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Global South Centre of Excellence

RIS
Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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16 October –
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In-Focus Article

Building Rails, Not Walls: Digital Technology and Inclusive Agricultural Trade in the Global South

Agricultural trade is being reshaped by a complex interplay of economic, environmental, and regulatory forces. Alongside conventional concerns of productivity, prices, and market access, producers must now navigate climate risks, stringent food safety requirements, and changing sustainability standards. While these developments can improve transparency and accountability in global value chains, they also raise an important question: can smallholders and small enterprises in the Global South afford to participate in this changing trade landscape? The challenge is to ensure that evolving market requirements become opportunities for upgrading rather than new barriers to entry.
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Key Developments in the Global South



Changing World Order Calls for Stronger Global Institutions, Greater Voice for Global South: Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called for stronger global institutions, a greater voice for the Global South and international cooperation that remains effective

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12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi Focuses on People-Centric Development and Global Peace

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi focused on the transformative potential of parliamentary engagement. Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with MPs from BRICS nations during the 12th BRICS

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Hon’ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Partnership

Hon’ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Development and

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Hon’ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Congratulates Hon’ble Brazilian President H.E. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Election Win, Vows to Deepen India-Brazil

Hon’ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Hon’ble Brazilian President H.E. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on winning an unprecedented fourth presidential

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Hon’ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Pushes for Transparent and Diversified Global Supply Chains at G20 Meeting

Hon’ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar called on the G20 to resist “preda-tory practices”, promote “the right to industrialise” and work towards the

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Hon’ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Reaffirms India's Commitment to UN Charter, Calls for Reformed Multilateralism

India’s Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar reiterated India's commitment to the United Nations and its Charter, stressing the need for reformed multilateralism that

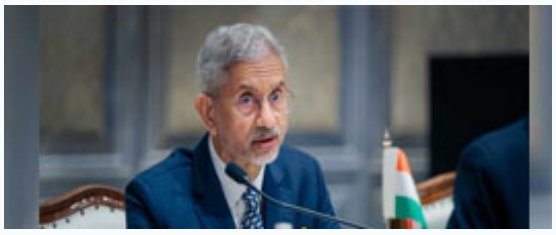
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Hon’ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Says Global South Faces '4F Crisis' of Finance, Fuel, Food, Fertilisers; Urges Global North to Act

Countries of the Global South are facing a “4F crisis” of finance, fuel, food and fertilisers, and the Global North has to do more to find solutions to these challenges, including the derisking of the global economy, Hon’ble Indian External

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Hon’ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar Extends Republic Day Greetings to Kazakhstan, Reaffirms Commitment to Deepen Strategic Partnership

India’s Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar extended warm greetings to his counterpart, Hon’ble Foreign Minister H.E. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, along with the government

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India and Azerbaijan Highlight Opportunities to Develop Cooperation

Hon'ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Hon'ble Azerbaijani President H.E. Ilham Aliyev and Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku on 23 October, , in the first visit to Azerbaijan by an Indian foreign minister in eight years. The meetings expanded economic

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Hon'ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Hosts African Heads of Mission, Discusses Rise of Africa in Multipolar World

Hon'ble Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hosted the Heads of Mission from African Countries, with discussions focusing on various aspects of the India-Africa

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India Set to Become Major Exporter to China and ASEAN: Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister H.E. Piyush Goyal

Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister H.E. Piyush Goyal has said India is open to Chinese suppliers to meet its growing import needs, but will take action through established legal procedures if any unfair pricing is detected.

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11 Crore Farmer IDs Created Five Months Ahead of Deadline: Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister H.E. Shivraj Singh Chouhan

India has achieved its target of creating 11 crore Farmer IDs five months ahead of the March 31, 2027 deadline, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister H.E. Shivraj Singh Chouhan said,

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Hon'ble Minister Of State For External Affairs And Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita Visits Samoa And Naoero, Strengthens Bilateral Cooperation

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles Shri Pabitra Margherita paid an official visit to Samoa and Naoero from October 16 to 22, 2026, during which he held

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India As 'Vishwa Bandhu' Deepening Nuclear Cooperation With Global South: Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo at the UN

As the 'Vishwa Bandhu' — Friend to the World — India is deepening its cooperation with the countries of the Global South to ensure the benefits of nuclear science reach any

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Farmers, Global South Take Centre Stage at Global Agrivoltaics Meet in Delhi

India brought the priorities of farmers and the Global South to the heart of the dialogue at the 7th AgriVoltaics World Conference 2026 hosted by the Ministry of New and

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India and Myanmar Sign MoUs on Five Quick Impact Projects Under Mekong-Ganga Cooperation

India and Myanmar have inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) concerning five Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) within the framework of the Mekong-Ganga

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Cuba Highlights at the United Nations the Value of South-South Coop-eration and Appreciates India's Support for Maternal and Neonatal Healthcare

Cuba's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Hon'ble Ambassador Ernesto So-berón Guzmán, reaffirmed the importance of South-South cooperation as an essential instru-ment

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Kenya Receives 11 Tonnes of Ebola Response Equipment from India

Kenya has received 11 tonnes of medical supplies and specialised equipment from India to strengthen its response to Ebola and other public health emergencies. The consignment was handed over by India's High Commissioner

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India Donates Minivans and Motorcycles to Support Antigua and Bar-buda's CHOGM Hosting

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has thanked India for donating minibuses and mo-torcycles to support the country's hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of

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Kazakhstan Plans to Invest Over 500 Billion Tenge in Food Industry Projects

Kazakhstan plans to accelerate food industry projects and increase domestic production of tractors and combine harvesters, Hon'ble President H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said in his Address to the People of Kazakhstan, titled

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Lebanon and Oman Sign MoU to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security

Lebanon and Oman have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen coop-eration in sustainable agriculture, fisheries, and food security, while

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Kazakhstan and Cambodia Explore Wheat Exports, Farm Trade

Kazakhstan and Cambodia have discussed expanding agricultural trade, increasing export supplies and exploring joint projects in processing and investment.

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Vietnam and Mozambique Seek Stronger Agricultural Ties

Hon'ble Vietnamese Ambassador to Mozambique H.E. Tran Thi Thu Thin met Director of the Mozambique Cashew Institute (IAM) Jorge Vidigal Fole in Maputo on October 23 to

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Uzbekistan and Egypt Strengthen Cooperation in Agriculture

The Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan held a meeting with a delegation from the Agricultural Research Center of Egypt. Discussions focused on implementing joint initiatives in agriculture, livestock

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Bangladesh, Algeria Seek Broader Cooperation in Energy, Agriculture, Textiles

Bangladesh and Algeria discussed expanding bilateral cooperation in energy, trade, agricul-ture, fertilisers, textiles, education, and other sectors on Thursday for the mutual

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Vietnam and Laos Eye to Boost Strategic Agricultural Cooperation

An agricultural investment promotion conference was held in Vientiane on October 22 to translate Vietnam-Laos economic, trade and investment cooperation goals into concrete ac-tion,

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Cambodia and Brazil Push for Agricultural Cooperation

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and Brazil's Ministry of Agricul-ture and Livestock (MAPA) agreed to accelerate preparations for a memorandum of

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Indonesia And Uzbekistan Form Committee for Food Security, Trade

Indonesia and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish an intergovernmental joint committee to strengthen bilateral cooperation in food security, trade, and investment. The agreement was reached during a high-level meeting between

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Vietnam Proposes Three ASEAN Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation Priorities For 2026-2030

The 48th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) was held from October 29 to 31 in Singapore, with the host country acting as the chair.

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IGAD and SADC Convene Regional Institutions in Lusaka to Strengthen Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Devel-opment Community (SADC) have agreed on a framework to strengthen regional coordination

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Federal Government of Nigeria Seeks Stronger Regional Cooperation to Address Health Workers' Migration

The Federal Government has called for stronger regional cooperation and practical measures to tackle the increasing migration of health workers and improve healthcare delivery across West Africa. Honn'ble Minister of State for Health,

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ECA and Botswana Strengthen Partnership to Advance Health Financing Reforms and Economic Transformation

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Government of Botswana have strengthened their cooperation on sustainable health financing and economic

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Syria, UAE to Enhance Cooperation in Healthcare Sector and Infrastructure

Director of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Mr. Qutaiba Kadish, discussed the latest developments of bilateral cooperation with UAE Ambassador H.E. Hamad Rashid bin Alwan Al Habsi. The meeting covered support for the health sector

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Thailand, Bhutan Sign Three Deals Covering Healthcare, Agricultural Finance, Energy

Thailand and Bhutan have signed three cooperation agreements covering healthcare, agricultural finance and clean energy as the countries seek to deepen economic ties, expand

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Africa CDC Tasks Nigeria on 2 Million Community Health Workers Targets by 2030

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has urged Nigeria to turn its continental leadership in health workforce development into concrete action towards

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Thailand Eyes Status as AI Medical Hub

Thailand wants to become a regional artificial intelligence (AI) medical hub by developing AI models tailored to Southeast Asian populations and turning decades of clinical research into advances in precision medicine, drug discovery and cancer treatment. The strategy seeks to combine the country's clinical expertise,

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Afghan and Kazakh Officials Discuss Expanding Health Cooperation

Afghan and Kazakh officials have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in regulating and trading food, medicines and medical products, as well as promoting joint investment and technical collaboration, the Ministry of Public

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Niger Government Prioritises Mental Health Care Integration into Primary Health Centres

Niger State Government has identified the integration of mental healthcare into primary health centres as a priority, amid concerns that existing health facility records do not fully

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Cabo Verde Explores New Geospatial Tools to Support Health Planning and Decision-Making

National technical teams and decision-makers participated on 16 October 2026, in Praia city in Cabo Verde, in an information and introductory training session on the use of geospatial information and early warning systems for health.

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Hon'ble Rwandan President H.E. Paul Kagame Pledges to Champion Digital Public Infrastructure at African Union Level

Hon'ble Rwandan President H.E. Paul Kagame has pledged to champion Digital Public In-frastructure (DPI) at the African Union level following a meeting with members of the newly

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Cybersecurity Must be Treated as a National Priority as Fiji Expands its Digital Infrastructure: Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Business Development and Public Enterprises, H.E. Manoa Kamikamica

Cybersecurity must be treated as a national priority as Fiji expands its digital infrastructure, with growing online threats posing risks to businesses, government services and public

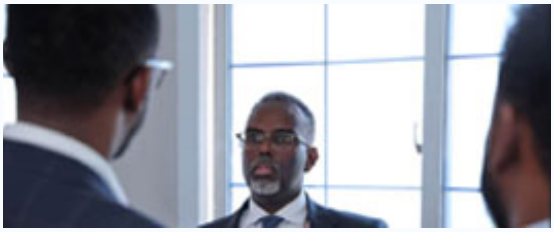
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Cameroon Summit Calls for Interoperable DPI and Sovereign Infrastructure in Africa

African governments are being urged to invest in interoperable digital identity, payments and data exchange systems while expanding sovereign cloud infrastructure, under a declaration adopted at a digital government summit in Cameroon. The Yaoundé Declaration, adopted at the eGov'A 2026 summit held October 14 to 17, calls for critical or sovereign public data to be hosted domestically by 2030,

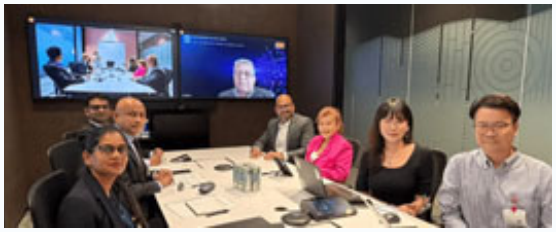
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Somalia Plans Unified Digital Government Platform Built Around National ID

Somalia plans to launch a unified digital government services platform by the end of March 2027, with the national digital ID serving as the primary credential for accessing public

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Sri Lanka and Singapore Strengthen Dialogue on AI and Digital Public Infrastructure

A stakeholder meeting involving the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), AI Singapore, representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka and Connect to Care was held on

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Togo, Nigeria Explore AI and Digital Infrastructure Cooperation at World Bank Summit

Togo and Nigeria have explored cooperation on data hosting and digital infrastructure to strengthen their capacity to develop and use artificial intelligence (AI), during the World

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African Union Targets Digital ID, Infrastructure Gaps to Advance Single Market

Government ministers from across the African Union will meet in Libreville, Gabon, from Oc-tober 26 to 29 to review progress on digital identity, data governance and other

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Philippines Launches $7.8M Tender for National Digital ID Infrastructure

The Philippines has launched a 496.3 million peso (approximately US$7.8 million) tender for cloud infrastructure, biometric identity verification and cryptographic security services to support everyday use of its national digital identity program. The Department of Information and

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BRICS Partnership will Broaden Devt Cooperation, Deepen South-South Ties — Hon'ble Ghanaian President H.E. John Dramani Mahama

Ghana's application to join the BRICS bloc of countries is a deliberate strategy to broaden the country's development partnerships and deepen South-South cooperation,

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Vietnam, ASEAN Partners Push for Stronger Cooperation on Green Transition

The call was made at the 18th Asia-Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Pro-duction (APRSCP 2026), held in Ho Chi Minh City on October 26 on the sidelines of the city's Autumn Economic Forum 2026.

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Strengthen Energy Security, Accelerate Power Grid Development – Hon'ble ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must strengthen energy security, ac-celerate regional electricity connectivity and mobilise investment for energy projects to

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Sri Lanka and African Union Forge a New Path for Partnership, Innovation and Shared Prosperity through South–South Cooperation

Sri Lanka has proposed a partnership framework with the African Union covering areas in-cluding agriculture, digitalisation, vocational education and climate resilience.

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UAE, Nigeria Push Water Partnership Ahead of UN Conference

The United Arab Emirates and Nigeria are advancing cooperation on water supply, sanitation and irrigated agriculture ahead of the 2026 UN Water Conference in Abu Dhabi. The confer-ence, scheduled for Dec. 8-10 in Abu Dhabi and co-hosted by the UAE and Senegal,

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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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