



Welcome to the March 2024 edition of our newsletter, featuring our events, publications, and op-eds from February 2024.

The ICRIER Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE) convened its second annual conference and launched The State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024. IPCIDE, in collaboration with Nasscom and ADBI, organized a roundtable on digital market competition regulation to address challenges and develop fair regulatory models.

We released AGRI Round-Up Episode 1 titled "Has the interim budget responded adequately to the farm sector's urgent needs?" with Senior Fellow Puja Mehra and Distinguished Professor Ashok Gulati exploring if the interim budget effectively meets agriculture's pressing needs.

We published a working paper titled "Benefits of BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement to the Northeast Region: A Supply Chain Analysis" and a policy brief on "Competition Issues in Digital Markets." Our esteemed faculty members wrote op-eds on topics ranging from "AI and competition: Old wine in new bottles?" to "Seeding a shift: How to grow agriculture to boost farmers' incomes."

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IPCIDE Annual Conference on State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2024

The ICRIER Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE) convened its second annual conference on February 16th, 2024, at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi. The event marked the launch of the “State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2024” report, assessing India's digital transformation using the CHIPS framework and comparing it with G20 nations.

Click here to [Watch](#) the Event.

Related Links: [Download Event Summary](#)

In the News: [The Economic Times](#), [Business-Standard](#), [fortuneindia](#), [tennews](#), [telecom](#), [ibcworldnews](#), [newsindia](#), [latestly](#), [English Loktej](#)

Lecture by Nobel Laureate A. Michael Spence on “Digital Technology, Generative AI and the Future of Productivity and Growth”

Nobel Laureate Prof. Michael Spence spoke on “Digital Technology, Generative AI, and the Future of Productivity and Growth” at a joint event by ICRIER, Institute for New Economic Thinking, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at the Taj Mansingh Hotel. A panel discussion on global megatrends, moderated by Suman K. Bery, Vice Chairman, Niti Aayog, followed the lecture, covering global governance, digital technologies, and climate change.

For more information, [click here](#).



Roundtable on Regulating Competition in Digital Markets

IPCIDE, Nasscom, and the Asian Development Bank Institute jointly organized a roundtable on February 27, 2024, discussing digital market competition regulation. The goal was to tackle emerging challenges and devise fair competition and innovation regulatory models for the digital economy. Key participants included Anne-Claire Hoyng, Jacques Cremer, Special Adviser to European Commissioner for Competition; Margrethe Vestager, Professor at Toulouse School of Economics Vicente Bagnoli; Deepak Mishra, Payal Malik, and James Hodge.

For more information, [click here](#).

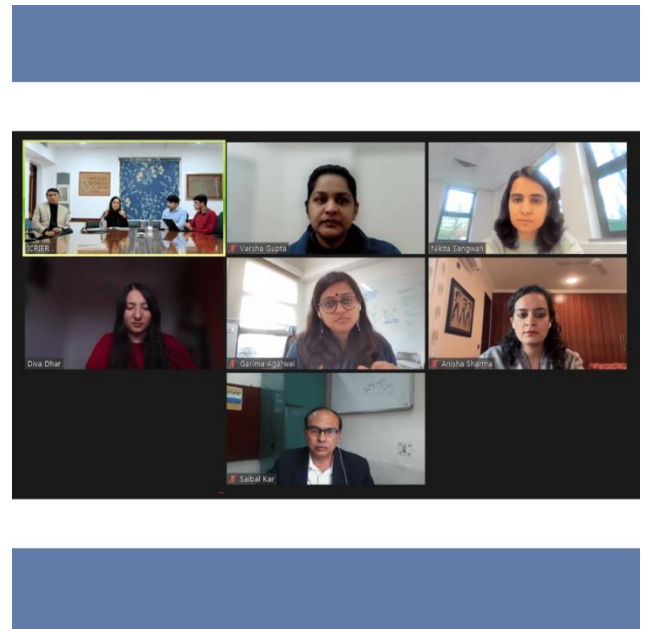


Discerning the impact of digitalization on Female Labour Force Participation in India

ICRIER and Asian Development Bank Institute hosted a webinar titled 'Discerning the impact of digitalization on Female Labour Force Participation in India'. The webinar focused on the impact of the use of digital infrastructure on female labour force participation rate (FLPR). The discussion revolved around the different mechanisms by which the use and access of mobile phones and the internet can significantly impact FLPR.

The primary policy prescriptions discussed were improving digital literacy, providing jobs matching the skillset, and designing nudging mechanisms to increase the use of mobile phones by females.

For more information, [click here](#).



AGRI Round-Up Episode 1 | Has the interim budget responded adequately to the farm sector's urgent needs?

Join Senior Fellow Puja Mehra and Distinguished Professor Ashok Gulati as they explore if the interim budget effectively meets agriculture's pressing needs. Topics span budget support, fiscal deficit consolidation, and the necessity to revamp India's agricultural strategy. They also discuss challenges such as the sidelining of the food economy, the absence of a clear goal for doubling farmers' incomes, and the inefficiency of fertilizer subsidies. Gain insights from the discussion.

Click here to [Watch](#) the Agri Round-UP.



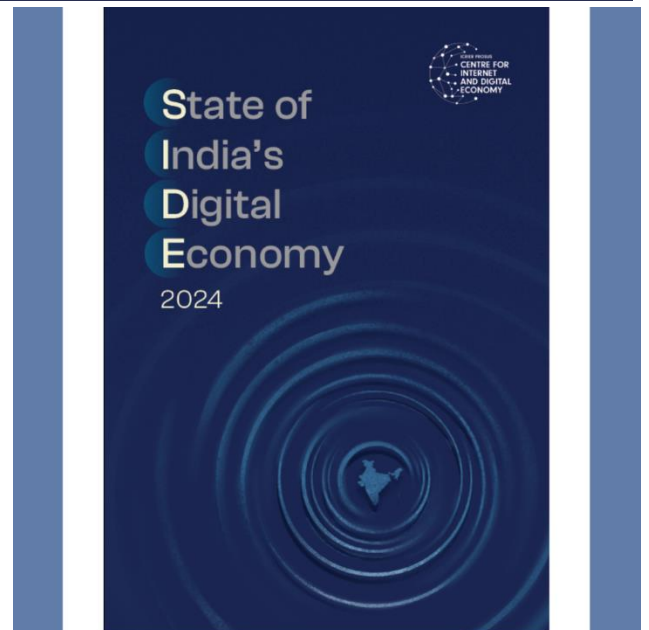
PUBLICATIONS

The State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024

Author(s): Dr. Deepak Mishra, Dr. Mansi Kedia, Dr. Aarti Reddy, Mr. Mayank Manish, Ms. Krithika Ramnath

Key Takeaways:

- ❖ Digitalisation has made dramatic progress, but the way it is being measured has not.
- ❖ Using a new approach, the Connect – Harness – Innovate – Protect – Sustain (CHIPS) framework, the SIDE 204 report benchmarks the scale and depth of India's digital transformation with respect to G20 countries as well as for the Indian States.



- ✦ India is ranked third at aggregate level and 12th at the user level among the G20 countries,
- ✦ India's rapid digitalization is being driven by a large base, high growth facilitated by DPIs, and strong gender and geographical convergence.
- ✦ At the sub-national level, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Gujarat, and Haryana take the top five spots. Dispersion in the level of digitalisation across Indian states is less than that for G20 countries.
- ✦ Organizations preparing global indices should provide both perspectives – aggregate and average user – to obtain a complete picture of a country's digitalization.

Click here to [download](#) the report.

Competition Issues in Digital Markets

Author(s): Ms. Payal Malik

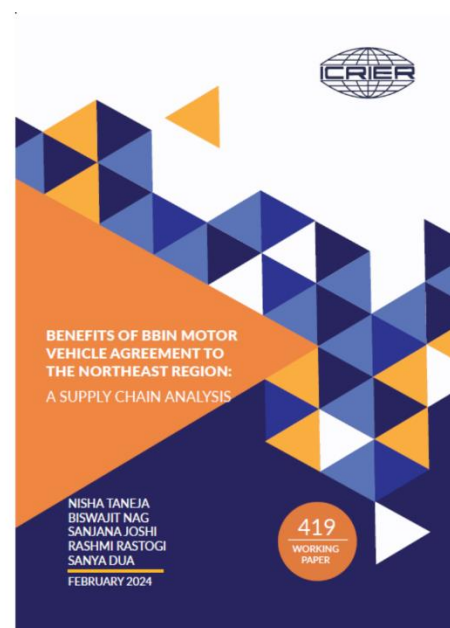
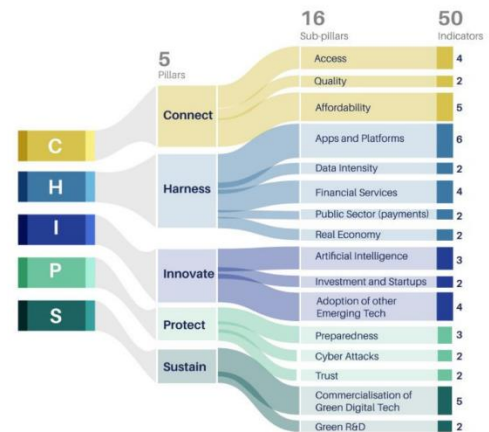
Digitalization drives innovation in products, processes, and business models, yielding consumer benefits and economic growth. However, it raises concerns, including its impact on market competition. Policymakers and regulators focus on platform configurations to ensure oversight. This policy brief addresses contemporary competition issues in digital markets.

Click here to [download](#) the policy brief.

Benefits of BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement to the Northeast Region: A Supply Chain Analysis

Author(s): Dr. Nisha Taneja, Ms. Sanjana Joshi, Ms. Sanya Dua, Mr. Bishwajit Nag, Ms. Rashmi Rastogi

This paper evaluates how the BBIN MVA can enhance the export competitiveness of the North Eastern region. It conducts an extensive analysis of the supply chains for pharmaceuticals and pineapple, gauging efficiency through time and cost metrics. Recommendations include enhancing export data recording, inland container depots, logistics, and addressing trade policy distortions.



Click here to [download](#) the working paper.



Meet our Fellow Ms. Sajal Jain

Sajal Jain, ICRIER Fellow, holds a master's in Economics and International Financial Economics from the University of Warwick, UK. At ICRIER, she focuses on climate change and sustainable development issues. Her work includes renewable energy and industrial competitiveness for the IDFC Foundation and climate financing for the Department of Economic Affairs, MoF. She also studied finance availability for the MSME sector with the German Development Institute. To learn more about our faculty members, please [click here](#)



TRADE INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS (TIER)

Op-eds | Media appearances:

[WTO Ministerial: What is at stake](#)

Anwarul Hoda | Financial Express | 24 February, 2024



AGRICULTURE POLICY SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION (APSI)

Op-eds | Media appearances:

[Legalising MSP can be anti-farmer; remove export bans, stocking limits, says Ashok Gulati](#)

Ashok Gulati | MoneyControl | 24 February, 2024



[Punjab Farmers Demand MSP Law](#)

Ashok Gulati | StartNews Global | 22 February, 2024



[Policies favour the consumer, not the producer](#)

Ashok Gulati | Indian Express/Financial Express | 19 February, 2024



[Farmers Protest 2.0: Why are farmers protesting, again?](#)

Ashok Gulati | WION | 18 February, 2024



[Should centre bring MSP law?](#)

Ashok Gulati | India Today | 18 February, 2024



[Economist Ashok Gulati Opposes Minimum Income Guarantee](#)

Ashok Gulati | India Today | 17 February, 2024



[‘MSP is wrong instrument to raise farmers’ income, contract farming would be better: Dr Ashok Gulati](#)

Ashok Gulati | The print | 17 February, 2024



[‘MSP Applies to Only 10% of Agri Households; Hike Farmers Want Will Raise Food Inflation By 25-30%’](#)

Ashok Gulati | The WIRE | 17 February, 2024



[Making MSP legal obligation can create complexities](#)

Ashok Gulati | MoneyControl | 15 February, 2024



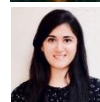
[Farmers protest: Policies and prudence](#)

Ashok Gulati | Times of India | 14 February, 2024



[Towards sustainable growth](#)

Ashok Gulati, Ritika Juneja | Financial Express / Indian Express | 5 February, 2024



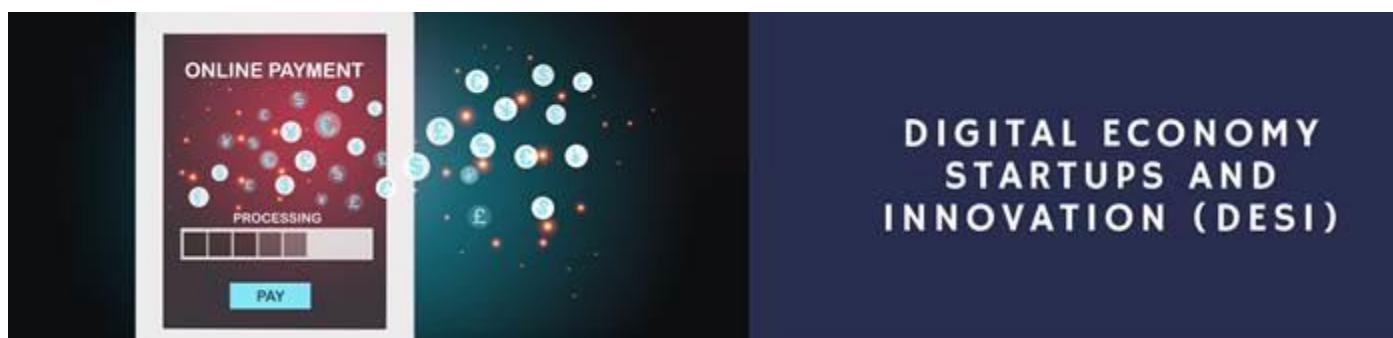
[Seeding a shift: How to grow agriculture to boost farmers’ incomes](#)

Ranjana Roy | Deccan Herald | 5 February, 2024



[Neglecting the farm](#)

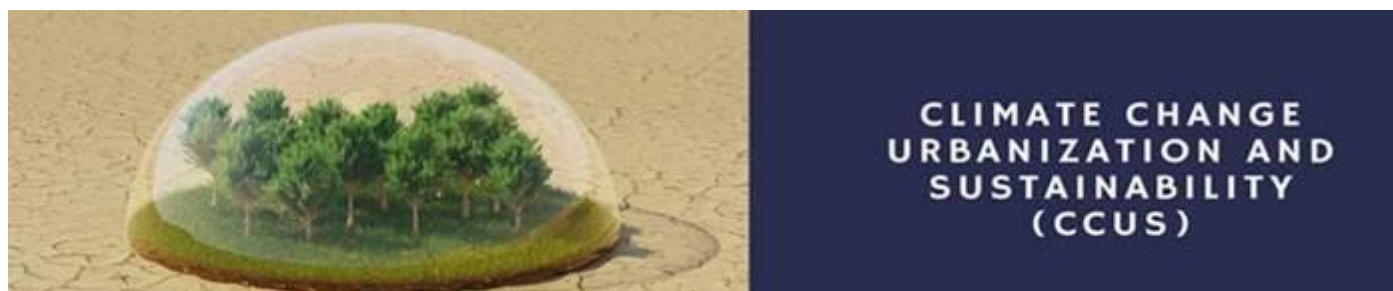
Ashok Gulati, Purvi Thangaraj | Indian Express | Deccan Herald | 2 February, 2024



Op-eds | Media appearances:

AI and competition: Old wine in new bottles?

Payal Malik, Nikita Jain | Indian Express | 29 February, 2024



Op-eds | Media appearances:

New scheme for solar rooftops

Somit Dasgupta | Financial Express | 12 February, 2024



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