



Welcome to ICRIER's September 2023 newsletter. This edition highlights our G20 Roundup (Special Edition), events, publications, and op-eds from August 2023.

ICRIER has been privileged to be part of India's G20 Presidency, which has been a huge success. Our contributions covered various areas, including strengthening Multilateral Development Banks, improving MSMEs access to information, and helping in drafting of meeting outcome documents. Our colleagues were also involved in preparing documents related to financial inclusion, digital connectivity, gender divides, and advocating for the inclusion of the African Union in the G20. In addition to our role as the secretariat of the G20 Independent Expert Group, we were also recognized for facilitating collaborations with leading think tanks and experts.

Last month we released the WHO report titled "WHO Report Release: An Analysis of Trends, Issues, and Policy Recommendations for Ultra-processed Foods in India." We also published a Policy Brief on the "Evolution of Indian Data Protection Law: A Primer", and a report on "Innovations to Get Markets Right: Emerging Ecosystem of Agritech Startups and FPOs." ICRIER hosted two significant events: "Re-purposing Public Policies and Programs in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity" and "Towards Optimal Pathways for Decarbonizing the Indian Steel Sector." Our esteemed faculty also contributed op-eds, addressing topics like India's G20 presidency, climate action, and data protection laws, showcasing our diverse research portfolio.

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ICRIER's engagement in the G20 process and the Delhi Declaration

By any yardstick, India's G20 Presidency has been a grand success. Though the G20 Summit was a two-day sprint, the preparatory work was a year-long marathon that started before India took over the presidency on 1 December, 2022. For ICRIER, it has been a matter of great pride and privilege to serve as the G20 knowledge partner to several ministries and agencies. In addition, several of our senior faculty members played a key role in the Think Tank-20 process. ICRIER's work on G20 will continue beyond the Indian Presidency, as we are beginning to collaborate with several development partners to track the progress on measures enunciated in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (see adjacent figure). The attached document provides a summary of ICRIER's engagements in the G20 process and their reflections on the Delhi Declaration.

[Read more](#)



EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

Re-purposing Public Policies and Programs in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity

The "Project Inception Workshop on Re-purposing Public Policies and Programs in Agriculture for Protecting Biodiversity" took place on 24 August, 2023, at ICRIER, New Delhi. The workshop featured distinguished speakers, including Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head of Climate Adaptation, NRM, and Biodiversity at UNDP, Dr. B. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Chairperson of NBA, and Prof. Ashok Gulati, Distinguished Professor at ICRIER. The event aimed to foster a meaningful discussion on biodiversity conservation within the agricultural sector, exploring innovative ways to integrate it into development schemes.



WHO Report Release: The Growth of Ultra-processed Foods in India: An Analysis of Trends, Issues and Policy Recommendations

The WHO report titled 'The Growth of Ultra-processed Foods in India: An Analysis of Trends, Issues, and Policy Recommendations' was released on 22 August, 2023. Researchers from the economic think-tank ICRIER and WHO India authored the report. Highlighting that India is one of the first countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to develop a National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Common NCDs, which provides a framework for a coordinated response across sectors, the report emphasizes that policy and program implementation, with a focus on the consumer, and in collaboration with stakeholders at all levels, will create a conducive environment for healthy eating and a healthy India.

Download Report: [The Growth of Ultra-processed Foods in India...](#)

Click [here](#) to watch the event



Towards Optimal Pathways for Decarbonizing the Indian Steel Sector

ICRIER hosted the "Towards Optimal Pathways for Decarbonizing the Indian Steel Sector" event on 8 August, 2023, in New Delhi, featuring prominent speakers such as Nitin Desai, Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Sachin Kumar, Director of the Industry, Buildings & Cooling Programme at Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. Key takeaways included the need to support India's MSME sectors, internal carbon pricing for innovation, government backing for decarbonization technologies, and simplifying carbon tax systems by replacing outdated fossil fuel taxation methods. These insights are pivotal in the quest to decarbonize India's low-carbon steel industry. Click [here](#) to watch the discussion



PUBLICATIONS

Evolution of India's Data Protection Law: A Primer

Author(s): Ms. Shiva Kanwar, Mr. Mayank Manish

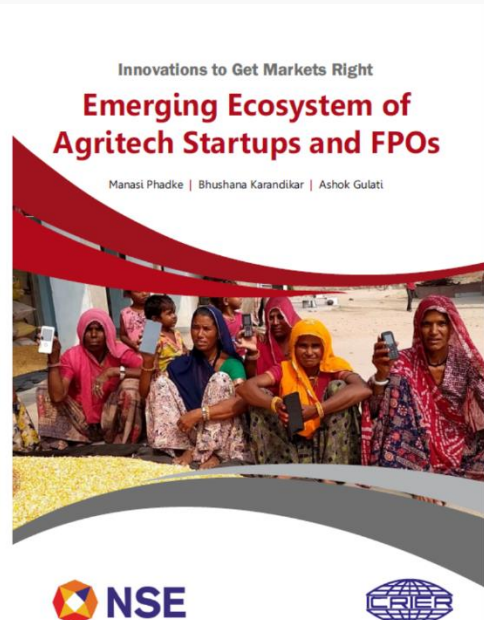
This policy brief is intended as a primer on the evolution of India's data protection law. It briefly recounts how the law was developed through different drafts and consultations. It also provides a comparison of different versions of the law on its overall remit as well as provisions for data breaches, right to be forgotten, right to data portability, data localisation, exempted parties, impact assessment, institutional framework, harms, compensation and penalties. We find that the current version of the Digital Data Protection Act, 2023, has changed track on various provisions when compared to previous iterations. [Read more](#)



Innovations to Get Markets Right: Emerging Ecosystem of Agritech Startups and FPOs

Author(s): Dr. Ashok Gulati, Dr. Manasi Phadke, Ms. Bhushana Karandikar

This report examines historic challenges within India's agricultural markets, including fragmented value chains and logistical inefficiencies. Recent reforms, promoting direct trade, contract farming, and private sector involvement, have transformed the landscape. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) play a central role. Agritech startups are pivotal in driving innovation, introducing online marketplaces, digital FPOs, and advanced storage solutions. These developments are enhancing agricultural markets and benefitting farmers. [Read more](#)



SPOTLIGHT

Meet Dr. Reena Singh: Microbiology Expert Driving Agricultural Sustainability

Dr. Reena Singh, a Senior Fellow in the Agricultural Policy, Sustainability, and Innovation (APSI) Team, brings a wealth of expertise in microbiology, particularly in mycorrhiza technologies. With over two decades of experience, Dr. Singh's work has revolved around sustainable agriculture, climate change, and wasteland management. She has contributed to defining research areas, conducting policy analysis, value chain analysis, and successfully executing projects involving multiple stakeholders, showcasing her commitment to innovation and sustainability. To learn more about our faculty members, please [click here](#)

SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Reena Singh

Senior Fellow, ICRIER

I have spent two years at ICRIER, and during my working tenure, I found that this organization extends a vibrant and welcoming space to new ideas and new colleagues. At ICRIER, I am enjoying my interface between science & policies. The working culture is very healthy and transparent here. Senior Faculty members are dynamic, experienced and provide mentorship to younger colleagues. The team members are enthusiastic and talented. Through different fora, the institute offers immense learning opportunities.

GROWTH EMPLOYMENT AND MACROECONOMY (GEM)

Op-eds | Media appearances:

[A major impact of India's G20 presidency is the recognition that digital public infrastructure is an inclusive and efficient way to provide public service delivery](#)

Deepak Mishra | Business Today | August, 2023

[Foreign Trade Policy 2023: India don't spend much on infrastructure](#)

Arpita Mukherjee | Economics Unplugged | 10 August, 2023

[How sweet is India's spot?](#)

Shankar Acharya | Business Standard | 09 August, 2023

[Opportunity for India to become the Global Edutech Hub](#)

Arpita Mukherjee, Pranavi Khaitan | TPCI | 04 August, 2023





Op-eds | Media appearances:

[The hunger challenge](#)

Ashok Gulati | Indian Express / Financial Express | 21 August, 2023

[Agriculture, Economics, and Policy with Dr Ashok Gulati](#)

Podcast | New India Junction | 19 August, 2023

[Use maize instead of grain for ethanol](#)

Ashok Gulati | Mint | 17 August, 2023

[Going beyond the GDP bronze](#)

Ashok Gulati, Purvi Thangaraj | Financial Express / Indian Express | 07 August, 2023

[On Serious Business: food inflation, price rise, what the future holds for tomatoes and more](#)

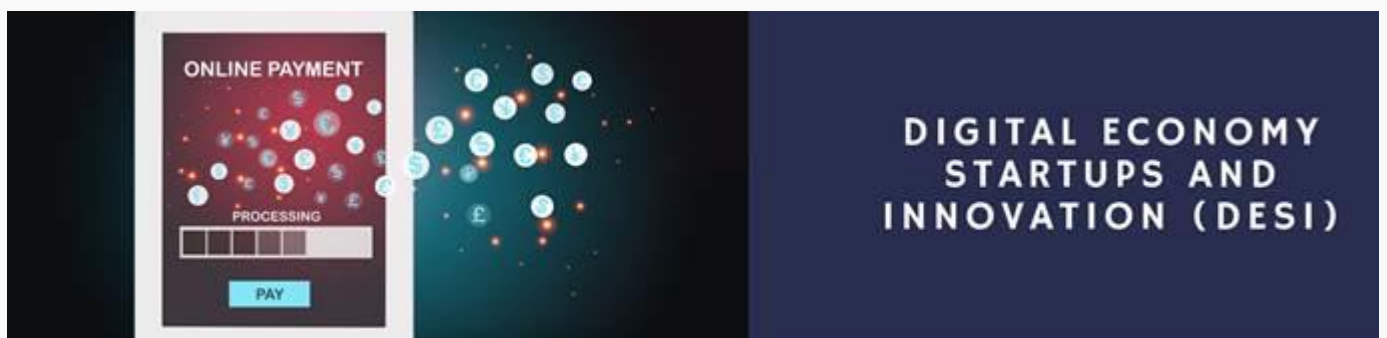
Ashok Gulati | NDTV | 5 August, 2023

[Preserve topsoil for sustainable future](#)

Ranjana Roy, Prerna Terway | Deccan Herald | 01 August, 2023

[Fear of subpar rice harvest has led to export bans — the impact and a warning on 'overproduction'](#)

Ashok Gulati | CNBC18 | 01 August, 2023



Op-eds | Media appearances:

[In talks with Prof A Damodaran, Distinguished Professor, ICRIER| BW Web3.0 Summit & Awards 2023](#)

B W Businessworld | 14 August, 2023

[LTGs should pay a broadband infra levy proportional to their internet traffic](#)

V Sridhar, Rohit Prasad, Mansi Kedia | Economic Times | 14 August, 2023





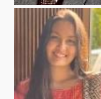
Op-eds | Media appearances:

[India's G20 presidency: Financing the green transition](#)

Somit Dasgupta | Indian Express | 30 August, 2023

[Protectionism isn't climate action](#)

Somit Dasgupta, Diya Dasgupta | Financial Express | 23 August, 2023



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