



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2018 | VOL. II, ISSUE 1

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## NEWSLETTER

The January 2018 Issue of the Newsletter features ICRIER's research and policy engagement during the month of December 2017. The year end was particularly and suitably productive. ICRIER hosted the 19th Edition of the Annual Neemrana Conference in which leading US and Indian economists, policy makers and thought leaders participated in stimulating closed door sessions spread over three days. Other key events included, the dissemination of our research findings on Online Freelancing in collaboration with LirneAsia, Launch of the World Inequality Report 2018 along with the Paris School of Economics and the launch of World Bank's '*Trouble in the Making? The Future of Manufacturing-Led Development*'. We initiated "Samvaad", a new dialogue series on India's social sector in collaboration with the Ford Foundation. The first dialogue focused squarely on data challenges for accurately measuring employment. ICRIER's presence in research and public policy was also reflected in a host of media articles published by leading newspapers besides blogs on a variety of issues ranging from WTO, urbanization, jobs, organic food, agri-innovations to the larger concerns of India's economic slowdown and the changing dynamics of a multi-polar international order. This issue of the Newsletter will give you a bird's eye view of our activities during the month of December 2017 and we hope you take a few moments to glance over these and also dig deeper into anything that interests you. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

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### BOOKS, REPORTS, WORKING PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS

#### **Future of Work in a Digital Era: The Potential and Challenges for Online Freelancing and Microwork in India**

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia, Gangesh Varma, Kaushambi Bagchi and Saumitra Khullar

#### **Agricultural Commodity Futures: Searching for Potential Winners**

Ashok Gulati, Tirtha Chatterjee and Siraj Hussain

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### SEMINARS, LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

#### **Conference on 19th Annual Neemrana Conference**

15 Dec 2017

#### **Research Dissemination on Online Freelancing: Challenges, Opportunities and Impact in India**

27 Dec 2017

#### **Launch of the World Inequality Report 2018**

20 Dec 2017

### **Seminar on Indian Darwinomics and Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP) India**

12 Dec 2017

### **“Samvaad” Dialogue 1: Revamping the Statistical Architecture for Robust Data on Jobs in India – A Dialogue on India’s Employment Data**

11 Dec 2017

### **Roundtable Session on Role of Agricultural Extension in India**

08 Dec 2017

### **Book Dissemination on Trouble in the Making? The Future of Manufacturing-Led Development**

07 Dec 2017

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## **OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA**

### **Deep states & shallow leadership | Business Standard Column**

Jaimini Bhagwati | *Business Standard* | 29 Dec, 2017

In his farewell address on January 17, 1961, the then US President Dwight D. Eisenhower said: “In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex”. President Eisenhower was probably referring to ...

### **Segregation must begin at home**

Isher Judge Ahluwalia | *The Indian Express / The Financial Express* | 27 Dec, 2017

The middle and upper-income classes ought to recognise their critical role in the solid waste management chain and live up to it. ... The Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 clearly state that every waste generator which includes every household, “shall segregate waste and store ...

### **There is a language to employability; it can make a difference to pay**

Sitakanta Panda | *The Financial Express* | 25 Dec, 2017

Students, parents and policymakers must try for a harmonious balance between education in vernacular language and English skills so that rural or local-language speaking students can excel in studies and careers. This will bring down wage gaps and economic inequalities.

### **Tarkash: Farm Distress in the Country**

Ashok Gulati | *Rajya Sabha TV* | 25 Dec, 2017

In this programme anchor Shyam Sunder has discussed issues related to farm distress in the country with Dr Gulati.

### **PM Modi wants India to cut urea consumption to half by 2020**

Ashok Gulati & Ranjana Roy | *The Indian express / The Financial Express* | 18 Dec, 2017

Prime minister Narendra Modi gave a clarion call to farmers to cut urea consumption by half by 2022, in his Mann ki Baat address on November 26, 2017. He cited an example of farmers in Tohu village in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh who increased wheat productivity by three times

### **WTO Summit: Why Buenos Aires Ministerial was a non-event**

Anwarul Hoda | *The Financial Express* | 18 Dec, 2017

The 11 Ministerial Conference (MC11) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ended on December 13, 2017, as it had begun—without any fervour. At Nairobi in 2015—during MC10—there was a major agreement eliminating export subsidies in agriculture

### **Waiting for jobs - Ideas for India**

Radhicka Kapoor | *ideasforindia* | 14 Dec, 2017

Assessing the extent of job creation in India is constrained by lack of comprehensive, real-time employment data. This column presents statistics from a detailed analysis of multiple

data sources and surveys to examine latest employment trends. It confirms the languid pace of job ...

### **2017: A year of troublesome twins**

**Shankar Acharya | *Business Standard* | 14 Dec, 2017**

The first refers to the “twin shocks” of demonetisation (Demon for short) of November 2016 and the implementation challenges of the new goods and services tax (GST) from July 2017. The second refers to the legacy problems of the long-festering “twin balance sheet” burden of massive non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks...

### **Why Internet must come in India first and Net Neutrality later**

**Rajat Kathuria | *The Financial Express* | 09 Dec, 2017**

The next step is for DoT to implement the recommendations either in toto or in part, as it sees fit. Given that DoT is currently immersed in formulating a new telecom policy, Trai's recommendations could serve as input.

### **From Plate to Plough: Agri-futures, like China**

**Ashok Gulati and Tirtha Chatterjee | *The Indian Express* | 05 Dec, 2017**

A robust futures market helps China's farmers get better prices for their produce. India must begin by allowing prospecting only for non-sensitive commodities.

### **Reviving Indian agri-futures: Can Modi government take bold step**

**Ashok Gulati and Tirtha Chatterjee | *The Financial Express* | 04 Dec, 2017**

In November 2017, prices of most of the major kharif crops crashed below their respective minimum support prices (MSPs), triggering farm distress.

### **Like GST, we need a similar effort for agriculture: Siraj Hussain**

**Siraj Hussain | *Economic Times* | 04 Dec, 2017**

Siraj Hussain, Former Agriculture Secretary, discuss how the kind of reforms which the country demands, which the financial press demands, which the media demands for industries, the same kind of intensity is not seen for reforms in agriculture sector.

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Please feel free to share contact details of others who may be interested in receiving ICRIER's Newsletter, papers, publications and notices regarding seminars, workshops, conferences, etc.

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