



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS



Reviving Heritage, Securing Futures: Relevance of India's GIAHS Policy for the Global South

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The Government of India is developing a National Policy Framework to promote Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), announced on 19 August 2025, recognising that traditional farming landscapes are not relics of the past but living systems of resilience, biodiversity, and community-led sustainability. By supporting heritage sites such as the Koraput region in Odisha, the Kuttanad system in Kerala, and the Saffron Heritage of Kashmir, India demonstrates how public policy can nurture indigenous farming practices while aligning them with modern conservation, food security, and livelihood goals. This integrated approach holds valuable insights for the Global South, where similar heritage-based systems are vital to rural resilience yet increasingly threatened by climate change, land degradation, and market transformations. India currently hosts three Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), each reflecting a unique ecological and cultural legacy. They are,

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PM Modi Meets Global South Leaders at the Sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit

PM Narendra Modi, in a major outreach to the Global South, held meetings with several leaders from Central Asia, Eurasia, South and South East Asia on the sidelines of the SCO Summit to expand economic and strategic partnerships. While Modi held a structured bilateral meeting with the Myanmar leader, he held pull-asides with the leaders from Vietnam, Laos, Nepal, Maldives, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Egypt. During his meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of Myanmar, the Prime Minister noted that India attaches importance to its ties with Myanmar as part of its Neighbourhood First, Act East and Indo-Pacific policies.

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Logistics, Services and Tech to Power India-Africa Trade Growth

The 20th CII India Africa Conclave underlined the urgent need to unlock the untapped trade and logistics potential between India and Africa, with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, setting an ambitious target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030. Goyal highlighted that current trade between India and Africa stands at around \$82 billion, up from \$56 billion a decade ago, but still below potential. He stressed that the balance of trade remains fair, with India exporting \$42.7 billion worth of goods while importing nearly \$40 billion from Africa. The minister also emphasised key areas where India and Africa could complement each other rather than compete.

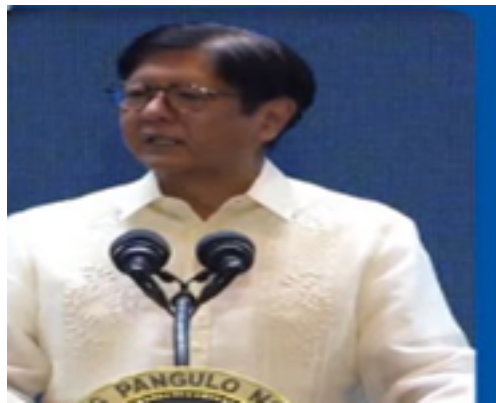
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Africa Could Help Feed The Whole World: Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye

Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye said Africa could help feed the whole world, arguing that youth must be at the heart of agricultural transformation. Speaking at the opening session of Africa Food Systems Forum in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, Faye said Africa has “all it needs” to become self-sufficient in food and could help “feed the whole world.” With 65 percent of the world’s arable land, a creative youth, and immense resources, our continent has the assets to build its food sovereignty, he added. Faye urged Africa to rely on itself to achieve food security and to adopt a solution-led approach, saying it required massive investments in water management, innovation, local processing, and intra-African trade.

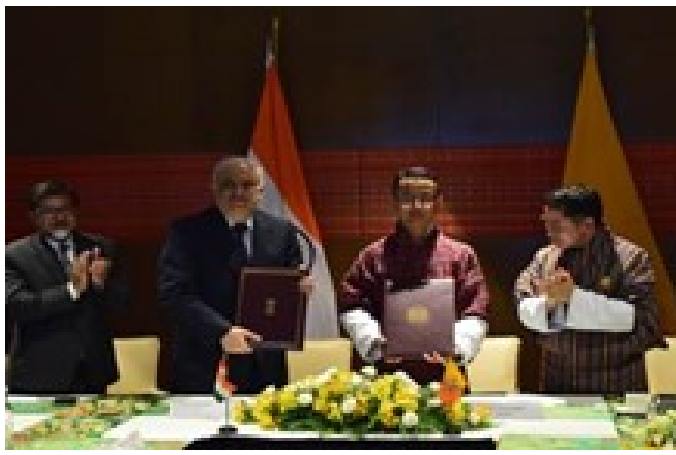
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Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr Hails Digital Transformation

At the Manila Tech Summit, Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr spoke on the practical benefits of digital transformation for citizens. The Philippines is pursuing digital public infrastructure, digital economy, and hosted MOSIP Connect 2025 in Manila in March, where officials talked through their challenges and successes in bringing about digitalisation. “For Filipinos, digital technology means shorter queues [and] faster transactions,” Marcos said. “It means ease in paying bills, renewing licenses, and accessing government services.” The president highlighted the National Fiber Backbone (NFB) to provide 17 million Filipinos with faster and more reliable internet access.

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India And Bhutan Ink MoUs

Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India and Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), Royal Government of Bhutan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Thimpu to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors. The signing of the MoU represents a significant milestone in the enduring partnership between India and Bhutan, reflecting the two countries' shared commitment to food security, sustainable farming, and rural prosperity. It will serve as a framework for collaboration in various areas outlined in the MoU, including agricultural research and innovation, livestock health and production, post-harvest management, value chain development, and the exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise.

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India and Srilanka Deepen Health Cooperation

The Minister of Health, Nalinda Jayatissa, met with his Indian counterpart. Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and Minister of State for Health, Anupriya Patel, in India. The ministers held discussions on enhancing Sri Lanka's healthcare system, focusing on key areas such as strengthening primary healthcare, improving pharmaceutical supply chains and advancing digital health infrastructure. Minister Nadda shared India's experience in establishing 1,50,000 primary health care centers to combat non-communicable diseases.

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India and Zimbabwe Can Write Next Chapter of South-South cooperation: Zimbabwean Vice President Gen (Retd) CGDN Chiwenga

India and Zimbabwe can write the next great chapter of South-South cooperation, said Gen (Retd) CGDN Chiwenga, Vice-President of Zimbabwe, addressing an event in New Delhi. He emphasised that Africa offers the world not only resources, but also markets and innovation. He was speaking during the inaugural session on ‘Synergies towards Co-Creating a Shared Future’ at the CII India-Africa Business Conclave, which saw more than 1,600 delegates from 64 countries, including 17 non-African countries. Chiwenga said that Africa has one of the fastest-growing populations and some of the youngest, most dynamic minds in the world.

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Vietnam Launches National Framework To Boost Science And Digital Transformation

The Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam has launched a national framework to guide provinces and centrally run cities in advancing science, technology, innovation and digital transformation as key drivers of sustainable economic growth. This is reported by VNA, a partner of TV BRICS. The framework sets measurable milestones through 2030. By that time, the combined contribution of science, technology, innovation and digital transformation is expected to reach between 5 and 7 percent of gross regional domestic product (GRDP). Within this, science and technology should account for 1–1.5 percent, innovation for 3–3.5 percent, and digital transformation for 1–2 percent.

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Kenya Plays Lead Role In Landmark UN Deal On AI Governance

Kenya has scored a major diplomatic win after all 193 United Nations Member States unanimously agreed to establish two landmark institutions to govern artificial intelligence (AI). Representing the Group of 77, Kenya played a pivotal role in negotiating the creation of the Independent Scientific Panel on AI and a Global Dialogue on AI Governance, both designed to guide international efforts on the opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence. Both institutions aim to address growing concerns about artificial intelligence's potential and the challenges that come with it.

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Collaboration Among Countries is Critical: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for stronger collaboration between South Africa and Zimbabwe to boost food security, climate resilience and agricultural trade in the region. Speaking at the official opening of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show in Harare, President Ramaphosa said agriculture remained central to both countries' economies and vital to addressing unemployment and poverty. He commended Zimbabwe for its reforms in irrigation, mechanisation and farmer support, noting the sector's importance in driving economic recovery. President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for stronger collaboration between South Africa and Zimbabwe to boost food security, climate resilience and agricultural trade in the region.

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Asian Development Bank Approves ADB Approves \$106.9 M to Strengthen Secondary Healthcare Services in Sri Lanka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$106.9 million financing package to strengthen Sri Lanka's secondary curative care services, improve communicable disease prevention and control, and enhance the healthcare sector's governance and management capacity. The funding for the Strengthening Integrated Health Care and Governance for Universal Health Coverage Programme consists of a \$100 million loan from ADB and a \$6.9 million grant from the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Trust Fund. This Results-Based Lending programme will enhance the quality, capacity, and efficiency of secondary care services nationwide by supporting result-oriented hospital development, while increasing the availability of integrated and patient-centered surgical and specialist treatment services in secondary hospitals.

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Nigeria and Brazil Propose Five-Year Joint Action Plan

Honourable Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Iziaq Kunle Salako, was part of the delegation accompanying President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR on his state visit to Brazil, described by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as the “restart of the Nigeria-Brazil relationship.” The visit showcased a renewed spirit of brotherhood and a strong commitment to deepening South-South cooperation for mutual benefit. During high-level bilateral engagements involving ministers and senior government officials, both nations explored opportunities to advance their health partnership.

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The Intergovernmental Authority on Development Launches the PREPARE Project to Safeguard Regional Health Security

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), today launched the Preparedness for Pandemic Response (PREPARE) Project to strengthen pandemic preparedness, response, and resilience across the IGAD region. Anchored in the One Health approach, PREPARE is a multi-country, multi-sectoral initiative designed to address transboundary health threats. The IGAD Member States, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, face persistent risks of infectious disease outbreaks with significant public health, socio-economic, and global implications.

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Qatar Pledges Investment in Africa to Deepen Its Influence

Qatar just made one of the boldest moves yet in Africa's investment story. Al Mansour Holdings, backed by Doha, has pledged \$103 billion across six African countries. The commitment signals how Africa is becoming a critical arena in the global fight for resources and influence amid growing Middle East investment in Africa. The Al Mansour deal is part of a bigger wave of Gulf capital targeting Africa. For Doha, the \$103 billion is about more than short-term returns. Qatar's Al Mansour pledges could reshape economies from Kinshasa's minerals belt to Gaborone's diamond hub and help African nations build new growth pillars beyond raw exports.

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National AI Strategy To Guide Burkina Faso's Digital Transformation

Reflections have begun in Burkina Faso on the drafting of a national AI Action Plan, which the government believes will reposition the country on a more purposeful and impactful digital transformation journey. A workshop to launch consultations and brainstorming took place recently, organised by the Ministry of Digital Transition, Postal and Electronic Communications. The Plan is expected to cover the period 2026-2028. Speaking during the workshop, the Permanent Secretary for Innovation and Digital Emerging Technologies, Dr Yaya Traoré, said AI development and adoption are central to Burkina Faso's digital economy growth, and align with its digital economy development plan.

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Kazakhstan and Jordan Seek Stronger Partnership

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Jordan's King Abdullah II joined a business forum in Astana during the king's official visit, stressing new opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, energy, transport, medicine, and technology. Tokayev said Kazakhstan has strong potential to supply Jordan with wheat, flour, and other organic, halal food products, according to the Kazakh presidency press service. He welcomed a project by Jordan's Aljazeera Agricultural company to build a poultry farm in Kazakhstan, calling it a "concrete step" in agribusiness cooperation. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Jordan's King Abdullah II joined a business forum in Astana during the king's official visit, stressing new opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, energy, transport, medicine, and technology.

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Egypt and Myanmar Eye Stronger Ties

Egypt's Ambassador to Myanmar, Aya Saad, held talks with several top officials in Naypyidaw to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation across key sectors. In separate meetings with Minister of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Minister of Health Dr. Thet Khaing Win and Minister of Commerce Chit Swe, the ambassador explored ways to deepen collaboration between Egypt and Myanmar. The talks focused on Egypt's promising economic landscape and explored opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, land reclamation, fisheries, and industrial goods.

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Vietnam and the United Nations Plan to Enhance Development Cooperation

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Tran Quoc Phuong and the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Pauline Tamesis co-chaired a meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation between Vietnam and the UN. Deputy Minister of Finance Tran Quoc Phuong stated that Vietnam's government considers official development assistance (ODA), concessional loans from foreign donors, and non-refundable ODA as important resources. These are prioritised for investment in key infrastructure and economic projects with high spillover effects and for promoting socioeconomic development.

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Central American Bank for Economic Integration Promotes Gender Equality in Panama

To facilitate access to financing for Panamanian women entrepreneurs and strengthen the development of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) approved a new disbursement of US\$50 million to its financial partner Global Bank Corporation, within the framework of the Regional Business Financing Program for Women (FEM). The FEM program promotes female economic empowerment by providing financing that enables female entrepreneurs to access working capital or acquire fixed assets, thereby enhancing productivity and job creation in sectors such as services, agriculture, livestock, forestry, and business activities.

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Zambia Announces Early Market Engagement to Discuss Digital ID Procurements

The Smart Zambia Institute (SZI) has announced the holding of an early market engagement (EME) session next month to fine-tune preparations for two digital transformation project procurements. The SZI is the government body overseeing Zambia's digital transformation, and it is planning two procurement packages within the framework of the Digital Zambia Acceleration Project (DZAP) financed by the World Bank. One of the procurements is for the design, reengineering, development, and deployment of digital services and integration with the government digital ecosystem.

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1. DAKSHIN Meeting with the Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI)

DAKSHIN had a successful virtual meeting with the Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI), Brasilia, on Friday, 28 August 2025. The DAKSHIN team was led by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN. CEBRI was represented by Dr. Ariane Costa, Deputy Director- Geopolitics Specialist and Ms. Isabella Ávila, Projects Coordinator. Professor Gulshan Sachdeva initiated the meeting by introducing the Global South Center, highlighting its establishment during India's G20 presidency and its mission to connect with think tanks in developing countries to address common development challenges. Following this, Ariane Costa introduced the CEBRI as Brazil's leading think tank in international relations, founded in 1992. She explained that CEBRI focuses on developing Brazil's foreign policy and international insertion. She iterated the institute's five main programmes, including geopolitics, international trade, digital transformation and technology, energy transition, and climate change. She identified digital transformation, agriculture, climate change, and international trade as key areas for potential cooperation between Brazil and India, highlighting Brazil's interest in learning from India's experience in digital solutions. In addition, Ms. Isabella Ávila mentioned that CEBRI has a program focused on regional issues, particularly with Asian countries as a main goal. She noted that understanding the geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region and enhancing deeper dialogue between India and Brazil as priorities for the institute. The meeting concluded with Professor Gulshan Sachdeva underscoring the importance of collaborating on joint research projects and organising discussions/webinars on emerging issues such as digital transformation, climate change, and international trade.



2.DAKSHIN Meeting with Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics

The DAKSHIN team met with the delegation consisting of eight faculty members and officers from the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in Hanoi, Vietnam, who were on an academic visit in New Delhi, India. Dr. Le Van Chien, Director, Institute of Leadership and Public Policy, initiated the meeting by giving a brief description of the mandate of the institute, noting the important role played by the institute in providing education and training to mid- and senior-level officers. He underscored the importance of mutual learning and collaboration in terms of conducting joint research. Further, Dr Bui Viet Huong, Deputy Director, Institute of Politics and International Studies & Director, Centre for Indian Studies, emphasised the importance of undertaking joint studies and publications in the form of research papers and books. Following this, Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, gave a brief description of the inception of DAKSHIN and its mandate. He noted the scope of mutual learning and knowledge transfer by organising joint discussion platforms and webinars with them and other partners of DAKSHIN. This would in way lead to a rich facilitation of development expertise within the countries of the Global South. He also emphasised the importance of the scholars of their institute to contribute to the journals of Research and Information System (RIS) and DAKSHIN. The meeting concluded with both studies agreeing to take the engagement forward in a robust manner.

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