

# Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative (DAKSHIN)

## Global South Centre of Excellence



## Background

The world is becoming increasingly volatile and uncertain for the Global South. The Covid period showed us the danger of over-centralized globalization and fragile supply chains. The knock-on effects of Ukraine war multiplied the stress of developing countries, especially on food, energy and fertilizer security. Consequently, developmental aid and capital flows to developing countries have started constricting even as their debts mounting. International financial institutions and multilateral development banks have been struggling to assess and address these concerns effectively. As of today, the difficult period for Global South is marked by challenges to health, food security, affordable access to energy, climate finance and technologies, and economic growth.

As developing countries are being increasingly expected to bear the burden of developing climate resilience, industrialize without carbonizing, deal with increasing climate events and lift millions out of poverty, all at the same time, while managing disruptions and uncertainties in global supply chains. Over three fourths of the planet's population is most vulnerable to the deleterious impact of these interlinked and unending risks and challenges. Unfortunately, the concerns of the developing world are not receiving due attention and space at the global stage.

Opportunity for uplifting societies and economies of the Global South through a shared vision and agenda for change is the need of the hour. Global South is, therefore, yearning to build a prosperous and inclusive future that takes into account their fundamental development needs and aspiration for accelerated socio-economic growth.

Inspired by the discussions among leaders of the Global South on these issues during the 1st Voice of Global South Summit held on 12-13 January 2023, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced that India would establish a Global South Centre of Excellence (DAKSHIN). In fulfillment of India's commitment, DAKSHIN was virtually inaugurated by him during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held on 17 November 2023.

With growing challenges, the case for a new development paradigm is becoming stronger by the day. In this regard, India stands for a fundamental shift in the current global development paradigm that can create a conducive environment for the inclusive growth of Global South. The new paradigm should shift from self-centered to human-centered globalization. With regard to Innovation & Technology, we need to move from being on the receiving end of technological patronage to deploying Global South-led innovations for societal transformation, from debt creating projects to a demand-driven and sustainable development cooperation. Such a model would offer greater opportunities to many more nations from Global South. It would obviously entail a stronger desire to foster localization, improve connectivity, and reconfigure supply chains to ensure economic security.

DAKSHIN not only aims to work as a think tank but would also be a repository of knowledge and development initiatives in order to interface with the Global South. It would also seek out ways for forging stronger collaboration with its counterparts in the Global South countries, essentially ensuring how our capacities and other capacities of Global South can be exchanged among the countries of the Global South building on the phenomenal success of South South Cooperation. Being a major voice of the Global South across the world, it aims to share the ideas, concerns and perspectives of Southern Countries about the traditional and emerging developmental challenges that continue to confront and come up with their home grown, simple, scalable and affordable solutions for accelerated socio-economic development.

India has consistently demonstrated its readiness to share with the Global South its knowledge, experience, and capabilities for forging development solutions, as part of its philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means the world is one family. The Southern perspective of development is anchored on the key principles of unconditional solidarity and cooperation among developing countries across the world often described as South-South Cooperation. In order to further galvanize this process largely driven through the template of development compact, DAKSHIN, established at RIS, would offer easy to replicate development solutions available across the Global South.

DAKSHIN has already begun its journey in a remarkable manner in association with some of its leading partners in Global South representing think tanks, academia and universities as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations for evolving a vibrant, constructive and practical approach to address the serious challenges being faced by the Global South with the application of digital technology solutions.

India's achievements in vaccine development, biometric based identification, digital public goods, financial inclusion, satellite technology, digital governance, last mile

connectivity etc. can be of immense value to its interested partners in Global South for their all round economic development.

India's record speaks for itself as India has implemented development projects in 78 countries that are demand-driven, transparent, empowerment oriented, environment friendly and rely on a consultative approach while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. India has also emerged as an education and healthcare hub for the Global South. Its capacity building programmes and First Responder activities in case of HADR situations are important examples of this approach too. The International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and now Mission LiFE, a worldwide programme to promote climate-friendly lifestyle, prove beyond doubt the priority that India accords in its development partnerships. During Covid, India walked the talk of international cooperation by providing vaccines to over a 100 partners and medicines to over 150 countries.

Over the last decade, India has been able to drive out more than around 250 million Indian away from multidimensional poverty with the help of these homegrown developmental policies, programmes or solutions. As such, India offers its valuable first hand experience to its Global South partners countries for shared growth and prosperity.

## **Vision**

Foster knowledge sharing and mutual learning for building capacities and developing sustainable, affordable, and locally relevant solutions by collating resources, experiences and strategies to overcome developmental challenges the Global South faces, and promote globally inclusive partnerships

## **Mandate**

DAKSHIN, in association with its partners in India and in Global south countries, would facilitate dialogue, handholding and support to identified and mutually agreed projects in the Global South under the overall guidance of the Governments and agencies concerned.

## **Aims and Objectives**

DAKSHIN will act as an accelerator and multiplier of social and economic development growth in Global South and propel the realization of Agenda 2030 and localization of SDGs by undertaking:

- Cross-continental exchanges of ideas.
- Creation of evidence-based policy frameworks.
- Global public goods.
- Transformational opportunities for development cooperation.
- Encourage peer learning for outcome driven development strategies.

# Modalities



## Knowledge Creation and Sharing

The Centre will promote research, sharing of knowledge, particularly development practices and experiences on sustainable development, based on each partner country's contributions.



## Capacity Building and Skill Enhancement

The Centre would promote training and capacity building initiatives, facilitate skill development and exchange of human resources, and conduct fellowship programmes, in mutually identified areas, for scholars and professionals from the Global South with the support of concerned Ministries and agencies.



## Technology Sharing

The Centre would facilitate development and sharing of technology in mutually identified critical areas for resilient and sustainable development with the support of concerned Ministries and agencies.



*There is heterogeneity across countries of the South, but homogeneity in challenges. India grapples developmental challenges and surmounts them, a valuable element in this platform, and that of Global South Centre of Excellence, is sharing of experiences.*

**BIBEK DEBROY**

**Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister  
New Delhi, India**

# Collectively Evolving a Universal Global Development Framework

India's development partnerships cover all geographies and diverse sectors of the Global South for evolving and promoting an inclusive and balanced global socio-economic development.



## Health

- Promoting traditional medicines
- Setting up of regional hubs for healthcare
- Improving mobility of health professionals
- Deploying simple and scalable digital health solutions



## Education

- Vocational training
- Digital distance education
- Skilling and employability



## Connectivity Infrastructure

- Diversification of global supply chains
- Linking developing countries to value chains



## Banking and Finance

- Deployment of digital public goods for increasing financial inclusion
- Electronic-payments
- E-governance



## Climate Finance and Technology

- Innovative climate finance models
- Coalition for development, diffusion and deployment of emerging green technologies
- Promotion of 'Lifestyle For Environment' or LiFE initiative and the use of circular economy

**A Global-South Science and Technology Initiative** will be launched by DAKSHIN to share India's expertise with other developing nations as announced by the Prime Minister in the Voice of Global South Summit.



*Amidst heightening geopolitical fault lines, a common platform on the concerns of the Global South is compelling. The Global South Centre of Excellence will have a central role in highlighting lesser-developed and more vulnerable countries on a global stage.*

**DUSHNI WEERAKOON**  
Executive Director

Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka

# Focus Areas

## Agriculture



DAKSHIN champions a unified voice for shared agricultural challenges across diverse nations. Emphasizing collaboration with singular focus, it seeks to address common issues in agriculture sector through initiatives such as Crop Insurance, sustainable agriculture and market development. It underscores the need for partnership for fostering inclusive solutions beyond borders. Strengthening systems for

sustainable agricultural production, processing and leveraging digital technologies for sustainable agriculture. It aims at promoting innovations and best practices on climate smart agriculture keeping in the view the following flagship programmes of India:

- National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP)/ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- Crop Insurance Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - PMFBY)
- Soil Health Card
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- National Agriculture Market (eNAM)
- The Agri-Stack
- Mobile Telephony For Farmers



*India's developmental assistance promotes regional connectivity in South Asia, the least integrated region in the world. This has helped accelerate the development of its neighbours, laying the foundation for the economic transformation of South Asia.*

**C. RAJA MOHAN**  
Senior Fellow

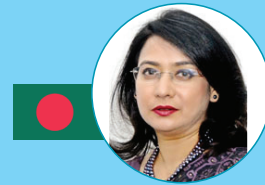
Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi, India

## Health



DAKSHIN would strive to amplify the collective concerns of the Global South in shared health challenges. In this regard Emphasizing on collaborative approaches, it seeks inclusive solutions beyond borders. Programmes like CoWIN, National Telemedicine Service, Health Protection Scheme and Rural Health Mission in India epitomize efforts towards accessible, innovative healthcare delivery fostering partnership and relevance worldwide. These experiences can be shared for common challenges. The aim is to provide on hand universal access to quality health services, including digital solutions, promoting traditional medicines, developing regional healthcare hubs and ensuring mobility of health professionals with the help of the following flagships programmes launched by India:

- Health Assurance Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - PM-JAY)
- Health Infrastructure Digital Mission (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission - ABDM)
- COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network – Co-WIN
- National Telemedicine Service (eSanjeevani)
- Maternal and Child Health/Communicable Disease/Non-Communicable Disease programmes



*Geo-political tensions are creating pressures in the countries of the Global South. In this context, the idea of establishing a Global South Centre of Excellence as announced by the Prime Minister of India is a positive move.*

**FAHMIDA KHATUN**

**Executive Director, Centre for  
Policy Dialogue  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

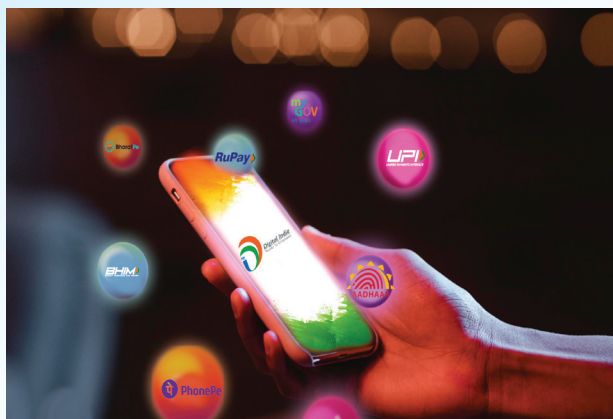


*As an emerging economic power and a reservoir of knowledge, India is well poised to host the Global South Centre of Excellence. Its focus on people centric development is a testament of its commitment to global peace, harmony and progress.*

**CHEWANG RINZIN**

**Deputy Chamberlain to His Majesty  
The King of Bhutan and Director of  
the Royal Institute for Governance and  
Strategic Studies Phuentsholing, The  
Kingdom of Bhutan**

## Digital Solutions



DAKSHIN would also aim to elevate shared Digital Solutions challenges in the Global South. Based on collaborative strategies, it seek to offer inclusive solutions. Initiatives such as Director Benefit Transfer, Digi locker, Unified payment Interface (UPI), Aadhar (Unique Identity) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in India signify strides in accessible, innovative digital platforms, emphasizing partnership and global relevance in advancing digital solutions. These initiatives can help us in evolving a common approach for challenges across Global South. The purpose is to undertake digital public goods for accelerated economic development and promoting innovations and best practices in the Global South keeping anchored on following flagship programmes of India:

- JAM (Jandhan-Aadhar-Mobile) Trinity
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT)
- Digilocker
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)



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**At the first Voice of the Global South Summit, I proposed setting up a Centre of Excellence for the Global South. I am glad that today DAKSHIN – Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative – Global South Centre of Excellence is being inaugurated.**

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**Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at  
Voice of Global South Summit,  
13 January 2023**

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