



**November 2019 | Vol. III, Issue 11**

The November 2019 issue of the Newsletter provides a quick recap of ICRIER's research and policy engagements during the month of October 2019.

Three research reports were released by ICRIER last month in the areas of competition, trade and investment and climate change (See below).

ICRIER also organized consultation workshops, dissemination and outreach events during the month. ICRIER researchers published several articles in leading newspapers and other media platforms on a variety of current issues such as growth, agriculture, trade, FTAs, RCEP, single use plastics and the Economics Nobel. We sincerely hope that you will take a few moments to glance through these updates and engage further with anything that interests you. We hope you enjoy the newsletter's new format. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

## **Book, Reports, Working Papers and Policy Briefs**



## Competition Issues in India's Mobile Handset Industry

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia and Kaushambi Bagchi

Mobile phones have been the key to India's technology revolution. India is the second largest mobile phone market globally, next only to China. At the end of 2018, the estimated number of smart phone users in India was 337 million, compared to 2.53 billion users worldwide. One would imagine that the exponential increase in cheaper smart phone models would displace the market for feature phones; to the contrary, feature phones continue to dominate the Indian market. While smart phone and feature phone shipments in 2018Q3 were about the same, a comparison of growth rates shows that both phablets (*large screen smartphones*) and regular smartphones eclipse feature phones.

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## Exploring Trade and Investment Opportunities between India and Select African and Asian Economies

Anirudh Shingal, Neha Gupta, Minakshee Das, Akshaya Aggarwal and Varsha Jain

Using descriptive statistical analysis, this study examines trade and investment opportunities between India and 41 African and Asian economies (mostly LDCs) by focusing on the latter's export opportunities in the Indian market and on India's investment opportunities in the selected countries. It also discusses barriers to realizing

the identified trade and investment opportunities between India and the selected economies, based on a review of the existing literature.

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## **Financing Resilience against Natural Disasters**

[Saon Ray, Samridhi Jain and Vasundhara Thakur](#)

Disaster Risk Resilience can be interpreted as global policies working for improving disaster risk reduction. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is the guiding principle for efforts to improve resilience worldwide. This report links the global efforts for disaster risk reduction with resilient infrastructure. The report analyses the applicability of popular instruments for emerging economies, the role of the private sector, and challenges to implementation of resilience framework. It maps the evolution and status of disaster risk financing in India.

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## Seminars, Conferences and Workshop



### **ICANN66 Pre-Meeting Briefing**

18 Oct 2019

ICRIER hosted the ICANN66 Pre-Meeting Briefing on 18th October 2019 for its Indian stakeholders. This edition of the Pre-Meeting Briefing looked closely at the developments between ICANN65 and ICANN66 and highlighted some of the key policy discussions currently underway at ICANN. The event witnessed participation from various stakeholders from India, including representatives from the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), National Internet Exchange of India (‘.in’ registry) along with Indian representatives active in various policy development processes at ICANN. ICANN 65 was held in Montreal, Canada, between 2-7 November 2019. ICRIER will also be hosting the ICANN66 Readout during the first week of December 2019 to highlight some of the key takeaways from ICANN66.

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## Dissemination of the Report

# Exploring Trade and Investment Opportunities Between India and Select African and Asian Economies

October 14, 2019, New Delhi



## Dissemination of the India-LDCs Trade and Investment Study

14 Oct 2019

ICRIER organised Dissemination of the Report Exploring Trade and Investment Opportunities between India and Select African and Asian Economies on October 14, 2019 at Magnolia Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director & CE, ICRIER and the Introductory Session was Chaired by Dr. Jayant Dasgupta, IAS (Retd.) Former Ambassador of India to the WTO. Dr. Anirudh Shingal, Sr. Fellow, ICRIER presented the key findings of the report, which was followed by a Panel discussion Chaired by Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER.

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**OUR MONTHLY MEDIA RECAP**



## Market Incentives, Direct Income Support for Farmers are far more Effective in Increasing Agricultural Productivity

Ashok Gulati, Sakshi Gupta | Indian Express | October 31, 2019

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## Cities at Crossroads: Single-use Plastic only Part of the Challenge

Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Almitra Patel | The Financial Express/Indian Express | October 30, 2019

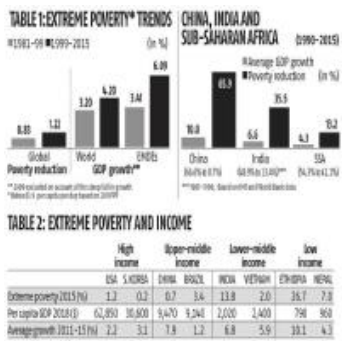
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## From Plate to Plough: Agri-Policy Lessons from China

Ashok Gulati & Sakshi Gupta | The Financial Express | October 29, 2019

[Read more](#)



## Growth, Income, Poverty and the Nobel

Alok Sheel | The Business Standard | October 25, 2019

[Read more](#)



## Understanding the RCEP with Rajat Kathuria

Rajat Kathuria | [Interpreting India](#) | October 24, 2019

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Assumption: Nominal growth 11.1% pa			Assumptions: Rupee depreciation 2.8% Inflation 3.6% pa		
Depreciation (%)	Implied real growth (%)	\$5 trillion achieved	Real growth (%)	\$5 trillion achieved	
0.3	10.8	Mar 25	10	Mar 25	
3.1	8.0	Mar 27	8	Mar 27	
4.1	7.0	Mar 28	7	Mar 28	
5.1	6.0	Mar 30	6	Mar 29	
6.1	5.0	Mar 32	5	Mar 30	

## The Five-trillion Math

Alok Sheel | [The Business Standard](#) | October 20, 2019

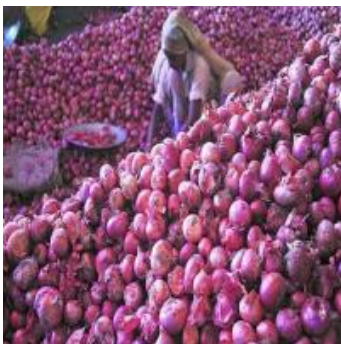
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## Policy | Has PM-Kisan Belied Expectations?

Siraj Hussain | [Moneycontrol.com](#) | October 17, 2019

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## How Govt can Control Sudden Spike in Prices of Onion and Tomato

Ashok Gulati & Harsh Wardhan | [The Financial Express/The Indian Express](#) | October 14, 2019

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## **Best of BS Opinion: Corporate Tax Cuts, Pollution Challenge ...**

Shankar Acharya | [The Business Standard](#) | October 10, 2019

[Read more](#)



## **India's Trade with its FTA Partners: Experiences, Challenges ...**

Durgesh K. Rai | [The Economic Times](#) | October 7, 2019

[Read more](#)



## **India's Trade Policy Should Lend an Ear to a Wider Range of Voices**

Ujjwal Krishna & Amrita Saha | [Livemint](#) | October 3, 2019

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## **Monsoon's Late Surge Helps, But Floods Hurt Crop Prospects**

Siraj Hussain | [BloombergQuint](#) | October 1, 2019

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