



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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In-Focus Article



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Breaking Language Barriers: How BHASHINI is Building an Inclusive Digital India

India is a linguistically diverse country. In India, language can be a significant barrier to accessing digital services, information and public platforms. Millions of citizens may have access to smartphones and the internet but may still find digital interfaces difficult to navigate when services are primarily available in languages they do not use comfortably. Addressing this challenge requires more than conventional translation—it requires digital infrastructure capable of understanding and communicating with citizens in their own languages.

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DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations



DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence hosted a productive meeting with the International Science & Technology Affairs Directorate (CSIR-ISTAD), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), on 19 August 2026 to explore opportunities for strengthening technology partnerships across the Global South. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN, welcomed the CSIR team and outlined DAKSHIN’s vision and mandate, with a focus on promoting South-South cooperation, knowledge-sharing and the scaling up of development solutions across countries of the Global South.

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Key Developments in the Global South

Hon’ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Meets Hon’ble Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Nikol Pashinyan



India’s Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the “substantive outcomes” of his State Visit to Seychelles, announcing a series of agreements and development initiatives aimed at deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries across sectors including digital payments, healthcare, defence, agriculture, maritime cooperation and space. In a post on X, he said, “There are substantive outcomes in this Seychelles visit. Key MoUs have been signed. These include an MoU for the implementation of UPI in Seychelles, MoU on Jan Aushadhi and more. We will keep working in futuristic sectors like climate action, green hydrogen, energy, the Blue Economy and more.” The visit, undertaken at the invitation of Seychelles’s Hon’ble President H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie, coincided with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of

Seychelles' Independence, which Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended as the Guest of Honour. Reflecting on the visit he said it was an honour to participate in the National Day celebrations, describing the occasion as a tribute to the remarkable journey of the Seychellois people over the past 50 years.

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Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Meets Hon'ble Kyrgyz President H.E. Sadyr Zhaparov in Bishkek, Reviews Strategic Partnership



Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Hon'ble Kyrgyz President H.E. Sadyr Zhaparov on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek and reviewed the progress in bilateral relations between India and the Kyrgyz Republic. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-Kyrgyzstan Strategic Partnership, with discussions focusing on expanding economic and commercial cooperation as well as deepening people-to-people ties. During the meeting, the two leaders agreed to further enhance economic and commercial cooperation, taking into account the complementarities between the two economies. They also discussed the growing people-to-people connections between India and Kyrgyzstan, including through student exchanges and cultural collaborations.

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India-Uzbekistan Ties Elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership



Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi concluded a successful two-day State Visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, following talks with Hon'ble President H.E. Shavkat

Mirziyoyev to deepen bilateral ties. Both leaders agreed to elevate India-Uzbekistan relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.. The outcomes of the visit extend well beyond the signing of 11 agreements. From critical minerals and uranium to trade, defence, digital payments and education; from Hindi and Sanskrit to sports and heritage conservation, the two-day visit has given a broad framework to the India-Uzbekistan relationship. The elevation of ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, coupled with the five-billion-dollar trade target, long-term energy cooperation and greater engagement at the state and city levels, is expected to provide fresh momentum to India's engagement with Uzbekistan and the wider Central Asian region.

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The 4th Round of India -Singapore Ministerial Roundtable Witnesses the Exchange of 2 MoUs



The 4th round of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) was held in Singapore on 20 August 2026. The Indian side comprised Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, India; Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, India; Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, India; and Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, and Electronics & Information Technology, India. The Singaporean side was represented by H.E. Gan Kim Yong, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade); H.E. K. Shanmugam, Senior Minister, Hon'ble Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs; H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs; H.E. Josephine Teo, Hon'ble Minister for Digital Development and Information; and Mr. Jeffrey Siow, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance.

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Hon'ble Union Commerce and Industry Minister, India, Shri Piyush Goyal Highlights New Avenues for Indian Agri-Food Exports to Singapore and ASEAN



Hon'ble Union Commerce and Industry Minister, India, Shri Piyush Goyal said new avenues were being created for Indian farmers and processed food manufacturers to expand their presence in Singapore and subsequently access markets across ASEAN and Australia through an APEDA-FairPrice roadshow-cum-in-store promotion. He, in a post on X, said he joined Singapore's Hon'ble Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry, H.E. Gan Siow Huang and other dignitaries at the initiative, which seeks to expand exports of a diverse range of Indian agricultural and processed food products. "Organic products, fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen fruits & vegetables, dairy products, cashew, rice, millet-based products, and products sourced from different regions of India are being promoted through this engagement," he said. He added that the initiative would create new opportunities for Indian farmers and processed food manufacturers to strengthen their presence in the Singapore market and expand into the wider ASEAN and Australian markets.

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India and Brazil Sign Telecom MoU at BRICS Meeting to Boost Cybersecurity



India and Brazil have signed a new agreement to strengthen cooperation in telecommunications and digital technologies, expanding collaboration between the two countries at a time when India is seeking closer coordination on digital infrastructure within the BRICS grouping. The memorandum of understanding was signed in Pune during the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting. Hon'ble Union Communications Minister, India, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, signed on behalf of India, while Brazil was represented by its Hon'ble Communications Minister, H.E. Frederico de Siqueira Filho. According to the Department of Telecommunications, India, the agreement creates a formal mechanism for the two countries to work together on

telecommunications, information and communications technologies, digital infrastructure and emerging areas of technology.

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India Calls for Deeper BRICS Cooperation in Frontier Technologies, Innovation Financing



India has called for deeper cooperation among BRICS countries in frontier technologies, innovation financing and talent mobility to build a future-ready science and technology ecosystem focused on accessible, affordable and sustainable innovation. Addressing the 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting in Chennai, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, India, Shri Jitendra Singh said stronger international collaboration was needed as emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, photonics, geospatial technologies and high-performance computing reshape economies and societies. 'Science, technology and innovation must serve humanity by enhancing resilience, driving inclusive growth, promoting sustainable development and fostering equitable partnerships among nations,' he said.

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India Expands Digital Outreach to Address Rising Rural Diabetes



India is strengthening its focus on preventive healthcare and digital health delivery as diabetes cases increase in rural communities. Speaking at the launch of the RSSDI Rural Outreach Digital Portal and the VISHWAS diabetes awareness video library, Hon'ble Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said community-led and technology-enabled approaches would be essential to improve early diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care. Details of the initiative were published through an official government release on 16 August 2026. The

programme, led by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), is designed to improve awareness, screening, treatment and ongoing management of diabetes in underserved areas. The new digital portal will support beneficiary registration, treatment documentation and follow-up monitoring while generating anonymised real-world data for public health planning and research.

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Hon'ble Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita Reaffirms Act East Policy and ASEAN Centrality in Vietnam and Laos Visit



Hon'ble Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, concluded an official visit to Vietnam and Laos from August 26 to 29, 2026, aimed at strengthening bilateral partnerships and reinforcing regional cooperation. According to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the official visit served to further advance bilateral engagement under India's broader regional vision. "The visit of MoS (PM) to Vietnam and Lao PDR further strengthened India's bilateral partnerships with Vietnam and Lao PDR under the Act East Policy, and also reaffirmed India's commitment to ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)," the MEA stated. MEA highlighted that in Vietnam, he met with Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Le Minh Hung and Senior Lieutenant General Le Tan Toi to review bilateral ties and follow up on the outcomes of General Secretary and President To Lam's state visit to India in May 2026.

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Hon'ble Vietnamese Prime Minister H.E. Le Minh Hung Proposes Bilateral FTA with India toward US\$25 Billion Trade Target



Hon'ble Vietnamese Prime Minister H.E. Le Minh Hung has suggested that Vietnam and India explore negotiations for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to facilitate trade, connect their economies, and resolve market access bottlenecks, aiming for US\$25 billion in two-way trade and doubling bilateral investment. He made this proposal while receiving the Hon'ble Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Pabitra Margherita, in Hanoi on August 26. Shri Pabitra Margherita is paying a courtesy visit to Vietnam to attend activities celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Vietnam-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016-2026). Both sides concurred that Vietnam and India share similar development visions, with Vietnam aiming to become a developed nation by 2045 and India by 2047. The upgrading to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership opens numerous opportunities for mutual support and cooperation.

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India Seeks to Share DPI frameworks, Train Workers with BRICS Nations: Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, India, Shri Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani



India seeks to work with BRICS nations to share modular, open-source frameworks for digital public infrastructure (DPI) and train workforces together to build institutional capacities, said Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, India, Shri Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani. "The strength of the BRICS partnership lies in our diversity and in the developmental goals we hold in common. The Global South faces challenges that are particular to it, constraints on bandwidth, a great diversity of languages, uneven digital literacy, and vast rural populations," he said. Sharing open-source frameworks would enable member states to adapt proven tools without rebuilding from the beginning and without prohibitive licensing costs, he said.

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India and Argentina Advance Cooperation in Lithium, Energy, Agriculture



India and Argentina have agreed to deepen cooperation in lithium, energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies while advancing talks to facilitate greater market access for Indian agricultural products in the Argentine market. The decisions were taken at the fourth meeting of the India-Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC), held on August 24 at Palacio San Martín, Buenos Aires. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal, while the Argentine side was headed by Mr. Fernando Brun, Secretary for International Economic Relations. The two sides reviewed progress on the roadmap agreed during Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina in 2025 and reaffirmed their commitment to expanding the strategic and economic partnership. India has emerged as Argentina's fifth-largest trading partner, highlighting the significant potential for further expansion and diversification of bilateral trade.

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India and the League of Arab States Reaffirm Commitment to Strengthen Partnership



Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Smt. Sripriya Ranganathan, met Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, H.E. Khalid Manzalawi, during which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to bolster the India-Arab partnership. In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Egypt stated, 'Secretary (CPV and OIA) Smt. Sripriya Ranganathan met H.E. Amb Khalid Manzalawi, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. Discussions focused on advancing the Executive Programme 2026-28, adopted at the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, including through concrete initiatives in new and emerging areas of cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-Arab partnership.'

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India Calls for Urgent United Nations Security Council Reforms, Greater Global South Representation at United Nations Debate



India called for urgent reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), saying the world body's decision-making structure must reflect present-day realities and give greater representation to the Global South. Addressing the UNSC Open Debate on Working Methods, Charge d'Affaires of India's Permanent Mission to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, said the need for reforming the Security Council was "more pronounced and pressing than ever before". "The world of 1945 has changed beyond recognition. UN membership has grown fourfold since then. The outcome of one conflict 80 years ago cannot determine the composition, dynamics, approaches and working methods for perpetuity. This needs to change and must happen at the earliest," she said. "We seek an expansion in both categories, with greater representation for the Global South. This could be achieved only through text-based negotiations, with clearly defined milestones and timelines," she said.

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India Commits to Inclusive Development, Global South Leadership



India has expressed its commitment to inclusive development, stronger representation for developing countries and a rules-based international order. India's Hon'ble High Commissioner to Nigeria, Shri Abhishek Singh, stated this while delivering the 80th Independence Day address of Indian President, Droupadi Murmu, in Abuja. He said that India was moving towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, stressing that development must reach all sections of society. He noted that the country's progress was driven by the contributions of citizens across all sectors, including education,

healthcare, agriculture, science, technology, industry, sports and public service. The Indian envoy also said that India's development agenda was guided by the principle of ensuring that the benefits of growth reached every individual. He also said India was playing a leading role among countries of the Global South and remained committed to strengthening a rules-based international order.

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India Moves to Modernise Agricultural Higher Education Through National Reform Agenda



India has begun a broad review of its agricultural higher education system, with policymakers and agricultural universities focusing on technology-driven learning, industry partnerships, demand-led research and stronger links between universities and farmers. The priorities emerged at the 36th Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities, held in New Delhi on August 25–26 under the theme “Reimagining Agricultural Higher Education for Viksit Bharat@2047.” The conference brought together Vice Chancellors of agricultural universities, senior officials from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), scientists and other stakeholders. Hon'ble Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, India, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, said the performance of agricultural education should be judged not simply by the number of degrees awarded, but by the skills and knowledge created and their impact on farmers.

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The Third Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Mozambique Seek to Advance Closer Ties



The 3rd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India & Mozambique were held in Maputo on 18 August 2026. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Janesh Kain, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa) and the Mozambican delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Jose Antonio Matsinhe, Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique. During the FOC, both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political exchanges, development partnership projects, defence and security cooperation, trade and investments, consular matters, agriculture, sports, health, digital public infrastructure, and people-to-people ties. Both sides agreed to continue holding political exchanges and regular meetings of the bilateral mechanisms to advance close ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Mozambique.

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United Payment Interface Completes 10 years of Digital Payments Revolution; Clocks Nearly 13,000-Fold Rise in Transaction Volume



The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has completed ten years of transforming digital payments and has emerged as the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem. The UPI, which was launched on 25th August 2016, has surged almost 13 thousand-fold in transaction volume. Akashvani correspondent reports that the Finance Ministry said that the annual transaction volume expanded from just 1.78 crore transactions in 2016-17 to over 24 thousand 162 crore transactions in 2025-26. The transaction value also rose sharply from seven thousand crore to nearly 314 lakh crore during the same time period. The Ministry said that UPI has also emerged as a global platform for cross-border digital payments and is currently operational in 11 countries. These are the United Arab Emirates, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and the Maldives.

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Unified Payments Interface in Uzbekistan as India Leads Global Digital Revolution; Tashkent to Deepen Defence Industrial Ties with New Delhi



The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is set to be rolled out in Uzbekistan, thus the latest country to embrace India's indigenous payment gateway. This reflects how New Delhi is championing the global digital public infrastructure revolution with hassle-free & swift financial transaction mechanisms. The Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (West), Shri Sibi George made the remarks in a special briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Uzbekistan. George said that the UPI rollout would facilitate digital transactions between India and Uzbekistan and enable Indian travellers to use UPI-enabled applications in the Central Asian nation. "Another important development is the UPI rollout for Uzbekistan. It adds to the global expansion of Indian digital infrastructure, which helps further digital transactions between our two countries", he told the media.

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India Sends Fourth Flight Carrying 11 Tonnes of Humanitarian Aid to Nepal



India has provided 68.5 tonnes of relief materials to flood-hit Nepal and sent technical teams, forensic experts and equipment to assist in search and rescue operations. A fourth flight carrying 11 tonnes of relief assistance landed in Nepal, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a post on X. The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, in a statement, said India has sent a specialised technical contingent, including tunnel experts, along with equipment for search and rescue operations in hydropower tunnels in the flood-affected Trishuli area of Nuwakot district. Workers are believed to be trapped in hydropower tunnels following the devastating flash floods. The team also conducted an aerial survey of the Chilime and Langtang areas before beginning rescue-related work around the tunnel area.

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India Donates 10 Water Purification Units to Galle National Hospital in Sri Lanka



India has donated 10 water purification units to the Galle National Hospital as a contribution from the people of India. The units were officially handed over on August 29 by the Acting High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, H.E. Shri Maitrey Kulkarni and the Consul General of India, Shri Hambantota Harvinder Singh, to the hospital's Deputy Director General, Dr. Priyantha Atapattu. The water purification units are expected to be installed at several identified locations across the hospital premises. The first unit, installed near the hospital's main entrance, was also officially opened during the event. The Indian delegation also toured the hospital's emergency treatment facilities, including the Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU) and Emergency Treatment Centre (ETC).

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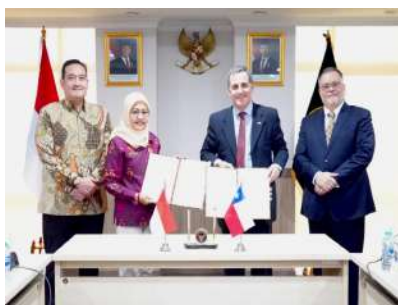
ASEAN Dialogue Puts Forward Nine Priorities to Strengthen Food Security



The two-day Parliamentary Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue concluded with nine key recommendations aimed at promoting responsible investment in agriculture, including stronger legal frameworks, sustainable finance, technology adoption, support for smallholder farmers and a proposed ASEAN Food Bank. The measures emerged from the Parliamentary Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on 'Responsible Investment for Food and Climate Security: Advancing the ASEAN RAI Agenda', which brought together parliamentarians, stakeholders, agricultural communities, researchers and development partners in Phnom Penh from August 25-26. Delivering the closing remarks, Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Information of the National Assembly Mr. Sous Yara, called on stakeholders to move swiftly from dialogue to implementation.

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Indonesia and Chile Strengthen SPS Cooperation to Expand Farm Trade



The Indonesian Quarantine Agency (Barantin) and Chile's Ministry of Agriculture have agreed to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) cooperation to expand agricultural trade while respecting each other's health and safety requirements. Barantin Secretary Ms. Shandra Hanitiyo co-chaired a meeting in Jakarta with Chilean Agriculture Undersecretary Mr. Fransesco Venezian, discussing cooperation in SPS information exchange, electronic certification, risk analysis, inspection, and laboratory capacity. The meeting followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on quarantine measures and certification cooperation in Chile in 2025, according to a statement cited here. Ms. Shandra Hanitiyo emphasised that SPS cooperation had become increasingly important for both nations as they enjoy expansive trade ties, supported by the Indonesia-Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IC-CEPA).

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Egypt and Argentina Ink MoU to Strengthen Agricultural Research, Technological Cooperation



Hon'ble Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, H.E. Alaa Farouk, witnessed the signing ceremony of a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) and Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), as part of the ministry's efforts to expand international cooperation and benefit from modern technologies in supporting the agricultural sector and food security. He said that the cooperation comes within Egypt's strategy to strengthen research

partnerships with leading global agricultural powers, transfer the latest agricultural technologies, and apply them locally to address climate challenges and ensure sustainable production. He noted that cooperation with Argentina will focus on vital priority areas, foremost among them the development of high-yield, stress-tolerant crop varieties capable of withstanding environmental and climatic stresses, as well as the application of modern biotechnology techniques.

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Nigeria and Thailand Deepen Cooperation on Agriculture



The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Thailand have deepened bilateral cooperation with the signing of new agreements focused on agriculture, cooperatives and innovation, in a move to drive implementation of the Renewed Hope Cooperative Reform and Revamp Programme, RH-CRRP 2030. The agreements were signed on Thursday, 27 August 2026, in Lagos, during a high-level engagement on the theme: Building Sustainable Partnerships: Connecting Youth, Innovation and Business between Thailand and Nigeria. Speaking during the event, Hon'ble Nigerian Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security and Supervising Minister of Cooperative Affairs, H.E. Sen. Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, said the signing marks the transition of RH-CRRP 2030 from policy formulation to practical implementation.

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Indonesia and Uruguay Seek Stronger Agricultural Ties



Uruguay has offered to strengthen bilateral agricultural ties with Indonesia, focusing on capacity-building programs for Indonesian farmers, Hon'ble Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs H.E. Airlangga Hartarto said. "Indonesia and Uruguay have great potential to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, as well as concrete

collaboration in the farming sector," he said following a meeting in Jakarta with Uruguay's Hon'ble Deputy Foreign Minister H.E. Valeria Csukasi and Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries H.E. Matías Carámbula. H.E. Airlangga Hartarto highlighted the offer's strategic value, noting Uruguay's position as a major producer and exporter of beef and dairy products in South America. Under the proposed program, Uruguay aims to share technical expertise and agricultural practices with Indonesian farmers to boost domestic production.

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Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Accelerate Joint Agricultural Projects



Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are expanding agricultural cooperation through practical projects in cotton and grain production, food processing, agrologistics and exports. This was reflected in a statement by the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, following the participation of Uzbekistan's Hon'ble Deputy Agriculture Minister, H.E. J. Abduzuhurov, in the Food Industry Forum and the UPAK EXPO-2026 international exhibition in Tajikistan. At the forum's opening ceremony and plenary session, H.E. J. Abduzuhurov outlined Uzbekistan's efforts to develop agricultural processing, modern agrologistics and packaging infrastructure, as well as attract investment to the sector. The discussions focused on processing and exporting agricultural products, ensuring food security and expanding international cooperation. The sides agreed to accelerate the implementation of existing projects, improve coordination and strengthen direct working contacts between relevant organisations in the two countries.

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Laos and Vietnam Deepen Cooperation in Cooperatives and Agricultural Trade



Laos and Vietnam held a bilateral meeting in Vientiane on August 19, 2026, to strengthen cooperation in cooperative development, agricultural trade and market connectivity. The meeting brought together the Department of Agricultural Promotion and Cooperatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, led by its Head Mr. Anongsone Phommachan, and the Trade Union-Cooperative Committee of Hai Phong City, Vietnam, led by Mr. Ngo Ngoc Khanh, President of the Hai Phong City Cooperative Union. The two sides discussed practical cooperation in developing cooperatives, linking cooperatives with businesses, strengthening agricultural value chains, processing products, marketing and trade promotion. The meeting also explored opportunities to expand investment and market access and establish concrete cooperation programmes between cooperatives and enterprises of the two countries.

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African Health Ministers Convene to Shape Region's Health Priorities



Ministers of Health from the 47 Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region today opened the Seventy-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa, launching three days of deliberations on policies and priorities that will guide the region's health agenda in the coming year and beyond. The Regional Committee, WHO's highest decision-making body in the African region, brings together ministers of health, senior government officials, development partners and technical experts to review progress, address emerging health challenges and endorse regional strategies aimed at strengthening health systems and improving people's health across the continent. Opening the session, H.E Taye Atske Selassie, Hon'ble President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, called for stronger regional cooperation and sustained investment in resilient health systems to improve people's health and support Africa's development.

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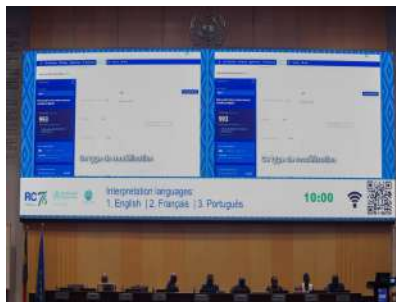
The Intergovernmental Authority on Development Calls for a New Era of Health Sovereignty at 13th East Africa Healthcare Conference



The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has called for a fundamental shift in how East Africa approaches healthcare, urging governments and the private sector to move from dependency to capacity by investing in local manufacturing, sustainable health financing, regional integration and the continent's health workforce. The call was made by IGAD Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, at the 13th East Africa Healthcare Federation Conference and International Health Exhibition, taking place from 21 to 23 August 2026 at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa. The conference was officially opened by H.E. Temesgen Tiruneh, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and brings together Health Ministers, senior government officials, private sector leaders, investors, healthcare providers, development partners, academia and innovators.

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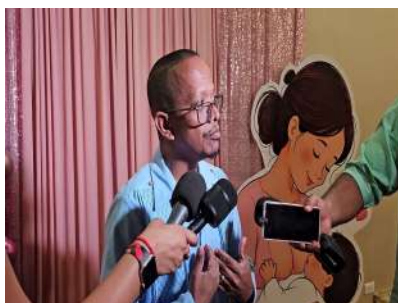
The World Health Organization Launches Africa Regional Health Data Hub to Strengthen Health Decision-Making



The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa launched the Regional Health Data Hub, a new digital platform that brings together fragmented health data and transforms it into actionable intelligence for better health decision-making across the African Region. The consequences of fragmented data are practical. Efforts to reduce maternal deaths, for instance, depend on combining information on antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric services, health workforce availability and medicine supplies- data that are often stored in separate systems. By bringing these datasets together, the Regional Health Data Hub helps decision-makers identify underserved populations, target resources where they are needed most and make more informed decisions that improve health outcomes. The Regional Health Data Hub is a shared digital platform that supports all 47 Member States of the WHO African Region.

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Belize and Honduras Move to Deepen Health and Regional Cooperation



Belize and Honduras are moving to deepen cooperation in several key areas following an official visit led by Hon'ble Belizean Prime Minister H.E. John Briceño. He travelled to Tegucigalpa, where he met with Hon'ble Honduran President H.E. Nasry Asfura at the Presidential House. Their discussions focused on health, security, trade, climate change, regional integration and improved connectivity between both countries. In the area of health, the two governments discussed possible collaboration in medical education, specialist training and internship opportunities for Belizean healthcare workers. Hon'ble Belizean Health and Wellness Minister H.E. Kevin Bernard, who formed part of the Belizean delegation, said the visit opened the door for practical partnerships that could help Belize expand its medical workforce.

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Caribbean Public Health Agency Visits Haiti to Strengthen Public Health Cooperation



Haiti's Hon'ble Health Minister H.E. Bertrand Sinal has held talks with a delegation from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) as the country seeks to strengthen regional cooperation in responding to major public health threats. The CARPHA delegation visited Haiti from Aug. 23 to 25 for a mission focused on exchanging expertise and assessing the country's capacity to prepare for and respond to public health risks. The delegation, led by CARPHA Executive Director Dr. Lisa Indar, also included Dr. Mark Sami and Dr. Horace Cox. During meetings in Cap-Haïtien, the officials discussed Haiti's

existing health capabilities, challenges facing the sector and areas where additional regional support could be provided. The health minister acknowledged the significant difficulties facing Haiti's health system but said the country also has experienced professionals and institutions that can help strengthen its response to crises.

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Kuwait and Lebanon Strengthen Health Cooperation



Hon'ble Kuwaiti Minister of Health H.E. Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi met with Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Ghadi Khoury to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the health sector. The talks covered medical training, the exchange of expertise, support for scientific research and the development of health infrastructure. In a press statement, H.E. Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi stressed the ministry's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Lebanon and benefit from its expertise in developing health services and improving the quality of medical care across various specialities. He said the meeting was part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to expand international cooperation and advance the health sector in Kuwait. For his part, H.E. Ghadi Khoury affirmed Lebanon's readiness to provide the latest technologies and medical services that could contribute to the development of Kuwait's health sector.

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Mozambique Strengthens Regulation of Medicines and Imported Vaccines, Boosting Health Protection



Mozambique has reached a major milestone in strengthening the regulation of medicines and imported vaccines, with its national regulatory authority recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having a stable, well-functioning and integrated regulatory system. The Autoridade Nacional Reguladora de Medicamentos de Moçambique

(ANARME) has achieved Maturity Level 3 (ML3) for the regulation of medicines and imported vaccines under WHO's global classification of national regulatory authorities. Mozambique becomes the 10th country in Africa to reach ML3, joining Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and marking further momentum in strengthening regulatory systems across the region. For people in Mozambique, stronger regulation means greater assurance that medicines and vaccines are appropriately evaluated for quality, safety and efficacy and monitored throughout their lifecycle.

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Honduras Joins the Alliance for Primary Health Care in the Americas



Honduras has joined the Alliance for Primary Health Care (PHC) in the Americas, a regional initiative led by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank to support countries in strengthening primary health care through coordinated investments, innovation, and technical cooperation. Honduras's accession was formalized on August 26 in Tegucigalpa during a hybrid signing ceremony attended by the Hon'ble President of Honduras, H.E. Nasry Asfura; PAHO Director Dr. Jarbas Barbosa; World Bank Country Manager for Honduras Mr. Andrew Kircher; and IDB General Manager of the Regional Country Department for Central America, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic, Tomás Bermúdez, among other senior officials. As part of its accession to the Alliance, Honduras will establish a Coordinating Mechanism on Primary Health Care, bringing together national authorities and development partners to coordinate cooperation and investment around the country's health priorities.

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Eight Countries to Join the Digital Cooperation Organization in Landmark Expansion



The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), the world's first standalone international organisation dedicated to accelerating the inclusive and sustainable growth of the digital economy, today announced that the DCO Council has approved the candidature of eight new countries to join the organisation as Member States, which would potentially expand DCO membership from 16 to 24 countries, representing approximately 980 million people. The eight confirmed candidate countries are the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kenya, the Lebanese Republic, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Republic of Zambia. In addition, DCO is set to welcome the Republic of Tajikistan as an Associate Member, opening new opportunities for Tajikistan to strengthen digital cooperation, access public-private partnerships, and collaborate on initiatives advancing digital innovation, skills, and inclusion, in line with its National Development Strategy through 2030.

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Malaysia Eyes Becoming ASEAN's AI hub



Malaysia must ensure its growing digital infrastructure translates into home-grown technology, intellectual property and high-value jobs if it is to become ASEAN's digital and artificial intelligence (AI) hub, said Hon'ble Malaysian Digital Minister H.E. Gobind Singh Deo. He said the country's success should not be measured merely by the number of data centres built, warning that Malaysia risked becoming a place where technology was hosted rather than created. Malaysia possessed the fundamentals to emerge as ASEAN's digital and AI hub, including its strategic location, strong connectivity, growing digital ecosystem and rising investor confidence, he stated. However, he stressed that achieving this ambition requires progress across three core pillars of policy, trust and infrastructure.

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Cameroon Eyes National Interoperability Infrastructure to Drive Digital Government



Stakeholders in Cameroon have emphasised the urgent need for the establishment of a national interoperability infrastructure to effectively drive the country's digital government agenda. The suggestion was made as participants drawn from government, the private sector, and civil society organisations met in the capital, Yaounde, for a three-day event dubbed the Cameroon Internet Governance Forum 2026. It took place under the theme: "From fragmentation to interoperability: making data the foundation of digital public infrastructure in Cameroon." One of the issues proposed during the reflections was the need to consider putting in place a legal framework to guide the country's digital government ambitions. Other African countries such as Madagascar are also pursuing the implementation of national interoperability infrastructure to advance their digital government agenda.

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Vietnam Calls for AI development Grounded in Rule of Law and Transparency



ASEAN countries share a common understanding that the development and application of artificial intelligence (AI) must be grounded in the rule of law, transparency and accountability while promoting innovation and sustainable development, Hon'ble Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Justice H.E. Nguyen Thanh Tinh said at the closing session of the ASEAN Law Forum 2026 in Hanoi on August 19. In his closing remarks, he expressed his thanks to delegations from ASEAN members, international organisations, development partners, Vietnamese agencies and experts for sharing experience and contributing substantive ideas to the forum. He said the forum had provided an open, multidimensional and practical platform for addressing legal and

judicial issues arising amid the rapid development of AI. He stressed that AI is not only subject to legal regulation but is increasingly becoming an effective tool throughout the process of developing, improving and enforcing laws.

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The National Information Technology Development Agency Urges Nigeria to Prioritise AI Sovereignty at GITEX 2026



The 2026 edition of GITEX Nigeria has commenced in Abuja, with the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, calling on Nigeria to prioritise artificial intelligence (AI) sovereignty to protect the country's economy, citizens and national security. Speaking at the opening of the event, he said AI sovereignty should extend beyond geopolitics to include Nigeria's ability to exercise digital self-determination across the entire technology stack. He stressed that building national AI capacity requires more than developing AI systems, noting that connectivity, data centres and cloud infrastructure are also critical components. The NITDA Director General pointed to the recent signing of regulatory instruments on cloud and data sovereignty as important steps towards encouraging data centre investment and strengthening Nigeria's digital infrastructure.

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Tajikistan and Eurasian Development Bank Partner on Digital Transformation and Technology Projects



The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) and Tajikistan's Agency for Innovation and Digital Technologies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Development of Cooperation aimed at supporting digital transformation and digital projects in Tajikistan.

The agreement was signed in Dushanbe on August 28 by Mr. Tigran Sargsyan, Vice Chairman of the EDB Management Board and Supervisor of the EDB Fund for Digital Initiatives, and Mr. Mirzo Khurshed Faizullozoda, Director of the Agency for Innovation and Digital Technologies under the President of Tajikistan. Under the memorandum, the parties plan to cooperate on the digital transformation of public administration, development of digital cooperation and implementation of new technology initiatives in Tajikistan. The cooperation will also cover measures aimed at improving the resilience and continuity of digital processes in the country. The EDB and the agency plan to exchange expertise and identify areas for potential digital projects.

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Singapore and Brazil Agree to Create a Green and Digital Maritime Corridor



Singapore and Brazil have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Singapore-Brazil Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC), an initiative aimed at developing cooperation between both countries in decarbonisation and digitalisation of maritime transport. The agreement was signed on August 28 by Singapore's Transport Minister, Jeffrey Siow, and Brazil's Minister of Ports and Airports, Tomé Franca. The corridor will combine the capabilities of both countries in energy, port, and maritime matters. Brazil has renewable resources and production capacity that, according to the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), could be used to produce marine fuels with zero or near-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Singapore, for its part, occupies a central position in the global fuel supply for ships and has an ecosystem dedicated to the development of new solutions for the maritime sector.

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Danang and Laos Seek Deeper Cooperation In Semiconductors, AI And Digital Technology



Vietnamese and Lao officials explored Danang's experience in digital transformation, semiconductor technology and AI during a visit from August 26-28. The delegations were led by Hon'ble Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Finance H.E. Tran Quoc Phuong and Hon'ble Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Finance H.E. Santiphat Phomviharn. The visit took place as part of the Mid-term Conference of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Committee for 2026 and the 19th meeting of the Steering Committee for the Cooperation Programme between the two finance ministries. Drawing on Danang's experience, the two sides discussed avenues for cooperation in technology development, human resources and business connectivity. As part of the programme, the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Committee delegation visited Software Park No. 2 in Danang to learn about the city's digital transformation and digital government development, as well as its development plans for semiconductors and AI.

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Saudi Arabia Launches Unified Digital Platform for Tourism Services



The Ministry of Tourism have announced the launch of a new platform at Saudi Arabia's flagship tech event LEAP 2026. The 'Unified Tourism Services Platform' was unveiled at LEAP 2026, which is being held at the RECC Malham in Riyadh from August 31 to September 3rd. The new platform is part of a broader strategy being pursued by the Ministry of Tourism, which serves to underscore its commitment to enhancing user experiences in the tourism sector. The "Tourism Platform" has been designed to become the premier digital destination for tourism services by unifying access to the services needed by investors, tourism professionals, and sector employees. Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Nasr Al-Ansari, confirmed that the launch of the "Tourism Platform" is an extension of ongoing efforts to develop digital government services. "We want to enhance integration among various stakeholders in the tourism

sector and improve service delivery efficiency. “These efforts support the growth of the tourism sector and align with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030,” he said.

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Gabon Draws on Rwanda’s Digital Model to Modernise Public Services



Gabon wants to accelerate the digital transformation of its administration by drawing on Rwanda’s experience. A delegation from the Ministry of Interior, Security and Decentralisation recently spent nearly two weeks in Kigali studying e-government, digital identity, cybersecurity and the digitisation of public services. Gabonese officials examined the operation of Irembo, Rwanda’s online public-service platform, as well as mechanisms for connecting government systems, civil-status management and digital identification. The delegation also examined artificial intelligence policies, data protection and digital-sector regulation. The Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) also shared its experience in regulating information and communications technologies.

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ASEAN Calls for Investments in Clean Energy and Digital Infrastructure



THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has called for more investments in clean energy, digital infrastructure, and resilient supply chains as it begins implementing a long-term development agenda under the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) said. “Our task is to advance strategic measures and activities we have agreed upon under the Strategic Area on Sustainable Infrastructure and translate these commitments into concrete actions

and meaningful outcomes,” the statement quoted DEPDev Undersecretary and Chairperson of the ASEAN Committee on Sustainable Infrastructure (ACSI) Mr. Joseph Capuno as saying during the Second Meeting of the ACSI 2026 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on August 27. One of the topics discussed was the ASEAN Infrastructure Pipeline, a rolling regional mechanism for identifying priority projects that strengthen connections within and across ASEAN member states.

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Hon’ble South African President H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa Pledges to Drive Deeper Economic Integration as South Africa Takes Southern African Development Community Chair



Hon’ble South African President H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa has pledged to use South Africa’s chairship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to deepen regional economic integration and advance resilient, sustainable and inclusive industrialisation. Accepting the SADC chairpersonship from Hon’ble Zimbabwean President H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa at the 46th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in eThekweni, H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa assumed the responsibility with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility. The handover marked the conclusion of Zimbabwe’s tenure and the beginning of South Africa’s leadership of the 16-member regional bloc. H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa’s participation in SADC was deeply rooted in the region’s contribution to the country’s liberation.

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Amazonian Countries Advance Regional Coordination on South-South Cooperation



Singapore and Brazil have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Singapore-Brazil Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC), an initiative aimed at developing cooperation between both countries in decarbonisation and digitalisation of maritime transport. The agreement was signed on August 28 by Singapore's Transport Minister, Jeffrey Siow, and Brazil's Minister of Ports and Airports, Tomé Franca. The corridor will combine the capabilities of both countries in energy, port, and maritime matters. Brazil has renewable resources and production capacity that, according to the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), could be used to produce marine fuels with zero or near-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Singapore, for its part, occupies a central position in the global fuel supply for ships and has an ecosystem dedicated to the development of new solutions for the maritime sector.

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Indonesia Calls for Greater Global South Role in Environmental Governance at BRICS Meeting



Indonesia has called for a stronger role for the BRICS grouping in global environmental governance, arguing that developing countries need greater representation in addressing climate change, pollution and ecological challenges. The call was delivered by Hon'ble Indonesian Environment Minister and Head of the Environmental Control Agency, H.E. Moh Jumhur Hidayat, at the BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, India. Indonesia also stressed that ecosystem protection and climate resilience are increasingly critical for developing countries, particularly archipelagic nations vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather. Through its participation in BRICS, Indonesia is seeking to strengthen cooperation among developing countries on climate adaptation, biodiversity protection and sustainable development while promoting greater representation of Global South perspectives in international environmental governance.

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South Africa and Brazil Seek Stronger Global South Voice



South Africa and Brazil must use their Strategic Partnership to advance a stronger Global South voice, reform the global financial architecture and ensure that critical minerals drive industrialisation and prosperity in their own economies. Hon'ble South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister H.E. Ronald Lamola urged this, while delivering opening remarks at the Eighth Session of the South Africa-Brazil Joint Commission in Pretoria, which he co-chairs with Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira. The Joint Commission is taking place against the backdrop of what he described as strong headwinds facing the multilateral system and global peace, with the two countries facing an increasingly important role in defending multilateralism and advancing the interests of developing countries. He said South Africa and Brazil, as two leading economies on their respective continents, were well positioned to act as bridge builders between the Global North and Global South.

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Morocco Reaffirms Role as ASEAN-Africa Bridge in Connectivity



Morocco reaffirms its role as a bridge between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Africa in the area of connectivity, said Morocco's Hon'ble Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Redouane Houssaini, who is representing Morocco at the meeting with member States of this regional grouping and external dialogue partners, held August 24-26 in Manila, Philippines. In his speech at the meeting, which focused on the strategic issue of connectivity, he showcased Morocco's vision on the matter, emphasising that connectivity must not be limited to physical infrastructure but should also encompass digital networks, financial flows, energy corridors, and human connectivity. He highlighted Morocco's efforts in the area of connectivity, citing the Tanger Med port complex—connected to more than 180 ports in 70 countries, including about 40 in Africa—as well as Dakhla Atlantique, the Royal Initiative aimed at facilitating access to the Atlantic Ocean for Sahel countries.

About DAKSHIN

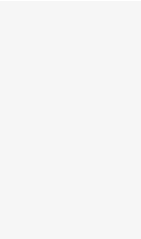
The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, emerging from the vision articulated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the 1st Voice of Global South Summit in January 2023, seeks to advance human-centric and inclusive development across the Global South. Standing for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative, DAKSHIN works to facilitate the identification, exchange and implementation of scalable, sustainable and locally relevant solutions to shared development challenges. As an accelerator and multiplier for the Global South towards the realisation of Agenda 2030 and the localisation of the SDGs, DAKSHIN promotes cross-continental knowledge exchange, evidence-based policymaking, peer learning, global public goods and transformative development partnerships.

Inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit in November 2023, DAKSHIN, hosted by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, brings together governments, institutions, think tanks and knowledge partners to foster dialogue, mutual learning and capacity building. Through its growing network of partners across the Global South, DAKSHIN facilitates collaborative research, policy dialogue and joint initiatives, supporting stakeholders in developing context-specific pathways towards sustainable development and strengthening globally inclusive partnerships.



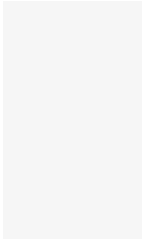
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