



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence



31 May - 06 June, 2026

### In-Focus Article



## From Outbreak to Opportunity: What Ebola Now Asks of India-Africa Cooperation

*Dr. Monika Kochar, Health Advisor, DAKSHIN- Global South Centre of Excellence*

The WHO Director-General's declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 17 May 2026, following confirmation of a Bundibugyo ebolavirus (BDBV) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, marks the largest outbreak of this species since its identification in 2007. Within ten days of laboratory confirmation, transmission had extended across three DRC provinces and an international border into Kampala. The outbreak simultaneously forced the postponement of the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS IV), scheduled for New Delhi from 28 to 31 May 2026. These two developments expose a structural gap in South-South health security that IAFS IV, when it convenes, is positioned to address.

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### DAKSHIN Events



DAKSHIN, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and the Centre for Development and Enterprises Great Lakes (CDE), Burundi jointly organised an international workshop 'Harnessing Digital Technologies for Climate-

Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture in Global South' on 29 May 2026. This workshop brought together policymakers, researchers, think tanks, and practitioners to foster knowledge exchange, identify scalable solutions, and explore partnerships for inclusive agricultural transformation across the Global South. The workshop consisted of an Opening Session followed by two Panel Discussions; 'Digital Agriculture in the Global South: Sharing Innovations, Best Practices and Lessons Learned' and 'Digital Agriculture in the Global South: Exploring Opportunities for Collaboration and South-South Partnerships' respectively.

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## Key Developments in the Global South

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### **Myanmar is India's Gateway to Southeast Asia: Hon'ble Indian President H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu**

The Hon'ble President of India, H.E. Smt Droupadi Murmu received H.E. U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 1, 2026. Welcoming President Hlaing at Rashtrapati Bhavan, she said that India and Myanmar share deep cultural, civilizational, and spiritual ties that go back centuries. Our relationship rests on a strong foundation of mutual understanding and friendship. She said that connectivity is an important pillar of the India-Myanmar partnership, and expressed hope that ongoing connectivity projects will be completed at the earliest with the support of the Government of Myanmar.

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### **India's Close Cooperation with Venezuela Holds Immense Importance for Global South: India's Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Shri Narendra Modi**

Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Shri Narendra Modi held talks with the Hon'ble Acting President of Venezuela, H.E. Ms. Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi. The two leaders reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explored new avenues of cooperation in energy, trade, investment, healthcare, and automobiles, among others. In a social media post, he said, they had extensive discussions on expanding cooperation in energy, critical

minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties. He said that as a valued partner in Latin America, India's close cooperation with Venezuela holds immense importance for the Global South. He said, both nations will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. As part of the programme, the Venezuelan delegation will visit several sites connected with energy, pharmaceuticals and auto sectors to gain insights into India's technological and industrial capabilities and to explore opportunities for collaboration.

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### **Indian Prime Minister Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi Notes that Nepal is a Priority Partner Under the Neighbourhood First policy**

The Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party of Nepal, Mr. Rabi Lamichhane met Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Shri Narendra Modi during his recent visit. The Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed his delight upon the meeting and stated that he welcomes and fully shares Mr. Lamichhane's desire to work closely together for a shared and prosperous future. He noted that Nepal is a priority partner under the Neighbourhood First policy. He affirmed that India looks forward to collaborating with the new government to elevate the special and multifaceted relationship between the two countries to greater heights.

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### **South African Hon'ble Deputy President H.E. Paul Mashatile Calls on the The President of India H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu**

H.E. Hon'ble Mr. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, called on the Hon'ble President of India, H.E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 2, 2026. Welcoming the Hon'ble Deputy President H.E. Mashatile on his first visit to India, the Hon'ble President said that India and South Africa share a special friendship that is both historic and contemporary. said that India and South Africa have always been leading voices of the Global South. Through our close cooperation in multilateral forums such as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the G20, we seek to promote peace and prosperity not only for our own peoples but also for the broader Global South.

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## **India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister H.E. Dr. S Jaishankar Co-Chairs 10th India-Lao PDR Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi**

India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister H.E. Dr. S Jaishankar co-chaired the 10th India-Lao PDR Joint Commission Meeting with Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic H.E. Mr. Thongsavan Phomvihane in New Delhi. During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on various aspects, including trade and investment, health, energy, digital connectivity, development partnership, capacity building and culture. They also spoke about furthering India – ASEAN cooperation as well as developments in the region. In his remarks, H.E. Dr. Jaishankar said, India and the Lao PDR share close civilisational ties, reflected in their common heritage of Buddhism and the Ramayana. He noted that relations between the two countries go back in history, based on deep cultural and people-to-people linkages.

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## **South Africa and Telangana to Boost Ties in Pharma, Skilled Workforce**

H.E. Hon'ble Deputy President of South Africa Mr. Paul Mashatile's meeting with the Hon'ble Telangana Chief Minister H.E. Revanth Reddy set the stage for deeper cooperation in pharmaceuticals, medical tourism, and skilled workforce development between India and South Africa, with both sides eyeing stronger trade and investment links. During the meeting, he emphasised South Africa's interest in having Indian pharmaceutical companies invest in the country, noting that access to affordable medicines is a primary focus under Pretoria's universal healthcare push. Both sides agreed to cooperate in education, medical tourism and investments, with an aim to strengthen educational exchanges and attract investments for mutual benefit.

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## **India and South Africa Agree to Boost Cooperation in AI, Digital Infrastructure and Manufacturing**

India and South Africa today agreed to scale up bilateral cooperation in future technologies, with Artificial Intelligence, Digital Infrastructure and Advanced Manufacturing emerging as key priorities for the next phase of bilateral engagement. Holding bilateral talks with the Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of South Africa H.E. Dr. Nomalungelo Gina in New Delhi, India's Hon'ble Science and Technology Minister H.E. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the next phase of India-South Africa engagement must be shaped by emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems, startup partnerships and industry-linked research. He said that the next phase of India-South Africa engagement must be shaped by emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems, startup partnerships and industry-linked research.

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## **India Dispatches 43-Tonne Medical Aid to Africa CDC to Support Ebola Response**

India dispatched the second tranche of medical assistance to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), comprising protective gear, diagnostic and monitoring equipment, medicines, and nutritional supplements to support the continent's response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak. India is also confident that this 43-tonne consignment will further strengthen public health preparedness and bolster Ebola response capacities across Africa. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM), H.E. Dr. S Jaishankar, took to social media 'X' and said, "India has dispatched the second tranche of medical assistance to Africa CDC, comprising protective gear, diagnostic & monitoring equipment, medicines, and supplements. Confident that this 43 tons consignment will further strengthen public health preparedness and bolster Ebola response capacities across Africa."

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## **ASEAN to Sign Digital Economy Pact in November After Concluding Negotiations**

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states have concluded negotiations for the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). The landmark regional pact is set for signing this November as the bloc seeks to accelerate digital trade and unlock as much as \$2 trillion in digital economic activity by 2030. The agreement is scheduled to be signed during the 28th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting and the 49th ASEAN Summit in November 2026. The conclusion of negotiations follows a directive issued by ASEAN economic ministers earlier during the 27th AEC Council Meeting in Cebu, where they instructed senior officials to settle all outstanding negotiating issues and finalize the agreement.

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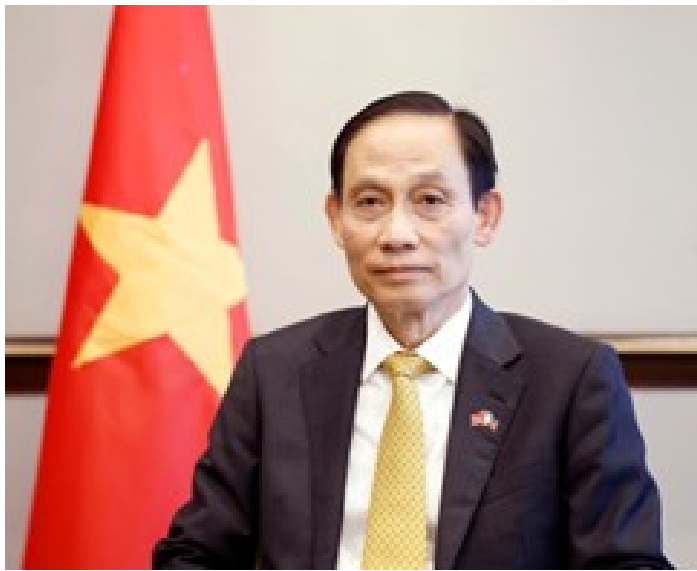


## **Kenya, South Africa Sign Six Agreements to Deepen Bilateral Ties**

Kenya and South Africa on signed six agreements covering trade, maritime cooperation, education, culture, sports and women's empowerment as the two countries moved to deepen bilateral relations during Hon'ble President H.E. William Ruto's state visit to Pretoria. The agreements were signed at the Union Buildings and witnessed by President Ruto and his South African counterpart H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa. The new instruments cover trade facilitation through cooperation in standards, regulation and metrology, shipping and maritime cooperation, gender equality and women's empowerment, technical and vocational education and training, arts and heritage and sports and recreation.

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## **Viet Nam Signed 71 Cooperation Agreements with Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines**

From May 27th to June 1st, 2026, General Secretary and Hon'ble President H.E. To Lam his wife, and a high-level delegation from the Party and State of Vietnam paid an official visit to Thailand, a state visit to Singapore, delivered a keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026, and a state visit to the Philippines. This visit has opened up new avenues of cooperation between Vietnam and all three partners, as Vietnam and all three partners are entering a new stage of development with new requirements and in the context of complex developments in the international and regional situation.

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## **IGAD Pledges \$1m to Fight Ebola as Health Ministers Meet on Regional Outbreak**

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) pledged one million dollars to help member states combat Ebola, as health ministers from the bloc held an emergency meeting to coordinate a regional response to the spreading disease. IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu addressed the ministerial meeting, urging member governments and populations to exercise caution, follow health guidelines, and report suspected cases immediately. The funding will be provided in cooperation with the Pandemic Fund, the World Health Organization, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Sudan's Hon'ble Health Minister H.E. Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim participated in the emergency session alongside counterparts from Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti, as well as representatives from UN agencies and international partners.

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## **IFAD, Ghana, and the World Bank Team Up Under the AgriConnect Compact to Modernize Agriculture and Food Systems**

At the launch of the Ghana AgriConnect Compact, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reaffirmed its commitment to partner with the Government of Ghana, the World Bank, and other development partners to accelerate the transformation of the country's agri-food systems and drive inclusive economic growth. This flagship initiative sets out an ambitious, private sector-led and government-enabled approach to position agriculture as a central driver of economic transformation, job creation and resilience. The Compact will prioritize transformation across key agricultural value chains including cocoa, oil palm, rice, maize and poultry, alongside other important sectors such as tree crops, fisheries and the forest economy.

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## **The World Bank Group and Japan Expand Cooperation to Help Developing Countries to Build Resilient Supply Chains and Energy Systems**

World Bank Group President Ajay Banga and Hon'ble Minister of Finance of Japan H.E. Satsuki Katayama today agreed to strengthen collaboration on helping developing countries build more resilient supply chains and energy systems, unlocking investment, jobs, and long-term economic growth. They signed the document to launch the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement Plus (RISE+), and agreed on a new framework called Dynamic Response for Invigorating Value Chains and Energy Security (DRIVE). Together, these initiatives extend Japan's existing partnerships with the World Bank Group on critical minerals and regional energy security.

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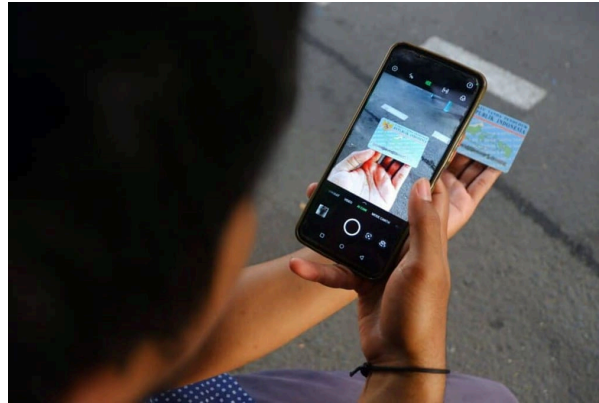
## **ECOWAS Seeks US\$24B to Drive West Africa's Rice Self-Sufficiency Plan**

West African leaders, development partners and investors gathered in Accra, Ghana, on June 2 for a high-level Rice Investment Roundtable aimed at securing financing for the region's rice self-sufficiency agenda. The two-day meeting, organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Commission, the Government

of Ghana and the World Bank Group, comes as West Africa works toward producing enough rice to meet its own demand by 2035. The roundtable builds on progress already made across the region. Thirteen ECOWAS member states have completed and validated National Rice Investment Action Plans that identify priority production areas and investment opportunities.

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### **Indonesia and PNG Join 50-in-5 as Digital Public Infrastructure Push Expands**

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have joined the 50-in-5 campaign, a global initiative supporting the deployment of digital public infrastructure (DPI) across the Global South. The move links both countries' digital identity, payments and data exchange programs to a growing international effort aimed at accelerating trusted and interoperable digital government services. Indonesia brings its Identitas Kependudukan Digital (IKD) digital identity platform to the initiative, while PNG joins with its emerging SevisPNG ecosystem, which includes the SevisPass digital ID, SevisWallet and government data exchange infrastructure. Both countries are building integrated DPI ecosystems that combine digital identity, payments and data exchange to support digital government services.

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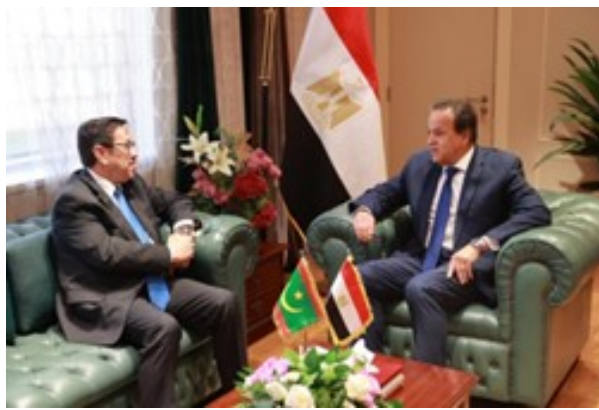


### **Srilanka and Cuba Discuss Health Cooperation**

Hon'ble Health and Mass Media Minister H.E. Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa held discussions with Cuban Ambassador to Sri Lanka H.E. Patricia Lazara Pego Guerra on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the health sector. The meeting took place at the Ministry of Health and Mass Media and focused on expanding longstanding ties between the two countries. During the discussions, the Minister noted Cuba's contribution to Sri Lanka's healthcare sector, particularly in public health and biotechnology. Ambassador Pego Guerra referred to Cuba's support for mosquito control programmes, dengue prevention efforts, pharmaceutical production and opportunities for Sri Lankan students to pursue medical education in Cuba through scholarship programmes.

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## **Egypt and Mauritania Explore Expanded Cooperation in Healthcare**

Egypt and Mauritania have explored opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in healthcare, with discussions focusing on medical training, pharmaceutical collaboration, preventive healthcare and medical tourism during a meeting between Egypt's Hon'ble Minister of Health and Population, H.E. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, and Mauritania's Ambassador to Egypt, H.E. El Houssein Ould Sidi Abdallah. According to a statement from Egypt's Hon'ble Ministry of Health and Population, H.E. Abdel Ghaffar reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to strengthening its healthcare partnership with Mauritania through the exchange of expertise, capacity-building initiatives and technical support across a range of medical fields.

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## **Working group on South-South Cooperation in Agriculture Makes Debut**

Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment held a meeting to promote Vietnam-Africa agricultural cooperation and officially launched the Working Group on South-South cooperation in agriculture, aiming to strengthen practical and sustainable partnerships among developing countries. The event reflects Vietnam's strong political determination to proactively realise the Party's foreign policy and the State's international integration policy, advancing international integration and deepening substantive agricultural cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Addressing the event, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment H.E. Hoang Trung said the establishment of the working group was a timely move to create a unified coordination mechanism.

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## **Afreximbank Deepens Commitment to Economic Progress in the Bahamas**

African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) held a high-level roadshow in Nassau, The Bahamas, on 29 May, aimed at deepening engagement with key stakeholders and businesses across the government, the private sector, and financial institutions across the country. Organised as part of the Bank’s broad strategy to strengthen trade, investment, and economic cooperation between Africa and the Caribbean, the roadshow which took place under the theme “Investing in progress through the implementation of the Afreximbank mandate in The Bahamas” built on the current achievements between the Bank and The Bahamas to explore more opportunities for shared prosperity.

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## **Africa CDC Concludes Primary Health Care Digitalisation Mission Supports in The Gambia**

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has concluded a primary health care digitalisation mission in The Gambia as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen maternal and child health systems through digital transformation initiatives. The mission forms part of Africa CDC’s broader African Health Systems Strengthening Digital Transformation agenda and supports the Triple Zero ambition aimed at achieving zero home-based deliveries, zero maternal deaths in health facilities, and zero unvaccinated children. According to Africa CDC, The Gambia, with an estimated population of approximately 2.7 million people, continues to face major maternal and child health challenges, making digital transformation within the primary health care sector a national priority.

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## **CIMMYT and Uzbekistan Join Efforts to Transform the Country's Wheat Sector**

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed an award agreement for the bridge phase of Advancing Wheat Innovation and Capacity in Uzbekistan (AWIC-UZ), a landmark initiative to modernize the country's wheat sector. The agreement begins the conversion of the letter of intent signed in March 2026 into operational reality and builds toward the larger, more ambitious, follow-on AWIC-UZ program. This phase of the agreement is designed to seize a unique window of opportunity, converting political will into concrete action through targeted scientific exchanges, the introduction of elite germplasm, and systematic disease diagnostics.

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## **Kenyan Government Boosts Digital Economy Push Through Data Centres and Cloud Growth**

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating Kenya's digital economy by strengthening the ecosystem for data centre operators and cloud service providers as demand for artificial intelligence and cloud computing continues to grow. Speaking at a strategic consultative forum at the Kenya School of Government, Eng John Tanui the Principal Secretary in the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy, Kenya is fast emerging as the digital gateway to Eastern and Central Africa. "Kenya is positioning itself as a leading African hub for data centres and artificial intelligence computing infrastructure, supported by ongoing investments in digital infrastructure, expanding connectivity, stable regulation, renewable energy potential, and rising regional demand for cloud services," said Eng Tanui.

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## Côte d'Ivoire Targets Digital Economy Growth at African Digital Week 2026

Côte d'Ivoire's Hon'ble Minister of Digital Transition and Technological Innovation, H.E. Djibril Ouattara, has outlined the country's vision for leveraging emerging technologies to drive economic growth and digital transformation across the nation. Speaking at the opening of the sixth edition of African Digital Week at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan, he emphasized the transformative potential of innovation and emerging technologies in shaping Africa's future development. During his address, the minister presented Côte d'Ivoire's national digital transformation roadmap, which is structured around seven strategic pillars and 40 priority projects designed to strengthen the country's digital ecosystem. He stated that the government's objective is to position digital technology as a major engine of economic growth and increase the sector's contribution to 15 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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