



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2019 | VOL. III, ISSUE 7

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NEWSLETTER

Budget special

The July 2019 issue of the newsletter captures the pre- and post-Budget discourse involving ICRIER researchers. The first Budget of the new Government was released on 5th July and marked only the second time in India's independent history when it was presented by a full-time woman Finance Minister. Besides, the newsletter also provides a regular recap of ICRIER's research and policy engagement during the month of June 2019.

ICRIER hosted the '*India Pre-Meeting Briefing for ICANN65*' on 21st June. This meeting focused on capturing Indian stakeholder perspectives and also briefing the community on various issues being deliberated at the Policy Forum Meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in Marrakech, Morocco held during 24th to 27th June 2019. Gangesh Varma and Ujjwal Krishna represented ICRIER at this meeting that *inter alia* delved into the multistakeholder model of internet governance and the dispute surrounding the delegation of the .AMAZON top level domain. [Click here](#) for more details.

During the last month, ICRIER scholars published several articles in leading newspapers and other media on the Budget, and a variety of other issues such as Allocation to Agriculture, Loans to Farmers, Trade Agreements, and Child Deaths, among others. As you can see, it has been an extremely productive period at ICRIER.

We also look forward to seeing you at the 12th 5-Institute Budget Seminar on Monday, July 22nd at 10 am at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi for a more reflective analysis of Budget 2019.

We hope you will take a few moments to glance through these updates and engage further with anything that interests you. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

BOOKS, REPORTS, WORKING PAPERS AND POLICY BRIEFS

[A Study of the Financial Health of the Telecom Sector](#)

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia and Richa Sekhani

[Totalisation/Portability of Social Security Benefits: Imperatives for Global Action](#)

Anwarul Hoda and Durgesh K. Rai

[India-Myanmar Border Trade](#)

Nisha Taneja, Tin Htoo Naing, Sanjana Joshi, Thiyam Bharat Singh, Samridhi Bimal, Sakshi Garg, Riya Roy and Manali Sharma

The Role and Changing Paradigm of India's Assistance to Nepal: Case of the Education Sector

Tanu M. Goyal

SEMINARS, LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

India Pre-Meeting Briefing for ICANN65

21 Jun 2019

BUDGET 2019-2020

Why Budget 2019 is a Missed Opportunity for Structural Changes ...

Siraj Hussain | *The Financial Express* | 6 July 2019

... Modi 2.0 government has missed an opportunity to address at least some structural issues of the agriculture sector. The writer is visiting senior fellow, ICRIER.

Doubling Farmers' Incomes Becomes a Pipe Dream as another ...

Swarajya | 8 July 2019

Agriculture policy expert *Ashok Gulati* termed it unrealistic and impossible but still offered his advice on how the government can go about .

With little Allocation for Agriculture, Budget Sends ...

Ashok Gulati | *The Indian Express* | 6 July 2019

In her first budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reminded us of the famous quote from M.K. Gandhi, that the "soul of India lives in villages."

Budget 2019: Why FM Sitharaman should have Expanded PM-KISAN ...

Ashok Gulati | *The Financial Express* | 6 July 2019

Budget 2019 India: In her first budget speech, the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman reminded us of the famous quote of M. K. Gandhi that the 'Soul of India lives in villages'.

Union Budget to Boost Rural Employment: Experts

Sify News | 6 July 2019

... a demand-driven scheme and more funds should be provided in the revised estimate," former Agriculture Secretary *Siraj Hussain* told IANS

Zero-Budget Farming: Why Budget 2019 isn't in Sync With Pm Modi's Promises to Farmers

Shweta Saini | *The Print* | 5 July 2019

Modi wants to double farm incomes, but Budget 2019 barely mentioned the sector, leave alone announcing big-ticket reforms.

Budget 2019: Deep Reforms in Agriculture have to Wait for Another Day

Siraj Hussain | *Moneycontrol.com* | 5 July 2019

The first Budget of the Modi 2.0 government has disappointed most observers of the agriculture scene. They expected that the .

50% Bank Accounts Lie Dormant; How Has Modi Govt Fared in Financial ...

Moneycontrol.com | 5 July 2019

Rajat Kathuria, Director of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), said that financial inclusion faced challenges from the...

Budget 2019: A Pro-farmer Slant but Just a Field of Dreams

Livemint | 5 July 2019

...cropping patterns, rationalization of subsidies have been postponed," said *Siraj Hussain*, a former agriculture secretary.

75% Hike in Agriculture Allocation, yet Experts not Happy

The Northlines | 5 July 2019

Former Agriculture Secretary *Siraj Hussain* expressed concern over the absence of focus on farm distress and water scarcity. "Having .

Budget 2019: For farmers, a Zero-mention Budget

Forbes India | 5 July 2019

... the amount is still Rs 75,000 crore," says Shweta Saini, senior consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (*ICRIER*).

Budget 2019 Gives Village Infra some Fillip With Rs 80, 250 Crore ...

Financial Express | 5 July 2019

Agriculture experts *Ashok Gulati* of *ICRIER* and Marco Ferroni & Yuan Zhou of Syngenta Foundation estimate that every rupee spent on roads yields a better return.

Government needs to Assist the Telecom Sector to Facilitate a Smooth ...

Rajat Kathuria | *The Indian Express* | 4 July 2019

This article first appeared in the July 4 print edition under the title 'Spectrum of possibilities'.

Budget Allocation for Micro-irrigation, Krishi Sinchayee Yojana needs ...

CNBCTV18 | 4 July 2019

The Union Budget 2019 will give a major thrust to irrigation projects and water conservation schemes, says former agriculture secretary *Siraj Hussain*. "Even in

Economic Survey 2019 | 5g can Put India inc in Fifth Gear, Take Industry ...

Financial Express | 4 July 2019

Budget Economic Survey 2019: The upcoming 5G technology is an opportunity for Indian ... A joint study by *ICRIER* and BIF has claimed that the spectrum price ...

What are the biggest challenges for Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman for her maiden budget?

Rajat Kathuria on India Development Debate | *ET NOW* | 1 July, 2019

OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA

India Should Join E-Commerce Talks at WTO

Arpita Mukherjee | *Daily Pioneer* | 30 June 2019

India has taken a decision not to *join* the *WTO*'s multilateral group on trade rules in e-commerce. Earlier this year, 77 *WTO* member countries came together to ...

Why this New Variety of India's Iconic Basmati Rice is Certain to Boost ...

Sandip Das | *The Financial Express* | 28 June 2019

Last few weeks have been quite busy for Preetam Singh, who lives in the Uraland Khurd village, part of Panipat district, ..

Not Just Pipes and Tankers

Isher Judge Ahluwalia | *The Indian Express / The Financial Express* | 27 June 2019

A compact between the centre and states is necessary to address India's water-related challenges. this should involve local governments and communities of water users

India's Telecom Journey: The Missed-call Capital becomes the Selfie ...

Rajat Kathuria | *The Financial Express* | 26 June 2019

for several years following the liberalisation of the telecom sector in 1994, the 'separation of powers' (SOP) principle was met .

Addressing Ambiguity In GST For Express Industry: Action Points For The New Government

Arpita Mukherjee | *BW Businessworld* | 24 June 2019

In order to improve India's Ease of doing Business Index to 50 and fully enjoy the gains of the GST regime, it is necessary for the new government to address the above issues.

From Plate to Plough: A Farm Question for Modi 2.0

Ashok Gulati | *The Indian Express* | 24 June 2019

under Modi 2.0, emerge as a leader in bio-farm technologies, including GMO? Only time will tell.

Explained: Modi's Bt Cotton Connection and Why his Govt Needs to ...

Ashok Gulati | *The Financial Express* | 24 June 2019

massive implicit taxation on Indian peasantry to the tune of about \$700 billion (cumulative) from 2000-01 to 2016-17, as per a 2018 OECD-ICRIER study.

We should join WTO E-commerce Talks

Arpita Mukherjee | *The Hindu BusinessLine* | 17 June 2019

To understand whether India should be a part of the plurilateral group, a survey of 50 stakeholders was conducted by researchers in ICRIER. Majority of the ...

Looking Beyond the Unemployment Rate

Radhicka Kapoor | *Business Standard* | 14 June 2019

Regardless of the approach we use, there is no denying the fact that unemployment rates in India are high.

Confronting Macro Challenges

Shankar Acharya | *Business Standard* | 13 June, 2019

With key macro indicators flashing amber or red, business as usual is not an option

Effects of the Us-China Tariff Escalation

Anirudh Singhal | *Business Standard* | 11 June 2019

Immediate fallout of tariff imposition is the wedge between the prices that producers receive and the prices that consumers pay in the importing countries

Expect a Higher Outlay for Agriculture, Rural Sectors

Siraj Hussain | *Moneycontrol.com* | 11 June 2019

Elected with a massive mandate, the Modi 2.0 government was expected to focus on fiscal consolidation as it is no secret that real fiscal deficit in ...

Rural Demand gets Affected if Monsoon is Below Normal

Siraj Hussain | *Business Television India* | 10 June 2019

As rains are seen as the game changer for slowdown in consumption, former agri secretary Siraj Hussain talks about effect of a delay in monsoon on rural ...

From Plate to Plough: The Farm-factory Connect

Ashok Gulati | *The Indian Express* | 10 June 2019

Productivity and exports simultaneously. Can all this be done under Modi 2.0? Only time will tell. The writer is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER.

What Modi Needs to do to Spur Agri-Trade

Ashok Gulati | *The Financial Express* | 10 June 2019

Today, India spends roughly 0.7% of agri-gdp on agri-r&d and extension together. This needs to double in the next 5 years. The returns are enormous.

Unfair to only Blame Medical System for Child Deaths, Says 'a Shot of ...

Ali Mehdi | *News18* | 8 June 2019

In a country like India, where nearly two children below five die every minute, dismissing the problem of child mortality as one that plagues only the ...

NREGA: How Political Will Impacted Implementation

Ujjwal Krishna | *The Financial Express* | 5 June 2019

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has been described by the World Bank as ..

Promises to Keep

Siraj Hussain | *BW Businessworld* | 4 June 2019

Even though the governments are in no haste to implement the promises made in their manifestoes, they do have to consult it from time to time ...

Unanswered Questions about Global Finance

Alok Sheel | *Business Standard* | 4 June 2019

With the 14th G20 Summit scheduled in Osaka later this month, it is time to take stock of what the G20 itself saw as one of the ultimate causes of the

Farm Distress: Three Big Ideas to Revitalise Agriculture

Pravesh Sharma | *The Financial Express* | 4 June 2019

It's time to abandon hope for APMC-mandi reforms and create an alternate mechanism for farmers to realise a better price for their produce.

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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