



Global South Matters

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Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS



Strengthening Drought Preparedness: India's Drought Manual and Its Lessons for the Global South

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Drought remains one of the most persistent challenges across the Global South, threatening food security, rural livelihoods, and water sustainability. With climate variability intensifying, effective drought management frameworks are becoming critical for building resilience. India's Drought Manual, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, was first prepared in 2020 and updated in 2023 and 2025. It represents a significant step toward institutionalising a science-based, spatially and temporally explicit, transparent, and integrated approach to drought risk management.

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Key Developments in the Global South



External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar Hosts High-Level Meeting to Strengthen Global South Collaboration at the United Nations General Assembly

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar hosted a High-Level Meeting of Global South Countries in New York on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly session. During the meeting, Dr Jaishankar called for utilising existing forums to strengthen consultations

among the Global South with a view to enhancing solidarity and encouraging collaboration. He also made a proposal on reforms in the UN and multilateralism as a whole. In a social media post, Dr Jaishankar informed that on the sidelines of the High-Level meeting, he also met Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, St Lucia's Foreign Minister Alva Baptiste and the Foreign Minister of Somalia, Abdisalam Ali.

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India To Host First Global South-led AI Summit In 2026

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, unveiled the logo and key flagship initiatives for the India-AI Impact Summit 2026. Being hosted for the first time by a Global South nation, the Summit is guided by the principles or Sutras of People, Planet, and Progress. The discussions are further centred around seven thematic Chakras - Human Capital, Inclusion, Safe & Trusted AI, Resilience, Science, Democratizing AI Resources, and Social Good, underscoring how AI can be an impactful force for citizens, communities, and the planet alike. The global platform is set to showcase the transformative role of AI in enabling inclusive development, sustainability, and fostering equitable progress. The Summit charts a path where AI serves humanity, advances inclusive growth, fosters social development, and promotes innovations that protect the planet.

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African Union Commission Chairperson Undertakes High-Level Engagements at the United Nations Headquarters

The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, concluded a series of high-level engagements at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, underscoring the AU's commitment to advancing multilateral cooperation in pursuit of peace, security, and sustainable development. Discussions focused on shared strategic priorities, including reform of the UN Security Council, reform of international financial institutions, preventive diplomacy, peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan, funding for AU-led peace operations, debt relief, climate financing, food security, and reforms to the global trading system.

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António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations, Highlights Africa's Growing Influence at Unstoppable Africa 2025

New York's Times Square became the stage for Africa's economic ambitions as heads of state, business leaders, investors, and policymakers gathered for Unstoppable Africa 2025, the flagship forum of the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI). In his opening remarks at Unstoppable Africa 2025, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, highlighted Africa's growing influence at a time of global disruption and opportunity. Throughout the day, participants highlighted key priorities for Africa's development, including expanding access to energy, accelerating clean energy adoption, improving healthcare and education, and supporting creative and sports industries.

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World Bank Establishes Regional Hub in Riyadh

The World Bank has opened a new regional hub in Riyadh to serve the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, as the Washington-based lender continues to boost its presence in the region. According to a press statement, the new Riyadh hub will be co-located with the World Bank Group's Gulf Cooperation Council regional office, bringing its leadership closer to country teams, clients, and regional partners. The opening of the new regional hub signals the deepening ties between the World Bank and Saudi Arabia, as in December, the lender signed a strategic agreement to launch a new global knowledge hub in Riyadh.

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India Launches its First Digital Public Infrastructure in the Insurance Sector

Shri Ajay Seth, Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), has launched the official website of Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF). “Bima Sugam represents a critical step towards creating India’s digital public infrastructure for insurance. This initiative will empower policyholders, deepen insurance penetration and ensure transparency and fairness across the value chain,” said Seth while launching the website. Bima Sugam is an innovative digital platform (an Amazon-like one-stop digital platform) that innovates, develops and integrates advanced technologies to automate and digitise the processes for multiple stakeholders.

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India and Brazil Strengthen Partnership in Agri-Innovation

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched the second edition of the Brazil–India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech (Maitri 2.0) at New Delhi. The event was graced by Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), and H.E. Mr Kenneth Nobrega, Ambassador of Brazil to India, along with senior officials and representatives from leading Brazilian research and innovation institutions. Dr Jat highlighted the 77-year-old partnership between India and Brazil. He emphasised their shared role in global platforms like BRICS and G20, and the recent ICAR–EMBRAPA MoU as a milestone for collaboration across the agri-food value chain.

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World Health Organisation, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Morocco Launch Health Emergency Leaders Network

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), together with the Kingdom of Morocco, opened a landmark meeting in Rabat to launch the Health Emergency Leaders Network for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean. This network is the first of its kind, bringing together deputy ministers and senior health emergency leaders from Ministries of Health in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean regions, alongside international partners to forge stronger regional defences that also reinforce global health security. The Health Emergency Leaders Network is aligned with the flagship initiative to strengthen the emergency health workforce in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

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World Health Organisation and Food and Agriculture Organization Lend Support to Mauritius to Address Health Challenges

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are supporting the Government of Mauritius to tackle obesity through the implementation of a five-year ambitious Obesity Action Acceleration Roadmap 2025–2030. Aligned with the World Health Assembly's extended 2030 global nutrition and noncommunicable disease (NCD) targets, the Obesity Action Acceleration Roadmap sets an ambitious goal of reducing obesity prevalence among Mauritians by 5 percent by 2030. Currently, one in three adults aged 25–74 years in Mauritius is living with obesity, placing a heavy burden on public health and contributing to soaring rates of NCDs.

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World Bank Grants Zambia \$120M to Expand Digital Infrastructure

The World Bank has approved a \$120 million grant to strengthen Zambia's public digital infrastructure, marking a significant step toward achieving the country's Science, Technology and Innovation Policy objectives and its broader Vision 2030 development agenda. The announcement was made by Minister of Technology and Science Felix Mutati, in remarks delivered on his behalf by George Matulula, the ministry's Human Resource Director, during the launch of the ABSA Mobi Tap app in Lusaka. As part of the digital expansion strategy, the government aims to extend 4G and 5G network coverage to 90 percent of the population by the end of 2025.

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Nigeria's Healthcare Future Depends On Specialists: Professor Muhammad Pate, Minister of Health and Social Welfare

Nigeria's Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammad Pate, has insisted that the future of country's healthcare system depends on specialists in the sector. Pate remarked on the 43rd convocation of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, NPMCN, in Lagos, where 480 distinguished fellows were celebrated. The minister, represented by the Director of Hospital Services in the ministry, Dr Jimoh Salaudeen, described the event as a celebration of academic excellence and a reaffirmation of NPMCN's crucial role in national healthcare delivery. He said the graduates formed the backbone of specialist healthcare services across Nigeria's geopolitical zones.

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National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of External Affairs, India, to Host a Conclave for the Global South

Aiming to promote human rights protection in the Global South, the NHRC has joined hands with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for organising a six-day programme for representatives of 12 nations. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Executive Capacity Building Programme will offer a platform to representatives of global rights institutions for discussions on advocacy, enforcement and institutional strengthening. Senior-level functionaries from 12 NHRIs from Mauritius, Jordan, Georgia, the Philippines, Qatar, Fiji, Uzbekistan, Bolivia, Nigeria, Mali, Morocco and Paraguay are likely to attend the programme.

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Tanzania and the World Bank Review \$300m Food Systems Resilience Program

Tanzania Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Gerald Mweli, has said the government recognises and values the contribution of the private sector in driving agricultural transformation as outlined in the Agriculture Master Plan. He emphasised that the government will continue working with private players in policy, economic, and investment areas. Mr Mweli made the remarks in Arusha while opening a three-day review workshop organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the World Bank. The forum aimed to assess the implementation of the Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program (TFSRP) to improve its execution.

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Singapore and Egypt Ink Multiple Deals

Egypt and Singapore signed seven strategic memoranda of understanding (MoUs) covering trade, investment, transport, health, agriculture, education, and social development, marking a significant step in expanding bilateral ties. President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam attended the signing of the agreements at the Ittihadia Palace. The signing occurred on the sidelines of the Egypt-Singapore Business Forum held in Cairo, under the theme “Promoting Trade and Investment for Sustainable Growth.” The MoUs reflect the depth and diversity that characterise the relationship between the two countries.

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Saudi Arabia and Syria Advance Cooperation on Digital Health

Saudi Minister of Health Fahad Al-Jalajel and Syrian Minister of Health Dr Musab Al-Ali signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Riyadh to enhance health cooperation and facilitate the exchange of expertise in digital health. AlJalajel stated that the agreement aims to build a strong health system in Syria, improve access to services, enhance the efficiency of virtual healthcare, and strengthen prevention efforts. Key areas of cooperation include strategic health planning, health system rehabilitation, public health and preventive medicine, therapeutic health, health emergency and disaster management, e-health and digital transformation, international health concerns, and health investment.

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South Africa and Brazil Sign Landmark Agriculture Deal

South African Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, and the Brazilian Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Luiz De Alcantara Rua, have signed a landmark Memorandum of Intent (MoI), marking a new era for closer cooperation in the agricultural sector. The signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting of the G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) at Somerset West, Western Cape. Steenhuisen welcomed the agreement, describing it as more than just a formal partnership, but “a testament to our shared vision for a food-secure future.” “By combining our respective strengths, we can unlock new opportunities, advance technological innovation, and build a more resilient agricultural sector that benefits all our citizens,” Steenhuisen said.

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India and Egypt Discuss Agricultural Cooperation

The Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Alaa Farouk, received the Indian Ambassador to Cairo, Suresh Reddy, along with a delegation from major Indian agricultural companies, to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and joint investment in the agricultural sector. The meeting was attended by Engineer Mustafa El-Sayed, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Engineer Abdelhamid El-Demerdash, Chairman of the Export Council for Agricultural Products, and several ministry officials. Farouk expressed his welcome to the Indian delegation, reaffirming the depth of the bilateral relations between the two countries. During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to encourage joint foreign investments to increase access to external markets.

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Burkina Faso and the United Arab Emirates Forge Digital Cooperation Agreement

Burkina Faso and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have formalised a new partnership to boost the West African nation's digital transformation. On Friday, 19 September 2025, in Abu Dhabi, the Minister of Digital Transition, Postal and Electronic Communications, Dr. Aminata Zerbo/Sabane, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sheik Muhammad Shameen Hosenbocus, Vice President of Presight International Services, a G42 company serving as the UAE government's technical arm in the digital sector. The agreement aims to strengthen Burkina Faso's digital economy through initiatives in artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure development, e-government services, and enhanced cybersecurity.

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14 African Countries Explore Innovative Financing Solutions for Health in the African Region

Technical experts from 14 African countries, multilateral development banks, development partners, and global health initiatives convened in Johannesburg for a three-day Regional Technical Meeting on Innovative Financing for Health in Africa, co-organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa and the Global Fund. The meeting offered a collaborative platform for countries and partners to examine practical strategies to mobilise sustainable resources, improve alignment of financing flows, and scale up innovative mechanisms to accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Health financing remains a major challenge across Africa.

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Uzbekistan and Jordan Agree on Agriculture Cooperation

A delegation from Uzbekistan's agricultural sector, led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Jamshid Abduzukhurov visited the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As part of the trip, a meeting was held with Jordan's Minister of Agriculture, Abdulhalim Saeb. During the talks, the two sides discussed new areas of cooperation in the agricultural sector and reached a number of agreements. Special attention was given to localising in Uzbekistan tomato varieties resistant to salinity and water shortages, as well as wheat and barley varieties. The parties also discussed livestock development, in particular the localisation of Awassi sheep. Initially, Jordan will provide Uzbekistan with four sheep and frozen semen for herd reproduction.

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Nigeria Targets Early 2026 For Digital Public Infrastructure Rollout

Nigeria is set to roll out its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) framework in early 2026, with the first phase of implementation projected to begin in the first quarter of the year. The plan was unveiled in Abuja at a two-day technical workshop of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) Engagement on the Public Review of the Draft DPI Life Events Framework and the Draft Technical Standard for the Nigerian Data Exchange (NGDX), organised by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). The framework will serve as the backbone of Nigeria's e-Government system, enabling efficient service delivery and creating an enabling environment for innovation.

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Upcoming Events



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NIMS
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Health Diplomacy Futures Capacity Building in the Global South

Tuesday, 30th September 2025

9:30 am - 5:00 pm IST

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

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