



Indian Diaspora Council International
Shared heritage, aspirations and interests
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PRESS RELEASE

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Congratulations to Guyana on its 53rd Anniversary as a Republic

The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)** and its global partners, congratulate the people of GUYANA on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary as a republic, and extend warm greetings to Guyanese in Guyana and abroad who take enormous pride in the land of their birth and residence.

Officially known as the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, it is a sovereign state on the Caribbean coast of South America. Although Guyana is part of the Anglophone Caribbean, it is one of the few Caribbean countries referred to as part of South America.

Guyana has made significant strides and progress in all sectors of society since independence from Britain on 26th May 1966 from dependency to becoming a major entity in the global arena in geo-economic partnerships for progress. The foundations for more progress were laid through Guyana becoming a republic on 23rd February 1970 which is celebrated each year as Guyana's Republic Day.

The 53rd anniversary of Guyana's republic provides timely recognition of the enormous progress that Guyana has made since its independence towards quality of life, especially social, cultural, economic, education and political advances by its people. There is worldwide recognition of Guyana, its history, culture and traditions, as well as its decades of struggles to overcome hardships during and after colonialism, its resilience and courage to forge a national identity and agenda of progress in democracy and mostly peaceful co-existence among its diverse ethnic groups.

"Our ancestors came to Guyana partly by choice, many forced but they resolved and persevered under very difficult and harrowing conditions. That shared experience and that saga of shared history fostered an unusual kindred spirit of resolve, togetherness and kinship – a triumph over obstacles and difficulties with dreams and aspirations of a destiny intertwined by history and fate", noted IDC president Ashook Ramsaran who was born in Guyana and resides in USA.

The enormous financial benefits of oil and gas discoveries off the coast of Guyana have provided the impetus for further progress in all sectors of Guyanese society. The Government of Guyana has embarked on a series of ambitious programs with a visionary agenda in housing, infrastructure, social reforms, education, medical services and transportation beneficial to the people of Guyana. Guyana's enduring vitality is a reflection of its people, always strong, energetic, progressive and vibrant.

IDC congratulates the Government and people of Guyana on the commemoration of this 53rd anniversary of that historic date. We also extend our continued best wishes to all Guyanese for continued peaceful and prosperous co-existence among other ethnic groups both in Guyana and other lands where they have subsequently settled.

"Guyana officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, is on the northern mainland of South America. Originally inhabited by many indigenous groups, Guyana was settled by the Dutch before coming under British control in the late 18th century. It was governed as British Guiana, with a mostly plantation-style economy until the 1950s. It gained independence in 1966, and officially became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. The legacy of British rule is reflected in the country's political administration and diverse population, which includes Indian, African, Amerindian, and multiracial groups. The largest ethnic group is the Indo-Guyanese (also known as East Indians), the descendants of indentured laborers from India, who make up 43.5% of the population, according to the 2002 census. They are followed by the Afro-Guyanese, the descendants of slaves from Africa, who constitute 30.2%. Guyanese of mixed heritage make up 16.7%, while the indigenous peoples (known locally as Amerindians) make up 9.1%. Wikipedia

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The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997 and headquartered in New York, USA, is an international non-profit, non-political and secular organization with global affiliates, chapters and membership in 21 countries, with the objective to embrace, engage, and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations, and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.