

December 2019 | Vol. III, Issue 12

The December 2019 issue of the Newsletter provides a quick recap of ICRIER's research and policy engagements during November 2019.

Two research reports in the digital economy domain, one on liberalising satellite communications and the other on cross-border data flows were released. A book featuring case studies of India's participation in Global Value Chains was also launched (see below).

ICRIER also organized several consultation workshops, dissemination and outreach events during the month. Several articles bearing the ICRIER imprint were published in leading newspapers and other media platforms on a variety of current issues such as economic growth, agriculture, trade, FTAs, RCEP and single use plastic, among others. We sincerely hope that you will take out some time to glance through these updates and engage further with anything that interests you. We hope you enjoy the newsletter's new format. As always, we welcome your valuable feedback.

Book, Reports, Working Papers and Policy Briefs



Economic Implications of Cross-Border Data Flows

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia, Gangesh Sreekumar Varma and Kaushambi Bagchi

Cross-border data flows have become indispensable to international trade. Data is experiencing a new found and unprecedented role as an input to global trade and commerce, impacting not only the information technology (IT) sector, but also traditional industries. To cater to this upsurge, global internet bandwidth increased from a mere 56 Gbps in 1999 to 393 Tbps in 2018, an annual increase of an astonishing 59.1 percent (CAGR). Between 2014 and 2018, Africa experienced the most rapid growth of international internet bandwidth at a compounded annual growth rate of 45 percent. During the same period, India's international internet bandwidth increased by 62.7 percent per annum.

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Liberalising Satellite Communications in India: Opportunities for Enhanced Economic Growth

Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia, Prateek Kukreja and Ujjwal Krishna

The use of intercontinental ballistic missiles during the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union kicked off the space race. In October 1957, the Soviet Union set a historic landmark with the launch of the first Earth-orbiting satellite, Sputnik 1. By the end of 1958, the world's first active communication satellite, SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment), was launched by the U.S. Air Force. National Aeronautics and Space Act (NASA) launched its first communications satellite, Echo 1, a passive communication device, in August 1960. In 1960, the U.S. Department of Defence also launched Courier, the world's first fully active communications satellite.

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Seminars, Conferences and Workshop



G20 Stakeholder Consultation on Traditional and Complementary Systems of Medicine in the context of SDGs, UHC and PHC

29 Nov 2019

A stakeholder consultation was organized in ICRIER as a part of its G20 health engagement with the Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance), Government of India. The objective of this research study is to develop recommendations for the Government of India vis-à-vis promotion of Traditional and Complementary Systems of Medicine (TCSM) in general, AYUSH in particular, in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Primary Health Care (PHC). The consultation sought to elicit views of a wide range of health sector stakeholders on three major themes: challenges to UHC in India, India's strategy to promote TCSM and AYUSH, and India's best practices vis-à-vis UHC and TCSM that could be showcased at the international level.

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Report Release Economic Implications of Cross-Border Data Flows

25 Nov 2019

A report titled, "*Economic Implications of Cross-Border Data Flows*", authored by Rajat Kathuria, Mansi Kedia, Gangesh Varma and Kaushambi Bagchi was released in an event jointly organised by ICRIER and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) on November 25th, 2019. The report develops empirical on the economic implications of cross-border data flows in India using an augmented gravity model. The report also builds case studies to estimate the impacts of localisation policies by sector. It recommends bilateral and plurilateral data transfer arrangements to minimise adverse impacts of localisation, and also suggests the option of mirroring of critical datasets where feasible.

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Book launch and panel discussion on Global Value Chains and the Missing Links: Cases from Indian Industry

22 Nov 2019

On November 22, 2019, ICRIER organised an event for the launch of the book titled, 'Global Value Chains and the Missing Links: Cases from Indian Industry', jointly authored by Dr. Saon Ray, Senior Fellow, ICRIER and Ms. Smita Miglani, Research Associate, ICRIER and published by Routledge. The book launch was followed by a panel discussion. The book primarily focuses on examining the evidence of India's Global Value Chain (GVC) integration, probing the reasons for India's low GVC integration and offers options for enhancing India's participation.

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The future of Asia – Asian flows and networks are defining the next phase of globalization

20 Nov 2019

On November 20th, 2019 ICRIER organised a talk on 'The Future of Asia - how networks are defining the next phase of Globalization' in partnership with McKinsey Company. Mr. Oliver Tonby, Chairman, Asia, McKinsey & Company delivered the talk which was followed by a discussion.

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Dissemination Event on exploring cost reduction strategies for Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries

14 Nov 2019

The key findings of the project on 'Exploring cost-reduction strategies for Electric Vehicles (EV) batteries' undertaken by ICRIER and funded by Shakti foundation were disseminated at an event organized by ICRIER on 14th November 2019. Mr. CK Mishra, Secretary, MOEFCC, delivered the keynote address.

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Figure 1: Trend of Direct Agricultural Credit (DAC) in INR Billion and its share of Agricultural GDP

Year	DAC (INR Billion)	DAC as % of Ag. GDP
1977	~1000	~4.2%
1987	~1500	4.2%
1996	~2000	3.2%
2008	~5500	12%
2017	~8000	34%

Source: Data from Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy, Reserve Bank of India and National Accounts Series, M-29

Ashok Gulati & Ritika Juneja | Indian Express | November 25, 2019

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Shankar Acharya | Business Standard | November 19, 2019

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Siraj Hussain | CNBC-TV18 | November 15, 2019

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Rajat Kathuria & Chavi Asrani | Financial Express | November 16, 2019

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Sandip Das | Rajya Sabha TV | 13 November, 2019

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Anirudh Shingal | Business Standard | November 15, 2019

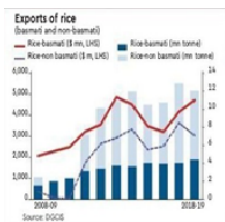
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One Step Forward, Two Steps Back for Telecom Sector

Rajat Kathuria | Mint | November 13, 2019

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From Plate to Plough: Sowing Paddy, Reaping Smog

Ashok Gulati | The Financial Express | November 11, 2019

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Rajat Kathuria
Director & CE



Our Research Office:

Plot No. 16-17, Pushp Vihar, Institutional Area, Sector 6, New Delhi-110017

Seminar and Outreach:

Core 6A, 4th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Ph: +91 11 43112400, E-mail: rajat.kathuria@icrier.res.in

Website: www.icrier.org

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