Finance Matters

News, Views & Perspectives on Financial Policies & Institutions

Why Should We Care About Development Finance? ...because it's our money!

Volume 7, Issue 39, April 12, 2024

The Economy This Week!

Contrary to the claims, the banking sector has gravitated towards the rich in the last 10 years. A huge crisis is looming over the banking industry but facts are not being reported. Depositors are losing their income, small borrowers are paying a heavy price, and corporate loot is encouraged through NCLTs while income inequality has widened.

On the other hand, the electoral bonds scam has opened up the complex nexus between business and politics, making it visible for all to see – how favours are earned and exchanged by the top 1% even as over 800 million have to be grateful for getting 'free' rations.

Our new publication India & Global Finance: An Annual Review is an attempt to bring the rapidly changing imprints of international finance into focus and keep a yearly track of this dynamic area of study. The first issue has contributions by C.P. Chandrasekhar, Shalini Bhutani, Harjeet Singh, Dinesh Abrol, Biswajit Dhar, Suranjali Tandon, and Subhash Chandra Garg. The publication can be read here.

The Central government's unveiling of plans for a 10 gigawatt solar energy plant in Ladakh, earmarking 20,000 acres in the Pang region of Changthang initially, has sparked deep-seated concerns for the local pastoral community who are losing their grazing land. In 2023 govt approved the Green Energy Corridor Phase-II project for Ladakh to make a transmission system for a 13 GW Renewable Energy Project with an estimated cost of Rs.20,773.70 crore. The land's limited capacity and heavy reliance on the already stressed glacial water highlight the fragility of the ecosystem while investments are flowing into Ladakh.

All this demands the obvious question: where do we draw the limits to our energy needs given that it is the affluent who contribute the lion's share of the carbon emission and it is those at the bottom who bear the larger share of the climate impacts?

-Team CFA

Electoral Bonds: Or the Story of How the Rich Buy Their Way Up

Many reports on inequality in recent years clearly show that the gap between the rich and the poor has widened rapidly. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when everything came to a standstill and people had neither work nor money, the rich kept getting richer while their profits skyrocketed. The country's billionaires increased their wealth by 35% during the lockdown. Mukesh Ambani earned Rs 90 crore per hour while 24% of the country was earning just Rs 3,000 per month. Read more.

Publication:

India & Global Finance: An Annual Review (2023-24)

Random Reflections:

How banking sector has been destroyed in the last 10 Years

Event:

Plastics: A Toxic Love Story | Workshop

Ladakh: Let's not invest in our Doom

Major investments are coming up in Ladakh, and the Himalayas at large, much of it in Renewables. But how 'Clean' and 'Just' is this path towards Energy Transition? What is the toll of the development projects on a sensitive terrain like Ladakh? Will we build a sustainable tomorrow if we fail our mountain communities today? Read More.

News Capsules: POCKET MONEY

Brief on what they kept from you about your money this week.
A weekly In-Digest from the National Finance team at the Centre for Financial Accountability.
Read More.

CFA

Centre for Financial Accountability

R21 South Extn 2, 110049, New Delhi