



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

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NEWSLETTER

The March 2018 Issue of the Newsletter features ICRIER's research and policy engagement during the month of February 2018. ICRIER hosted the new Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF who spoke on "Helping the IMF adapt to new realities: the role of independent evaluation". A closed door roundtable on Jobs in India: Are we on the right Track and Green Growth and the Right to Energy were other seminars held during the month. ICRIER's presence in research and public policy was also reflected in a several media articles published in leading newspapers by our staff. Additionally, we also had a series of blog posts on a variety of issues ranging from Budget 2018, 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. We hope you take a few moments to glance over these and engage more exhaustively with anything that interests you. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

BOOKS, REPORTS, WORKING PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS

Crop Insurance in India: Key Issues and Way Forward

Ashok Gulati, Perna Terway and Siraj Hussain

Towards Smarter Service Provision for Smart Cities: Accounting for the Social Costs of Urban Service Provision

Anil Markandya, Aarsi Sagar, Srikanth Shastry, Sahana Goswami Indro Ray, Zeba Aziz, Sandeep Paul, Madhav Pai Anirudh Tagat and Apurba Chatterjee

Trade Facilitation Measures to Enhance Participation of Women in Cross-border Trade in BBIN

Nisha Taneja, Sanjana Joshi, Shravani Prakash and Samridhi Bimal

SEMINARS, LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Seminar on Helping the IMF adapt to new realities: the role of independent evaluation

23 Feb 2018

Close door roundtable on Jobs in India: Are we on the right Track?

15 Feb 2018

The Union Budget 2018-19: Reforms and Development Perspectives

10 Feb 2018

OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA

Agriculture 2022: will the dream come true?

Siraj Hussain | *Livemint* | 26 Feb, 2018

Recommended by the "Agriculture-2022: Doubling Farmers' Incomes" conference. It would be a good idea to persuade at least a few states to put them into practice without waiting for the next conference. 2022 is not as distant as it sounds.

MSP cannot address farmer's woes

Arpita Mukherjee & Avantika Kapoor | *MMLINDIA* | 21 Feb, 2018

While the announcement to fix the MSP at 50 per cent more than the cost of produce drawn significant media attention, somewhat lesser attention has been given to the question - why are farmers in a globalised economy unable to get right price for their produce?

India needs to put in place appropriate safeguards to prevent misuse ...

Radhicka Kapoor | *Business Standard* | 21 Feb, 2018

Much of the burden for India's dismal job creation performance has been attributed to its rigid employment protection legislations, which make dismissal of permanent workers very onerous. Over the past 15 years, India has seen a sharp increase in contract workers, as firms have increasingly hired them...

From Plate To Plough: A vision coloured green

Ashok Gulati & Ritika Juneja | *The Indian Express & The Financial Express* | 19 Feb 2018

Operation Greens must build forward and backward linkages between farmers and markets. It can learn from Operation Flood.

India and the Maldives Conundrum

Sanjay Pulipaka | *The Economic Times* | 9 Feb, 2018

The Maldives is in the midst of a political crisis. Last week, the Supreme Court of Maldives called for the release of nine opposition leaders and the reinstatement of 12 legislators. President Abdulla Yameen responded by arresting...

Budget 2018 to aid growth, but with higher

Shankar Acharya | *Business Standard* | 8 Feb, 2018

With eight state elections in 2018 and the national election to follow by spring 2019, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's fifth Budget had to balance economic priorities against political imperatives. As a result (as Amartya Sen once commented on a paper decades ago), it has some good points and some...

National Telecom Policy: Focus more on fixed and fibre

Rajat Kathuria, Kaushambi Bagchi, Mansi Kedia & Gangesh Sreekumar Varma | *The Financial Express* | 8 Feb, 2018

For small cohesive groups with common interest, raising and investing resources to achieve their common goals is a lot easier and plausible compared to large diverse groups with diffused interests.

What urban waste has to do with global warming

Isher Judge Ahluwalia & Utkarsh Patel | *The Indian Express & The Financial Express* | 7 Feb 2018

Solid waste management with the triple objective of resource recovery, improving public health conditions and mitigating the risks associated with human-induced global warming.

From plate to plough: The MSP smokescreen

Ashok Gulati & Ranjana Roy | *The Indian Express & The Financial Express* | 6 Feb, 2018

From plate to plough: The MSP smokescreen. Government's claim that it has given support prices that are 50 per cent over input costs to farmers is a sleight of hand. Tall talk could increase farmer resentment..

The government has announced higher farm prices, but has also bought time

Siraj Hussain | *The Print* | 2 Feb, 2018

There's no easy solution; and instead of making a promise, Jaitley has announced that NITI Aayog will draft a policy after consulting the states.

Budget 2018: Arun Jaitley must clear the air on the costs considered ...

Ashok Gulati | *The Financial Express* | 2 Feb, 2018

Budget 2018: Finance minister Arun Jaitley tried to redress the farmers' woes by announcing that the minimum support price (MSP) will be now 50% above the cost of production. And, he also said that for Rabi crops, they have already done it, and it will be followed for Kharif crops.

Steps in right direction, but farm distress won't go away

Ashok Gulati | *Times of India* | 2 Feb, 2018

Finance minister Arun Jaitley announced a number of measures to address rising farm distress. The big move seems to be on moving minimum support prices above 50% of cost. He specifically said, "Madam Speaker, in our party's manifesto it has been stated that the farmers should realise at least 50% .

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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