



PAYAL MALIK
Visiting Professor
ICRIER

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 will convene in New Delhi from 16–20 February, marking the first major global AI summit to be hosted in the Global South. Anchored in the principles of People, Planet, and Progress, the Summit aims to advance an inclusive and sustainable global agenda for artificial intelligence, with a strong emphasis on leveraging AI for social good, expanding equitable access, and strengthening the capacities of emerging economies.

Over the past few years, ICRIER's Digital Economy team has played an important role in shaping this discourse through its research and policy engagement on Democratizing AI. On the sidelines of the Summit, ICRIER is pleased to co-organize, in partnership with the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue Secretariat at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a closed-door Working Breakfast Roundtable on AI Governance in the EU and India. In addition, ICRIER researchers will chair and participate in several sessions throughout the Summit.

The India AI Impact Summit 2026 represents an important platform for shaping an approach to AI that is development-oriented, and aligned with long-term societal objectives. ICRIER is glad to contribute to this collective effort.

POLICY IN ACTION

Seminar on Environmental Litigation as Scrutiny: A Four-Decade Analysis of Justice, Firms, and Pollution in India

07 Jan, 2026 | New Delhi

ICRIER hosted an interactive seminar with Shareen Joshi, Associate Professor at Georgetown University, on "Environmental Litigation as Scrutiny: A Four-Decade Analysis of Justice, Firms, and Pollution in India." Dr. Joshi presented findings from her recent research examining how judicial enforcement has shaped environmental outcomes in India.



Workshop on Transformation of Health Systems through Digital Public Infrastructure

09 Jan, 2026 | New Delhi

ICRIER organized a one-day workshop to discuss how Digital Public Infrastructure can enable inclusive, efficient, and secure health systems. The discussions focused on strengthening the technical foundations and governance of DPI-Health, with particular attention to India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), global best practices and discussions on governance, public-private partnership and security in DPI-health.



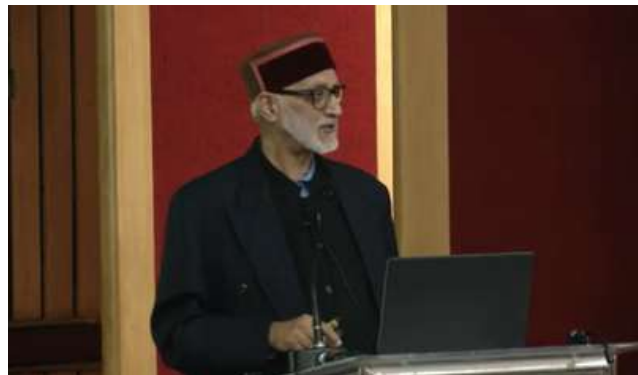
[Link to Press Release](#)



Feeding India while Protecting Nature: The Role of Agri-Policies and New Technologies

9 Jan, 2026 | IIT Kanpur

Ashok Gulati delivered a talk titled “Feeding India while Protecting Nature: The Role of Agri-Policies and New Technologies” as part of the Swastibhavatu Lecture Series at the Kotak School of Sustainability, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.



LPAI-ICRIER MoU to Strengthen Trade Facilitation

12 Jan, 2026 | New Delhi

The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) signed an MoU with ICRIER to collaborate on research to strengthen border infrastructure and facilitate trade linkages. The partnership is expected to enhance trade facilitation and logistics planning, support the development of smarter and future-ready land ports, and enable more seamless cross-border trade.



ICRIER-Japan Research Institute Interaction

14 Jan, 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

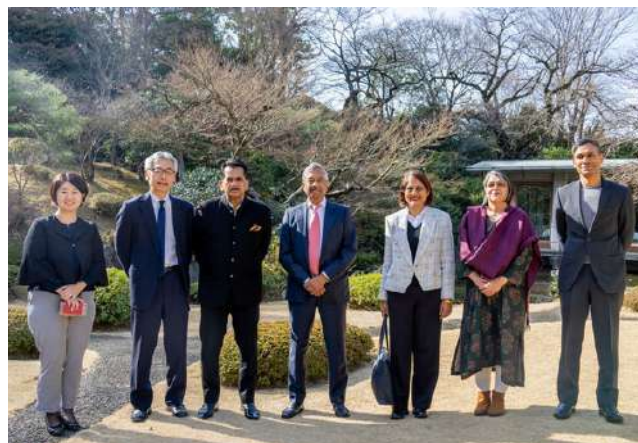
The interactive session with the Institute for International Strategy, Japan Research Institute (JRI) focused on the geopolitical environment around India and Japan, bilateral trade and investment relations, and relations with the United States. The ICRIER side was led by Pramod Bhasin, Amitabh Kant, Nisha Taneja, and Sanjana Joshi. R. Madhu Sudan, (Charge d'affaires, Embassy of India in Tokyo), also joined the session.



ICRIER-Institute of Geoeconomics Dialogue on India's Economic and Strategic Outlook

15 Jan, 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

ICRIER visited the Institute of Geoeconomics (IOG) for an interactive dialogue with representatives from leading Japanese companies. The discussion focused on key themes including India's macroeconomic outlook, emerging investment trends, U.S.-India relations, and the evolving Japan-India partnership. The session featured insights from Pramod Bhasin, Amitabh Kant, Nisha Taneja and Sanjana Joshi.





11th ICRIER-Policy Research Institute (Japan) Annual Workshop

15 Jan, 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

ICRIER successfully organized the 11th Annual Workshop in collaboration with the Policy Research Institute (PRI), Ministry of Finance, Japan. The workshop deliberations focused on the economic outlook and key challenges facing India and Japan, potential areas for bilateral economic cooperation, and labor market challenges in both countries, including possible solutions and pathways for workforce exchange.



Round Table Discussion on Aquaculture to Augment Farmers' Income

19 Jan, 2026 | New Delhi

ICRIER convened a round table discussion to examine the role of aquaculture in enhancing farmers' incomes, with a focus on sustainability, technology adoption, and export diversification. The event featured the launch of two ICRIER reports—"Blue Revolution: Aquaculture to Augment Farmers' Income" and "Shrimp Farming in Haryana: Learnings from Andhra Pradesh," followed by expert panel discussions.



Round Table Discussion on Healing Soils in India: For Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition

27 Jan, 2026 | New Delhi

ICRIER hosted a round table discussion on strengthening soil health to improve crop productivity and human nutrition. The discussion marked the release of the ICRIER report "Healing Soils in India: For Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition" and brought together policymakers, scientists, and industry leaders to deliberate on soil-crop-nutrition linkages, precision nutrient management, fertilizer innovations, and advances in soil health testing.



From Digital Sovereignty to AI Sovereignty: Lessons from the BRICS Countries

28 Jan, 2026 | Virtual

As part of the IPCIDE Webinar Series on Ethics and Governance of AI, this session examined how BRICS countries are shaping approaches to digital and AI sovereignty. Luca Belli (Professor, FGV Law School, Brazil) delivered the keynote, followed by insights from Smriti Parsheera and Payal Malik. The session was moderated by Shiva Kanwar.



ICRIER at Gulfood | World Economy Summit 2026

28 Jan, 2026 | Dubai

Suvangi Rath and Harsh Wardhan represented ICRIER as speakers at Gulfood 2026, presenting on “Agri-Trade Strategies: What Can India Offer, What Are the Challenges and the Roadmap Ahead” during the spotlight session “India Rising: Showcasing India’s Food Leadership, Global Partnerships & Export Excellence.” The session also marked the release of four APEDA-ICRIER reports on the Middle East, Africa, ASEAN, and CIS regions. The reports highlight India’s agri-export potential and outline strategic pathways forward.



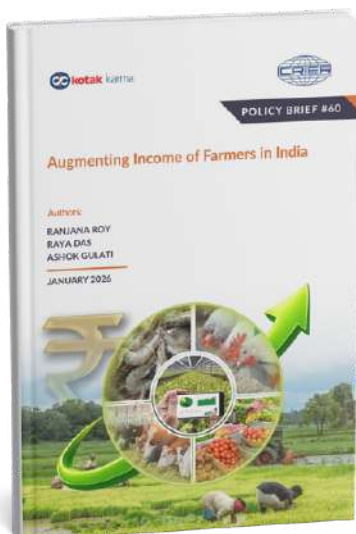
Democratizing Artificial Intelligence through Digital Public Infrastructure

29 Jan, 2026 | Virtual

This webinar explored how Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can enable more inclusive and equitable access to AI. Payal Malik set the context, followed by a fireside chat with Shankar Maruwada (CEO & Co-Founder, EkStep Foundation), focusing on practical pathways, institutional roles, and policy considerations for democratizing AI at scale.



SPOTLIGHT: NEW RESEARCH



Augmenting Income of Farmers in India

Authors: Ranjana Roy, Raya Das and Ashok Gulati

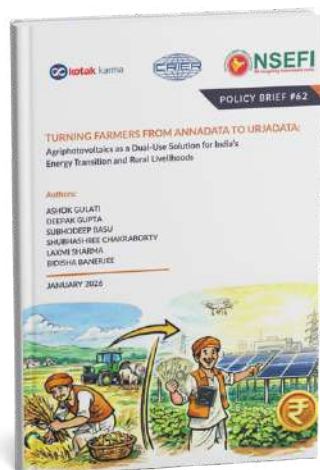
This policy brief examines agricultural household incomes in India and highlights diversification as a key pathway to income growth. Using Situation Assessment Survey data, it finds that farmers with livestock earn 86.2% higher incomes, while greater allocation of land to horticulture raises incomes by 25–56% compared to the national average. The brief recommends reallocating agricultural budgets towards livestock and horticulture, strengthening value chains, and expanding skills and extension support to enable small and marginal farmers to benefit from high-value agriculture.



Women in the Workforce: Moving the Dialogue from Centre to States

Authors: *Cledwyn Fernandez, Shabana Mitra and Nancy Agrawal*

This policy brief draws on recommendations from the Third Roundtable of the Network on Economic Policies for Women-led Development (EPWD) to examine centre–state financing in India through a gender lens. While India has made notable progress in advancing women’s empowerment through legislation and policy, the brief identifies persistent gaps in gender-responsive public finance at the state level. It underscores the need to strengthen and scale gender budgeting, enhance women’s participation in political leadership, and reorient state financing to support women’s transition from agriculture to manufacturing and services, enabling more inclusive and sustained growth.



Turning Farmers from Annadata to Urjadata: Agriphotovoltaics as a Dual-Use Solution for India’s Energy Transition and Rural Livelihoods

Authors: *Ashok Gulati, Deepak Gupta, Subhdeep Basu, Shubhashree Chakraborty, Laxmi Sharma, Bidisha Banerjee*

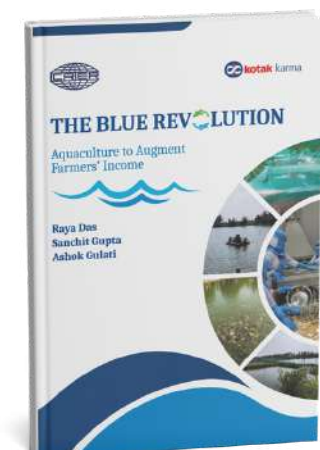
This policy brief explores agriphotovoltaics (APV) as a decentralized solution that combines solar power generation with agriculture to strengthen rural livelihoods and improve DISCOM viability. Drawing on ICRIER pilots in Rajasthan and Odisha, it shows how farmer-led APV can reduce transmission losses, lower rural power costs, and turn farmers into energy partners. The analysis highlights the importance of a remunerative Feed-in Tariff (around ₹4.40/kWh) to ensure financial viability and scale APV as a tool for a just energy transition.



Improving Soil Health for Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition

Authors: *Ritika Juneja, Biswabara Sahu, Ashok Gulati, Sachchida Nand*

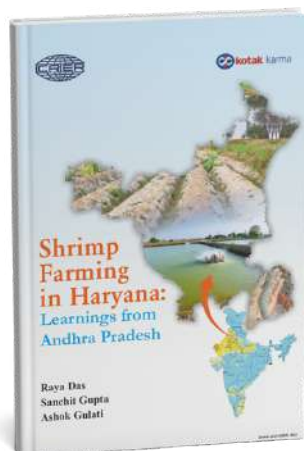
Despite surplus food production, malnutrition persists in India due to poor nutrient quality of food. This policy brief highlights soil health as a key link between agriculture and nutrition and calls for a 3P approach- Policy, Products, and Practices to promote targeted fertilization, soil diagnostics, and sustainable nutrient management for better crop and human health.



The Blue Revolution: Aquaculture to Augment Farmers’ Income

Authors: *Raya Das, Sanchit Gupta, Ashok Gulati*

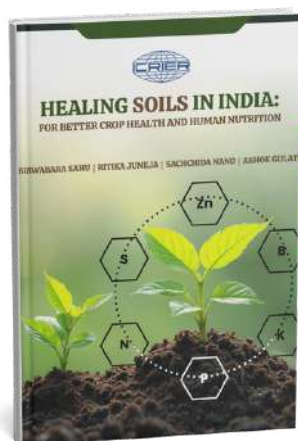
This report highlights aquaculture, particularly inland shrimp farming as a key driver of income growth within India’s fast-expanding fisheries sector. While India ranks second globally in inland aquaculture, production remains regionally concentrated and well below global potential. The study underscores the need to scale successful aquaculture clusters across states to enhance farmer incomes and unlock productivity gains.



Shrimp Farming in Haryana: Learnings from Andhra Pradesh

Authors: Raya Das, Sanchit Gupta, Ashok Gulati

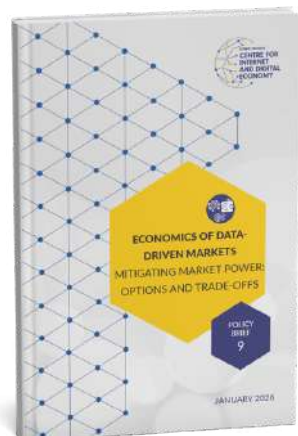
This report examines inland shrimp aquaculture as an income-augmenting strategy in salinity-affected regions, drawing lessons from Andhra Pradesh's successful shrimp farming model. Through a comparative value-chain analysis of Andhra Pradesh and Sirsa district in Haryana, it finds that shrimp farming offers significantly higher incomes than traditional paddy-wheat systems, while also highlighting challenges related to capital intensity, risk, environmental sustainability, and institutional capacity for scalable and inclusive adoption.



Healing Soils in India: For Better Crop Health and Human Nutrition

Authors: Biswabara Sahu, Ritika Juneja, Sachchida Nand, Ashok Gulati

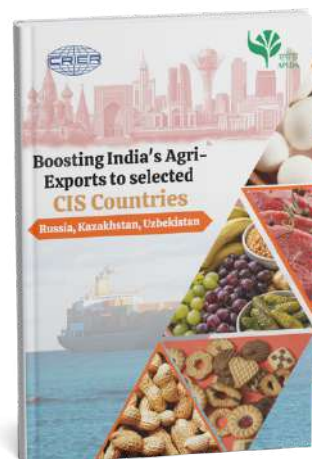
Despite high food production, malnutrition persists in India due to poor soil nutrient quality. This brief highlights the need for balanced fertilizer use, precision nutrient management, tailored fertilizers, and improved agronomic practices to restore soil health. Healthy soils can boost crop productivity, enhance nutrient content, and improve human nutrition.



Economics of Data-Driven Markets: Mitigating Market Power

Authors: Payal Malik, Gaurav Jakhu

Digitalization of markets has resulted in consumer data being continuously extracted from individuals' online activities. Cross-market data use generates privacy harms and may also reinforce data-driven market power. To address competition harms, regulation should move beyond consent only frameworks and ex-post enforcement may be combined with targeted ex-ante rules, regularly reviewed to avoid stifling innovation.



Boosting India's Agri Exports to Selected CIS Countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

Authors: Harsh Wardhan, Ashok Gulati, Aishwarya Rohatgi

India's agricultural trade with the CIS remains small, accounting for just 1.28% of total exports in 2023–24, despite high demand and historical ties. This brief outlines opportunities for India to expand exports to Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, offering a roadmap based on trade data, policy analysis, and consultations with exporters and officials.



Transitioning from PAT to a Carbon Trading System: Implications for India's Iron & Steel, Aluminium Sectors, and Cement under the EU's CBAM

Authors: Saon Ray, Kuntala Bandyopadhyay

India's iron, steel, aluminium, and cement sectors face competitiveness risks from the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). This brief examines moving from the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme to a nationwide Carbon Trading System (CTS) as a strategic response, highlighting how robust monitoring, credible carbon pricing, and incentives for low-carbon technologies can safeguard exports and drive industrial decarbonization.

VOICES FROM ICRIER

India's Subsidy Model Fiscally Heavy, Environmentally Damaging: Gulati| AI with Sanket

Ashok Gulati discusses how India's food and fertilizer subsidy regime is a heavy fiscal burden and environmentally harmful, arguing for rationalization and reallocation of that investment toward skills development and developing rural infrastructure.



India-EU Trade Deal Could Transform Exports Across Key Sectors

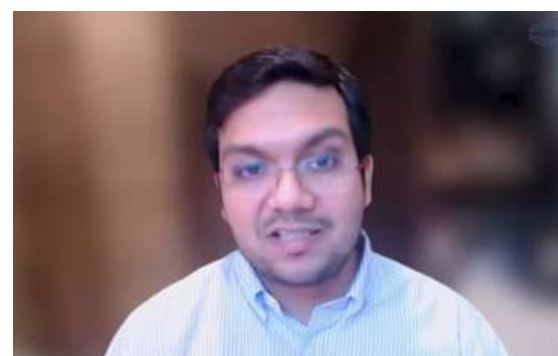
In this interview with PTI News, Arpita Mukherjee explains how a comprehensive India-EU FTA could significantly boost India's exports, especially in labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, and leather, while helping Indian firms integrate into European supply chains, even as sensitive sectors require calibrated negotiations.



PODCAST

The Real Casualties of the New China Shock: Developing Economies, Not the West

In this episode, Shoumitro Chatterjee (Senior Visiting Professor, ICRIER) in conversation with Puja Mehra, examines the emerging contours of the new China Shock and its global economic implications, arguing that developing economies rather than Western countries will bear the brunt as trade dynamics, industrial policies, and global supply chains continue to shift.



How the Trump Tariffs are Impacting India's Trade

In this episode, Arpita Mukherjee, in conversation with Puja Mehra, discusses how recent U.S. tariffs are impacting India–U.S. trade, key sectoral effects, and what ongoing negotiations mean for India's trade strategy amid growing global uncertainty.



IN THE NEWS

Hindustan Times

Why phasing out fossil fuels remains a challenge

Author: Somit Dasgupta | 02 Jan, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

A lesson from Beed in raising farmers' incomes

Authors: Ashok Gulati and Ishita Mandla | 05 Jan, 2026

For government's reform drive to succeed, rationalise agri subsidies

Author: Ashok Gulati | 19 Jan, 2026

Signing of FTAs is a start; their success will be judged by gains in global market

Author: Shoumitro Chatterjee | 31 Jan, 2026

THE HINDU

Expectations from a gender lens in Budget 2026-27

Authors: Shravani Prakash, Tanu M. Goyal and Anjhana Ramesh | 28 Jan, 2026

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

Read to Lead

Hybridity, hope and highway: Narratives of the 2020–21 farmers' stir demand larger conversations

Author: Harsh Wardhan | 03 Jan, 2026

From parched fields to prosperity.

Authors: Ashok Gulati and Ishita Mandla | 05 Jan, 2026

Streamline agri-food policies

Author: Ashok Gulati | 19 Jan, 2026

Deceit and intimidation

Author: Somit Dasgupta | 28 Jan, 2026

AgroSpectrum

Envisaging Future | Updating Present
www.agrospectrumindia.com

Union Budget 2026 expectations

Author: Ashok Gulati | 08 Jan, 2026

FoodBeverageNews

Impact of GST restructuring on India's food processing sector

Authors: Arpita Mukherjee and Latika Khatwani | 02 Jan, 2026

ThePrint

Where are women in India's gig economy? The question we forgot to ask in the outcry.

Authors: Cledwyn Fernandez, Ketaki Gaikwad and Anjhana Ramesh | 15 Jan, 2026