The February 2020 issue of the newsletter provides a quick recap of ICRIER’s research and policy engagements during the month of January 2020. Besides the regular recap, we are delighted to feature our views on the Union Budget 2020-2021, released by the Government of India on 1st of February.

A study on ‘Liberalizing India’s Insurance Sector: Challenges and Opportunities’ was completed, the report is now available on ICRIER’s website. We also organised discussions around the topics ‘Act East to Act Indo-Pacific’ and ‘Data Governance’. Apart from the budget, our media articles during the last month covered a wide range of topics including the state of the economy, agriculture, international trade, employment, and telecommunications.

We are also delighted to share that ICRIER has once again been ranked as India’s best think tank in the areas of International Economics and International Development Policy. In the International Economics category, we are now rated as the 14th best in the world. This ranking is based on the ‘2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report’ released by the University of Pennsylvania. Our ranking continues to reflect the hard work of colleagues and the continued commitment of stakeholders. We are thankful to each one of you for your interest and engagement with ICRIER’s research work.

We hope you take a few moments to glance through these updates and engage more exhaustively with anything that interests you. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.
Liberalizing India’s Insurance Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

Saon Ray, (et al).

Despite gradual and steady growth, insurance penetration and density rates of the Indian insurance sector remain low in comparison to its global counterparts. The total insurance penetration and density rates stood at 3.69% and $73 respectively in 2017. Public sector insurers have a greater market share compared to the private sector insurers (Including insurers with foreign partners). In terms of premiums, life insurance segment dominates.

This study evaluates the benefits of liberalisation on India’s insurance sector, assesses the current regulatory structure, compares Indian insurance industry with the BRICS countries and reviews the contribution of the sector to economic growth. One of the main findings of the study is that hiking the FDI limit will be beneficial for the industry.

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Release of the Book and Book Discussion "Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India’s Expanding Neighbourhood"

29 Jan 2020

The book titled ‘Act East to Act Indo-Pacific: India’s Expanding Neighbourhood’ was released by ICRIER on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. The book is authored by Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

The book focuses on India’s expanding neighbourhood and is a first of its kind to map how Indian policies are shifting from the ‘Look East to Act East’ construct to ‘Indo Pacific’ construct. With the announcement of the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiatives (IPOI) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, Indo-Pacific has started to receive due attention globally. The book release was followed by a panel discussion on the book, chaired by Dr. Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, ICRIER. Panellists included Mr. Keiichi Onozawa, Representative of METI for South Asia, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; Dr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies, Brookings India; Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consulting Editor, Business Standard; Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, The Nehru Memorial Museum Library (NMML) & Advisor, East Asia Research Programme, ICRIER and Mr. Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Sr. Assistant Editor (Foreign & Strategic Affairs), The Economic Times.

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Panel Discussion on Data Governance at Crossroads

11 Jan 2020

ICRIER in collaboration with the SKOCH Group organised a panel discussion titled ‘Data Governance at Crossroads’ on January 11, 2020 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This discussion was a part of the Public Policy Forum and Public Policy LitFest at the 63rd SKOCH Summit. The session was chaired by Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Director & Chief Executive, ICRIER. The panelists for the session were Dr. Gulshan Rai, Former National Cyber Security Coordinator & Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH Development Foundation; Dr. Shyamal Ghosh, Chairman, Telecom Export Promotion Council (TEPC); Mr. Rahul Sharma, Founder, The Perspective, Ms. Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT For Change; Ms. Saranya Gopinath, Co-Founder, Digital India Collective for Empowerment (DICE) & Research Fellow, Bharat Inclusion, Dr. Mudit Kapoor, Associate Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and Mr. Udbhav Tiwari, Advisor, Public Policy, Mozilla.

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BUDGET 2020-2021

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Siraj Hussain | | January 19, 2020

We Need to Improve our Market Access to Gain From Free Trade Pacts
Saon Ray | LiveMint | January 14, 2020

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