



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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Key Developments in the Global South



Strengthening India-ASEAN Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told world leaders that India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are strengthening ties across various sectors as well as people-to-people relations. He emphasized that New Delhi has always strongly supported the 11-member group's outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Modi said in his virtual opening address at the [summit in Malaysia](#) that its theme, 'inclusivity and sustainability', was clearly reflected in the joint efforts of nations, whether the digital inclusion, ensuring food security, or maintaining resilient supply chains amid global challenges.

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Egypt and UAE expand cooperation to train African experts in water and agriculture

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to enhance cooperation in water management and capacity building across Africa through advanced digital education and training programmes. The initiative aims to empower professionals in the field of water resources and agriculture, supporting sustainable development and food security across the continent. Officials of both countries met to discuss joint efforts in developing digital capacity-building schemes. The discussions focused on launching remote and in-person training programmes for Egyptian and African participants.

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Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 to position India's Leadership in Global Rice Supply Chain

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has announced that the Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 will be held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Conceived as a global platform aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Conference will bring together producers, exporters, importers, policymakers, financiers, logisticians, research institutions, and allied service providers to strengthen transparency, efficiency, and resilience in the global rice trade. Sustainability, innovation, and transparent, rules-based commerce will be at the core of the deliberations. While addressing the curtain raiser of the Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 in New Delhi today, Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev informed that the Foreign Ministers of the Philippines, Ghana, Namibia, and The Gambia will participate in the two-day event.

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State of Kuwait and UNICEF Hold First High-Level Strategic Dialogue, Strengthening Global Partnership for Children

The State of Kuwait and UNICEF held today their first High-Level Strategic Dialogue at UNICEF Headquarters in New York, reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of children worldwide. The Dialogue, co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, and Ms. Catherine Russell, Executive Director of UNICEF, brought together senior representatives from Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), and UNICEF leadership. The meeting aimed to strengthen humanitarian and development cooperation, expand global advocacy for children, and set out joint priorities for the next five years.

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Asia Telemedicine Society Launches with Over 10 Countries

The "Asian Telemedicine Society (ATS)" has been officially launched, involving telemedicine experts from 10 Asian countries, including Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. ATS held a conference to commemorate its foundation and appointed Kang Dae-hee, a professor of preventive medicine at Seoul National University Medical School, as the first president of the conference. "It is time for Asia to create telemedicine standards together," Kang said. "We will grow into a digital health cooperative that shares the experiences and data of each country and develops together."

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ICARDA and the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture Convene High-Level Consultation to Advance the Rehabilitation of Syria's Agriculture Sector

Under the patronage of the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture, ICARDA convened a High-Level Consultation Workshop to present and discuss the Program for the Rehabilitation of Syria's Agriculture Sector, a collaborative framework designed by ICARDA to guide the country's agricultural recovery. The event brought together H.E. Dr. Amjad Badr, Syria's Minister of Agriculture and Mr. Aly Abousabaa, ICARDA's Director General, with 85 senior representatives of key national partners from Syrian ministries and municipalities, the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), the General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM), the Faculty of Agriculture at Damascus University, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and the Farmers Union as well as our Arab regional partner, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).

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From Commitment to Action: East Africa Steps Up Cultural Heritage Protection Efforts

The Regional Workshop on the Ratification of UNESCO Culture Conventions entitled “Sustained Engagement and Peer-to-Peer Cooperation for Cultural Heritage Protection: Towards Regional Ratification in Eastern Africa” in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together more than 50 participants from Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. The workshop addressed the region’s urgent need to confront threats such as armed conflict, illicit trafficking, and the impacts of climate change on heritage sites. By reinforcing peer-to-peer learning and South–South cooperation, it aligns with UNESCO’s global strategy to safeguard cultural heritage and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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Cambodia and Vietnam Strengthen Ties with Major Cassava Export Agreement

In a major step toward deepening agricultural cooperation, Cambodia and Vietnam have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost Cambodia’s fresh cassava exports to 9 million tons annually. The agreement was signed in the presence of H.E. Cham Nimal, Minister of Commerce, alongside representatives from the Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia, the Cambodian Cassava Federation, and the Vietnam Cassava Association. The MoU outlines closer collaboration in cassava production, processing, and marketing, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral trade. Minister Cham Nimal expressed optimism that the agreement would elevate Cambodia’s cassava industry while deepening economic and agricultural ties between the two nations.

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Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan & Uganda Sign Landmark Deal to Establish Regional Trade Corridor

Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the Djibouti-Ethiopia-South Sudan-Uganda (DESSU) Corridor Authority, a landmark initiative designed to strengthen regional trade, improve infrastructure, and enhance economic integration across East Africa. The agreement, finalized during a high-level ministerial meeting and announced by the Ethiopian Embassy in Djibouti, represents a major step toward addressing trade barriers and fostering cross-border commerce. The DESSU Corridor will serve as a vital transport and logistics route, facilitating the movement of goods, services, and investments across the four countries, ultimately driving economic growth and job creation.

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Priorities, progress, and plans: IRRI, TARI, and TaiwanICDF revisit partnerships in Tanzania

IRRI, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), along with the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), visited the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania Honorable Gerald Mweli, to discuss research priorities, partnerships and strategic collaborations in East and South Africa (ESA). The visit precedes a series of discussions during IRRI's Regional Advancement Meeting in Dar es Salaam. TARI Director General Dr. Thomas Bwana and Director of Research and Innovation Dr. Deusdedith Mbanzibwa accompanied the IRRI delegation, led by IRRI Africa Regional Director Dr. Abdelbagi Ismail, Regional Breeding Lead Dr. Ajay Panchbhair, and IRRI Tanzania Country Representative Dr. Pauline Chivenge. TaiwanICDF Project Manager Mr. Joe Chiu also joined the delegation, expressing interest in collaborating with IRRI and the government of Tanzania.

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16th Annual Meeting of the WHO International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines

The 16th Annual Meeting of the World Health Organization International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (WHO-IRCH) was successfully convened in Jakarta, Indonesia, hosted by the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority (BPOM). The meeting brought together regulatory authorities, policy-makers, researchers, and WHO representatives from across the world to strengthen collaboration on the quality, safety, and efficacy of herbal medicines. A meeting of the WHO-IRCH Steering Group preceded the annual session.

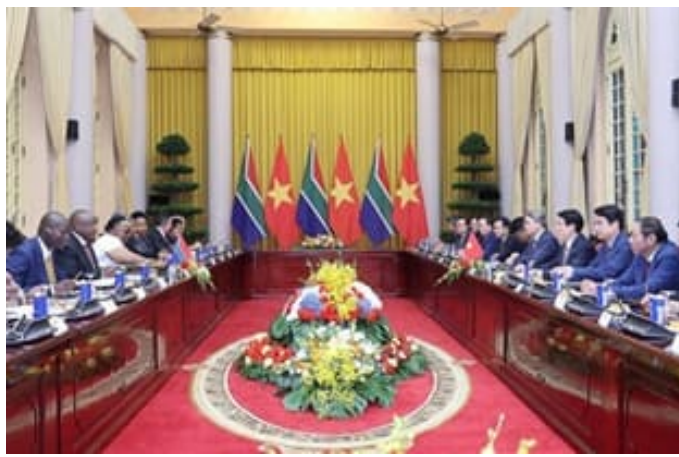
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7 in 10 Young Indians Surveyed Expect Greater Global South Leadership in the Coming Decade

The inaugural cohort of Next Generation India Fellows today launched a new report that charts a course for India's 100th year of independence. Our Future India outlines a youth-powered roadmap to deliver on Viksit Bharat 2047 by tapping into the five megatrends that are transforming the world: climate change, artificial intelligence, rapid urban growth, demographic shifts, and geopolitics. According to the report, 72% of young Indians surveyed believe that Global South countries like India, South Africa, and Brazil will gain more influence in shaping global decisions in the next 10 years. Delivering the keynote address, Shri Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and Next Generation India advisor, said, "India is a \$4 trillion economy today and aims to cross \$30 trillion by 2047 — transforming the lives of every citizen. Few countries have achieved such an ambitious leap, and doing so will demand relentless reform, expansion of manufacturing, and sustainable growth. Our biggest advantage is our demographic dividend: a young, dynamic population whose energy and innovation can power this transformation. In a world facing instability, protectionism, and climate stress, Our Future India reminds us that the imagination of young Indians will be the driving force of a resilient and inclusive Viksit Bharat."

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Vietnam and South Africa commit to stronger strategic partnership

Vietnam and South Africa have pledged to elevate their bilateral cooperation to a new level, following a two-day official visit to Hanoi by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. During talks, Vietnamese President Luong Cuong described the discussions as “fruitful” and said both leaders agreed to steer relations towards a deeper, more effective phase of collaboration. Alongside plans to expand bilateral trade, the two nations committed to strengthening cooperation in priority sectors including energy, mining, agriculture and aquaculture. The leaders also welcomed the issuance of a Joint Declaration and endorsed efforts to negotiate further legal frameworks aimed at underpinning more robust cooperation in the years ahead.

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The UAE and Africa Kick Off New Dialogue Series to Boost Economic Ties

The UAE and Africa launched a new chapter in their economic partnership this week with the inaugural UAE-Africa Dialogues, organised by Capital Club Dubai, in partnership with Sanjeev Gupta and CNBC Africa. The first high-level conversation featured His Excellency Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, and Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation. The dialogue sets the stage for closer collaboration between the UAE and African nations, spotlighting a remarkable 87% surge in trade over five years and more than US\$97 billion invested or pledged recently. The UAE-Africa Gateway platform, launched in August 2024, by the UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism, aims to open further doors for business and investment across Sub-Saharan Africa. The UAE holds a significant position as an investor in Africa, ranking fourth globally behind China and European nations.

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The Hanoi Convention expected to establish a transparent and effective cross-border cooperation mechanism

International delegates shared the expectation that the Hanoi Convention would establish a transparent and effective cross-border cooperation mechanism, strengthening trust among nations in data sharing, investigation and response to cyber incidents. The expectation was shared at the first high-level plenary session within the framework of the Signing Ceremony and High-Level Conference of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (The Hanoi Convention) that took place in Hà Nội. This is a foundation for global cooperation in the digital age, demonstrating the common determination of the international community in building a safe, reliable, and humane cyberspace.

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IDB Group and Korea Announce New Cooperation Package

The Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Korea today announced the creation of a Korea-IDB Group cooperation package to accelerate innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable growth across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Announced during the 7th Korea-LAC Business Summit in Seoul, the new initiatives mark the 20th anniversary of Korea's joining the IDB Group. Since 2005, this partnership has fostered innovation and inclusive development across the region. "Korea's transformation is one of the clearest examples that development can work. The so called 'Miracle on the Han River' was not just a miracle – it was planning, consistency, and execution. Our deepened partnership with this new cooperation package brings those same ingredients to Latin America and the Caribbean – connecting Korea's innovation and experience with our region's private sector to drive sustainable growth," said IDB Group President Ilan Goldfajn.

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Iran, Saudi Arabia stress developing ties in health, pharmaceutical, and medical equipment fields

The two sides expressed satisfaction with cooperation in health sector and underlined developing joint cooperation in scientific, academic, research, and educational fields, which includes the exchange of professors and students, holding joint specialized conferences, and strengthening relations between Iranian and Saudi medical sciences universities. They also reviewed expanding joint investments in the pharmaceutical, medical equipment, and health infrastructure sectors, and mutually benefiting from existing experiences and capabilities in these fields.

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Qatar Participates in Panel Discussion on Quantifying South-South Cooperation in Geneva

The State of Qatar participated in the third panel discussion on quantifying South-South cooperation, held on the occasion of the South-South Cooperation Forum, which is organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with the participation of high-level representatives of countries and international and regional organizations. Deputy Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN Office in Geneva Jawhara bint Abdulaziz Al Suwaidi represented Qatar in the panel discussion.

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