

# THE DAKSHIN NEWS

Development And Knowledge Sharing Initiative

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## EDITORIAL

The Newsletter of the Global South Centre of Excellence aims to express the voice of the Global South. It shall share ideas and perceptions from Southern Countries about the common challenges faced by them and their endeavours to evolve simple, scalable and affordable solutions for their accelerated socio-economic development based on their own experiences and perspectives.

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*' that is, the world is one family. In line with this inclusive approach, the Centre has been established at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

The southern perspective of development runs around the principles of solidarity and cooperation among members of the Global South, a process often described as South-South Cooperation. The Southern countries are ready to help others meet their developmental objectives and are also simultaneously keen to use experiences of fellow participants in raising their living conditions. The idea of development compact is the template for this formulation.

Keeping this spirit in mind, The Global South Centre of Excellence would highlight the development solutions available across the Global South.

The Centre has begun its journey - it is in touch with think tanks across the Global South as well as universities and community based organisations. They shall be our partners-in-progress towards a vibrant and constructive discourse. Voices from these think tanks and the governments and countries they represent will enrich these pages in future editions, as will the challenges and success stories to be shared here. Together, we shall explore the collective developmental experiences and develop our own development cooperation principles and modalities.

## Collaborating Towards Development Solutions



**“We, the Global South, have the largest stake in the future. Three fourths of humanity lives in our countries. In the 21st century, global growth will come from countries of the South. I think that if we work together, we can set the global agenda.”**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Voice of Global South Summit

On January 12-13, 2023 India hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Voice of Global South Summit bringing together 125 developing countries to share their perspectives and priorities under the theme - 'Unity of voice, Unity of purpose'. 125 countries participated in the Summit, including 47 from Africa, 31 from Asia, 29 from Latin America and Caribbean, 11 from Oceania and 7 from Europe.

Voice of Global South Summit is India's endeavour to provide a common platform to deliberate on the concerns, interests and priorities of developing countries, exchange ideas and solutions, and unite in voice and purpose in forging development solutions.

The Summit had two Leaders' Sessions and eight Ministerial sessions. Topics discussed include:

- Financing People-Centric Development,
- Balancing Growth with Environment Friendly Lifestyles (LiFE),
- Priorities of the Global South - Ensuring a Conducive Environment,
- Energy Security and Development - Roadmap to Prosperity,
- Cooperation to Build Resilient Healthcare Systems,
- Human Resource Development and Capacity Building,
- Developing Synergies in the Global South - Trade, Technology, Tourism and Resources, and G-20.

India was able to channelise the inputs received in these sessions into the deliberations and discourse leading up to the G 20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

The Voice of Global South Summit is a new and unique initiative inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', meaning 'Everyone's Support, Everyone's Development, Everyone's Trust, Everyone's Efforts' and also underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

## 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

The Centre, in association with its institutional partners, 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.

At the Voice of Global South Summit (VoGSS), Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced five key initiatives, including the Global South Centre of Excellence. The initiatives are introduced below.

## Global South Centre of Excellence

Global South Centre of Excellence is India's initiative to mobilize Global South Countries towards human-centric development as articulated during the 1st voice of Global South Summit in January 2023 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Established as a part of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Global South Centre of Excellence endeavours to assist relevant stakeholders and partners in the identification and implementation of scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform the economies and societies of Global South countries.

## Global South Young Diplomats Forum

Young diplomats from Global South earnestly need a platform for synergising diplomatic voice. 'Global South Young

# Tasks Ahead for Dakshin

Diplomats Forum', is proposed to connect young officers of our foreign ministries.

## Global South Science & Technology Initiative

India has emerged as a source of technological and digital solutions ensuring access, equity and inclusion. India's space missions, capabilities and innovations in digital public infrastructure, fintech and renewable energy among others would form potential bridges of lasting and mutually rewarding partnerships through sharing of expertise in the Global South.

## Aarogya Maitri

The Aarogya Maitri project translates to 'Health Friendship', whereby India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis.

India is considered the pharmacy of the world and emerged as a true friend of the Global South through 'Vaccine Maitri' at the peak of the COVID pandemic. On numerous occasions India has rushed medical supplies and personnel at times of natural disasters and on humanitarian grounds.

## Global South Scholarships

India is considered a global hub of higher education and research across disciplines attracting students from many countries of the Global South. India will support 'Global South Scholarships' for students from developing countries to pursue higher education in India.



Agriculture



Health



Digital Solutions

The Global South Centre of Excellence is collaborating with think tanks across the Global South to undertake research on development solutions or best practices of developing countries that can be scaled and implemented in other members of the Global South. The Centre will act as an accelerator and multiplier for the Global South toward realisation of Agenda 2030 and localisation of SDGs. It will amplify

- cross-continental exchange of ideas,
- creation of evidence-based policy frameworks,
- global public goods,
- transformational opportunities for development cooperation, and
- encourage peer learning in developing countries emphasising outcome driven collective action.

At the Voice of Global South Summit held in January 2023, the Prime Minister of India identified several sectors for partnerships: Agriculture, Health, Digital Solutions, Education, Banking & Finance, Connectivity Infrastructure, and Climate Finance and Technology. The Global South Centre of Excellence will focus initially on digital solutions in the sectors of agriculture, health and financial solutions.

The Centre will partner with the government and non-government agencies of India to highlight the development solutions in these sectors.

In the agriculture sector, the Centre will showcase Indian schemes and programmes on Food Security and Nutrition; Sustainable, Inclusive and Climate Resilient Agriculture; Funding Agriculture Infrastructure; and Digitalization of Agriculture.

In the health sector, the Centre will exchange experiences in several initiatives such as Health Systems Strengthening; Digital Health Solutions; Maternal and Child Health; Communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The growth of the Digital Economy in India has had major positive impact on inclusive economic growth and ease of provision of services to its citizens and businesses. The Centre will demonstrate success stories coming from the deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure; E-governance; Digital Skills; and Digital Financial Inclusion in India

# Indian Schemes and Programmes in Agriculture



The Global South Centre of Excellence 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.

The National Agriculture Development Programme is an umbrella scheme to ensure holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by allowing states to choose their sectoral developmental activities and make farming a remunerative economic activity through strengthening farmers' effort, risk mitigation and promoting agri-business entrepreneurship.

The Crop Insurance Scheme facilitates easy access to finance to economically-weak farmers in availing crop insurance services. It works on the principle of

'One Nation, One Crop, One Premium'.

The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture promotes sustainable agriculture through a series of adaptation measures focusing on improved crop seeds, livestock and fish cultures, water use efficiency, pest management, improved farm practices, agricultural insurance, etc. by progressively shifting to environmentally friendly technologies. Under this Mission, Soil Health Card provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil and advise them on the dosage of fertilizers, promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM).

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund programme provides medium to long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.

The Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) enables farmers and producers to

leverage economies of scale in production and marketing of agricultural and allied sectors, enhance their bargaining power, leverage economies of scale, reduction in cost of production and enhancing farmers' incomes through aggregation of their agricultural produce, thus playing a major role towards sustainable incomes.

The National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis (agri-markets) to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

The mKisan SMS Portal for farmers enables all Central and State government organizations in agriculture and allied sectors to give information/services/advisories to farmers by SMS in their language, preference of agricultural practices and location.

Beneficiaries of all these schemes and programmes get help from the Agri Stack, a digital platform to collate high quality data in the form of farmer registries, Unified Farmer System Interface, and crop sown records, with the aim of providing accessibility to diverse stakeholders to empower them to foster innovation and develop new services. It also ensures easier accessibility for farmers to get cheaper credit, higher-quality farm inputs, localized and specific advice, and more informed and convenient access to markets.

# Indian Schemes and Programmes in Digital Solutions

The Centre would also aim to elevate shared Digital Solutions challenges in the Global South. Based on collaborative strategies, it seeks inclusive solutions. Initiatives such as Direct Benefit Transfer, DigiLocker, 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.

Direct Benefits Transfer re-engineers the existing processes in welfare schemes for simpler and faster flow of information/funds. It ensures accurate targeting of the beneficiaries, de-duplication and reduction of leakages. It aims at reforming government delivery system by bringing in efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in fund flows. By using modern technology and IT tools it strengthens the principle of 'Maximum Governance Minimum Government'

DigiLocker is a flagship initiative under Digital India programme and aids to the 'Digital Empowerment' of citizens. It stores, shares and verifies documents & certificates through a secure cloud-based platform. It provides access to authentic digital documents to citizen's digital document wallet.

Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy and implements the "Faceless, Paperless, Cashless" concept of Digital India. It enables easy and quick transfers between different bank accounts through a simple mobile phone-based authentication process without the need for cards or bank details. It powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any



participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing and merchant payments under one hood. It allows for mobile payments without the need for cards or bank details, making it convenient and safe for users.

Aadhar or Unique Identity is a digital platform to authenticate the identity of residents of India anytime, anywhere and enables a one-stop facility for accurately verifying the identity of an individual having an Aadhar number. It provides good governance, efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services to residents of India through assigning of unique identity numbers. It provides for good governance by assigning unique identity numbers to residents of India.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is a tech-based initiative that transforms the way e-commerce functions by enabling e-commerce through an open protocol based on open-source specifications and provides strong foundation to the growth of start-ups. It aims to increase e-commerce penetration in the country by enabling population-scale inclusion of all types and sizes of sellers and boost e-commerce penetration in the country by enabling population-scale inclusion of all types and sizes of sellers. It further strengthens the growth of start-ups by facilitating scalable and cost-effective e-commerce through the open protocol.

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**



## **Representative Voices from the Global South**

The launch of the Global South Centre of Excellence by India presents the Global South with a potential opportunity to deepen their collective engagement through independent research on development solutions and good practices rooted in the South.

### **PARAS KHAREL**

**Executive Director, South Asia Watch on  
Trade, Economics and Environment,  
Kathmandu, Nepal**





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**



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**



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**



A major problem for the Global South is they are expected to adhere to norms set by others. By expressing views of the Global South, the Centre could play an important role in shaping the norms.

## **SANJEEV SANYAL**

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

# Indian Schemes and Programmes in Health

The Centre also strives 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 current strong digital public infrastructure, including that related to Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface and wide reach of the Internet and mobile phones (JAM trinity), provides a strong platform for establishing the building blocks of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). It aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It bridges the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. It is a holistic healthcare programme approach leveraging

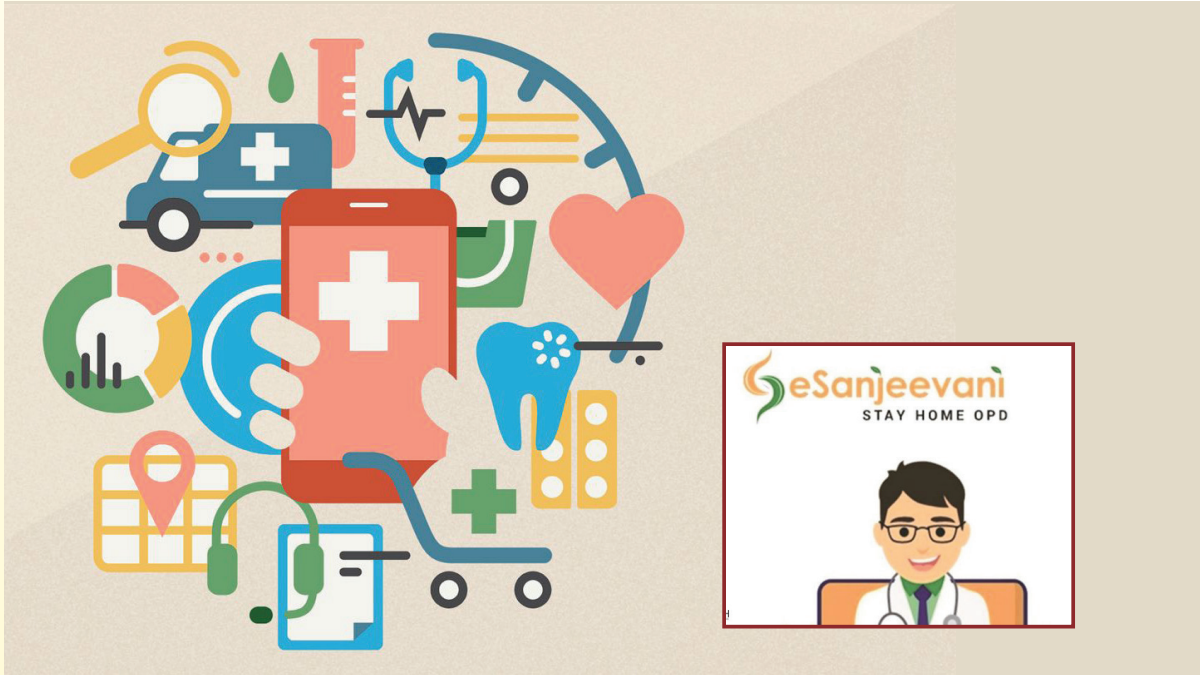
IT and associated technologies to strengthen the accessibility and equity of health services and support the existing health systems in a 'citizen-centric' approach.

COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) is a tech-based platform for planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of COVID-19 vaccination in India. The Co-WIN platform has been made available as a “Digital Public Good” for all the nations globally. It is scalable, inclusive, and open platform that serves the entire public health system of the nation. CoWIN connects to various stakeholders, including vaccine manufacturers, administrators, and verifiers, public and private vaccination facilities, and vaccine recipients etc. Ease of accessibility through blended registration, online appointment, digital vaccination certificate, real time dashboards, etc. is also provided. Equitable vaccination and distribution of vaccines across states ensure accessibility for all. Single source of data on this platform also ensures information symmetry and aligns stakeholders. Feedback and Analysis Data on vaccination helps in framing data-driven public health policy and evaluating the efficacy of different vaccines.

Bridging the Digital Health Divide eSanjeevani - National Telemedicine Service of India is a step towards digital health equity to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It facilitates quick and easy access to doctors and medical specialists from smartphones, providing health services to the masses in rural areas and remote communities. eSanjeevani enables patients who walk into public Health Centres to access consultants. It also enables citizens to access health services from within the confines of their homes through smartphones or laptops etc.







National Health Protection Scheme (also known as Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) is the largest health insurance scheme in the world which aims at providing a health cover for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to poor and vulnerable families that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population. This scheme provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital. It also helps in mitigating catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment

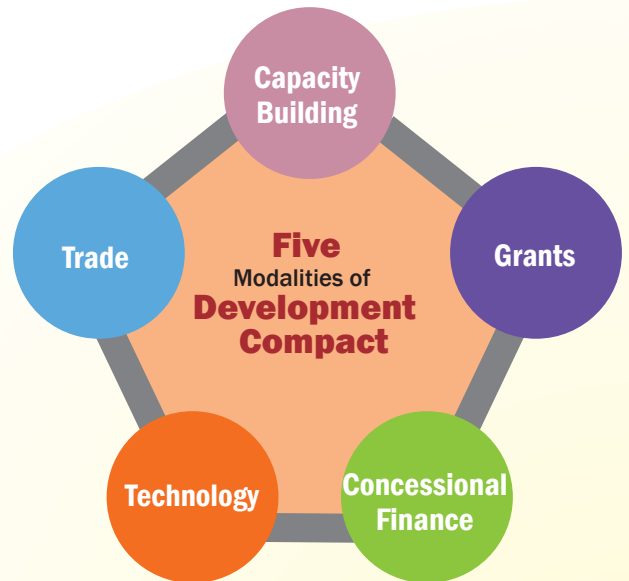
National Health Mission seeks to meet health care needs of the population by making available to them essential primary health care services and providing affordable medical treatment. It focuses on strengthening the existing health care service delivery system, adopting people-centric approach by converging various schemes relating to wider determinants of health like drinking water, sanitation, school education, etc. It envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality

health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. It encompasses two Sub-Missions: National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). Its programmatic components include supporting Health System Strengthening, improving Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health, addressing Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, and infrastructure maintenance



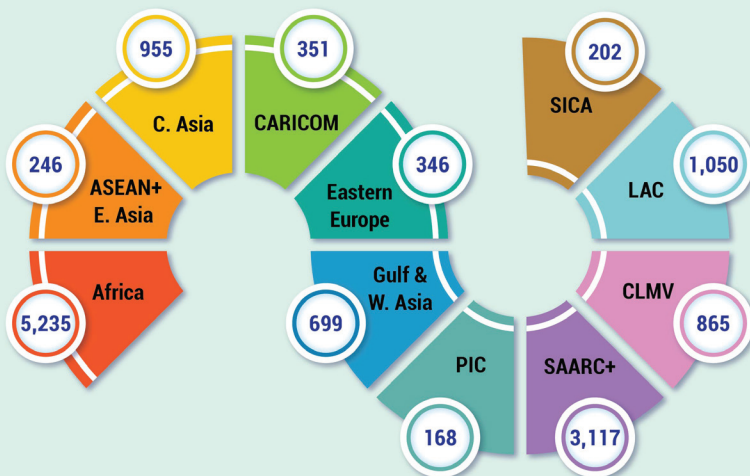
# The Development Compact: Five Modalities for Cooperation and Partnership

The Development Compact consists of five modalities, viz. Capacity Building, Grants, Concessional Finance, Trade, and Technology Transfer. These modalities are interdependent and work in tandem with each other. This emphasizes a comprehensive support for economic development. The Indian approach to development cooperation is aligned with the development compact and enshrines various South-South Cooperation modalities.



## Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)

**ITEC Scholarships Offerings  
Geographical Breakup (2023-24)**



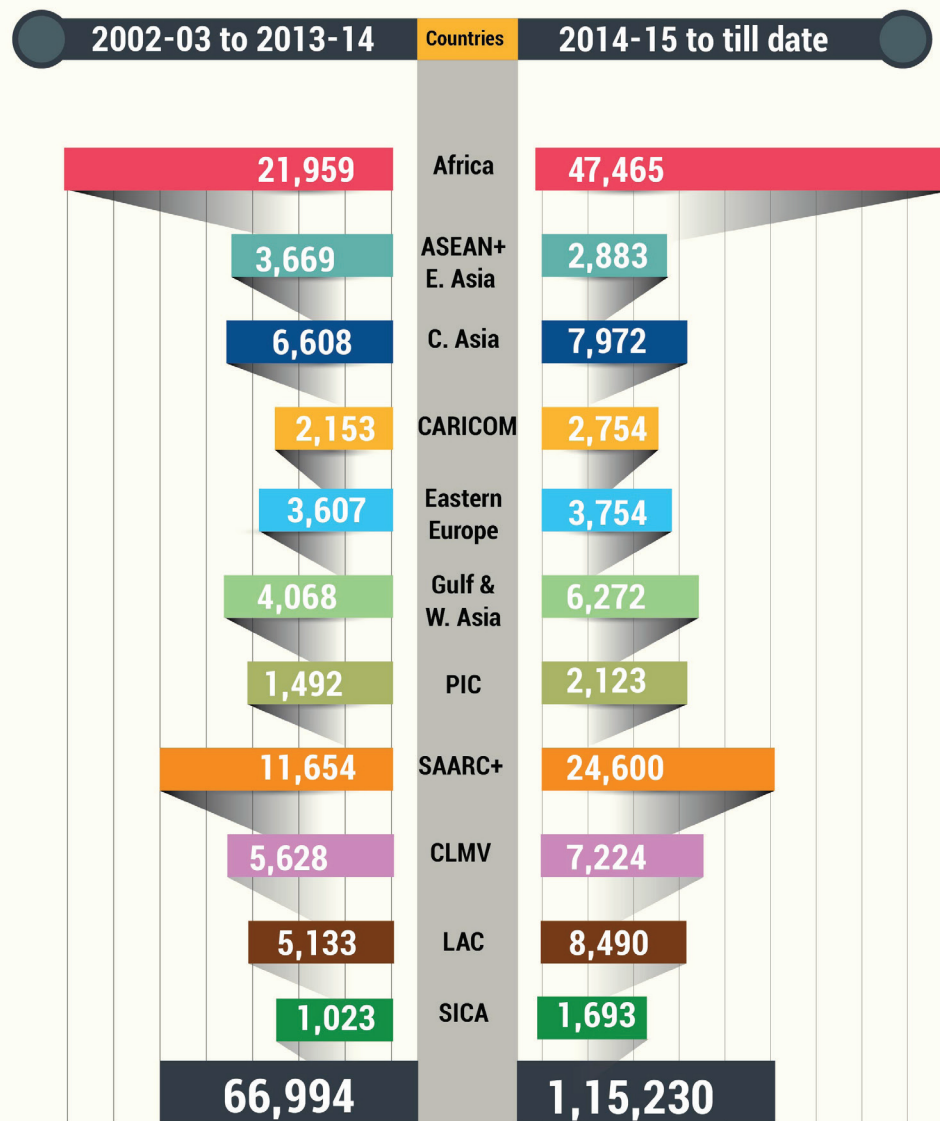
The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, ITEC for short, is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Instituted in 1964, ITEC is one of the oldest institutionalized arrangements.

The underlying objective was to establish relations of mutual concern and inter-dependence based not only on commonly held ideals and aspirations, but also on solid economic foundations.

The ITEC Programme has the following components:

- Training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees from ITEC partner countries;
- Deputation of Indian experts abroad;
- Study Tours;

## ITEC Scholarships Offerings Geographical Breakup



ITEC is administered by the Development Partnership Administration-II Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. Recently many new facets have been added to this programme:

- eITEC (for online trainings using digital delivery platforms),
- ITEC-Executive (short-term policy-focussed, in-person trainings for senior government executives),
- ITEC-Onsite and
- ITEC-Expert (onsite capacity building assignments carried out by Indian experts).

# “India's engagement with Africa will continue to be guided by 10 principles”



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 25 July 2018 at Parliament of Uganda, Kampala

1. Africa will be at the top of our priorities; it will be sustained and regular.
2. Our development partnership will be guided by your priorities, relying on African talent to build local capacity and create local opportunities.
3. We will keep our markets open and support our industry to invest in Africa.
4. We will harness India's experience with digital revolution to support Africa's development, mainstream the marginalised, and equip the youth for their place in the digital age.
5. We will work with you to improve Africa's agriculture.
6. We will work with Africa to ensure a just international climate order; to preserve our biodiversity; and adopt clean and efficient energy sources.
7. We will strengthen our mutual capabilities in combating terrorism and extremism and keeping our cyberspace safe and secure.
8. We will work with Africa to keep the oceans open and free.
9. We must all work together to ensure that Africa does not turn into a theatre of rival ambitions, but becomes a nursery for the aspirations of Africa's youth.
10. We will work together for a just, representative and democratic global order. India's own quest for reforms in the global institutions is incomplete without an equal place for Africa.

## About The Dakshin News

The Global South Centre of Excellence is established at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in taking forward scalable and sustainable solutions that can transform the Global South economies and societies. The Dakshin News, a development and knowledge sharing initiative, would serve as a platform for exchange of ideas on common challenges and new approaches for evolving a new development paradigm. The Dakshin News, being the Voice of Global South, aims to bring together academicians, experts, think tanks, practitioners, community based organisations, policy makers, business and industry circles for their active engagement through exchange of ideas and innovative practices that can help the Global South for ensuring inclusive sustainable growth. For more information, please contact: [info-gsce@ris.org.in](mailto:info-gsce@ris.org.in).

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