



Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

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## NEWSLETTER

The August 2019 Issue of the Newsletter provides a quick recap of ICRIER's research and policy engagements during the month of July 2019. The 13<sup>th</sup> 5 Institute seminar on the Union Budget 2019-20: Reform and Development Perspectives was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in which the heads of five think tanks including ICRIER, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Indian Development Foundation (IDF), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) came together for a reflective view of the Union Budget and its longer-term implications for the Indian economy.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, ICRIER organized a talk on "Corruption-Growth Relationship: Do Institutions Matter?" by Dr. Shrabani Saha, Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) at the Lincoln International Business School at the University of Lincoln (UOL), United Kingdom. The talk was based on a paper jointly written with Dr. Kunal Sen, Director, UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, Finland. The paper examines the corruption and economic growth nexus within the context of varying political regimes.

ICRIER also hosted the post-ICANN65 Readout on 16<sup>th</sup> July. ICANN 65 was held in Marrakech, Morocco between 24-27 June 2019. Indian stakeholders discussed the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, Universal Acceptance, and the evolution of the ICANN multistakeholder model, among other policy issues.

During the month, ICRIER scholars published several articles in leading newspapers and other media on a variety of contemporary issues such as the growing agrarian crisis, macro challenges for the economy, women entrepreneurship, building rural-urban linkages, WTO reforms, among others. 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.

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

#### **Facilitating Ease of Doing Business in India's Food Sector: Streamlining Food Safety Compliance Ecosystem in India**

Ali Mehdi, Priyanka Tomar, Divya Chaudhry and Pallavi Joshi

#### **Facilitating Ease of Doing Business and Supporting FSSAI in Streamlining Food Safety Compliance Ecosystem: India**

Arpita Mukherjee, Divya Satija, Brahma Chauhan and Raj Kumar Shahi

### **Streamlining Food Imports for Trade Facilitation and Ease of Doing Business in India**

Arpita Mukherjee, Divya Satija, Angana Parashar Sarma, Soham Sinha, Brahma Chauhan and Raj Kumar Shahi

### **India's Act East Policy: Facilitating India-Myanmar Border Trade**

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

### **Strengthening India-Nepal Economic Relations**

Nisha Taneja, Shravani Prakash, Samridhi Bimal, Sakshi Garg and Riya Roy

### **Climate Change & Technology Transfer – Barriers, Technologies and Mechanisms**

Amrita Goldar, Shubham Sharma, Viraj Sawant and Sajal Jain

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

### **Talk on Corruption – Growth Relationship: Do Institutions Matter?**

24 Jul 2019

### **The Union Budget 2019-20: Reforms and Development Perspectives**

22 Jul 2019

### **ICANN65 Readout**

16 Jul 2019

### **IHC – ICRIER Urban Conversations Series: Issues Relating to Water Availability**

09 Jul 2019

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## **OUR PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA**

### **Indian Cities Need a New Planning Template – Here's Why**

Isher Judge Ahluwalia & Ayush Khare | *The Financial Express* / *The Indian Express* | 31 July 2019

Bold measures for connectivity through transit-oriented development will lead not only to decongesting growth centres, but also strengthening labour markets and building rural-urban linkages.

### **Supporting Women Entrepreneurship through Direct Selling**

Arpita Mukherjee & Divya Satija | *BW Businessworld* | 29 July 2019

Indeed, *direct selling*, which is one of the oldest and most traditional forms of selling provides *women* with a chance to become an *entrepreneur* ...

### **From Plate to Plough: A Win-Win Deal**

Ashok Gulati | *The Indian Express* / *The Financial Express* | 22 July 2019

Replacing subsidies with direct cash transfers to farmers' accounts will empower them as well as consumers.

### **Empower Farmers by Streamlining Subsidies through JAM Trinity**

Ashok Gulati | *The Financial Express* | 22 July 2019

The government re-started some almost dead plants (Gorakhpur, Ramgundam, etc) that produce urea at more than \$400/tonne.

### **Budget 2019: Behind the Budget Numbers**

Alok Sheel | *The Financial Express* | 19 July 2019

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech did not evaluate the extant overall macroeconomic environment, but the Budget numbers only confirm data from other sources that economic growth has slowed down

### **Will PM-Kisan Eventually Evolve and Replace Farm Subsidies During ...**

Siraj Hussain | *The Wire* | 18 July, 2019

While the scheme has laid the foundation, its expansion will, like the GST, require a great deal of political consensus across states.

### **India's upcoming G20 presidency**

Alok Sheel | *Business Standard* | 16 July 2019

New Delhi must guard against the world's premier multilateral economic forum being hijacked by bilateralism

### **India Foreign Debt View: The Case for Borrowing Overseas, and How to ...**

Alok Sheel | *The Economic Times* | 15 July 2019

This weekend, in a Times of India article, University of Chicago professor of finance and former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan highlighted the perils of the budget announcement of Gol's plan to start raising a part of its gross borrowing programme in external currencies.

### **India's Development Partnership with Nepal: The Paradigm Shift and Future Prospects**

Tanu M. Goyal | *Post Aid World-ORF* | 15 July 2019

While development cooperation has a crucial role in shaping political relations between countries, political relations should not undermine the effectiveness of aid.

### **Budget and Macro Challenges**

Shankar Acharya | *Business Standard* | 11 July 2019

There is little in the Budget to provide the necessary growth impetus to take the economy to \$5 trillion.

### **Global Trade: Making a Start for WTO Reforms**

Anwarul Hoda | *The Financial Express* | 10 July 2019

The author is Professor at *ICRIER* (Views are personal). Get live Stock Prices from BSE and NSE and latest NAV, portfolio of Mutual Funds, calculate your tax by ...

### **On the Water Front**

Ashok Gulati | *The Indian Express* | 9 July 2019

Water-guzzling crops need to shift to geographically sustainable areas.

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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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