



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

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## NEWSLETTER

The May 2018 Issue of the Newsletter provides a quick recap of ICRIER's research and policy engagement during the month of April 2018. Our book '*Sub-regional Cooperation between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar: Trade, Investment and Connectivity*' based on two years of intense research by experts from India, Bangladesh and Myanmar was released by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (IC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. While delivering the key note address at the Conference, the Hon'ble Minister emphasized the vital importance of Myanmar as one of the key pillars of India's "Act East" policy since it connects India via the North Eastern States with the rest of South East Asia. Another ICRIER report '*The Anatomy of an Internet Blackout: Measuring the Economic Impact of Internet Shutdowns in India*' was released to widespread media attention. It is the first of its kind estimate for India. During the month we also hosted the launch of two other reports viz. '*The Innovation Paradox (World Bank)*', and the '*UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018*'. Several articles were published in leading newspapers and other media by ICRIER scholars. A series of blog posts on a variety of issues ranging from Banking, Telecom, WTO, Greentech, Agriculture, Organic farming to the macroeconomic risks of a slowdown and the changing dynamics of a multi-polar international order reflected our diversity in areas of inquiry. We hope you take a few moments to glance over the summary and engage more exhaustively with anything that excites you. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

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

#### **Sub-regional Cooperation between India, Bangladesh and Myanmar: Trade, Investment and Connectivity**

Nisha Taneja, Deb Kusum Das and Samridhi Bimal

#### **The Anatomy of an Internet Blackout: Measuring the Economic Impact of Internet Shutdowns in India**

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia, Gangesh Varma, Kaushambi Bagchi and Richa Sekhani

#### **The Role of Waterways in Promoting Urban Resilience: The Case of Kochi City**

Zeba Aziz, Indro Ray and Sandeep Paul

#### **Towards sustainable, productive and profitable agriculture: Case of Rice and Sugarcane**

Ashok Gulati and Gayathri Mohan

#### **Supporting Indian Farmers: Price Support or Direct Income/Investment Support?**

Ashok Gulati, Tirtha Chatterjee and Siraj Hussain

## **Solid Waste Management in India: An Assessment of Resource Recovery and Environmental Impact**

Isher Judge Ahluwalia and Utkarsh Patel

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### **SEMINARS, LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

#### **Conference on Enhancing Trade and Connectivity between India and Myanmar**

23 Apr 2018

#### **Launch of UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2018**

08 May 2018

#### **Report Launch on The Anatomy of an Internet Blackout: Measuring the Economic Impact of Internet Shutdowns in India**

25 Apr 2018

#### **Launch of World Bank report on The Innovation Paradox**

03 Apr 2018

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### **OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA**

#### **Reading Modi government's agri-performance right .**

Ashok Gulati & Shweta Saini | *The Financial Express* | 30 April, 2018

Next month, the Narendra-Modi government will complete four years in power at the Centre. Now, would seem an opportune time to look ..

#### **Bring back the lakes: How citizen action on lake rejuvenation is ...**

Isher Judge Ahluwalia | *The Financial Express / The Indian Express* | 25 April, 2018

Bring back the lakes: How citizen action on lake rejuvenation is gathering momentum in Bengaluru. The good news is how citizen action on lake rejuvenation is gathering momentum in Bengaluru and is making a difference on the ground..

#### **Can there be a viable value chain for fresh fruits and vegetables ...**

Siraj Hussain | *Mint* | 25 April, 2018

Therefore, a reduction of losses will be possible by involving such vendors and shops. Some start-ups are working in this area. New models of supply chain will hopefully evolve out of these new experiments.

#### **Agri sector: Painful journey towards a market economy**

Pravesh Sharma | *The Financial Express* | 19 April, 2018

The farmer is back again in the headlines. The recent peasant march through the streets of Mumbai shook up urban India in a way few agriculture related events do. The issues were the same as in every other state of India: access to natural resources (land, water, soils, forests), rising costs of inputs, falling prices, opaque ..

#### **WTO non-compliant subsidies: Impact on Indian apparel exporters ...**

Arpita Mukherjee & Souvik Dutta | *Forbes India* | April 12, 2018

WTO non-compliant subsidies: Impact on Indian apparel exporters. Why the government and export promotion councils have not taken any measures to have design alternative and "smart subsidies" for the industry in 2017, which could have been WTO compliant.

#### **Doubling farmers' income: Here's why boosting agri-exports is ...**

Ashok Gulati & Shweta Saini | *The Financial Express / The Indian Express* | 16 April, 2018

The draft Agri-Exports Policy rightly identifies first two steps— identify commodities where India has a global comparative advantage, and develop clusters in states to create global

value chains for those. Research done at *ICRIER* can offer support on the first step. Eleven commodities—marine products, rice, meat, spices

### **Ensuring higher MSP to farmers. What are the govt's options?**

[Siraj Hussain | \*The Print\* | 15 April, 2018](#)

Fixing MSP only on the basis of cost of production, without any reference to demand, global market etc. can cause distortions that may take years to correct. After promising in its 2014 ...

### **The wealth of nations**

[Shankar Acharya | \*Business Standard\* | 12 April, 2018](#)

Books and columns devoted to trends in national income (mainly gross domestic product) are legion. But we have to remind ourselves that national income is a flow (typically per year) stemming from a nation's underlying stock of productive wealth in all its forms. Yet, very rarely do we come across a book ..

### **Walking the digital financial tightrope**

[Rajat Kathuria & Gangesh Varma | \*Business Standard\* | 11 April, 2018](#)

Walking the digital financial tightrope. RBI desires unfettered access to payment systems' data for supervisory purposes. But it begs the fundamental question of how, especially in absence of a strong governance framework for data in general.

### **Doubling of farmers' income: Time to swing into action - Here is why ...**

[T Nanda kumar | \*The Financial Express\* | 10 April, 2018](#)

Increasing farm productivity alone will not help raise farmers' income and may even be detrimental. the need is to diversify farmers' sources of income. Get live Stock Prices from BSE and NSE and latest NAV, portfolio of Mutual Funds, calculate your tax by Income Tax Calculator, know market's Top Gainers, Top Losers & Best Equity Funds.

### **Green technology: Can India win the race?**

[Rajat Kathuria & Sugandha Srivastav | \*The Financial Express\* | 9 April, 2018](#)

We strongly believe the narrative is no longer about the costs of green growth, but about the immense opportunities. We need to win the green race, and defy the preordained.

### **Deconstructing self-employment**

[Radhicka Kapoor | \*Business Standard\* | 9 April, 2018](#)

The jobs debate has consumed Indian society and the polity. The recent instance of the Indian Railways receiving 25 million applications to fill 90,000 vacancies is the tip of the iceberg. India's jobs challenge is not just one of creating jobs for the entrants into the labour force, but also one of creating "better ...

### **The GST impact story so far**

[Richa Sekhani, Aryan Agarwal & Deepanshu Mohan | \*WCR\* | 5 April, 2018](#)

Examine the findings of a recent field study on the introduction of the GST, and consider the problems and costs involved

### **Look before you leap**

[Ashok Gulati and Tirtha Chatterjee | \*The Financial Express / The Indian Express\* | 2 April, 2018](#)

Get live Stock Prices from BSE and NSE and latest NAV, portfolio of Mutual Funds, calculate your tax by Income Tax Calculator, know market's Top Gainers, Top Losers ...

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