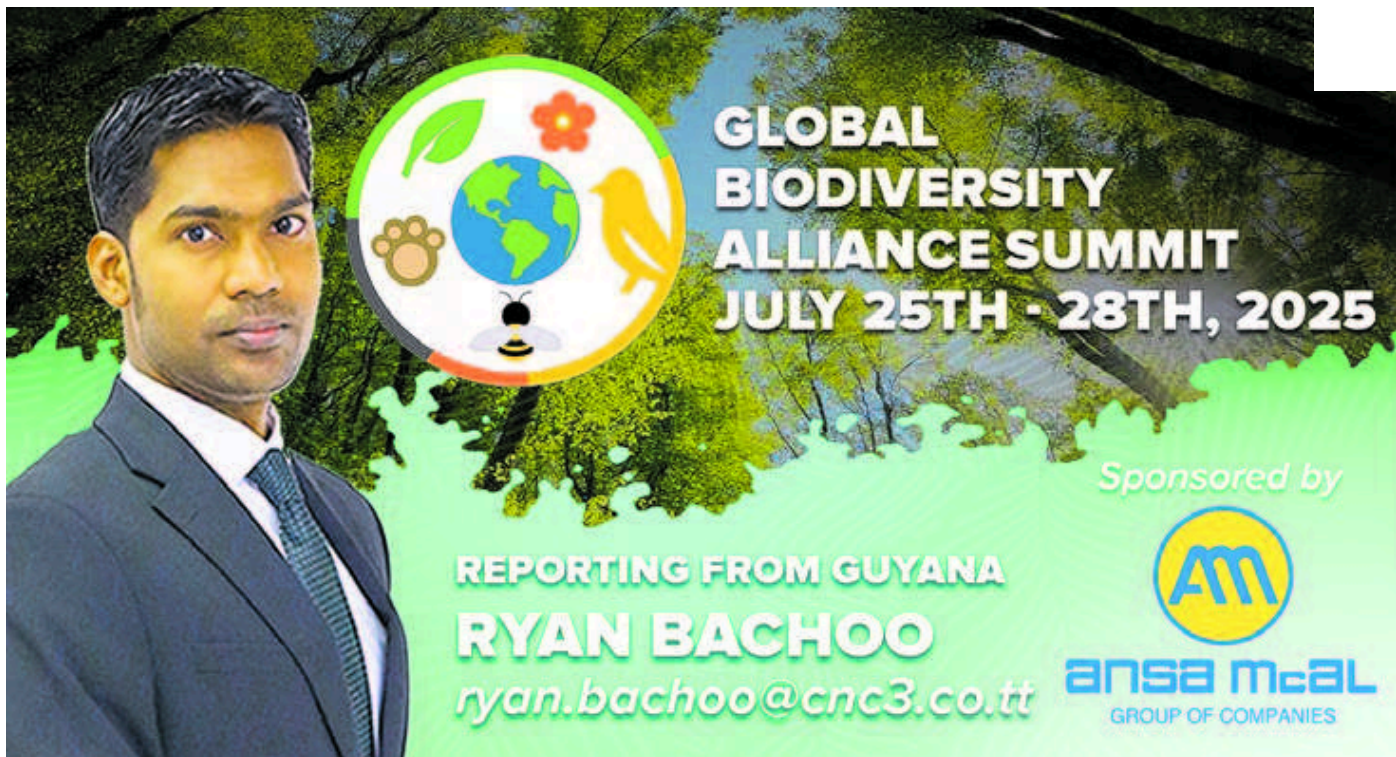


Ali: Refinery investment must be viable, sustainable



**GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY
ALLIANCE SUMMIT
JULY 25TH - 28TH, 2025**

Sponsored by

**REPORTING FROM GUYANA
RYAN BACHOO
ryan.bachoo@cnc3.co.tt**

ansa mcal
GROUP OF COMPANIES



Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali speaks at the closing plenary of the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit in Georgetown yesterday. PICTURE COURTESY FACEBOOK/GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY ALLIANCE SUMMIT

Guyana's President Dr Irfaan Ali says his country is concentrating on building out its own infrastructure and he will only be able to make an assessment on the Petrotrin refinery when the discussion comes up.

He was speaking to Guardian Media in an interview on the sidelines of the Global Biodiversity Alliance Summit taking place in Georgetown.

His comments came a day after Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat, told Guardian Media no discussion with T&T will take place regarding the energy sector until after Guyana's general election scheduled for September 1.

However, on Wednesday evening, Ali was adamant his plans lay with Northern Brazil.

"We have major plans here with the gas to shore project coming on stream. We are looking at the

opportunity of integrating Northern Brazil with Guyana to have a storage platform and a supply platform for all aspects of refined products. Then we also have the gas. We'll be able to be a major supplier of almost all of the requirements for the region and Northern Brazil," Ali said.

He added: "So, we are busy building out an infrastructure here that will support the region and support Northern Brazil. That is what we are concentrating on. If and when such a discussion or proposal comes our way, we'll be in a better position to make an assessment."

Bharrat confirmed in an interview on Wednesday that Minister of Energy and Energy Industries, Dr Roodal Moonilal, reached out to him via a letter seeking discussions.

However, Ali is adamant that whatever investments Guyana makes in the energy sector must be viable.

He further added, "I can say we have not had that discussion right now (on partnering with T&T to reopen the refinery). Of course, we have discussions with every member of Caricom on how we can advance development, how we can look at ways in which we improve our relationship and expand economic opportunity. But everything must be viable. Whatever you invest in or whatever partnership you build must be one that is built on sustainability, viability, one that is built on public good."

The Guyanese president says they must also look at how the business of refining has revolutionised.

He added, "The business of refinery has changed tremendously across the world.

You have to be very efficient in what you do. You have to have the technology to back the type of infrastructure that you have. We have seen around the world many refineries are out of operation now. So, it's to understand the ecosystem, understand what it is all about."

The Petrotrin refinery was closed in November 2018 by the previous administration.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has established a committee chaired by former energy minister Kevin Ramnarine to conduct a feasibility study into whether the refinery can be reopened.