



February 2020 | Vol. IV, Issue 2

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.

Books, Reports, Working Papers and Policy Briefs



Liberalizing India's Insurance Sector: Challenges and Opportunities

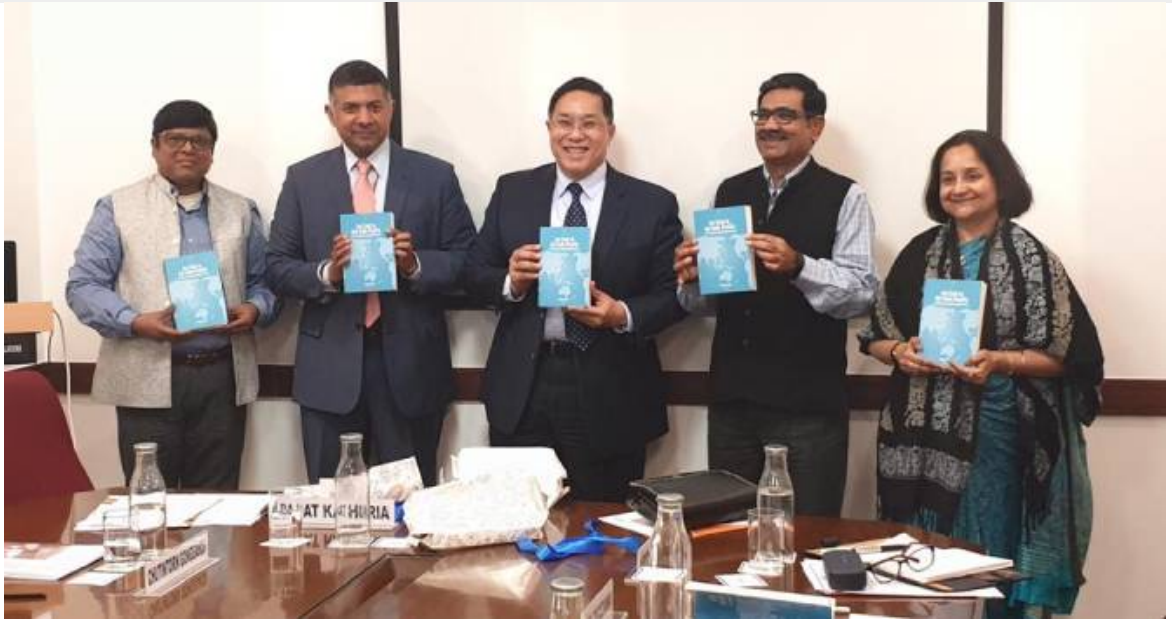
Saon Ray, (et al).

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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Seminars, Conferences and Workshops



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



Budget 2020: Insurance Sector Announcements Unlikely to Influence Penetration Rates Directly

Saon Ray & Vasundhara Thakur | [The Financial Express](#) | February 6, 2020

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Budget 2020 Not What Economy Needs, Centre Seems in Denia

Shankar Acharya | The WIRE | February 4, 2020

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Budget's 16 Point Program for Agriculture is a Good Roadmap

Siraj Hussain | cnbctv18.com | February 4, 2020

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Budget 2020: Can Business and Consumer Confidence be Restored?

Arpita Mukherjee | Moneycontrol.com | February 4, 2020

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Budget 2020: A Lot of Expectations Were There from the Budget

Rajat Kathuria | MBTV | February 3, 2020

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A Vision Document for Agricultural Activities

Sandip Das | Deccan Herald | February 3, 2020

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Examining the FM's Plan to Double Farmers' Income in Two Years

Ashok Gulati | Indian Express | February 2, 2020

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Agri Reforms: Govt Takes the Field, Plot isn't Clear

Ashok Gulati | Times of India | February 2, 2020

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Budget 2020: Does the Govt Intend to Reduce Coverage Under the Food Security Act?

Siraj Hussain | The WIRE | February 2, 2020

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Budget 2020: Why Sitharaman's Budget Won't Double Farmers' Income by 2022

Ashok Gulati | The Financial Express | February 2, 2020

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Budget 2020: Farmers’ income to rise if FM Sitharaman’s 16-point agenda materializes

Siraj Hussain | The Financial Express | February 2, 2020

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Budget 2020 Pays Little More than Lip Service to Farmers and Agri Sector...

Shweta Saini | The Print | February 1, 2020

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Budget 2020 | Five steps towards restoring business and consumer confidence

Arpita Mukherjee | Moneycontrol.com | January 31, 2020

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What To Expect From Budget 2020-2021? Experts Speak | India Development Debate

Rajat Kathuria | Times Now | January 31, 2020

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OUR MONTHLY MEDIA RECAP



Rather than Expanding the Fiscal Deficit, There Should be More Rationalization of Subsidies

Ashok Gulati | LiveMint | January 27, 2020

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Need to Take Agri Route to Boost Welfare Says Agri Economist | Budget Countdown

Ashok Gulati | cnbctv18.com | January 25, 2020

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TIME TO RESET ECONOMY

Economic Revival has Agriculture as a Good Starting Point

Siraj Hussain | Moneycontrol.com | January 21, 2020

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A Battle Worth Losing

Rajat Kathuria | The Indian Express | January 18, 2020

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Food, Urea Subsidy Reforms must be Budget Priorities

Ashok Gulati | The Financial Express | January 20, 2020

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Falling Employment, Low Wages and Food Inflation - the Rural Economy is in Pain

Siraj Hussain | January 19, 2020

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We Need to Improve our Market Access to Gain From Free Trade Pacts

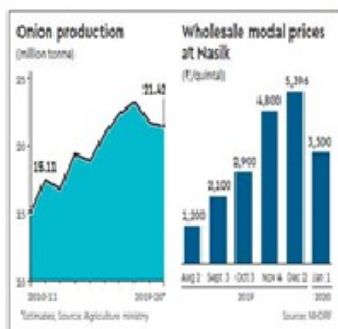
Saon Ray | LiveMint | January 14, 2020

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The Darkening Sky

Shankar Acharya | Business Standard | January 9, 2020

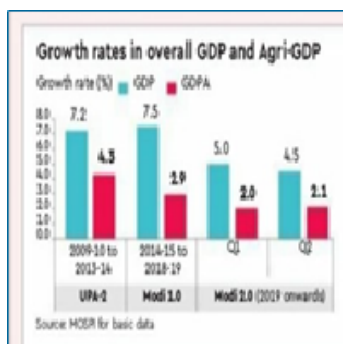
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Onion Price-Rise Crisis: How to Plan Better and Avoid Onion Tears

Sandip Das | The Financial Express | January 8, 2020

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Govt Can Save Rs 50000 Crore by Reforming Country's Grain

Ashok Gulati | The Financial Express | January 6, 2020

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With New Layers, the PM Kisan Project Could Be Used to Help Solve Farmers' Crisis

Siraj Hussain | The WIRE | January 4, 2020

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1st in India and 14th globally

International Development

1st in India and 32nd globally

Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed

3rd in India and 32nd globally

*According to the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2019 by the University of Pennsylvania



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