



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

07 Aug - 13 Aug, 2025

IN FOCUS

Interoperability Made UPI a Global Leader

Akash Singh, DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is India's real-time bank-to-bank payment system, created to make money transfers instant, simple, and universally accessible. In a striking milestone, UPI recently processed over 640 million transactions in a single day, surpassing VISA's 639 million. It accounts for 85 percent of all digital transactions in India and has expanded internationally to seven countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France and Mauritius.

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Key Developments in the Global South



World Leaders Adopt Awaza Political Declaration for Landlocked Developing Countries

The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) concluded in Awaza, Turkmenistan, with the adoption of the Awaza Political Declaration, and the formal endorsement of the Awaza Programme of Action (2024–2034)—a landmark framework to accelerate sustainable development and resilience for the world's 32 landlocked nations. Under the theme “Driving Progress Through Partnerships,” the four-day conference convened Heads of State, Senior UN officials, development partners, and private sector leaders to address the unique challenges faced by LLDCs.

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“South-South” Cooperation Ministerial Meeting Convenes in Turkmenistan

The Ministerial Meeting on South-South Cooperation was held at the "Avaza" National Tourism Zone within the framework of the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. South-South Cooperation represents an important direction of international interaction, primarily uniting developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. This format of relations, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, solidarity, and mutual benefit, is a unique example of traditional cooperation between developed and developing countries. During the meeting, participants discussed ways to ensure access to modern technologies and know-how in landlocked developing countries through “South-South” and triangular cooperation.

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Ghana’s Speaker of Parliament Urges African Parliaments to Address Digital Divide

The Speaker of Parliament, Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, has urged African parliaments to take urgent steps to address the digital divide between countries and regions, citing the technological gap between the parliaments of Rwanda and Ghana as an example. He indicated that the uneven access to modern technology and digital tools across the continent was affecting the efficiency of parliamentary work and the ability to share information seamlessly. He stressed that bridging the gap would not only improve parliamentary reporting but also enhance democratic governance and accountability.

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Pacific Ministers Urged To Strengthen Digital Collaboration

Fiji's deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communications, Hon'ble Manoa Kamikamica, officially opened the 2nd Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue with a powerful call for renewed regional unity, collaboration, and digital ambition. In his remarks, DPM Kamikamica reaffirmed the symbolic and strategic importance of the Lagatoi Declaration, adopted at the inaugural Dialogue in Papua New Guinea, as a shared regional roadmap for digital transformation. DPM Kamikamica highlighted Fiji's recent progress in advancing digital inclusion, including the rollout of Starlink services and the anticipated commercial launch of 5G, alongside the establishment of Fiji's national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

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Vietnam and Angola Seek to Boost Trade Ties

Longstanding ties between Vietnam and Angola provide a solid base for a new phase of cooperation, State President Luong Cuong said during talks with his Angolan counterpart João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço in Luanda. President Cuong said there is ample room to strengthen ties and proposed building a development partnership that could serve as a model for South-South cooperation. He called on Angolan agencies to support Vietnamese projects in metallurgy and mineral exploitation and processing, and urged both sides to work harder to raise bilateral trade to 1 billion USD.

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Egypt and India Discuss Expanding Health Cooperation

Egypt and India discussed strengthening cooperation in universal health coverage, e-health, and clinical research during talks between Ahmed El-Sobky, Head of the Egyptian Healthcare Authority, and Indian Ambassador in Cairo, Suresh K. Reddy. Sobky highlighted Egypt's strategic role as a gateway to African markets and expressed interest in localising robotic surgery and smart primary care models through partnerships with Indian healthcare giants such as Apollo Hospitals and Aster DM Healthcare. Ambassador Reddy invited Egyptian officials to visit India to explore its healthcare system.

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Turkmenistan and the Republic of Chad Seek to Boost Ties

On August 9, 2025, a meeting was held in the National Tourist Zone “Avaza” between the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Ahmet Gurbanov and the Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, International Cooperation, and Chadians Abroad of the Republic of Chad Ms. Fatimé Aldjineh Garfa. During the meeting, the Turkmen side expressed gratitude to the delegation of the Republic of Chad for participating in the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3). The sides noted the importance of this event in the context of promoting cooperation between countries and sustainable development.

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Indonesia and Peru Discuss Trade

Peruvian President Dina Boluarte met her Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto on during a visit aimed at strengthening economic ties as the two countries look to expand into new markets to overcome geopolitical challenges and rising trade barriers. The talks came just four days after U.S. President Donald Trump began imposing higher import taxes on dozens of countries on Thursday, including a 19 percent rate on Indonesia. Imports from Peru are paying the 10 percent baseline rate Trump set in April. The two-day visit is aimed at deepening Peru's ties with Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, after the two nations concluded negotiations, which began in May 2024, on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement or CEPA.

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ASEAN and BIMSTEC Experts Discuss Agricultural Transformation

Researchers and experts from countries across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries met in a two-day Policy Roundtable and Inception Workshop in Jakarta to discuss shared challenges and new opportunities for sustainable and inclusive agricultural development. The event was jointly organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and Network of Policy Advisors and Analysts (NePAA).

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Nigeria Progresses with Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Cybersecurity Plans

The Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, represented by Engr Salisu Kaka, Director of the e-Government and Digital Economy Department, has outlined major steps being taken to strengthen Nigeria's digital economy. Speaking at the 19th International Conference (CONNOVATE 2025) organised by the Nigeria Computer Society with the theme "Intelligent, Secure, and Sustainable Innovations for a Connected World," Inuwa stressed the importance of building a secure and innovative digital space. He highlighted the strategic initiatives of the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy.

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Kenya and Zambia Deepen Agricultural Cooperation

Kenya and Zambia have established new partnership avenues to strengthen food systems and agricultural productivity. Agriculture Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mutahi Kagwe paid a courtesy call to Zambia's Minister of Agriculture, Reuben Mutolo, and held talks on establishing institutional ties between agricultural bodies in the two nations. This will see institutional linkages between the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), and Zambia's Seed Control and Certification Institute. These efforts aim to enhance cooperation in seed research, certification and exchange, particularly for yellow maize, sunflower, and napier grass.

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African Development Bank and Invest in Africa Sign Agreement to Boost Inclusive Green Jobs

The African Development Bank (www.AfDB.org) has signed a \$850,000 grant agreement with Invest in Africa (IIA), a non-profit organisation, to support the MicroGREEN project to provide livelihood opportunities for marginalised and vulnerable groups in Ghana and Senegal. Titled, Strengthening Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities' Micro-Entrepreneurship for Green Jobs in Natural Resources, this initiative aims to generate up to 500 green jobs, focusing on the agroforestry, fisheries, and biodiversity conservation sectors. It is funded through the Bank's Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA), alongside an initial \$1 million grant commitment by the Bank's Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support the project over two years.

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Private Injection to Power Kenya's Galana-Kulalu Irrigation Expansion

The Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project set up by the Kenyan Government is now set to benefit from a Sh12.5 billion private sector injection under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Spanning 1.5 million acres in Kilifi and Tana River counties, the initiative aims to significantly enhance food production, create employment opportunities, improve livelihoods, and provide a steady supply of raw materials for agro-based industries. The National Irrigation Authority (NIA) has already completed a 600,000 cubic metre water reservoir, funded by Sh519 million from the National Treasury, capable of irrigating 10,000 acres.

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Somalia and Algeria Seek to Boost Agricultural Cooperation

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Abdisalam Abdi Ali, met with the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, H.E. Mr. Youcef Cherfa, and discussed with him ways to enhance cooperation in the agricultural sector. The meeting explored avenues to strengthen bilateral collaboration, focusing on opportunities in animal and plant production, veterinary health, and the development of agricultural products. Both sides underscored the strong historical ties linking Somalia and Algeria. H.E. Abdisalam Abdi Ali expressed Somalia's readiness to expand exchanges and cooperation with Algeria.

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World Health Organization and Bahrain Reaffirm Strategic Partnership

World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, Dr Hanan Balkhy, completed her first official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The visit reaffirmed the longstanding strategic partnership between WHO and the Government of Bahrain, highlighted Bahrain's progress in advancing national and regional health priorities and set out a clear roadmap for enhanced cooperation in the years ahead. Dr Balkhy met with national health leaders, including Chairman of the Supreme Council for Health Lieutenant General Dr Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa and Minister of Health Dr Jaleela bint Al-Sayed Jawad Hassan.

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World Health Organization Pledges Continued Support to Ethiopia's Health Sector

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi, has praised Ethiopia's achievements in strengthening its health system and reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to supporting the country's ongoing efforts. Speaking to ENA during his first official visit to Ethiopia, Dr. Janabi said he held productive discussions with Health Minister Dr. Mekdes Daba on national health priorities, WHO's role as a key partner, and ways to reach populations affected by humanitarian crises. During his visit, Dr. Janabi also met with representatives of the African Union, the United Nations, and development partners. Discussions focused on health financing, boosting local pharmaceutical manufacturing, and reinforcing continental preparedness for health emergencies.

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Kenya Eliminates Sleeping Sickness as a Public Health Problem

The World Health Organization (WHO) has validated Kenya as having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness as a public health problem, making it the tenth country to reach this important milestone. HAT is the second neglected tropical disease (NTD) to be eliminated in Kenya: the country was certified free of Guinea worm disease in 2018. "I congratulate the government and people of Kenya on this landmark achievement," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Kenya joins the growing ranks of countries freeing their populations of human African trypanosomiasis. HAT is a vector-borne disease caused by the blood parasite *Trypanosoma brucei*."

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President of Ghana Urges African Homegrown Solutions For Tackling Health Challenges

President John Dramani Mahama has advocated the scaling up of African homegrown solutions for health challenges. He said the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the African Medicine Agency, the African Continental Free Trade Area Health Corridors and the AUDA Nepal Resilience Agenda, needed to be scaled up to meet the growing health needs of the continent. These, he said, were symbols of an emerging African health ecosystem that was rooted in digital innovation and was grounded in data and designed for self-determination by African countries. President Mahama stated this in his opening remarks at the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit in Accra.

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Gabon and Africa 50 Form Strategic Partnership

The Ministry of Digital Economy, Digitalisation and Innovation (MENDI) of Gabon and Africa 50, a pan-African infrastructure investment platform, have initiated a strategic partnership to accelerate Gabon's digital transformation. The collaboration, discussed in a meeting, aims to modernise the nation's digital landscape and support economic growth. The partnership focuses on several critical areas to advance Gabon's digital agenda. The two entities will work on deploying digital solutions to streamline and modernise public services and government administration. They will also support the digitisation of payments, enhance digital education initiatives, and expand the national digital network.

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Rwanda Embarks on Digital ID Enrollment

Some Rwandans have begun registration ahead of the rollout of the country's new national digital ID, billed for 2026. The National Identification Agency (NIDA) launched nationwide registration, but biometric capture is expected to kick off in mid-September, The New Times quoted NIDA Director General, Josephine Mukesha, as saying. An ongoing international trade fair at the Gikondo community center in Kigali, slated to run till August 17, is affording many people the opportunity to get registered for the digital ID. The project is aimed at providing every citizen, refugee, and foreign resident in Rwanda with a secure biometric digital identity.

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DAKSHIN Events



DAKSHIN Meeting with the Centre for Indian Studies (CIS), Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Vietnam

DAKSHIN had a successful virtual meeting with the Centre for Indian Studies (CIS), Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in Vietnam on Friday, 8 August 2025. The meeting was attended by the DAKSHIN team led by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN. Dr Le Thu Mach, Deputy Director; Dr. Do Khuong Manh Linh, Senior Researcher and Ms. MA. Nguyen Thu Thuy were present from the Centre for Indian Studies. Dr. Mach gave a brief description about the National Academy of Politics, specifically the Center for Indian Studies, which was established in 2015 and is part of the Institute of Politics and International Studies in Vietnam. She mentioned that the academy is a prestigious institution that provides training courses for senior government officials and members of the Communist Party of Vietnam. She highlighted that the center focuses on political analysis and noted that they have invited Indian scholars to their seminars and conferences. She mentioned they are planning a delegation visit to India to study labor policies and employment practices as well. This visit will include meetings with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and discussions on best practices to inform policy recommendations for Vietnam. Following this Professor

Sachdeva explained about RIS and the Global South Center of Excellence; its focus on development issues within the Global South the importance of learning from each other's experiences in various sectors, including agriculture, health, and digital solutions. Following this, both the sides reiterated the importance of such collaborations and taking the partnership ahead through joint research and publications.

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