

Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



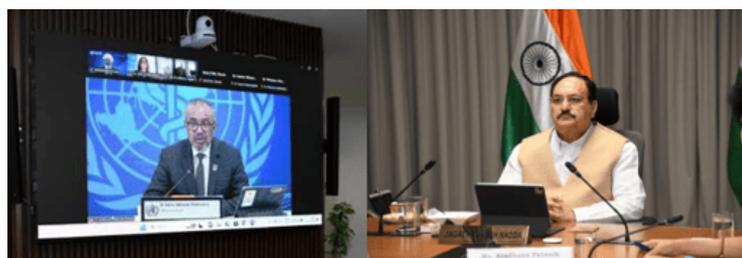
07 March - 13 March, 2026

Key Developments in the Global South



New Delhi: President Murmu To Inaugurate Global Conference On Women In Agri-Food Systems 2026

The three-day conference with the theme ‘Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights’ will be held at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Convention Centre in New Delhi. Addressing a press conference yesterday, Director General of ICAR-New Delhi, Dr M. L. Jat, said that the programme is taking place during the UN-declared International Year for Women Farmers in 2026. Referring to the theme of the event, he said Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights is perfectly aligned with the global focus on women farmers. Dr Jat said that this conference will help to promote gender-responsive policymaking, technological innovation, and inclusive agricultural development. The Ministry informed that the conference is expected to witness participation of over 700 delegates, including scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, development professionals, women farmers, start-ups, and students from India and across the world.

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India Backs WHO's 90-70-90 Target To Eliminate Cervical Cancer

Reaffirming India's support for global efforts, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mr Nadda said the India endorses the WHO Global Strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, which includes the 90-70-90 targets by 2030 — vaccinating 90% of girls against

HPV, screening 70% of women, and ensuring treatment for 90% of those diagnosed with cervical disease. Addressing the briefing, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said global health challenges such as obesity, HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer require sustained international cooperation and scientific innovation. He noted that progress has been made in reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS, with the WHO supporting several countries in rolling out prevention interventions. On cervical cancer, Tedros said the observance of International HPV Awareness Day recently served as a reminder of the global effort to eliminate the disease as a public health threat.

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India Reaffirms Stronger Ties with Chile

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh met José Antonio Kast ahead of the presidential inauguration ceremony in Chile. The discussion focused on strengthening cooperation between India and Chile. The minister highlighted opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, critical minerals, clean energy, and innovation. These sectors are seen as key areas where both countries can expand their partnership and support each other's economic growth. Both sides expressed interest in expanding cooperation and building stronger political, economic, and technological partnerships in the coming years.

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FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ministers, Secretaries, and other high-level agricultural officials from the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC, for its Spanish acronym) met in Colombia to analyze the progress achieved, review the challenges shared by the countries, and adopt community strategies to implement the CELAC Plan for food security, nutrition and the eradication of hunger 2030 (CELAC FSN 2030 Plan). The plan is a regional roadmap with 4 pillars, 15 lines of action, and 141 suggested measures, considering the evidence and experience of the member countries. It is complemented by two additional components: one dedicated to specific implementation, governance and financing mechanisms and another focused on a follow-up and monitoring plan for progress in line with the 2030 Agenda.

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India Sends 1,000 Metric Tons of Rice to Malawi to Support Food Security After El Niño Drought

In a humanitarian gesture to support food security in Africa, India has dispatched 1,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi to help the country cope with the severe drought conditions caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon. The humanitarian consignment was shipped from Jawaharlal Nehru Port, one of India's major maritime gateways for international trade. Malawi has been facing significant food supply challenges due to prolonged drought conditions linked to the El Niño climate pattern. The assistance from India is intended to support the country's efforts to stabilize food availability and help communities affected by crop losses. The rice shipment will provide immediate relief and contribute to strengthening food security for vulnerable populations.

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UNDP Supports Turkmenistan in Development of a National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy for Sustainable Digital Transformation

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan, is convening a seminar entitled "National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy: Shaping Joint Solutions for Sustainable Development." The seminar is providing a platform to assess the national digital ecosystem, analyze existing practices, identify key gaps, and define policy priorities, governance models, and implementation mechanisms. International best practices were shared to guide strategic planning and foster a responsible, forward-looking approach to digital transformation. The event brings together representatives from government ministries, state agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society, fostering a collaborative approach to developing a comprehensive, balanced National Digital Strategy.

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Ethiopia, AfDB Deepen Cooperation to Advance Infrastructure and Economic Reforms

Ethiopia and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have reaffirmed, their growing development partnership, pledging stronger collaboration across infrastructure, macroeconomic reforms, energy development and climate priorities as the country pushes forward with its structural transformation agenda. The commitment emerged during a meeting in Addis Ababa where State Minister of Finance Semereta Sewasew hosted a high-level AfDB delegation led by newly appointed Executive Director, Cafriene Ronald Justin. The talks reviewed the Bank's ongoing projects in Ethiopia and explored future strategic priorities. According to the Ministry of Finance, the AfDB remains one of Ethiopia's key multilateral development partners, supporting projects in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, private sector development, climate action and economic reform.

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Côte d'Ivoire, UNFPA Sign \$75M Programme to Improve Maternal Health and Family Planning

Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on March 5 signed a ninth cooperation programme covering 2026-2030, backed by \$75 million in funding. The programme focuses on four priorities: improving maternal health, expanding family planning, combating gender-based violence and harmful practices, and strengthening the production and use of demographic data. "The implementation of this ninth programme will help end preventable maternal deaths, unmet family planning needs and gender-based violence, including harmful practices," Planning and Development Minister Souleymane Diarrassouba said. Côte d'Ivoire's Human Development Index (HDI) rose by 0.017 between 2022 and 2023, but the country still faces major challenges, according to government figures.

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Ghana seeks stronger ties with Belarus in agriculture and trade – Ablakwa

Ghana has expressed interest in strengthening political and economic cooperation with Belarus following bilateral talks between the Foreign Affairs Minister and his Belarusian counterpart. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, held discussions with the Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxim Ryzhenkov, where both sides explored opportunities to deepen relations between the two countries. During the meeting, Mr Ablakwa indicated that Ghana is keen to translate the growing goodwill between the two nations into concrete outcomes that will benefit both economies. He highlighted several priority areas for cooperation, including agricultural mechanisation, education, trade, and investment.

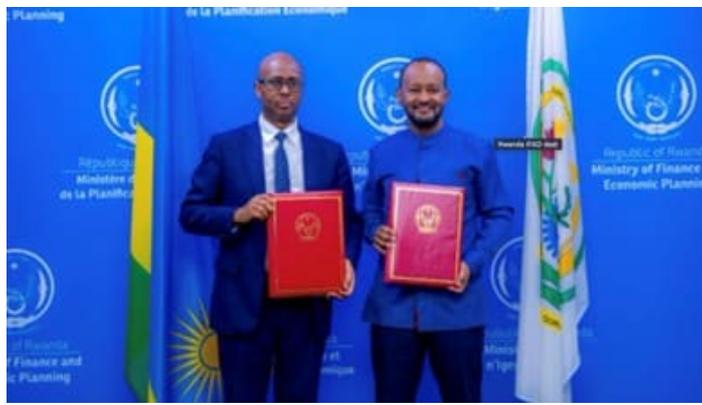
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Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency Visits Côte d'Ivoire to Advance Thailand–Africa Sustainable Agricultural Cooperation

Mr. Chulvat Narinhrangura, Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), led a Thai delegation comprising officials from TICA, the Royal Thai Embassy in Dakar, and agricultural experts from Kasetsart University on an official visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The visit aimed to advance Thailand–Africa development cooperation and to promote a pilot initiative on sustainable agricultural technology development, including the exploration of potential sites for establishing an integrated farming demonstration plot based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP). The initiative forms part of Thailand's broader engagement with Africa under the Thailand–Africa Initiative (TAI) and the Thailand–Africa Development Forum (TADF), which seek to strengthen partnerships with African countries in areas such as food security, sustainable agriculture, technology transfer, and human resource development. Through these frameworks, Thailand aims to share its development experiences and best practices with African partners under the spirit of South–South cooperation.

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Rwanda secures \$78.5M IFAD financing to boost agriculture, protect rural incomes from climate shocks

The Government of Rwanda has secured \$78.5 million, equivalent to more than Rwf110 billion, in financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to strengthen the agricultural sector, with a major focus on Kayonza district. The funding will support the second phase of the Kayonza Irrigation and Integrated Watershed Management Project (KIIWP2), which aims to expand irrigation infrastructure and reinforce watershed management systems. For farmers in Kayonza, the investment is expected to translate into more reliable access to water and improved natural resource management, both considered critical in reducing vulnerability to climate variability.

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India sends humanitarian aid to Madagascar after cyclone devastation

India has extended humanitarian assistance to Madagascar following widespread devastation caused by tropical cyclones Fytia and Geze earlier this year, reaffirming its support for the island nation during the ongoing relief efforts. An Indian aircraft carrying relief supplies landed in Antananarivo with a total of 30 tonnes of assistance, including 12 tonnes of medical aid and 18 tonnes of disaster relief material. The consignment was dispatched to help authorities and humanitarian agencies support communities affected by the cyclones. These supplies are aimed at addressing immediate humanitarian needs and providing support to people impacted by the disaster.

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Meeting with INESAD, Bolivia

DAKSHIN and INESAD, Bolivia, held a meeting on 10 March 2026 to further strengthen cooperation between the two institutions. The discussion focused on enhancing collaboration in areas such as agriculture, health, and digital solutions, while promoting South–South knowledge exchange between India and the Latin American region. Ms. Ximena Coronado appreciated the continued engagement and noted that collaboration between INESAD and DAKSHIN has progressed steadily over the past year. She highlighted the potential for expanding joint work and discussed avenues for joint research, policy publications, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Participants also discussed collaboration in the health sector, drawing on India’s experience with digital health systems, universal health coverage initiatives, climate-resilient agriculture, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation through continued dialogue, collaborative research, and policy engagement addressing shared development priorities in the Global South.

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