



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

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Why Reckless Funding Deepens Disasters

This monsoon has once again shown how unprepared India is for extreme weather. Cloudbursts in Jammu and Kashmir killed more than 60 people in a week. Flash floods and landslides devastated Himachal and Uttarakhand. In cities such as Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, waterlogging brought life to a standstill, costing both lives and productivity. Scientists remind us that while climate change intensifies these events, poor planning and reckless development are what turn them into full-blown disasters. A decade of warnings has gone unheard: most cities still lack upgraded drainage, and the Himalayas continue to be ripped apart in the name of “all-weather” connectivity.

The Kiratpur–Manali highway in Himachal’s Mandi region is a case in point. Its unscientific widening has triggered land subsidence, cracked houses, and forced families to evacuate. Communities raised objections, and environmentalist Ravi Chopra cautioned that such projects would destabilise the mountains. Yet, financial institutions and government agencies alike continued to push funds into projects designed more for speed and visibility than for safety or resilience. For financiers, this looks like infrastructure growth. For mountain communities, it looks like displacement and danger.

The deeper issue is this: finance is underwriting disaster. Multilateral banks, national lenders, and even private investors are treating fragile ecosystems as blank slates for investment, without accounting for geological risks, climate stress, or local opposition. This not only erodes ecological stability but also exposes financiers to reputational, financial, and liability risks when projects collapse or cause human tragedy. Sustainable finance must mean redirecting capital away from blind road-building towards climate-resilient planning, disaster preparedness, and community-led adaptation. Otherwise, each rupee lent today will return tomorrow as mounting losses, in balance sheets, in broken lives, and a battered landscape.

- Team CFA

We refuse to give up trying to demystify finance. We will continue to hold the government and financial institutions accountable for their economic policies and investments. Support us.



Statement in Solidarity with Siddharth Varadarajan, Karan Thapar & The Wire

The targeting of Siddharth Varadarajan, Karan Thapar & The Wire by the regime is yet another attempt to flatten what remains as one of the last few bastions of journalistic ethos and editorial courage in India. The targeting of the two journalists is an assault on all institutions and civic spaces that uphold free expression. We salute the courage and resolve of The Wire & its journalists for remaining steadfast to journalistic ethics in the face of repeated assaults. [Read More.](#)



BULA BILL TO SAVE SHYLOCKS?

The BULA Bill, intended to address predatory lending, fails to protect vulnerable borrowers from exploitative practices by NBFCs and MFIs. The People’s Commission on Public Sector and Public Services demands a stronger model law that regulates interest rates, recovery practices, and grievance redressal. The commission also advocates for expanding public sector bank branches and prioritising lending to the poor. [Read More.](#)



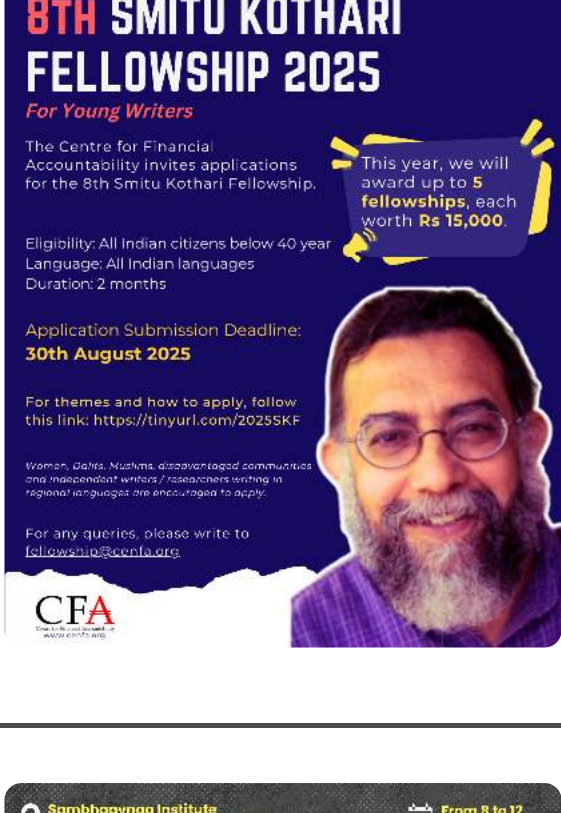
Article:
Micro Loans Are Driving an Already Forsaken Population Further Into Distress



Article:
फैलते शहर, उजड़ती बस्तियाँ और सिसकता जीवन



Hiring:
Position: Senior Associate - Energy Team

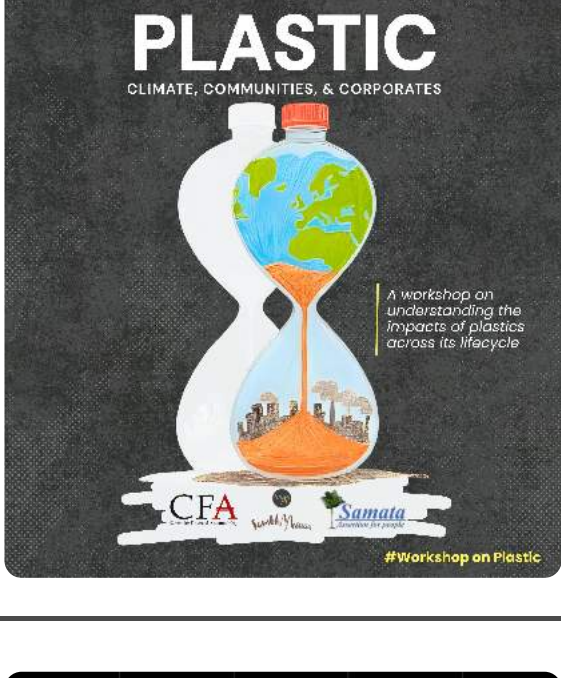


8th Smitu Kothari Fellowship 2025 Announcement

The Centre for Financial Accountability, a New Delhi-based organisation working to strengthen and improve financial accountability within India, invites applications for the Smitu Kothari Fellowship 2025.

- Open to all, under the age of 40 years.
- Application Submission Deadline: August 30, 2025
- Duration: 2 months

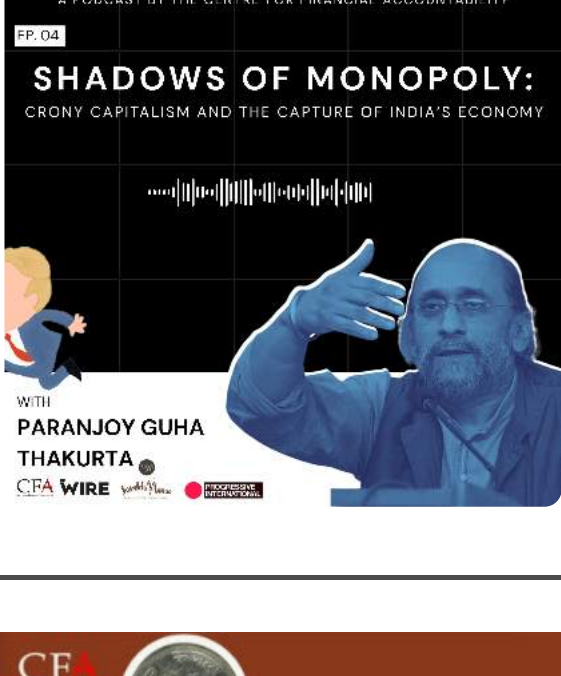
[Read More and Apply.](#)



Unpacking Plastics- Climate, Communities and Corporates I Workshop

Centre for Financial Accountability, in collaboration with the Sambhaavnaa Institute of Public Policy and Politics and Samata: Assertion for People, is organising “Unpacking Plastics: Climate, Communities and Corporates”, a workshop that will explore the impacts of plastics across their entire lifecycle.

[Read More and Apply.](#)



You, Me and the Economy I Podcast

SHADOWS OF MONOPOLY: Crony Capitalism & the Capture of India's Economy

In this episode, veteran journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta dives into the Adani Group’s meteoric rise & the complex web of debt, state policy, and global finance that fuels it.

[Read More.](#)



FLIP BOOK: POCKET MONEY

Brief on what they kept from you about your money this week

A weekly In-Digest from the Centre for Financial

[Read More.](#)

