



Global South Matters

# THE DAKSHIN NEWS

Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative

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## IN FOCUS



### India's Healthcare System - A Model for the Global South

*Dr. Monika Kochar, Advisor (Health), Ms. Tanya Singh, Research Assistant, DAKSHIN*

India is rapidly transforming its healthcare system through strategic investments and policy reforms aimed at strengthening infrastructure and expanding access to quality care. The Union Budget for 2025-26 reinforces this shift by prioritizing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with a significant increase in healthcare funding.

At the heart of this transformation is PM-JAY, the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme, which reduces out-of-pocket expenses and expands coverage to 10 million temporary and part-time (gig) workers. The National Health Mission (NHM) continues to strengthen rural healthcare, while PM-ABHIM focuses on improving medical infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas. A key initiative under this program is the rollout of 200 Daycare Cancer Centers, ensuring broader access to critical treatments.

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### Leveraging Satellites and Remote Sensing for Crop Insurance: PMFBY as a Model for the Global South

*A. Sivasenareddy, Advisor (Agriculture), DAKSHIN*

Agriculture in the Global South is increasingly vulnerable to climate-induced risks, necessitating robust mechanisms for financial resilience among farmers. Crop insurance plays a crucial role in safeguarding livelihoods, yet challenges such as delayed claim settlements, inaccurate yield assessments, and high operational costs often hinder its effectiveness. India's Crop Insurance Programme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has pioneered the integration of satellite-based remote sensing technologies to enhance transparency, efficiency, and scalability in crop insurance.

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## Key Developments reported by international organisations relevant for the Global South

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### FAO ensures transparency and quality in measuring SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators

In a statement on 6th February 2025 in Rome upon the release of the Report titled “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2024”, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reaffirms its unwavering commitment, enshrined in its Constitution, to collect, analyse, interpret, and disseminate information on nutrition, food security, and agriculture. FAO employs rigorous statistical methods to generate food security data, particularly the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) indicator. These methods have undergone extensive scrutiny, peer review, and evaluation by leading global experts.

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### International Labour Organization and Mahidol University strengthen partnership to advance social health protection in Asia

Through a MOU, the ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD) at Mahidol University and ILO collaborate for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in the pursuit of universal health and social protection in the region on World Day of Social Justice, 2025. The MoU facilitates South-South and Triangular Cooperation, encouraging knowledge-sharing and mutual learning among countries in the region, through the CONNECT network. Mahidol University and the ILO support the platform, through joint research projects, training programmes and policy dialogues, hence providing a space for countries to exchange best practices and innovative strategies for enhancing social protection systems.

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### FAO and UNOOSA launch publication on space technology for agricultural development and food security

On 7th February 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) launched their latest collaborative effort, the publication “Leveraging Space Technology for Agricultural Development and Food Security.” Satellite imagery, global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), and their integrated applications are revolutionizing agriculture. Practical examples include monitoring crop health, managing water resources, predicting weather patterns, responding to

crises, and empowering local farmers and international policymakers.

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### **African Union has a bold plan for agriculture: now is the time to implement it**

A new continental vision for building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems – the Kampala Declaration – was agreed at an African Union summit of heads of state held in Kampala, Uganda from 9th to 11th of January 2025. The summit endorsed a new 10-year Strategy of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) for 2026 to 2035. The Declaration is an ambitious agenda to increase food output by 45%, reduce post-harvest losses by half, and raise the share of locally processed food to 35% of the agrifood sector GDP by the end of 2035. To drive this growth, our leaders in Africa have committed to mobilising a total of \$100bn in public and private sector investment and financing in the next 10 years.

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### **IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 Begins in Delhi**

Indian Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the IIAS-DARPG India Conference 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The five-day event focuses on next-generation administrative reforms, governance innovation, and features participation from 240 delegates across 55 countries. Atul Kaushik, Fellow at DAKSHIN presented the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), an information and communications technology-based platform for timely implementation of grievance redress, large projects, and social sector schemes. Peter Moores, Dean and Professor of Management at Oxford SAID School says that building on PRAGATI's experience, other developing countries have a valuable opportunity also to revolutionise their approach to infrastructure development

<https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/news/how-indias-pragati-digital-platform-has-accelerated-its-infrastructure-revolution-said-business-school-gates-foundation-case-study>

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## **Key Developments in the Global South**



### **ICRISAT-ITEC Launch Training Series**

ICRISAT has launched the first in a series of international training programs to equip decision-makers with tools to scale climate-resilient and sustainable farming systems. The training program, which concluded on 31 January 2025, is supported by

the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) - Government of India program. It spotlights South-South collaboration and adopts the 'Systems Approach' and tools for addressing agricultural challenges under the aegis of the CGIAR Science Program on Sustainable Farming. Participants from 12 countries—Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Mali, Kenya, Nigeria, Cambodia, Nepal, Ghana, Ecuador, Fiji, Philippines, and Tajikistan—converged for the training. Representing ministries, research institutes, and universities, they engaged in hands-on sessions designed to foster solutions for smallholder farmers worldwide and undertook field visits to action sites.

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### **Indonesia launches \$183 million free health screening to prevent early deaths**

Indonesia launched an annual free health screening on Monday, a 3 trillion rupiah (\$183.54 million) initiative to prevent early deaths that the country's health ministry said was its biggest ever undertaking. The programme is initially targeting under-sixes and adults aged 18 and over, Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin informed. Under the programme, all Indonesians will eventually be entitled to a free screening on their birthday, the ministry said. The screening, which is not mandatory, includes blood pressure, tests to determine the risk of heart problems or stroke, and eye tests, the ministry said.

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### **Ethiopia unveils digital agriculture roadmap to drive sector transformation**

Ethiopia has launched its Digital Agriculture Roadmap, a long-term strategy to modernise the agricultural sector and enhance productivity through digital innovation. Developed by the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, the roadmap sets out a digital integration plan spanning from 2025 to 2032. The unveiling event brought together Ethiopia's senior officials, including Minister of Agriculture Girma Amente and Minister of Innovation and Technology Belete Molla.

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### **Mono River Basin transboundary water management project launched in Benin and Togo**

The Regional Initiative for Water and Sanitation in the Mono cross-border basin (RIWE-Mono) aims to restore ecosystems, improve the living conditions of people living along the river and promote concerted, sustainable management of natural resources, while strengthening cross-border cooperation between the two countries (Benin and Togo) that share this watercourse. The official launch of the RIWE-Mono project took place on 29 January 2025, under the patronage of the



Minister for Water and Mines of the Republic of Benin and the Minister for Water and Sanitation of Togo. The project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through IUCN as Implementing Entity for a total budget of USD 5,000,000 for an implementation period of 48 months.

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### **Seeds of Hope: Overcoming Zimbabwe's Drought Crisis with Community-led Innovation**

Recognizing the looming threat to future harvests, ICRISAT introduced a community-driven seed production model in Zimbabwe's Chiredzi district, leveraging access to irrigation to unlock new opportunities. A sense of hope was ignited through this strategic initiative with financial support from the CGIAR Seed Equal Initiative to deliver improved, climate-resilient, market-preferred, and nutritious crop varieties to farmers, offering a lifeline for sustainable agriculture.

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### **Tanzania unveils digital address app to boost transport, security**

With the launch of National Physical Address System mobile application, Tanzania has given a boost to its transport security infrastructure. The mobile application uses geolocation technology allowing passengers to input their home and business addresses so that the drivers can reach the exact location without confusion, apart from improving the safety of both the passengers and the drivers. Speaking at the launch event in Dodoma on 8th February 2025, Minister of Transport of Tanzania Jerry Silaa emphasised the role of the new system in making travel more efficient and safer. He was addressing the Bodaboda and Bajaji operators during the national Address Week celebrations.

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## **Upcoming Events of Interest to the Global South**



### **Webinar on 'Advancing Universal Health Coverage: Leveraging Technology for Maternal Care and Vaccine Delivery'**

Wednesday, 19th February 2025 (5:00 pm – 6:30 pm IST)

The workshop will bring together key stakeholders from the Global South to explore technology-driven solutions for advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The discussions will examine how AI and mobile health tools can enhance maternal outcomes, and how IoT-based cold chain systems and digital tracking can ensure efficient vaccine delivery. The transformative potential of technology shall be highlighted in the workshop with an aim to identify scalable, innovative

solutions to address healthcare disparities and improve access to quality care.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3WXaGTe>

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