



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

09 Oct - 15 Oct 2025

IN FOCUS

Building Equitable and Resilient Health Systems: The BRICS Vision for 2026

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As India prepares to assume the BRICS presidency in 2026, the bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa enters a defining phase of health cooperation, the one centred on equity, social determinants, and collaborative innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed structural weaknesses but also revealed the capacity of BRICS nations to act collectively in addressing complex global health challenges.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India and Mongolia Ink Ten Pacts

India and Mongolia recently signed 10 pacts in the areas of cultural exchange, immigration cooperation, promotion of cooperatives, humanitarian aid, geology and mineral resources, yoga and renovation of the Bogd Khan Palace during the Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa's visit to India. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that the two countries had elevated their ties to a strategic partnership of about 10 years. "Our defence and security cooperation is also steadily strengthening. We have launched several new initiatives, from training programmes to the appointment of a Defence Attaché at the Embassy. India will also launch a new capacity-building programme for Mongolia's border security forces," he said.

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India Announces New Healthcare Projects for Afghanistan

India has announced several new projects for Afghanistan as part of its ongoing healthcare cooperation. The announcement came amid Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi's week-long visit to India. This marks the first high-level delegation from Kabul to India since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. The projects include the establishment of a Thalassemia centre and a modern diagnostic centre in Kabul, as well as the replacement of the heating system at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH). India will also construct a 30-bed hospital in Kabul's Bagrami district, an Oncology Centre and a Trauma Centre in Kabul, as well as five Maternity Health Clinics across the provinces of Paktika, Khost, and Paktia.

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Highlights India's Technological Inclusion at Global Fintech Fest 2025

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Extending a warm welcome to all attendees in Mumbai, Shri Modi described Mumbai as the City of Energy, the City of Enterprise, and the City of Endless Possibilities. He especially welcomed his friend, Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Keir Starmer, and expressed gratitude for his presence at the Global Fintech Festival, acknowledging the time he took to attend the event. Recalling that five years ago, when the Global Fintech Festival was launched, the world was battling a global pandemic, the Prime Minister highlighted that today, the festival has evolved into a global platform for financial innovation and cooperation.

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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Launches Major Schemes in the Agriculture Sector

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in a special Krishi programme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. The Prime Minister also interacted with farmers before participating in the public programme. He launched two major schemes in the agriculture sector, with an outlay of Rs 35,440 crore. He launched the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, which has an outlay of Rs 24,000 crore. He also launched the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses with an outlay of Rs 11,440 crore. The Prime Minister also inaugurated and dedicated to the nation projects valued at over Rs 5,450 crore in the agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, while laying the foundation stone for additional projects worth around Rs 815 crore.

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Global South Nations Look to Us for Inspiration: EAM Dr. S Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underlined the important role India plays in the global Artificial Intelligence landscape, noting that several countries, especially those from the Global South, look up to it for inspiration. He made the remarks while speaking at the Trust and Safety India Festival 2025. As a pre-summit for the February 2026 AI Impact Summit, it kicks off conversations of interest for India and the world. "India bears a special responsibility because many other nations - especially those of the Global South - look to us for inspiration, and certainly in the case of the digital public infrastructure." Highlighting the achievements of India in the last decade, when one looks at the scale of delivery, improvement in governance, and efficiencies with which the public is served, the EAM noted that this is resonating across the world.

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South Africa's Health Minister Hails Planned Rollout of New HIV Prevention Jab

South Africa's health minister hailed the planned rollout of the new HIV-prevention jab, but warned that the initial donated supply would be limited. Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said the drug would be distributed to about half a million people across the country, which has the world's highest HIV prevalence rate. Taken only twice a year, the new drug, lenacapavir (LEN), could end HIV/Aids in South Africa within 14 to 18 years, if enough people take it. It has been found to work 100 per cent of the time to stop young women from getting HIV through sex, but it also works well for other groups. Of the about 400 people in South Africa who still get infected each day, more than a quarter are teen girls and young women.

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India and Kenya Seek to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shyam Singh Rana, today met with Patrick Ole Ntutu, Governor of Narok County, Kenya, to explore opportunities for strengthening agricultural cooperation between India and Kenya. The leaders held detailed discussions on several key areas, including agricultural land development, modernisation of irrigation systems, innovation in the animal husbandry sector, and enhancing collaboration in agricultural research and technology. The Minister highlighted Haryana's progress under its crop diversification policy, the adoption of micro-irrigation systems, and the use of drone-based technologies in agriculture.

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Africa Health Security Accelerator Launched to Strengthen Pandemic Preparedness

Rwanda and global health partners launched a new initiative aimed at strengthening the African continent's pandemic preparedness and response by closing operational and coordination gaps. Launched in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, the initiative, dubbed the Africa Health Security Accelerator (AHSA), is a continental call to action to build resilient systems that protect lives and secure the continent's future, according to Claude Muvunyi Mambo, the director general of the Rwanda Biomedical Center. Africa bears nearly 30 percent of the world's epidemic threats, according to health officials, yet continues to face challenges including siloed preparedness efforts, fragmented surveillance systems and a critical shortage of epidemic-ready health workers.

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Maldives Becomes the First Country to Achieve 'Triple Elimination' Of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B

In a landmark public health achievement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has validated the Maldives for eliminating mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of hepatitis B, while maintaining its earlier validation (in 2019) for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. This makes the Maldives the first country in the world to achieve 'triple elimination'. "The Maldives has shown that with strong political will and sustained investment in maternal and child health, elimination of mother-to-child transmission of these deadly diseases, and the suffering they bring, is possible," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "This historic milestone provides hope and inspiration for countries everywhere working towards the same goal."

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India's Leadership in Energy Transitions Highlighted at G20 South Africa

Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, led the Indian delegation at the G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting hosted in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, under South Africa's G20 Presidency. In his address, he emphasised that energy security remains one of the most pressing global challenges particularly for the Global South, calling for strengthened G20 cooperation to ensure economic stability, sustainability, and equitable access to energy. He highlighted India's remarkable progress in achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of 50 percent non-fossil fuel capacity five years ahead of schedule in 2025 itself. He outlined India's ambitious clean energy goals of establishing itself as a global hub for green hydrogen production, advancing sustainable development, and achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.

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The Delhi Declaration Amplifies Urban Voices from Global South

Setting the stage for the upcoming UNFCCC Climate Conference, COP30, the Delhi Declaration on Local Action for Global Climate Goals emerged as the key outcome of the first ARISE Cities Forum 2025, held in New Delhi. The Declaration unites voices from across the Global South in a shared call for stronger multilevel cooperation and accelerated urban climate action. More than 200 delegates from 60 cities and 25 countries representing local, sub-national, and national governments, the private sector, and other key stakeholders pledged to amplify urban voices and strengthen collaboration across cities, sectors, and borders to ensure that priorities of resilience, equity, and sustainability are reflected in global climate outcomes.

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The Democratic Republic of Congo Launches \$1.5B National Plan to Build a Digital and AI Economy

In Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo's Minister of Digital Economy, Augustin Kibassa Maliba, launched work on the country's National Digital Plan 2026-2030 (PNN2) and its first National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy. The initiatives aim to position the DRC as a regional digital hub by 2030. Maliba said the goal is "to harness the benefits of the digital economy and position our country – rich in critical minerals vital to digital and energy transitions – as a catalyst for investment and a contributor to the key challenges of our time." The initiative builds on the National Digital Plan Horizon 2025, launched in 2019, which the ministry says is about 60 percent complete.

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UNICEF and the Government of Turkmenistan Strengthen Health Partnership

The Government of Turkmenistan and UNICEF reaffirmed their long-standing collaboration to protect every child from preventable diseases with the signing of a new Agreement for the procurement of vaccines and immunisation devices for 2026–2028. The signing ceremony took place at the Chamber of Commerce on the National Day of Healthcare and Medical Industry Workers, highlighting the vital role of doctors, nurses, and health professionals in safeguarding the health of children and families across Turkmenistan. Both sides reaffirmed their plans to continue cooperation in expanding access to vaccines and ensuring a healthier future for every child in Turkmenistan.

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Change Makers Explore Pathways for Climate-Smart Agriculture

As part of Bangkok Climate Action Week 2025, regional leaders, philanthropists, and agricultural experts gathered at the event “Future on the Table: ASEAN’s Leadership in Climate-Smart Agriculture toward COP30”. The roundtable discussion was co-hosted by Clim-Eat and the Asia Philanthropy Circle, with support from the Global Methane Hub. The International Rice Research Institute joined the gathering of diverse organisations, including investment and consulting firms, think tanks, as well as nonprofit and philanthropic organisations, reflecting a broad coalition of stakeholders invested in advancing sustainable agriculture in Southeast Asia.

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Belarus and Uzbekistan to Step Up Strategic Partnership in Agriculture

Belarus and Uzbekistan are going to reinforce their strategic partnership in agriculture. The matter was discussed during negotiations involving Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Yuri Shuleiko and Agriculture and Food Minister Yuri Gorlov with a delegation of Uzbekistan at the premises of the Agriculture and Food Ministry, the press service of the Belarusian Agriculture and Food Ministry told BelTA. During the negotiations, the Uzbek delegation was led by First Deputy Economy and Finance Minister of Uzbekistan Ilhom Norqulov, who is in Belarus on an official government visit.

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Egypt and Mauritania Discuss Strengthening Agricultural Cooperation

Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Alaa Farouk, has held talks with Mauritania's Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, Sidi Ahmed Ould Abouh, to explore ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture and promote sustainable development and food security. The meeting was attended by Sherif El-Gebaly, Chairperson of the African Affairs Committee in Egypt's House of Representatives, alongside senior officials from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. Discussions centred on establishing a strategic partnership between the two countries in key agricultural fields, including strengthening cooperation in agricultural research and exchanging expertise between research centres.

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Somalia and Jordan Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Health Cooperation

The Minister of Health and Human Welfare of the Federal Government of Somalia, Dr. Ali Haji Adam, held an important meeting with his Jordanian counterpart, Dr. Ibrahim Mahfouz Al-Badour, in Amman during his official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the health sector, including expanding knowledge exchange, creating education and training opportunities for Somali doctors, and improving the overall capacity of Somalia's healthcare services. Minister Dr. Ali Haji Adam noted that the renewed partnership will play a crucial role in strengthening Somalia's health system.

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The Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Strengthen Strategic Alliance

An official mission was carried out as part of the strengthening of the strategic alliance between the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the OPEC Fund to promote sustainable development in El Salvador. The agenda, organised in collaboration with CABEI, prioritised the Surf City Phase II Program, in addition to exploring a multi-year financing package. During the mission, Alejandro Zelaya, El Salvador's director at CABEI, together with the Bank's team, held strategic meetings

with members of the government cabinet to consolidate the partnership in key areas of the country's economic and social development.

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Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation Strengthens South-South Cooperation

The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) continues to drive Malaysia's South-South cooperation agenda through its role as the Training Institution for the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) 2025: Trade Promotion for African Countries. The programme underscores Malaysia's long-standing commitment to knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among developing nations, particularly in the areas of trade promotion and export development. MATRADE chairman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the initiative highlights Malaysia's strategy to strengthen global partnerships while diversifying its trade engagements across new and emerging markets.

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Digital Infrastructure forms the Backbone of Việt Nam's 2030 National Vision

Việt Nam's push for comprehensive digital transformation has placed digital infrastructure at the centre of national development, forming the backbone of the digital government, economy and society. This foundation is considered vital to driving innovation, attracting investment, boosting productivity and enhancing the country's global competitiveness. The Government News spoke with Major General Nguyễn Ngọc Cương, Director of the National Data Centre under the Ministry of Public Security (MoPS), to discuss the sector's vision, responsibilities and solutions for developing, protecting and optimising national digital infrastructure, with an emphasis on ensuring security, safety and digital sovereignty by 2030.

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Colombia and African Countries Advance Coffee Value Chain Collaboration

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) convened the closing ceremony of the Colombia–Africa Coffee Value Chain Technical Cooperation programme at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, in Accra. The event was the culmination of reciprocal study visits between Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, and Ethiopia under the Colombia–Africa Coffee Value Chain Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) framework. The ceremony brought together senior government officials, coffee authorities, farmer organisations, research institutions, and private sector representatives from Africa and Colombia. Delegates reflected on lessons learned from the visits, reviewed a draft regional project, and discussed resource mobilization strategies to strengthen sustainable coffee value chains across the continent.

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Nigeria Joins the Digital Public Goods Alliance

Nigeria has been named the newest member of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA), a multi-stakeholder UN-endorsed initiative that facilitates the discovery and deployment of open-source technologies, bringing together countries and organisations to create a thriving global ecosystem for digital public goods (DPGs) and helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Digital public goods are open technology solutions that countries can freely adopt to accelerate digital transformation, improve residents' lives, and drive economic growth. Specifically, they are open-source software, open data, open AI systems, and open content collections that adhere to privacy and other applicable best practices, do no harm, and are of high relevance for attainment of the United Nations 2030 SDGs.

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1. DAKSHIN Meeting With Fondation Paul Ango Ela

DAKSHIN and the Fondation Paul Ango Ela, a research institution headquartered in Cameroon, engaged in a virtual meeting on 9 October 2025. Fondation Paul Ango Ela was represented by Mr. Jean Claude Edjo'O, Coordinator (Administration and Finance). Shri Manoj Kumar Sinha, Head of Chancery (HOC), Yaoundé, Cameroon, also graced this virtual meeting. Dr. Pankaj Vashist, Coordinator (DAKSHIN), Mr. Atul Kaushik, Dr. Monika Kochar, Dr. S S Reddy, Dr. Sayantan Ghosal, Mr. Amit Arora, Mr. Akash Singh and Ms. Tanya Singh represented team DAKSHIN. Dr. Pankaj Vashist initiated the meeting by introducing DAKSHIN and its mandate. Mr. Atul Kaushik gave a comprehensive overview regarding the focus areas of the centre and a broad description of the activities that centre has engaged in. Other colleagues from DAKSHIN also introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their areas of research and work. Following this, Mr. Jean Claude Edjo'O gave a brief description of the research institute, Fondation Paul Ango Ela, including its research areas such as geopolitics, governance, and development issues in Central Africa. He highlighted that the foundation's mission is to offer critical analysis on power dynamics, stability, and institutional challenges affecting development in the region. It serves as a support tool for evaluating public policy and analysing bureaucratic obstacles that hinder effective development projects. He pointed that promoting reflection and studies on democracy, human rights, good governance, conflict management, and peace in Central Africa, facilitating effective integration among Central African countries through meetings and experience sharing, fostering the dissemination of information and documentation related to their areas of study and establishing a multidisciplinary network of experts and researchers in the region as the main objectives of the institution. He also deliberated on the rich partnerships that the institution shares with various universities and research institutions in Cameroon and abroad, as well as collaborations with governmental bodies and international organisations. He emphasised the foundation's commitment to addressing sustainable development, security, migration dynamics, land issues, and public health policy. Following this, both sides reiterated the importance of such collaborations and taking the partnership ahead through joint activities and research.



2. DAKSHIN Meeting With BRICS Policy Center

DAKSHIN and the BRICS Policy Center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil met virtually on 9 October 2025. Dr. Marta Fernández, Director, BRICS Policy Center met with team DAKSHIN, represented by Dr. Pankaj Vashist, Coordinator (DAKSHIN), Mr. Atul Kaushik, Dr. Monika Kochar, Dr. S S Reddy, Dr. Sayantan Ghosal, Mr. Amit Arora, Mr. Akash Singh and Ms. Tanya Singh. Dr. Pankaj Vashist explained about DAKSHIN - Global South Center of Excellence; its focus on development issues within the Global South, and the importance of learning from each other's experiences in various sectors. Mr. Kaushik gave a brief description of the partners of DAKSHIN and the various activities and engagements of the center. Following this, Dr. Marta Fernández provided an overview of her organisation and its mission. She emphasised the center's commitment to democratizing knowledge about international politics, making it accessible to a broader audience. Several booklets are published by the center, aimed at simplifying complex topics like BRICS and G20 for the public, and to promote dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including academics, public agents, and social movements. She highlighted several programs, including a South-South cooperation initiative led by one of their professors, which aligns with the center's focus on fostering collaboration. She spoke about the center's involvement in organising events related to the COP30 and their work on international mediation of conflicts from a global South perspective. Marta discussed potential joint initiatives, particularly focusing on the transition of BRICS chairmanship from Brazil to India. Additionally, she discussed the center's efforts in monitoring and evaluation, particularly through a program funded by the New Development Bank (NDB) aimed at participatory evaluation of projects. The meeting concluded successfully with both sides expressing their interest in conducting joint seminars, webinars, publications and collaborative research in priority areas such as health, agriculture, and digital solutions.

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