

Warm wishes for a Happy New Year!



Dr. SHEKHAR AIYAR
Director & CE
ICRIER

As we begin 2026 with fresh energy and purpose, I would like to share some key highlights from our work over the past month.

Building on our legacy of rigorous policy research and informed dialogue, we convened a wide range of sessions and released several publications covering topics such as digital public infrastructure, the digital economy, India's development trajectory, agricultural productivity, tariffs, gender, and the e-waste supply chain. Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on research that addresses pressing challenges for both India and the global policy community, while strengthening our engagement with governments, industry, multilateral institutions, and academic partners to generate actionable economic insights.

I am continually inspired by the high-impact work of our researchers across thematic areas, as well as by the strong network of stakeholders we have built over the past decades.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in ICRIER's work. I invite you to explore this month's event highlights, latest publications, and op-eds, and to stay connected as we move into what promises to be a dynamic, impactful, and interesting year for the economy of India.

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

CoP DPI4D 15: Can Digital Public Infrastructure Advance Women's Economic Empowerment?

03 Dec, 2025 | Virtual

ICRIER, in collaboration with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), hosted a CoP DPI4D 15 session. The discussion examined the role of digital public infrastructure in expanding women's access to economic opportunities, with a focus on inclusive growth and development outcomes. The session featured Madeleine McLean (Program Manager and Research Associate, Sustainable Development and Resilience Initiative and the Project on Prosperity and Development, CSIS) as the speaker, and was moderated by Shailly Gupta (Fellow, ICRIER).



India's Development Trajectory

17 Dec, 2025 | New Delhi

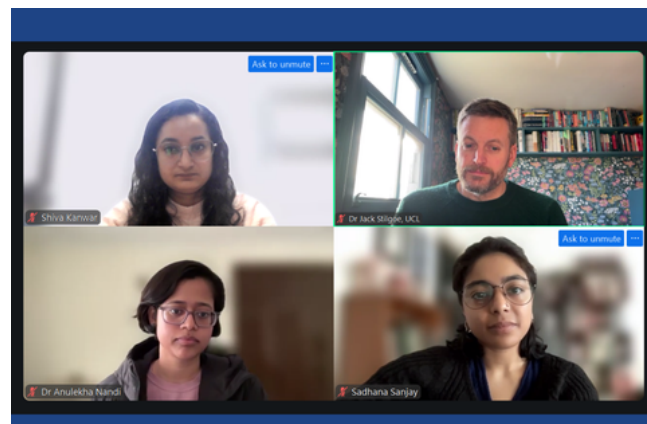
ICRIER hosted a discussion on India's development trajectory based on the book **A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey**, featuring opening remarks by Shekhar Aiyar, presentations by Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Kapur, and a discussion of the book by Shankar Acharya and Amita Batra.



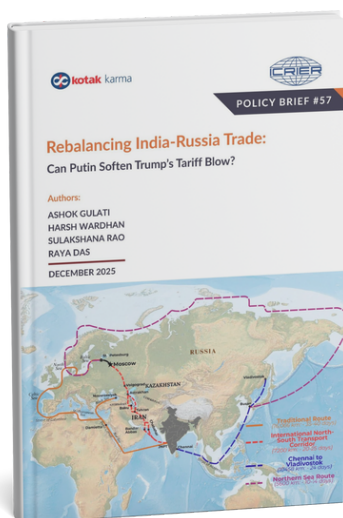
Visions, Values, Voices: A Survey of Artificial Intelligence Researchers

19 Dec, 2025 | Virtual

ICRIER hosted a webinar under the IPCIDE Webinar Series on Ethics and Governance of AI titled “Visions, values, voices: A Survey of Artificial Intelligence Researchers.” The session featured a keynote presentation by Dr Jack Stilgoe (Professor of Science and Technology Policy, Department of Science & Technology Studies, University College London). Discussant remarks were delivered by Dr Anulekha Nandi (Independent Researcher) and Ms Sadhana Sanjay (Lead – Research and Policy Engagement, IT for Change). The session was moderated by Shiva Kanwar (Fellow, IPCIDE, ICRIER).



LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Rebalancing India–Russia Trade: Can Putin Soften Trump’s Tariff Blow?

Authors: *Ashok Gulati, Harsh Wardhan, Sulakshana Rao and Raya Das*

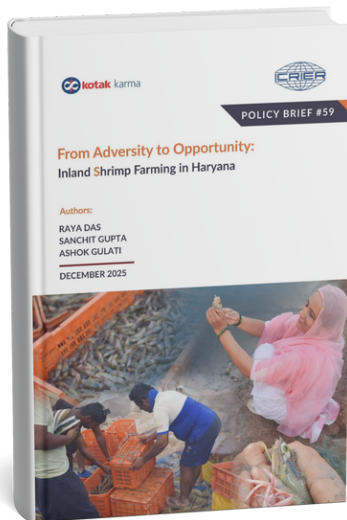
This policy brief examines the scope for rebalancing India–Russia trade amid US tariff pressures, highlighting the highly skewed bilateral trade balance in Russia’s favor. It assesses opportunities to expand Indian exports in tariff-affected sectors such as textiles and apparel, fisheries, and agriculture, and recommends measures including improved logistics, rupee–rouble settlements, tariff parity, and value-chain upgrades to mitigate trade shocks.

Stitching India’s Apparel Export Competitiveness: Insights from Global Leaders

Authors: *Sulakshana Rao, Ayushi Gupta, Riya Jain and Ashok Gulati*

This policy brief examines India’s apparel export performance in comparison with leading global exporters such as China, Bangladesh and Vietnam, highlighting India’s stagnant global market share despite a strong fiber-to-fashion base and large workforce. The brief recommends a sequenced reform pathway to build integrated apparel ecosystems, reduce the cost of capital, improve productivity and align trade policy with buyer demand, with the objective of expanding India’s apparel exports to USD 40 billion by 2030.





From Adversity to Opportunity: Inland Shrimp Farming in Haryana

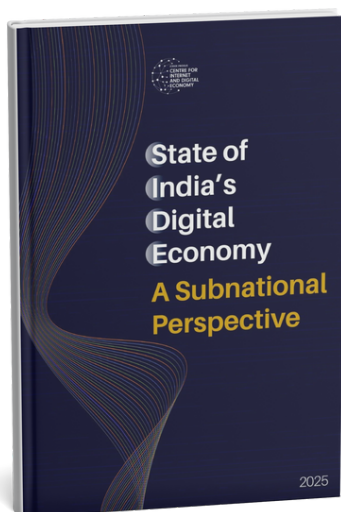
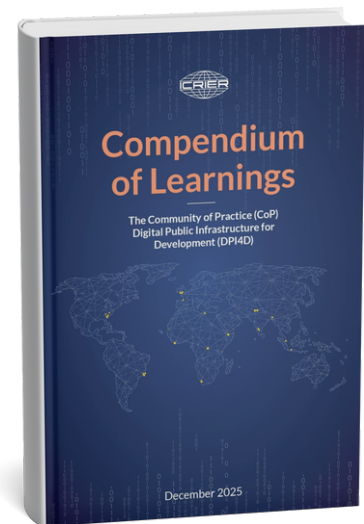
Authors: Raya Das, Sanchit Gupta and Ashok Gulati

This policy brief examines the adoption of inland shrimp aquaculture in saline-affected areas of Haryana, particularly Sirsa district, supported by capital subsidies under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Drawing on field evidence from Haryana and comparative insights from Andhra Pradesh, it highlights significantly higher farm-level profitability compared to traditional paddy-based systems, while underscoring the high capital requirements and production risks involved.

Compendium of Learnings, the Community of Practice on Digital Public Infrastructure for Development (DPI4D)

Authors: Shailly Gupta and Pratiksha Chaturvedi

This compendium documents key learnings from the Community of Practice on Digital Public Infrastructure for Development (DPI4D), launched by ICRIER in partnership with the Gates Foundation in September 2024. It captures insights from 12 global virtual seminars held between September 2024 and September 2025, involving member organizations and associates from multiple countries. The publication highlights emerging research gaps, core themes, and lessons on the design, governance, and evaluation of DPI for development, contributing to a deeper, research-based understanding of DPI's role in inclusive growth and sustainable development.



State of India's Digital Economy: A Subnational Perspective, 2025

Authors: Deepak Mishra, Aarti Reddy, Shailly Gupta and Jiya Bharti

This study analyses India's uneven digital transformation across states using the Connect–Harness–Innovate–Protect–Sustain (CHIPS) framework. It categorises states into four tiers of digital progress—Advanced, Assured, Ascending and Aspirational Digitalisers, highlighting wide disparities in digital readiness and outcomes. The report underscores the importance of enabling lagging states to catch up in order to ensure balanced digital growth and strengthen India's position as a global digital economy.

PODCAST

In Focus podcast | How can India navigate the new wave of trade protectionism? | The Hindu

Arpita Mukherjee speaks about why India's exports are growing despite higher US tariffs, and highlights the risks that lie beneath the headline trade numbers.



OP-EDS

 **The Indian EXPRESS**

Economy beyond headline numbers – better jobs, green growth needed

Authors: Ashok Gulati, Bidisha Chanda | 8 Dec, 2025

State should reclaim its role, shape digital markets

Authors: Payal Malik and Nikita Jain | 10 Dec, 2025

Reforming the fertiliser subsidy demands political courage, offers high rewards

Authors: Ashok Gulati and Ritika Juneja | 22 Dec, 2025

THE HINDU

The upskilling gap: why women risk being left behind by AI

Authors: Shravani Prakash, Tanu M. Goyal and Chellsea Lauhka | 24 Dec, 2025

News mantra

'Amrit Krishi' roundtable highlights the potential of AI to unlock productivity and employment boost for India's agriculture sector

Author: Ashok Gulati | 9 Dec, 2025

Hindustan Times

Future is AI, but returns may not be immediate

Author: Pramod Bhasin | 5 Dec, 2025

Unravelling India's e-waste supply chain

Authors: Amrita Goldar, Kartik Nair, Md Sarwar Ali, Ritika Verma | 21 Dec, 2025

 **FINANCIAL EXPRESS**
Read to Lead

How is Indian Economy faring?

Author: Ashok Gulati and Bidisha Chanda | 8 Dec, 2025

Heed climate finance needs in agrifood

Authors: Reena Singh and Purvi Thangara | 11 Dec, 2025

The future of Trump tariffs

Author: Anwarul Hoda | 12 Dec, 2025

Book review | MS Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India

Author: Reena Singh | 20 Dec, 2025

Reforming Fertiliser Subsidy

Author: Ashok Gulati and Ritika Juneja | 22 Dec, 2025