



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

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## NEWSLETTER

The April 2018 Issue of the Newsletter features ICRIER's research and policy engagement during the month of March 2018. ICRIER hosted a workshop on the World Bank report on "The Web of Transport Corridors in South Asia". At our workshop on "India-Japan Partnership for Economic Development in the Northeast, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N Biren Singh spoke on the significance of the Act East policy in developing the region. Manipur's Health City in particular and Health Tourism in general were examples he cited. Other seminars during the month covering an eclectic range included "Principle and Practice in International Relations" and "Solid Waste Management in India: An Assessment of Resource Recovery and Environmental Impact." The ICRIER-IHC Urban Conversations Series hosted Ms. Almitra Patel who spoke on "Frothing Yamuna and Bellandur Lake". ICRIER's presence in research and public policy was also reflected in several articles published in leading newspapers and other media. A series of blog posts appeared on a variety of issues ranging from Banking, Telecom Sector, WTO issues, Industrial Corridors, Organic farming to the macro 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.

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

#### **Changing Task Contents of Jobs in India: Implications and Way Forward**

Pankaj Vashisht and Jay Dev Dubey

#### **Trade Rules in E-commerce: WTO and India**

Arpita Mukherjee and Avantika Kapoor

#### **Scaling up Rooftop Solar Power in India: The Potential of Municipal Solar Bonds**

Saurabh Trivedi, Indro Ray, Gregor Vulturius, Amrita Goldar, Labanya Jena Prakash, Sandeep Paul and Aarsi Sagar

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### SEMINARS, LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

#### **Workshop on The Web of Transport Corridors in South Asia**

27 Mar 2018

#### **Workshop on India-Japan Partnership for Economic Development in the Northeast**

20 Mar 2018

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

14 Mar 2018

### **IHC – ICRIER Urban Conversations Series: Talking about Frothing Yamuna and Bellandur Lake**

13 Mar 2018

### **Seminar on Principle and Practice in International Relations**

09 Mar 2018

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## **OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA**

### **Forget privatisation, consolidation of PSBs can prevent PNB-like scams**

Jaimini Bhagwati | *Business Standard* | 29 March, 2018

Forget privatisation, consolidation of PSBs can prevent PNB-like scams. In the short time that has elapsed since the PNB fraud came to light, the discussion has already shifted from the specifics of this case to public versus private banks.

### **Organic farming: learning from Sikkim's experiences**

Arpita Mukherjee & Avantika Kapoor | *Qrius* | 29 March, 2018

Sikkim's economy is largely dependent on agriculture and tourism, and eco-tourism is a niche area of tourism. Thus, by promoting organic farming, the state government wanted to fulfill the dual objective of supporting agriculture and tourism through the concept of an "organic village."

### **Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor: unfulfilled potential**

Arpita Mukherjee & Avantika Kapoor | *Qrius* | 18 March, 2018

The Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is India's first mega corridor project with an initial estimated investment of USD 100 billion and spanning across six states (Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra) with the aim to create a global manufacturing and investment destination.

### **Only 18% of Maharashtra's cropped area is irrigated; we should not be surprised**

Siraj Hussain | *The Print* | 15 March, 2018

The leaders of the protesting farmers would not be unaware of the fact that only 18 per cent of the cropped area in the state is irrigated. Sugarcane grown on just 4 per cent of gross cropped area in Maharashtra is almost entirely irrigated, and takes about 65 per cent of its irrigation water.

### **Global trade woes: Delhi WTO meet must help defuse the developing trade crisis**

Anwarul Hoda | *The Financial Express* | 14 March, 2018

India's invitation to the trade ministers of 40 WTO members to an informal gathering in New Delhi, on March 19-20, is without a pre-announced agenda

### **Band aid after the long march**

Ashok Gulati & Gayathri Mohan | *The Indian Express & The Financial Express* | 14 March, 2018

Loan waivers and increased MSP will provide temporary relief to Maharashtra farmers. The state needs to explore alternative cropping patterns, modes of irrigation.

### **क्या सच में किसानों की आय दोगुनी हो जाएगी?**

सिराज हुसैन | बीबीसी हिंदी | 13 March, 2018

जब से प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 28 फ़रवरी 2016 को किसानों की एक रैली में सभी राज्यों से 2022 तक किसानों की आय दोगुना करने के लिए प्रयास करने को कहा है तब से कृषि का मुद्दा यहीं तक सीमित हो कर रह गया है.

### **WTO & public stockholding issue: Price support must be adjusted for inflation**

Anwarul Hoda | *The Financial Express* | 13 March, 2018

Subsidising members should be allowed neutralisation for inflation to the extent of it exceeding 2% per annum, which can be considered the normal rate of inflation.

### **This is agricultural emergency!**

Ashok Gulati | *CNBCNEWS* | 12 March, 2018

Why higher MSP, loan waiver won't help farmers? While over 35,000 farmers have gathered in Mumbai to demand an unconditional loan waiver after crop loss due to unseasonal rains among other issues.

### **No winner in this Trump's trade war**

Anwarul Hoda | *The Financial Express* | 8 March, 2018

No winner in this Trump's trade war. A firestorm is raging in world trade. It was set off by US president Donald Trump announcing on March 3, that the US will levy tariffs on imported metals—25% on steel, 10% on aluminium.

### **Why did TRAI issue order on predatory pricing?**

Rajat Kathuria, Kaushambi Bagchi & Rich Sekhani | *The Financial Express* | 8 March, 2018

The clamour for a 'level playing field' (LPF) has been heard in the telecom sector ever since the monopoly of the department of telecommunications (DoT) was broken in 1994 to accommodate private participation in the Indian market.

### **Horticultural marketing: countering challenges to be on top of operation greens...**

T Nanda Kumar | *The Indian Express* | 8 March, 2018

It can succeed if some unconventional thinking and committed implementation is brought on board. The ultimate dream should be to see packed and safe-to eat certified veggies sold by franchisees – including small 'thelawalas' – resulting in the transfer of about 70 per cent of the consumer rupee to the farmer!

### **Getting realistic about farm incomes**

Ashok Gulati & Shweta Saini | *The Indian Express* | 6 Mar, 2018

Unless government takes bold decisions on agri-markets, reducing production costs and increasing demand, its goal to double farmers' incomes by 2022 will remain a pipe-dream.

### **Why doubling farmers' income by 2022 is a pipe dream**

Ashok Gulati & Shweta Saini | *The Financial Express* | 5 Mar, 2018

Take bold decisions like restricting subsidies on food, mgnrega, etc, to less than 25% and increasing investment in the sector to 75%.

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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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