



Finance Matters

News, Views & Perspectives on Financial Policies & Institutions

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

Volume 9, Issue 08, September 05, 2025

GST Cuts: A Relief or a Mirage?

The GST Council's rate reductions are being hailed as a relief for consumers, but the timing makes the move look reactive rather than reformist. If the intent was truly to ease burdens on households, why were these cuts delayed for years despite repeated demands? Their sudden announcement right after the US imposed steep tariffs on Indian exports suggests that the government is scrambling to offset an export shock rather than addressing long-standing flaws in GST.

The real problem lies in the structure of the tax. Exports are zero-rated, so GST cuts do nothing for exporters. Instead, they shift demand toward the organised sector by lowering its prices while leaving the unorganised sector, home to most small traders and workers, at a disadvantage. This tilt will deepen India's K-shaped growth pattern, where big players expand at the cost of employment-heavy small enterprises. Far from reviving demand, such distortions risk weakening it further by squeezing jobs and wages in the very segment that sustains mass consumption.

With exports expected to take a significant hit and domestic demand too fragile to absorb the shock, these rate cuts are unlikely to compensate for the loss. At best, they offer temporary relief to consumers; at worst, they accelerate the erosion of the unorganised economy. What India needs is serious GST reform that recognises the weight of its informal sector, not ad hoc cuts that paper over structural cracks.

- 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.

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Half full Half Empty GST Changes?

The government hails the latest GST revisions as a Diwali gift, but are they really? From complex slabs and uneven relief on essentials to rising fuel costs and the ongoing struggles of MSMEs, the benefits seem tilted towards corporates rather than citizens. The changes proposed by the Government effective from Sept 22 are not even a glass half full. What is needed is a total overhaul of the entire tax system.

[More.](#)



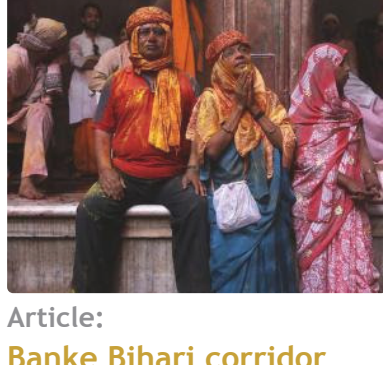
Appeal:

Loan Relief for Families, Individuals & Small Businesses Hit by Climate Disasters



Article:

The Indian Port Bill 2025: A Silent cost to maritime federalism



Article:

Banke Bihari corridor shows how urban planning bodies are being harnessed to drive religious tourism



Appeal:

Statement by International Economists on Israel's Weaponization of Aid and Starvation



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Civil Society Members Appeal to Banks to Withhold Investment in Anuppur Thermal Power Project



Appeal:

Appeal to the President for a judicial enquiry into the Election Commission's impartiality in Electoral Rolls and Processes.

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Senior Associate – Energy Team

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Hiring

Senior Associate (Energy Issues)

We are inviting applications for the post of Senior Associate in the energy team, specifically working on the impact of the energy sector in India. Work on research, policy analysis, and outreach related to the impact of India's energy sector, with a focus on energy sector. Location: Delhi (preferred) or remote

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Sambhaavnaa Institute
Kandbari, Himachal Pradesh

From 8 to 12 October 2025

UNPACKING PLASTICS
CLIMATE, COMMUNITIES, & CORPORATES

A workshop on understanding the impacts of plastics across its lifecycle

CFA **Samata**

#Workshop on Plastic

Unpacking Plastics- Climate, Communities and Corporates I Workshop

CFA, 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.

Date of the event: 8–12 October 2025

Time: 9 am IST onwards

Venue: Sambhaavnaa Institute in Kandbari, Himachal Pradesh.

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Vol III Issue 28
5th September 2025

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A PODCAST BY THE CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

EP. 08

AFRICA'S PUSH FOR ALTERNATIVES:
CHALLENGING US DOMINANCE AT THE IMF AND WORLD BANK

WITH **DEMBA MOUSSA DEMBELE**

CFA WIRE **Samata** **PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL**

You, Me and the Economy I Podcast

Africa's Push for Alternatives: Challenging US Dominance at the IMF & World Bank

In this episode, Demba Moussa Dembele explores how the US shapes the IMF and World Bank to push neo-liberal policies, obstructs multilateral development banks, and stresses the need for Africa and the Global South to build alternative financial institutions.

[Read More.](#)

INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

The World Bank's Empire: Exploitation and the Fightback.

Prafulla Samantara
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WORLD BANK ON TRIAL!
On the 80th Anniversary of the World Bank/IMF

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