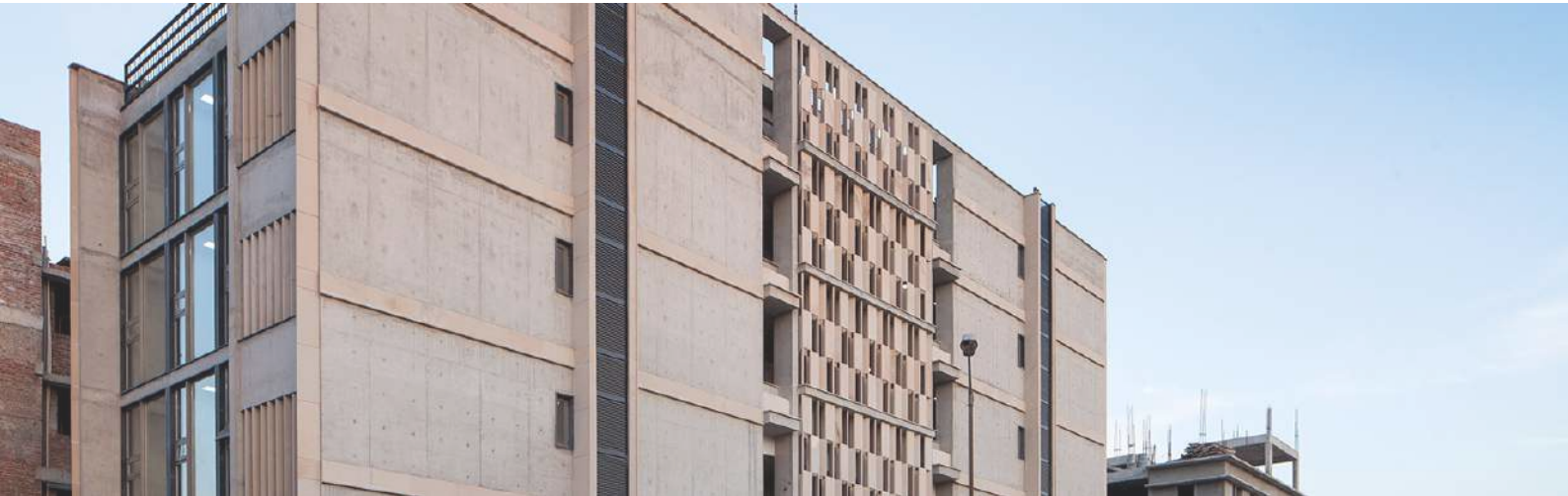




Message from the Leadership

For a rapidly growing economy such as India, sustaining high growth, expanding infrastructure, and generating employment must occur alongside a structural shift toward low-carbon energy, industry, and mobility systems. This pursuit of the twin objectives of accelerated development and deep decarbonization poses complex challenges with no simple solutions. In addition, this challenge is compounded by the high global concentration of critical mineral reserves and processing capacities, which exposes clean energy supply chains to geopolitical risks, trade disruptions, and price volatility. Thus, addressing these vulnerabilities requires coordinated strategies spanning domestic capability building, diversification of supply sources, international partnerships, recycling and circularity, and prudent macroeconomic management.

In this regard, our team contributed substantively to three recently released NITI Aayog Inter-Ministerial Working Group Reports that support India's pathways towards **Viksit Bharat** and the **Net-Zero Transition**. These reports provide an integrated analytical foundation for aligning long-term growth, climate ambition, and resource security objectives. Dr. Deepak Mishra and I served as members of the Working Groups on (i) Climate Finance (WG-3), (ii) Macroeconomic Implications of Net Zero Transitions (WG-1), and (iii) Critical Raw Materials (CRM) R&D, Domestic Manufacturing and Supply Chains (WG-4). The Institute's ongoing work on CGE modelling, green industrial policy, circular economy strategies for CRM recovery, and climate finance informed several technical discussions within the Working Groups.

Dr. Amrita Goldar

Senior Fellow, ICRIER



POLICY IN ACTION

ICRIER Post-Budget Seminar

9 Feb, 2026 | New Delhi

ICRIER hosted its Post-Budget Seminar featuring a panel discussion on the Union Budget 2026, including a panel on “Navigating Global Chaos and Domestic Challenges.” The session was moderated by Shekhar Aiyar and included panelists V. Anantha Nageswaran, Ashok Gulati, Kavita Rao, Amita Batra, and Anil Bhardwaj. The discussion examined the Budget’s economic implications in the context of global volatility and domestic priorities, followed by an engaging Q&A session.



Seminar on Progressive and Remunerative Agricultural Practices in Bihar

12 Feb, 2026 | Patna

Ashok Gulati delivered the keynote address at a seminar organized by the Government of Bihar on Progressive and Remunerative Agricultural Practices. In his address, he emphasized that Bihar’s development strategy should move from a production-centric approach to agri-value chain development, focusing on end-to-end systems, competitive commodities, and higher farmer incomes.



Mumbai Climate Week 2026

17 Feb, 2026 | Mumbai

ICRIER convened a session titled “Rethinking Urban Adaptation and Mobilizing Finance at Scale for Resilient Cities in India.” The discussion focused on strengthening municipal financial health, addressing fiscal risks arising from climate events, and exploring blended finance solutions to scale resilient urban investments. The session brought together policymakers and practitioners to examine constraints within municipal finance systems, identify priority urban adaptation sectors where blended finance could be effective, and discuss approaches for leveraging public, private, and philanthropic capital to support climate-resilient urban infrastructure in India.





3rd International AYUSH Conference & Exhibition 2026

15–17 Feb, 2026 | **Dubai**

Arpita Mukherjee (Professor, ICRIER) attended the 3rd International AYUSH Conference & Exhibition 2026, a global platform advancing integrative and traditional healthcare systems. In her address, she highlighted opportunities for expanding exports of Indian traditional medicines and strengthening India–UAE partnerships, underscoring the role of evidence-based traditional medicine in advancing global collaborations and sustainable wellness ecosystems.



India State Climate Investment Forum 2026

18 Feb, 2026 | **Mumbai**

Subhodeep Basu (Fellow, ICRIER), spoke at the India State Climate Investment Forum 2026 in an expert roundtable on “*Distributed Renewable Energy as a Catalyst for Growth: The Case for Agrivoltaics in Maharashtra.*” The discussions examined the scale of the agrivoltaics opportunity in Maharashtra, structural and programmatic constraints, policy and market signals shaping investment decisions, and indicators for moving from pilots to portfolios.



Think Tank Breakfast Roundtable on AI Governance | On the Sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026

18 Feb, 2026 | **New Delhi**

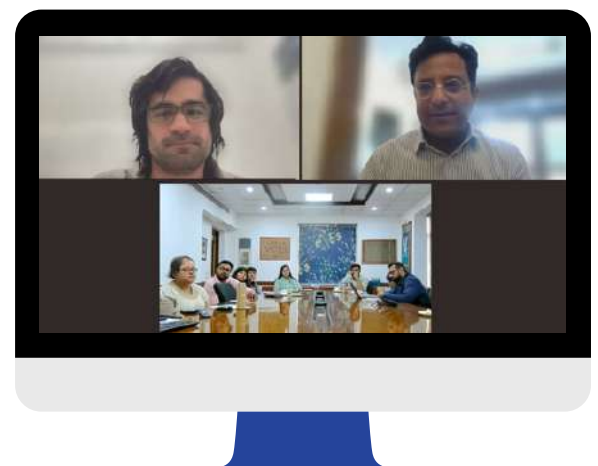
ICRIER–Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy and the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue co-organized a Think Tank Breakfast Roundtable. The session brought together senior policymakers and experts to discuss the evolution of AI regulatory frameworks, identify areas of convergence, divergence, and complementarity, and surface shared priorities and red lines for future EU–India cooperation on AI governance.



Greenplexity: Generating Economic Growth in the Energy Transition

20 Feb, 2026 | **Virtual**

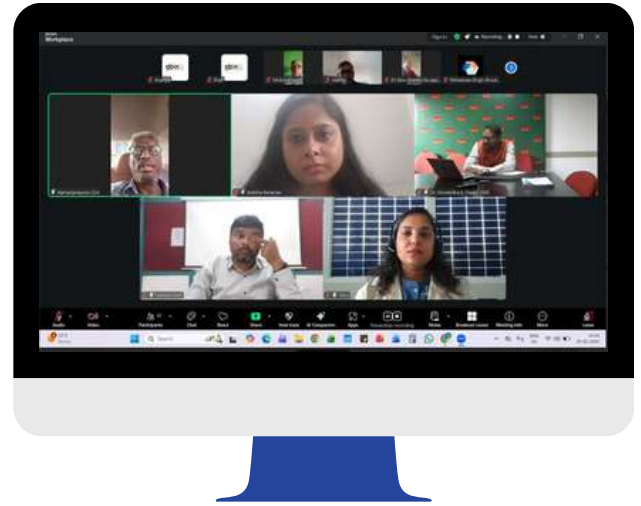
ICRIER hosted a webinar titled “*Greenplexity: Generating Economic Growth in the Energy Transition.*” The session featured a presentation by Ketan Ahuja (Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School’s Growth Lab), who outlined the Greenplexity framework and its implications for growth in the low-carbon transition. Amrita Goldar (Senior Fellow, ICRIER) offered discussant remarks on the policy and practice implications.



Panel Discussion on Business Viability and Returns in Agrivoltaics

20 Feb, 2026 | **Virtual**

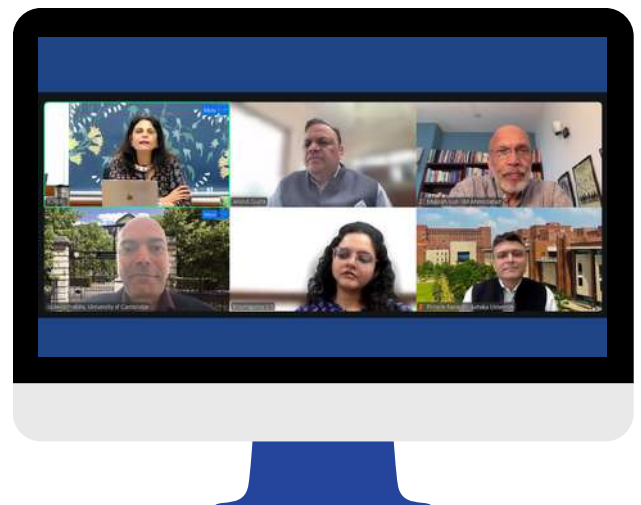
Bidisha Banerjee (Research Associate, ICRIER), contributed to a panel discussion on Business Viability and Returns in Agrivoltaics, organized by Greenovation Hub in association with SwitchON Foundation and EarthON Foundation USA. She brought a strong technical and systems perspective to the discussion on advancing viable agrivoltaic models. In the session, she discussed which crops and farming systems in India are most compatible with agrivoltaics and unpacked the technical trade-offs between power generation and agricultural productivity. Her insights emphasized that agrivoltaics is not about maximizing megawatts or crop yields in isolation, but about optimizing overall land productivity through thoughtful system design.



Navigating India's Startup Innovation Landscape: Discussion on the Book LeanSpark: Frugal by Design, Global in Impact

24 Feb, 2026 | **Virtual**

ICRIER hosted a discussion on the book "*LeanSpark: Frugal by Design, Global in Impact*," exploring India's evolving startup and innovation ecosystem. The session opened with remarks by Payal Malik (Visiting Professor, ICRIER) followed by a presentation by Jaideep Prabhu (Co-author), highlighting key ideas from the book and the LeanSpark framework of innovation. The discussion examined how frugal, resource-efficient innovation models emerging from India can help technology startups build scalable and globally relevant solutions. Co-author Arvind Gupta offered discussant remarks, reflecting on the implications of these ideas for India's startup ecosystem and digital innovation landscape.



Launch of the 3C-SET Consortium at World Sustainable Development Summit 2026

25 Feb, 2026 | **New Delhi**

ICRIER has joined the 3C-SET Consortium, launched at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2026 under the track "*Securing Tomorrow: Critical Minerals and Circular Economy for Clean Energy Transition*," hosted by TERI and ACPET. The initiative focuses on strengthening collaboration around critical minerals and circular economy approaches that are essential for the clean energy transition. As part of the consortium, ICRIER will contribute policy research and analytical insights to support evidence-based strategies that connect resource security, circular economy systems, and India's broader clean energy ambitions.



SPOTLIGHT: NEW RESEARCH



Interactions of Artificial Intelligence with India's Labour Market: Devising an AI-for-Labour Model Using the Productivity, Inclusivity, and Entrepreneurship Framework

Authors: *Payal Malik, Nikita Jain*

This policy brief analyses how AI is interacting with India's labour market using structural and task-based approaches and Indian datasets. It finds that AI's impact will be uneven across sectors, posing limited displacement risks, creating upgrading opportunities and generating productivity gains in public sectors. The study calls for a policy strategy focused on skills, diffusion, and institutional readiness to ensure inclusive AI-led growth.



Securing India's Critical Mineral Future: Geopolitical Foresight, Research Priorities, and Institutional Culture for Cobalt, Lithium, and Nickel

Author: *Amit Kumar*

This policy brief examines India's growing dependence on critical minerals, essential for its clean energy transition, and the geopolitical risks embedded in concentrated global supply chains. Using a Dependency Risk Index (DRI), it maps India's exposure to supply disruptions, price volatility, and strategic leverage. The study calls for data-driven policies spanning overseas partnerships, domestic recycling, substitution, and international cooperation to strengthen energy security and strategic autonomy.



Ethics and Governance of AI: A Synthesis Report

Author: *Shiva Kanwar*

Drawing on a four-part webinar series designed to foreground ethical and governance considerations in the lead-up to India's AI Impact Summit 2026, and convened by ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE), this report synthesises key debates on AI governance, including regulation of AI value chains, sustainability, governance and responsibility, and AI sovereignty. It identifies cross-cutting themes across the webinars and translates them into strategic considerations for India's positioning in global AI governance.



AI and Jobs | This Time Is No Different: A Case Study of India's IT Sector

Authors: Deepak Mishra, Mansi Kedia, Aarti Reddy, Cledwyn Fernandez, and Agrima Khanduri

Based on a survey of 651 IT firms across 10 Indian cities, this study examines the employment impact of generative AI in India's IT sector. It finds no evidence of large-scale job losses, while demand has grown for AI-exposed technical roles. Most firms report productivity gains and cost efficiencies. The findings suggest that, like earlier general-purpose technologies, generative AI is likely to expand markets and support net job creation, though outcomes could shift with more advanced AI deployment.

IN THE NEWS

Finance Minister has bypassed large parts of farm sector

Authors: Ashok Gulati & Purvi Thangaraj | 02 Feb, 2026 | *The Indian Express*

Business as usual in agri-food space

Author: Ashok Gulati | 02 Feb, 2026 | *Financial Express*

Big deal: Why the India-US trade agreement is likely to spell significant gains for both partners

Author: Arpita Mukherjee | 03 Feb, 2026 | *Livemint*

Why it works for both sides: Relief for exports, choices for agriculture

Author: Ashok Gulati | 08 Feb, 2026 | *Times of India*

India-EU free trade agreement: Does it brighten prospects for India's agricultural exports?

Authors: Arpita Mukherjee & Latika Khatwani | 09 Feb, 2026 | *Livemint*

From code to care: Making gender central to India's AI future

Authors: Shravani Prakash, Tanu M. Goyal & Keshav Sachdeva | 14 Feb, 2026 | *Economic Times*

PODCAST



The Interim Agreement between the two sides paves the way for a good Indo-US Bilateral Trade Agreement

Arpita Mukherjee (Professor, ICRIER), in conversation with Puja Mehra, discusses how an interim agreement between India and the United States could lay the foundation for a robust bilateral trade agreement.



The economic significance of Supreme Court's observations about WhatsApp's data policies

Payal Malik (Visiting Professor, ICRIER), in conversation with Puja Mehra, discusses the economic and regulatory implications of the Supreme Court's observations on WhatsApp's data policies, and what they mean for India's digital markets.

IN THE NEWS

On agriculture, India-US deal opens doors with caution, and with quota systems

Author: Ashok Gulati | 16 Feb, 2026
The Indian Express

Indo-US trade deal is not a surrender

Author: Ashok Gulati | 16 Feb, 2026 | Financial Express

CCI vs WhatsApp is a pivotal battle for India's digital space

Authors: Gaurav Jakhu, Payal Malik & Maria Khan | 19 Feb, 2026 | The Indian Express

The US tariff ruling gives India a stronger hand to play

Author: Shekhar Aiyar | 25 Feb, 2026
Livemint

India-China trade: Why a clear sectoral export strategy is imperative now

Authors: Nisha Taneja and Vasudha Upreti
25 Feb, 2026 | Economic Times

The India-EU free trade agreement: What it means for globalisation, WTO and carbon border adjustments

Author: Arpita Mukherjee | 26 Feb, 2026
Livemint

PODCAST



US Supreme Court Ruling Improves India's Bargaining Position

In this episode, Shekhar Aiyar (Director & CE, ICRIER), joins Puja Mehra to discuss how the recent US Supreme Court ruling strengthens India's bargaining position in trade negotiations.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT



Diya Dasgupta is a Fellow in the CCUS Team at ICRIER. She works on renewable energy, climate financing, climate negotiations, energy modelling etc. At ICRIER, she has contributed to a number of projects such as assessing the financial requirement for implementing NDCs in India (funded by the Ministry of Finance), preparing reports for climate negotiations between India and China (funded by the World Resources Institute), affordable housing for the urban poor (funded by GIZ) etc. She has also assisted on projects such as linking of tourism and waste sector in Uttarakhand using an input output model (funded by MOEF&CC). Diya holds a Master's degree in Economics from TERI School of Advanced Studies. Her research interests include resource efficiency, green financing, renewable energy and trade.