



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

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### In-Focus



**The future of the ISA is bright because the Solar Alliance is majorly a grouping of the Global South that receive maximum sunshine (Originally published in the Indian Express)**

The future of the ISA is bright because the Solar Alliance targets countries that receive maximum sunshine. In this zone, the entire Middle East and Africa fall within this category. Therefore, India's cooperation and engagement with Middle Eastern countries and Africa continue to remain strong. In terms of footprint, the ISA is also seeking to increase its interventions in regions where solar power has not been able to scale — largely in Africa.

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### Report In-Focus



#### **International investment in the digital economy: A toolkit for policymakers**

The digital economy has become a major driver of innovation and global growth. It's expected to generate more than two thirds of new value creation over the next decade, expanding at an annual rate of 10% to 12%.

The World Investment Report 2025 analyses international investment trends in the digital economy and sets out strategic policy measures to help governments and stakeholders

attract and leverage foreign direct investment in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments under the Global Digital Compact and the Pact for the Future adopted in 2024. Large multinational enterprises dominate cross-border investment in digital sectors, with the top 20 players mostly headquartered in China and the United States. Over the past decade, cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the technology sector averaged nearly \$1 trillion a year. Less than 15% involved companies from developing countries. Greenfield investment is similarly concentrated. Between 2020 and 2024, developing countries attracted \$531 billion in announced digital economy projects, yet nearly 80% went to just 10 countries. The United States accounted for 36% of greenfield investment.

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## Key Developments in the Global South

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### India-Ethiopia Bilateral Relations

Indian delegation led by Secretary of Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, concluded their visit to Addis Ababa today. During the visit, Mr. Dalela called on the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and held discussions with the Deputy Chairperson, Ambassador Selma Malika Haddadi. In a social media post, the Embassy of India in Ethiopia said that the meeting was an excellent dialogue on ongoing collaboration, ways to further deepen India-Africa partnership. It added that discussions focused on strengthening cooperation within the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit, guided by the spirit of South-South cooperation. The discussion also stressed on India's continued commitment to advancing close ties, friendship and cooperation with the African region.

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### PM Modi Highlights India's Readiness to Share Digital Public Infrastructure with Commonwealth Nations

India's is willing to share its robust digital public infrastructure with countries across the Commonwealth, underscoring New Delhi's vision of technology as a global public good

that strengthens democratic institutions. The Prime Minister's remarks came as India hosts the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) for the fourth time, at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi. The conference is being chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Respond. PM Modi said, "As India hosts the 28th CSPOC, Honourable Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla underscores that, in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the country stands ready to share its digital public infrastructure with the Commonwealth. He writes that India does not see technology as a proprietary asset, but as a public good that strengthens democratic resilience across the globe."

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### **Kazakhstan and Lebanon Outline New Areas of Agricultural Cooperation**

Berik Aryn, Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), paid a working visit to the Lebanese Republic, opening a new chapter in dialogue on food security and agricultural cooperation in the Middle East. During the visit, Mr. Aryn held meetings with Dr. Nizar Hani, Lebanon's Minister of Agriculture, and Salim Baddoura, Director General of the Department for International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon. The talks focused on Lebanon's growing interest in deeper engagement with IOFS and the country's possible accession to the Organization.

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### **Nicaragua and South Africa boost bilateral cooperation**

Representatives of the Nicaraguan government met with a South African delegation visiting the country, headed by Vice Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Alvin Botes, to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The exchange focused on establishing a joint agenda to develop cooperation in various sectors of common interest. During the meeting, Ortega welcomed the South African Vice Minister and his delegation, while also conveying the warm and fraternal greetings of Nicaragua's Co-Presidents, Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo, to the people and Government of South Africa, to President Cyril Ramaphosa, and to Foreign Minister Ronald Lamol.

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## **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission positions India as healthcare pathfinder for Global South**

India's digital public health infrastructure, anchored by the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), is emerging as a global template for scalable, interoperable and affordable healthcare systems. ABDM, which has covered over 800 million people, is an example of large public-sector digital infrastructure that enables interoperability across healthcare providers, payers and patients.

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## **Cameroon Hosts Pan-African Training to Double Rice Production and Cut Import Dependence by 2030**

Yaoundé is hosting a multi-country training programme aimed at doubling Africa's rice production to 56 million tonnes by 2030 while improving grain quality, as part of broader efforts to reduce import dependence and strengthen food security. The workshop has brought together delegates from nine African countries under the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) and adopts a value chain approach that spans seed selection, cultivation, processing and marketing. The initiative is being implemented through the Project for the Development of Irrigated and Rainfed Rice Farming by Reinforcing the Value Chain (PRODERIP-RCV), with technical and financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It was officially opened by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Prof Bambot Grace Annih, representing Cameroon's Minister of Agriculture.

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### **India unveils AI-based digital twin for early disease detection**

The system is intended to support preventive and early diagnosis by allowing medical specialists to test scenarios in a virtual environment before applying treatment to patients. By analysing a wide range of biological parameters, the model can identify when certain indicators cross risk thresholds and generate diagnostic insights. The initial phase of development focuses on the respiratory system, with a digital twin of the lungs already created. Further stages will expand the platform to include the cardiovascular system and other vital organs, gradually building a comprehensive digital representation of the human body.

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### **FMAFS, IITA sign MoU to strengthen soil health, food security in Nigeria**

In a major step toward strengthening sustainable agriculture and national food security, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance soil health, improve fertiliser efficiency, and boost farm productivity in Nigeria. The MoU was signed by IITA Director General, Dr Simeon Ehui, and the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, in support of the Nigeria Farmers Soil Health Scheme (NFSHS) and national soil information system development initiatives.

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## **Morocco Rises 14 Spots in AI Readiness Index, Launches National AI Institutes**

Mrs. Amal Al-Falah Al-Sagroshny, Minister Delegate for Digital Transition and Administration Reform, underscored the strategic role of artificial intelligence (AI) in advancing Morocco's technological sovereignty, promoting territorial equity, and supporting inclusive development. Her remarks came during the opening of the national event AI Made in Morocco, highlighting the country's accelerated progress in digital transformation and public service modernization. The Minister emphasized the importance of mastering AI technologies to reduce technological dependency, pointing to Morocco's significant advancement of 14 places in the 2025 Government AI Readiness Index. She stressed that accelerating reforms is essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring the nation benefits from AI-driven innovation.

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## **Livestock, vegetable farmers to reap big in Kenya-UAE deal**

Kenya and the United Arab Emirates have sealed a landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the first such deal between the UAE and a mainland African country, positioning Kenya as a key gateway for trade, investment and technology cooperation with the Gulf. To fast track implementation, CS Sen. Mutahi Kagwe held talks with the UAE Ambassador to Kenya and the Al Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, focusing on scaling cooperation in agriculture and livestock under the CEPA framework. The Al Zayed Foundation, established in 1992 with a USD 1B endowment, expressed interest in supporting high-impact development initiatives aligned with these priorities. Under CEPA, the UAE currently ranks as Kenya's second largest source of imports and sixth-largest export destination. Kenya exports tea, meat, fruits, vegetables and flowers, while importing petroleum products, chemicals and machinery.

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## **ICAR– Borlaug Institute for South Asia Jointly Organise NICRA Review and ACASA–India Launch Workshop**

The Review Workshop of National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) and the Launch-cum-Use Case Workshop of the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA–India), jointly organised by the ICAR and the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), was inaugurated today in New Delhi by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR). The workshop aimed to synthesise 15 years of learnings from NICRA, assess India's gains in climate resilience, and chart a convergent, data-driven roadmap to strengthen climate-resilient agri-food systems through integrated science, policy alignment, and targeted investments. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jat stated that Basant Panchami, symbolising knowledge and renewal, was an apt occasion to reflect on India's climate resilience journey and to launch key national knowledge platforms, including the Akasha Atlas and NICRA portals. Marking 15 years of NICRA, he said that the programme stands at a critical juncture requiring clear strategic direction and a long-term vision. Despite recurring climatic stresses, Indian agriculture particularly in rainfed regions has demonstrated notable resilience and productivity gains, underscoring the effectiveness of climate-resilient technologies, enabling policies, and institutional convergence.

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## **International Conference Series on Biopesticide Regulation and Registration: Vietnam Promotes Regulatory Harmonization and International Integration**

The Plant Production and Protection Department (PPPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Vietnam, in collaboration with the ASEAN Bio-efficacy Expert Task Force (ABETF) and CropLife Asia, organized a series of international conferences on the regulation and registration of biopesticides. The conference series commenced with the Kick-off Meeting of the ASEAN Biopesticides Regulatory Framework Project, and jointly organized by ABETF, CropLife Asia, and PPPD. The meeting brought together regulators from ASEAN Member States and international experts, marking an important regional cooperation forum to promote safe and sustainable biopesticide solutions. This meeting officially launched the project, aiming to develop and harmonize a science-

based regulatory framework for biopesticides across the region, aligned with international practices while remaining flexible to national contexts.

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## Algeria places African cooperation at heart of foreign policy

The President of the Republic, in an address to participants at the International Mining, Quarries and Hydrocarbons Conference and Exhibition "SEMICA Chad 2026" held in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, and read on his behalf by the Minister of State, Minister of Hydrocarbons and Mines Mohamed Arkab, emphasized that despite Africa's vast natural resources, particularly in hydrocarbons and strategic minerals, the continent faces a fundamental challenge: transforming these resources into tangible added value that creates jobs and meets the aspirations of African peoples. He called for the adoption of comprehensive development approaches that strengthen continental economic integration. He also stressed the need to establish effective governance in the extractive industries sector, based on technology transfer, knowledge localization, respect for environmental standards, and enhancement of local content, while encouraging responsible investment and balanced partnerships that deliver mutual benefit among African nations. Reaffirming Algeria's continental commitment, the President underscored that Algeria, "faithful to the principles of African solidarity, remains convinced that continental cooperation founded on mutual respect and shared interests" will enable the continent to leverage its potential wisely and effectively in service of its peoples, who aspire to greater development and a dignified life.

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