



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

24 Jan - 30 Jan, 2026

### Key Developments in the Global South



#### India to Showcase AI Impact, Sovereign Models and Safety Frameworks at AI Impact Summit

India gradually emerging as trusted partner in the world, thanks to our strong semiconductor ecosystem, India will have 7 nanometer technology by 2030 and 3 nm by 2032. The upcoming AI Impact Summit has been designed with a clear focus on outcomes. The first objective of the Summit is impact—how AI models, applications and the overall AI ecosystem can be used to improve efficiency, increase productivity and create a multiplier effect for the economy. The second objective is accessibility, particularly for India and the Global South. Drawing parallels with India's success in building the UPI and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) stack that the world is now looking to India to see whether a similar, scalable and affordable stack can be created for AI. The third objective of the AI Impact Summit is safety with emphasis on the need to address apprehensions around AI by building appropriate guardrails, guidelines and safety features, and stated that the regulatory and safety stack for AI should also be built in India. The global leaders and technology leaders will participate in the Summit, alongside investment announcements and the rollout of India's AI models.

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#### St. Lucia Works with IICA to boost Regional Agriculture and Reduce Dependence on Food Imports

Caribbean countries expect that the new administration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), led by Guyanese agronomist Muhammad Ibrahim, will help reduce their dependence on food imports and strengthen their food security. The Ministers of Agriculture of Saint Lucia, Lisa Jawahir, and Belize, Rodwell Ferguson,

agreed that they are confident IICA will continue and deepen the work it has been carrying out in the Caribbean on issues such as training for small-scale farmers, the incorporation of new technologies and resilience to extreme climate events. Jawahir and Ferguson attended—together with ministers and senior officials from 30 countries, as well as representatives of international organizations—the inauguration ceremony of Ibrahim as Director General of IICA for the 2026–2030 period, which took place in San José, Costa Rica.

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### **India's High Commissioner Visits Zambia to Strengthen AI and Technology Cooperation**

His Excellency Mr. Alok Ranjan Jha, High Commissioner of India to Zambia and Special Representative to COMESA, paid a courtesy visit to Zambia's Ministry of Technology and Science on 27 January 2026. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), human resource development, and potential trilateral partnerships. A key topic of discussion was Zambia's participation in the AI Impact Summit, scheduled to take place in India from 16 to 20 February 2026, with the main sessions on 19 and 20 February. This event marks the Fourth Global AI Summit and the first to be hosted in a developing country, following previous editions in the United Kingdom, South Korea, and France. The summit is expected to draw over 100 countries, including CEOs, innovators, civil society organizations, and academic institutions.

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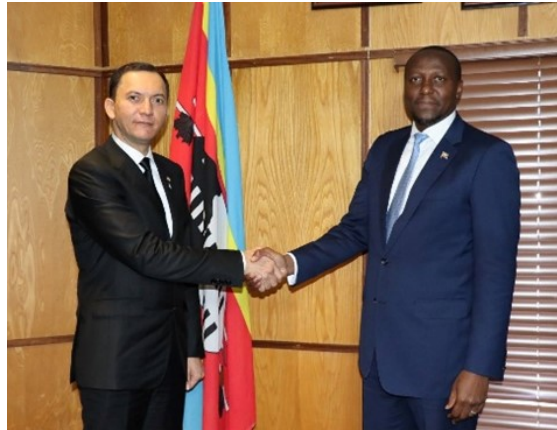
### **Health Workers from Ghana Arrive in Antigua and Barbuda**

A first batch of 121 nurses has been deployed to Antigua and Barbados under government's three-year health workers exchange programme, which places Ghanaian nurses in partner countries as part of bilateral cooperation in the health sector. The initiative offers international exposure for Ghanaian health workers while helping partner countries address critical nursing shortages. The nurses were seen off at Kotoka

International Airport by the Chief of Staff, Mr. Julius Debrah; the Minister of Health, Mr. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh; and the Minister of State in Charge of Special Initiatives, Mr. Emmanuel Kwadwo Agyekum.

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### **Turkmen business delegation meets Eswatini PM to discuss investment and trade**

Turkmen delegation led by Khydyrberdi Abdurakhmanov, owner and founder of Aydyn Gijeler Holding LTD, met with Eswatini's Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini to discuss investment opportunities and bilateral economic ties during a visit to the Kingdom. The delegation visited the Kingdom as part of a business mission to explore opportunities for cooperation following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Eswatini and Turkmenistan in August 2025. Discussions focused on potential investment projects and avenues for deepening economic and commercial ties. The delegation also expressed Turkmenistan's interest in procuring sugar from Eswatini.

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### **South Korean Minister embarks on trip to UAE, Singapore to seek food export opportunities**

Agriculture Minister Song Mi-ryung has embarked on a trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore to explore food export opportunities and discuss food security cooperation with the countries, Song's office said Wednesday. Song left for the UAE on Tuesday and is scheduled to wrap up her trip in Singapore on Saturday, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. In the UAE, Song is set to meet with Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, the country's climate and environment minister, to discuss cooperation in food security, farming technologies and halal food. In Singapore, she is scheduled to meet with Grace Fu Hai Yien, the country's sustainability and environment minister, and Damian Chan, chief executive officer of its food agency, to request additional imports of Korean pork and beef products.

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## **Embraer and Adani Defence & Aerospace announce strategic partnership to establish regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India**

Embraer a global leader in aerospace, and Adani Defence & Aerospace, a leading player in India's aerospace and defence and the flagship company of Adani Enterprises Ltd, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an integrated regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India. The companies aim to collaborate on opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, supply chain, aftermarket services, and pilot training. The collaborative industrial partnership will aim to establish an assembly line, followed by a phased increase in indigenization to advance India's Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA) program, in alignment with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the UDAN regional connectivity vision.

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## **World Bank approve USD 50m to expand solar-powered agriculture in Nigeria, 5 other African countries**

The World Bank on Friday, January 23, approved USD 50 million to expand solar-powered agricultural solutions in Nigeria and five other African countries, aiming to boost productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and expand access to clean energy. The funding will support the deployment of solar-powered cold rooms, refrigerators, water pumps, and grain mills across Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with implementation led by Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP), a Washington, DC-based non-profit organisation focused on energy efficiency and clean energy access. The initiative has drawn strong backing from development partners, with officials indicating that the programme could expand further as country-level implementation progresses. The Rockefeller foundation, which has already committed USD 12 million to the scheme, signalled that additional resources may be deployed over time.

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### **Morocco and Senegal deepen mutual economic cooperation**

Morocco and Senegal continue to strengthen ties with initiatives that are promoting cooperation at all levels between the two nations. Despite the media discord that arose from the sad and eventful outcome of the African Cup of Nations football final, in which the Senegalese team defeated host Morocco amid incidents stemming from the Senegalese team's threat to abandon the match in protest against the refereeing, the situation has been resolved and it is clear that both African nations had and continue to have an excellent political and economic relationship within the framework of South-South cooperation, which greatly benefits a continent such as Africa and has been fervently supported by the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI.

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### **ILRI and CIMMYT sign strategic Memorandum of Understanding to accelerate impact in crop-livestock systems**

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), building on a strong track record of successfully delivering projects jointly, strengthening and expanding their partnership to accelerate impact and jointly tackle some of the most complex challenges in global food systems, and support countries to achieve their food security objectives. ILRI and CIMMYT are part of the CGIAR research system working to build a food secure world through food systems transformation. Both centers bring more than 50 years of experience working to improve food security, livelihoods and resilience to the world's small holder farmers.

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## **IACCIA launch signals India, Arab economic convergence**

At a time of accelerating geopolitical and economic transformation, India and the Arab world are advancing toward a more structured and forward-looking partnership. The India and Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (IACCIA) was officially launched in New Delhi on the sidelines of the 2nd India–Arab Ministerial Summit, underscoring the Chamber’s strategic relevance and institutional importance. The launch alongside a ministerial-level platform highlights the growing recognition by both sides that economic cooperation must move in tandem with political and diplomatic engagement. It positions IACCIA as a key implementation mechanism to translate high-level political understandings into tangible trade, investment, and industrial outcomes, said Dr Wael Awwad IACCIA Secretary General in charge.

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## **Cambodia and Laos Agree to Promote Cooperation on the Transport of Cambodian Agricultural Products via Laos to Third Countries**

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, received a courtesy call from His Excellency Dr Linkham Douangsavanh, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, at the Peace Palace. During the meeting, the Lao Minister expressed his deep gratitude to Samdech Borvor Thipadei for granting him and his delegation a courtesy call. He also thanked the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the warm welcome, noting that it reflects the high level of importance attached to Cambodia–Laos cooperation. The Minister informed Samdech Borvor Thipadei that over the past 70 years of diplomatic relations, cooperation between the two countries has continued to grow steadily. He added that his current visit also serves to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Cambodia–Laos Diplomatic Relations.

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## **Latin America accelerates urban climate action through city-led adaptation and biodiversity projects**

During the International Economic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean 2026, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) announced a new strategic partnership to accelerate urban climate finance and project delivery across Latin American cities. The collaboration was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of more than 30 local authorities from Latin American cities attending the Forum, including the mayors of Bogotá and Quito, and the deputy mayor of Fortaleza. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation focused on helping cities prepare, finance, and implement high-impact urban climate projects over the next five years, with support from CAF. The partnership prioritises climate adaptation; promotion of biodiversity, clean and sustainable urban mobility; sustainable urban planning; and water and sanitation systems, while strengthening cities' access to climate finance, connecting them to investment opportunities.

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## **Malaysia and Uzbekistan explore agricultural cooperation in melon and fisheries**

Malaysia and Uzbekistan are exploring potential cooperation in melon cultivation, fisheries, and modernising padi farming with drone technology. The discussions took place during a courtesy call by Uzbekistan's Syrdarya Region Governor Erkinjon Turdimov on Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu. Both nations expressed hope for strengthened agricultural trade collaboration for mutual benefit. The Syrdarya region is a key agricultural area producing cotton, wheat, and watermelon. Bilateral agricultural trade was valued at RM266 million from January to October 2025. Malaysia exports coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, and processed goods to Uzbekistan, while importing mainly fruits. Minister Mohamad invited Uzbekistan to participate in the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Show (MAHA) 2026.

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## Fiji explores agricultural trade and innovation with Malaysia

Fiji is looking to strengthen its agricultural trade and innovation through closer cooperation with Malaysia. The Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and Waterways, Dr Andrew Tukana, hosted the High Commissioner of Fiji to Malaysia, Ratu Etueni Qiolele Caucau, at the Ministry's headquarters in Raiwaqa yesterday. The discussions highlighted Fiji's agricultural priorities, including expanding exports of coconut derivatives to Malaysia, improving market access, and reducing import dependency through local production and innovation.

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## Forthcoming DAKSHIN Event

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being introduced across education, assessment, mentoring, simulation, and clinical decision support. In medical and nursing education, AI offers significant opportunities to enhance learning outcomes, address faculty shortages, personalize education, and strengthen clinical preparedness, particularly in resource-constrained settings. At the same time, its integration raises critical and unresolved questions related to safety, governance, academic integrity, ethics, liability, and equity. Medical and nursing education directly shapes future health systems, and poorly governed or inappropriate use of AI in this space risks patient harm, erosion of public trust, and the widening of existing inequities. Across the Global South, countries are experimenting with AI-enabled tools in health professional education, yet these efforts remain fragmented and largely disconnected from coherent regulatory, accreditation, and governance frameworks. There is a clear gap in cross-country policy dialogue that can enable shared learning, define normative guardrails, and guide responsible adoption.

This initiative seeks to address that gap by convening governments, regulators, academic institutions, and technology partners to develop a Blueprint for the Responsible Use of AI in Medical and Nursing Education. Anchored in South-South Cooperation and led by DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, in partnership with Jhpiego and NIMS University, the initiative brings together complementary expertise in global health, education, and AI to ensure policy relevance, pedagogical soundness, and technical rigor.

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