EVENTS & ENGAGEMENTS

[G20 Annual International Conference, 2024]

October 03, 2024 | New Delhi

In early October, ICRIER, in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, hosted its annual G20 conference, bringing together leading policymakers and experts to discuss progress on India's G20 priorities as Brazil takes up the mantle and to explore actionable goals for South Africa's future presidency.

Panel 01: Putting MDB Reforms in the Fast Lane
Chaired by Masood Ahmed, President Emeritus, Centre for Global Development, the panel included distinguished voices such as Suma Chakrabarti (former President, EBRD), Anil Kishora (VP & Chief Risk Officer, NDB), Vera Songwe (Brookings Institution), and Auguste Tano Kouame (World Bank)

Panel 02: Financial Inclusion through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Innovation
Chaired by V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India, the panel featured Chanchal Chand Sarkar (G20 GPFI Co-Chair), Dilip Asbe (CEO, NPCI), Maha El Dimachki (BIS Innovation Hub), and Nontobeko P. L. (South Africa's National Treasury).

[Bretton Woods at 80: Priorities for the Next Decade]

October 23, 2024 | Hybrid

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the Center for Global Development and ICRIER hosted a dynamic discussion on the evolving roles of these institutions. The event addressed the unprecedented challenges facing the Bretton Woods Twins today, including climate change, financial instability, and increasing geopolitical tensions. Key speakers included **Nirmala Sitharaman,** Finance Minister of India; **Carlos Cuerpo,** Spain's Minister of Economy; **Rania Al Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt; and **Lawrence H. Summers,** President Emeritus of Harvard University and CGD Chair. Moderated by **Masood Ahmed,** the panel explored whether the World Bank and IMF remain equipped to navigate the complexities of the 21st century and maintain their legitimacy in a rapidly changing world.

[Book Launch: Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in India]

Distinguished Professor, Dr. Ashok Gulati, Dr. Raya Das, Fellow, ICRIER and Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson, Professor, **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** launched the book "Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in India" at the UIUC. This book is a joint collaboration with ICRIER and The ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss .

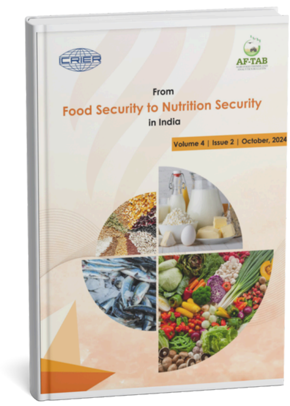
Read the book online.
You can also buy it on Amazon.
Link: https://amzn.in/d/2wZhzte

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MDB Reforms in the Slow Lane: Findings from a Global Survey of Experts, 2024

Author(s): Deepak Mishra, Tanu M. Goyal, and Havishaye Puri

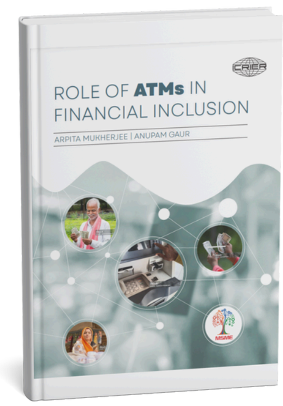
ICRIER, in partnership with Brookings, CGD, and ODI, surveyed global experts on the progress of MDB reforms under India's G20 Presidency, focusing on vision, mission, and capacity building. The results highlight slow and inconsistent progress, with MDBs expanding their focus to global challenges like climate change and pandemic preparedness. However, despite this broader mandate, necessary reforms for greater effectiveness, resilience, and impact have been slow to materialise.



FROM FOOD SECURITY TO NUTRITION SECURITY IN INDIA

Author(s): Ashok Gulati, Sulakshana Rao, Reena Singh, Purvi Thangaraj, Ranjana Roy, and Raya Das

Achieving SDG 2 of Zero Hunger by 2030 remains a major challenge, with 733 million people experiencing hunger in 2023 and 2.33 billion facing food insecurity. The pandemic and geopolitical disruptions worsened food supply chains and inequalities, especially in Asia, which has over half of the global hungry population. Eradicating hunger requires a shift from food security to comprehensive food and nutrition security.



ROLE OF ATMS IN FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Author(s): Arpita Mukherjee, and Anupam Gaur

Financial inclusion, defined by the RBI as universal, affordable access to diverse financial services, is crucial for economic growth and poverty reduction in India. Key initiatives, like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and SHG-bank linkage programs, have expanded financial access, raising adult bank account ownership from 35% in 2011 to 78% in 2021. However, 22% of adults remain unbanked, and 35% of accounts are inactive. Rural access remains limited due to high operational costs and infrastructure challenges, with only 26% of commercial banking outlets in rural areas.

Towards Greater Regulatory Co-operation in the Asia-Pacific for Boosting E-Commerce Trade

Author(s): Arpita Mukherjee, Ketaki Gaikwad, and Aahana Srishti

The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, representing over half of the world's population and 35% of global GDP, is the largest and fastest-growing e-commerce market, valued at $2.9 trillion in 2022 and projected to reach $6.1 trillion by 2030. This growth, driven by urbanization, rising incomes, and 4IR technology adoption, has disrupted traditional supply chains and created a need for robust regulatory frameworks to support cross-border trade. This paper explores APAC's e-commerce growth, highlights policy challenges, and offers recommendations to support MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, and cross-border e-commerce.

THE EVOLUTION OF BHARATNET: LESSONS FROM INDIA'S LARGEST RURAL BROADBAND PROJECT

Author(s): Bhargavee Das and Krithika Ramnath

Launched in 2011, BharatNet aims to deliver affordable broadband to rural India, with progress bolstered by flexible implementation guidelines. This policy brief outlines five key lessons for BharatNet's success: focusing on infrastructure and monetization, enabling flexible, coordinated implementation models, adopting diverse technologies for remote areas, strengthening monitoring, and tailoring interventions for NE and backward regions. These align with the Digital Bharat Nidhi rules in the 2023 Telecommunications Act.

IN THE MEDIA

Somit Dasgupta

Climate agenda in Baku

October 30, 2024 | Financial Express

This is why India cannot phase out coal like the UK

October 29, 2024 | The Indian Express

Pumped Storage Plants: Are we doing enough?

October 21, 2024 | Powerline

Gaps in adaptation finance

October 02, 2024 | Financial Express

Ashok Gulati

Bidisha Chanda

Ranjana Das

Why inflation on prices of tomatoes, onions, and potatoes particularly remains a pain point for RBI

October 28, 2024 | The Indian Express

Ashok Gulati

The problem with the right to free food

October 15, 2024 | The Indian Express

Reena Singh

Purvi Thangaraj

Ritika Juneja

Ashok Gulati

Saving Punjab and Haryana from ecological disaster

October 06, 2024 | Hindustan Times

Responding to chip headwinds

October 15, 2024 | Financial Express

A. Damodaran

Mansi Kedia

Sruthi Vanguri

How to realise the full potential of Digital Public Infrastructure

October 21, 2024 | The Indian Express

Arpita Mukherjee

Aahana Srishti

E-commerce for women

October 07, 2024 | Hindu Businessline

MEET THE TEAM

DR. SUVANGI RATH, FELLOW, ICRIER

Dr. Suvangi Rath, a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, specializes in valuing agricultural ecosystem services and collaborates with national and international research institutes. A gold medalist and philanthropic entrepreneur, she founded Vigyan Varta, an e-magazine for science enthusiasts. Suvangi's accolades include an International Study Visit Travel Grant from the UK's Agricultural Economics Society to attend the Swiss Climate Summer School in 2023. Her work encompasses journal articles, book chapters, and reports, with interests in compering, music, poetry, and cultural activities.