector and framework within which businesses operate. “I will be working with the local private sector and international partners to ensure that we develop our capabilities and capacity in crude oil trading,” he said, later adding, “Already, I have the technical team working with government to have by next week the draft proposal on the development bank as we have promised. We have the team working with Cabinet members and the Minister of Finance on modernising the financial sector. In three weeks, that report will come to us as to how we modernise our banking sector, the creation of a modern stock exchange and options for capital mobilisation.”

Meanwhile, President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith, in her remarks reiterated the crucial nature of sustainability in planning for the success and continuity of businesses. She stated, “As we channel our energies into transforming this country, diversifying the economy and fueling development, we are all keen on what course of action we should take to keep abreast with this evolution.” Mrs. Smith applauded the government for its determination in addressing issues facing the private sector, such as tackling challenges in the circulation of foreign exchange. “These steps reinforce the administration’s commitment to macroeconomic stability as we scale up national development,” she stressed.

Chaired by Senior Vice President of the GCCI, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, the event also saw remarks being delivered by Production Manager and Vice President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Mr. Huzefa Ali—who updated the audience on ExxonMobil Guyana’s operations and its investment into local content. The engagement also featured a panel discussion, moderated by Chief Executive Officer of Sagacity Incorporated, Mr. Christopher Chapwanya, that delved into the operations, growth and local content utilisation of Prime Contractors of the oil sector. The panelists included General Manager of SBM Offshore Guyana, Mr. Martin Cheong; Country Manager for MODEC Guyana, Mr. Rafael Fumis; Chief Executive Officer of Guyana Shore Base Incorporated, Mr. Oliver Kassam; Managing Director of Vreed-en-Hoop Shorebase Incorporated, Mr. Nicholas Deygoo-Boyer, and Supply Chain Manager of Saipem Guyana, Mr. Diego Vicke.

The Energy Insights Breakfast Brief was executed through the support of Premier Sponsor, SBM Offshore Guyana; Gold Sponsors—Marriott Hotel Guyana, Orkin, Excel, Puran Brothers Incorporated, S. Jagmohan Construction and General Services, JR’s Group of Companies, and Japarts; and Silver Sponsors—Massy Gas Products (Guyana) Limited, GuyOil, PS Shipping and Customs Brokerage, GYSBI, and Herdmanston Lodge. The Chamber, through this initiative, reiterates its commitment to building the capacity of local companies to meet the needs and demands of Guyana’s evolving business landscape, while also connecting our members to opportunities.

## GCCI HRM and Capacity Building Committee hosts networking session



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (GCCI) boardroom was abuzz on the evening of Thursday, October 9, 2025, as members gathered for a networking session that featured informative presentations on key topics such 'The Future of Hybrid and Remote Work' and 'Succession Planning and Employment Contracts for Hybrid & Remote Work'.

Hosted by the GCCI's Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee--chaired by Mrs. Melisa McRae-George and Vice Chairperson, Ms. Holly Persaud--the event provided a platform for members to meet and engage each other on key issues affecting their workforce. Attendees also benefited from insights into the Chamber's operations, workplan and areas of advocacy.

## GCCI commissions Micro and Women Entrepreneur Learning Centre



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Tuesday, October 28, commissioned its Micro and Women Entrepreneur Learning Centre—a groundbreaking facility that will support the growth and development of businesses with keen attention to women-owned and women-led businesses, and farmers.

Located on the middle floor of the GCCI, the facility features a training room, boardroom, and three offices that will house technical officers who will support the beneficiaries through a wide range of services including capacity building in areas including but not limited to business development, marketing, preparation of proposals, financial education, and compliance. The Centre was developed through a partnership with the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) with funding from Global Affairs Canada.

Speaking at the event, President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy Smith stated that the Centre was birthed from “a bold idea built on the foundation of a strong desire to see Micro and women-led businesses, as well as farmers, thrive and develop sustainably.” The Centre, the President emphasised, is evidence of the GCCI’s strong commitment to the development and success of Guyana’s business landscape at every level. “This facility represents an opportunity—an opportunity for MSMEs in Guyana to access invaluable training and information. And I am not speaking of just members of the GCCI. Any woman entrepreneur or farmer can walk up these stairs and access our portfolio of services and support,” she underscored.

WUSC Country Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean Project, Mr. Donald Cole noted that GCCI, WUSC, and the Ministry of Agriculture have a longstanding partnership to propel the inclusive market system into practice. “That collaboration has grown into platforms like Guyana Agri Connect and events such as the Agriculture Symposium where more than 130 stakeholders came together to align public and private action. The Centre being opened here today is a practical next step in that journey,” he stated. Mr. Cole explained that the Centre is designed to provide practical tools and tailored mentoring for beneficiaries that will yield results. “It offers training in business fundamentals, digital tools, food security, food safety and quality, and sustainable production. It is also a place to test products, showcase them, and meet buyers and service providers,” he told attendees.

Representing the High Commission of Canada, Head of Cooperation, Mr. Adam Loyer in his remarks posited that the Centre is an investment by the GCCI into the future of Guyana's agriculture and entrepreneurs. "Through this initiative, the GCCI is demonstrating how the private sector and civil society can serve as catalysts for inclusive development, bringing together farmers, buyers, service providers, and financiers into one ecosystem," he noted as he urged stakeholders to support the Centre's initiatives.

Meanwhile, in his feature address, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha reflected on the GCCI's support for the development of the agriculture sector and stated that the Centre stands as a beacon of opportunity for empowerment and innovation. He explained that the launch of the Centre coincides with the government's strategy to modernise the infrastructure within the sector and create training opportunities. "This Learning Centre is more than just a physical space—it is a space of potential, a space where ideas can become enterprises and enterprises can become engines of sustainable growth for our nation," he stressed.

He pointed out that a 2022 survey revealed that women account for 33 percent of farmers, and it is the government's objective to have 50 percent of new agriculture ventures be led by women and youth by 2030. "By fostering collaboration and continuous learning, this Centre will help ensure that our agriculture and business sectors grow together, strengthening food security, supporting job creation, and expanding private sector development. The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry deserves tremendous credit for their foresight and leadership in establishing this initiative," he stated.

Junior Vice President and Chairman of the GCCI's Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards—who has been leading on the execution of the Chamber's efforts to bolster the agriculture sector—remarked that the Centre marks a new era in agriculture and entrepreneurship for Guyana's transformation, defined by collaboration, innovation, and inclusion.

"This initiative embraced the Inclusive Market Systems approach, which challenges us to go beyond quick fixes and instead addresses the barrier of market exclusion and fragmentation. Inclusive Market Systems teaches us that strengthening agricultural value chains must place small farmers, processors, women, youth, and marginalised groups at the heart of solutions. It promotes scalable, lasting change through empowerment, not dependency. But true transformation requires a foundation, a starting point that creates enabling conditions for systemic change," he highlighted. Further, Mr. Edwards asserted that the Centre will empower entrepreneurs to capitalise on opportunities by nurturing innovation and expanding networks, especially among women and youth who are vital to sustaining this growth.

The development of the Centre was the result of collaboration, partnership, and the support of the business community. Contributions were received from Metro Office and Computer Supplies, Giftland OfficeMax, AdNation Guyana, Lodestar Incorporated, Pinnacle Solutions Incorporated, Dynotech Construction Chemicals Incorporated, Green State Oil and Gas Services Incorporated, Guyana Payroll Solutions Incorporated, Comfort Sleep, Brava, Professional Print and Design, Unicomer Guyana Incorporated, J.R.P Contracting Services, and ExxonMobil Guyana.

## GCCI hosts third annual Cancer Awareness Fundraiser to support Cancer Institute of Guyana and free screening



On Wednesday, October 29, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) hosted the Nadene Gilbert-Rambarran Cancer Awareness Fundraiser and Mixer to raise funds to support the renovation of the Cancer Institute of Guyana’s laundry facilities, as well as free screening for members through the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association.

The event saw scores of members and supporters of the Chamber converging at Palm Court to support this worthy cause. Last year, the activity raised \$1 million, which was donated towards the renovation of the Institute’s CT scanner room.

In brief remarks at the event, President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith stated that the fundraiser has become a permanent fixture on the Chamber’s annual calendar of activities because of its meaningful impact. “Last year, when we presented the cheque to the Cancer Institute, I was able to tour the facility, and ingrained in my memory are the people we met. During that walkthrough, we were able to interact with fighters—persons who were battling cancer. What stood out was their demeanor—friendly, welcoming, and pleasant despite their circumstances—their resilience. We were able to witness firsthand how meaningful our contributions would be to the lives of our brothers and sisters,” she stated.

The president reflected on the late Councillor of the GCCI, Mrs. Nadene Gilbert-Rambarran, a dedicated and passionate supporter of the Chamber’s work, whom the event was named after. She also reflected on former GCCI Councillor and Secretary, Mrs. Allison Butters-Grant, and staff member Ms. Bryony Shewraj, who lost their battle with cancer.

“This year, we have added the component of free screening for members. Your health matters to us, and we want to ensure that our people have access to the resources needed to screen for cancer. Beyond business, the GCCI is committed to improving the lives of our people, and Corporate Social Responsibility is important in this pursuit. We must be able to give back and serve our communities. The wellbeing of our people is a priority,” she emphasised.

The event featured an art display and sale by FineArt.GY, and it was executed through the generous support of Palm Court, Lodestar, Western Logistics, Offshore Innovators, Shaws Media, Unicomer , Professional Guard Services, and Electric (Guyana) Inc.

## GCCI President encourages regional collaboration at Trinidad Energy Chamber's Post-AGM Networking Session



### ***-Calls for Non-Tariff Barriers & Port Congestion-related shipping delays for Guyanese consumers to be addressed***

With emphasis on the power of collaboration and partnership, President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) Mrs. Kathy Smith on October 24 addressed the Trinidad Energy Chamber's Post-AGM Networking session and encouraged closer regional cooperation within the private sector.

Mrs. Smith delivered the keynote address at the event which was hosted at the Hilton Hotel in Trinidad and participated in a panel discussion that featured Dr. Thackwray 'Dax' Driver, President & CEO Energy Chamber of T&T; Ms. Mala Baliraj, Chairperson, Energy Chamber of T&T; Mr. Gary Frost, Managing Director, Rig Bound; Ms. Sasha Addo, Managing Director, L&S Surveying Services, and Mr. Richard Thompson, Director, New Business Development, IRP Fire & Safety Ltd.

At the event, the GCCI President pointedly addressed the need for the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers for Guyanese importers looking to tap into the Trinidadian market, and for urgent and strategic action to be taken to remedy port congestion in Trinidad that has been resulting in shipment delays bound for Guyana.

Addressing the Trinidadian Private Sector, Mrs. Smith stated, "We are neighbours, we are partners, and increasingly, we are part of the same energy story — one that is transforming the face of our economies, our businesses, and our people."

She highlighted Guyana's transformative development over the last several years, which resulted from the emergence of the oil and gas sector, the opportunities for businesses, and how the GCCI has empowered Guyanese businesses to enter the industry's supply chain—particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

"When Caribbean businesses connect and collaborate — we all rise together. Trinidad and Tobago has long been the energy capital of the Caribbean. You have the expertise, the infrastructure, and the experience that the region can learn from. In Guyana, we've already seen the benefits of Trinidadian investment —your companies bring speed, technical knowledge, and a wealth of experience that strengthens our ecosystem. But partnership must be a two-way street. As we grow our own capacity, Guyanese firms are also looking outward —for opportunities to supply, to service, and to partner right here in Trinidad and Tobago," she affirmed.

The GCCI President underscored that the region is at a turning point—where the actions taken today can build resilient, diversified economies, strengthen manufacturing, agriculture, technology, and human capital and ensure that the wave of prosperity touches every home, community, and business. She emphasised, "The Caribbean's strength has always been its people — resourceful, resilient, and ready to rise. The oil beneath our seas is valuable, yes —but the real resource lies in the partnerships we build, the trust we forge, and the opportunities we create for each other."

The two organisations committed to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for the advancement of the private sectors in both countries.

## MEETINGS

### **GCCI members discuss His Excellency President Ali's interventions into foreign exchange challenges**



Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) met on October 7 to discuss the nine interventions announced by His Excellency, President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali to address the challenges surrounding access to foreign exchange in Guyana.

During the hybrid meeting that featured in-person and virtual participation, members examined the nature of the interventions and the foreign exchange market.

## GCCI's Executive Management Committee engages Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation on matters affecting private sector



Members of the Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on October 14 paid a courtesy call on Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Hon. Deodat Indar, during which a number of pressing matters related to the business community were discussed.

President, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George; Executive Member and Immediate Past President, Mr. Kester Hutson, and Executive Member and Past President, Mr. Timothy Tucker formed the GCCI delegation to the meeting that also saw the attendance of Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Thandi McAllister and Director General of the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation, Mr. Alfonso De Armas.

Minister Indar provided updates on plans to modernise the country's electricity grid, as well as an overview of progress on the Gas-to-Energy Project. Discussions also delved into the operations of the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI). The GCCI team raised concerns related to the shipping industry and delays being experienced by local businesses in receiving their shipments, as well as increasing demurrage fees.

## GCCI engages Minister Steven Jacobs on supporting development of sports tourism



Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) Executive Management Committee (EMC) on Friday, October 17 met with Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports, Hon. Steven Jacobs.

President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, and Immediate Past President and Executive Member, Mr. Kester Hutson paid a courtesy visit to the minister at his office.

During the meeting, the development of sports tourism in Guyana was discussed, and how the private sector can collaborate with the government to propel the sector. The Chamber committed its support to this initiative, and the two parties agreed to further the discourse on this partnership.

## GCCI meets with ANSA McAL



As the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) advances its work plan for the development of Guyana's business landscape, high on the agenda is engaging members of the private sector on areas of interest.

On October 21, President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith, and Councillors Ms. Dee George and Mr. Delmar Walcott met with Managing Director of ANSA McAL Distribution Incorporated, Mr. Troy Cadogan and discussed matters related to the development of the business community.

This engagement was geared towards understanding the needs of the private sector and how the Chamber can support their growth, as well as areas for collaboration.

# STATEMENT



## Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

“Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889”

President: Mrs. Kathy S. Smith

October 6, 2025

Statement *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Commending the government's initiatives for economic advancement through business development

**-START-**

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) recognises the Government of Guyana's strategic and decisive actions to bolster economic advancement through business development by creating accessible financing and banking options, and modernising the stock exchange. The Chamber eagerly anticipates the positive impacts that the implementation of these decisions will have on the business community, particularly Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME).

At the GCCCI's recently held 'Energy Insights Breakfast Brief' by His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced that the reports from the technical teams on these pursuing endeavours will be completed within this month. With the inclusion of US\$200 million in seed funding, mechanisms for more accessibility of bank accounts for citizens, and an interest-free development bank in these planned initiatives, the Chamber welcomes this renewed focus on private sector development. Timely, too, is the planned modernisation of the stock exchange, which will create new avenues for Guyanese to invest through the purchase of stocks, and the creation of new potential capital streams for businesses.

The formal announcement of these initiatives follows several meetings hosted by His Excellency Dr. Ali with representatives of business support organisations, as well as stakeholders of the finance industry. The GCCCI is pleased that the Government is acting with urgency in addressing the challenges raised by the private sector while creating the framework for a thriving business landscape. The Chamber remains committed to collaborating with the Government for the progressive development of the private sector.

**-END-**

# STATEMENT



## Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mrs. Kathy S. Smith

October 27, 2025

Statement *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry on

Fatal explosion at gas station

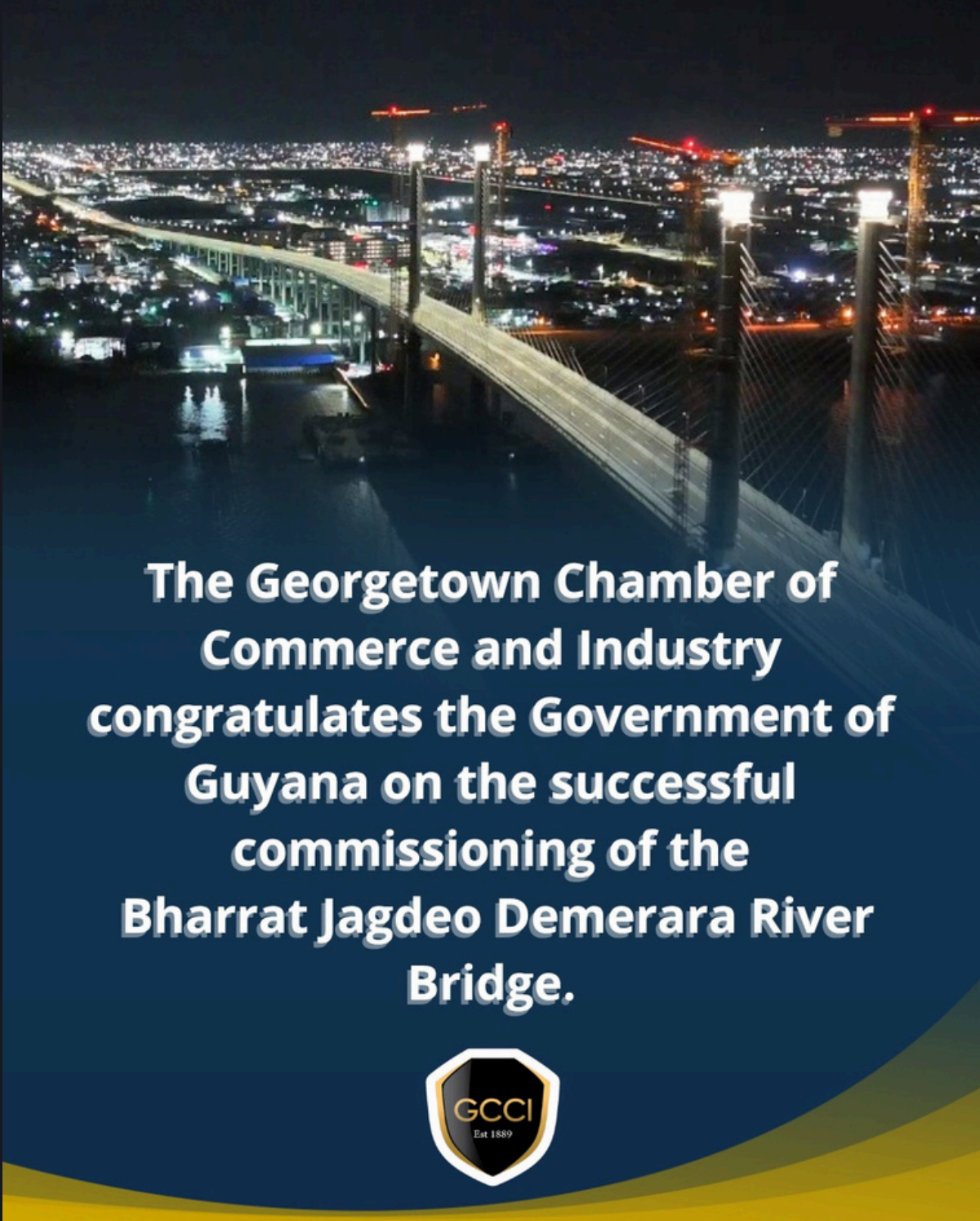
**-START-**

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has noted revelations that the explosion at the Mobil Gas Station that claimed the life of six-year-old Soraya Browne and injured several others, was triggered by human intervention, and commends the Guyana Police Force for promptly identifying the alleged perpetrator.

This disturbing incident has underscored the importance of vigilance as it relates to our domestic security and the wellbeing of our citizenry, and as such the Chamber urges law enforcement to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted and the perpetrator is brought to justice, and that a recurrence is prevented. Public security must be preserved and protected, and the GCCCI urges the public to report any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities.

The GCCCI extends condolences to the family and loved ones of Soraya Browne and wishes a speedy recovery to those who were injured by the explosion.

**-END-**

**GREETING**

**The Georgetown Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry  
congratulates the Government of  
Guyana on the successful  
commissioning of the  
Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River  
Bridge.**



GREETING



S H U B H

# DIWALI

From the Council, Executive Management  
Committee, Members, and Secretariat of the  
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

