

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

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The Crisis of Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

The Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar is not just a bureaucratic exercise; it is a grave injustice unfolding in plain sight. What is being called a routine clean-up of voter rolls has instead turned into a nightmare for the poor and marginalised, especially daily wage workers, landless labourers, Dalits, and minorities. Take the case of a woman in Katihar who had to sell her government-rationed rice and forgo two days of income just to submit her documents, only to later learn that the very documents she was asked for, Aadhaar and voter ID, are not even officially accepted. She is not alone. Stories of confusion, fear, coercion, and exclusion were shared in a public hearing in Patna by dozens like her.

This is not just a matter of administrative mismanagement; it is a fundamental attack on the democratic rights of citizens. Experts, including a retired High Court judge and several social scientists, have rightly warned that the SIR is unconstitutional and could lead to mass voter disenfranchisement. A rapid survey revealed that 63% of voters added after 2003 do not have any of the 11 "acceptable" documents, yet they do have Aadhaar and voter ID. These are the very cards widely issued by the government, yet are now being dismissed. Over 2.9 crore people, mostly youth, could be denied their right to vote.

What makes this worse is that the Election Commission has failed to explain why this exercise is being rushed now, just before the elections. Bihar already went through a summary revision. So why this additional and aggressive scrutiny, targeting millions, without adequate transparency or legal safeguards? The Supreme Court's interim order allowing Aadhaar and EPIC as temporary documents only scratches the surface. The heart of the problem is that the entire SIR process may be unconstitutional, an executive action without a proper legal or constitutional basis.

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let him escape? Or make him 3rd richest in the country, Prime Minister?

Despite being named in multiple fraud

Will you arrest Anil Ambani or

cases, defaults worth tens of thousands of crores, and SEBI bans, Anil Ambani continues to escape legal consequences with the help of court orders, regulatory inaction, and powerful connections. With massive haircuts to banks & continued access to contracts, partnerships, & government leeway, this saga raises serious questions: Is there one law for the powerful and another for the rest? Read More



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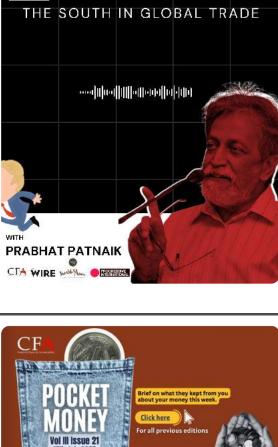
(MFI) Program for undergraduate students. This marks an important milestone in our effort to support young minds interested in critical financial and economic issues from a people-centric perspective.

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of how global trade, finance, & the very idea of "development" have been

In this episode, renowned economist

systematically rigged against the Global South. From colonial legacies to tariff wars of the Trump era, he lays bare structural inequalities embedded in the world economy. Read More.

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Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) found that between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of borrowers from the economically weaker sections of society who borrowed from formal channels contracted by 4.2%. On the other hand, this segment, which earns ₹1-2 lakh a

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