



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

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## India's Labour Codes: Reform or Rollback of Workers' Rights?

The Union government's move to notify the long-pending Labour Codes marks the biggest overhaul of India's labour laws since Independence. By replacing 29 existing laws with four sweeping Codes, the Centre claims it is simplifying compliance and boosting the "speed of doing business". But the manner in which these Codes were passed and notified, without meaningful debate in Parliament, without consulting trade unions or even convening the Indian Labour Conference for nearly a decade, raises serious concerns about the democratic process. Many observers note that the Codes transfer essential legislative powers from Parliament to the Executive, allowing key decisions on wages, working hours and safety to be set through rules that can be changed without scrutiny.

Beyond process, the content of the Codes significantly weakens worker protections. Higher thresholds for retrenchment, the introduction of fixed-term employment, relaxed safety regulations, and a diluted inspection system together reduce job security and workplace accountability. The right to strike has also been curtailed through procedural hurdles that are nearly impossible to meet. Although the Codes introduce a framework for gig and platform workers, they stop short of recognising them as employees, leaving millions without meaningful social security. Critics argue that these changes undermine constitutional guarantees of equality, dignity, and freedom of association, while pushing India towards a hire-and-fire regime already criticised for deepening inequality.

The Codes also raise serious federal concerns. Labour is a subject on the Concurrent List, yet the Centre now holds wide powers to override states through rule-making. This risks creating a patchwork of labour standards, with states competing to attract investment by lowering protections, a "race to the bottom" that harms workers and weakens India's democratic balance. Trade unions, farmer organisations, and several political groups have called the Codes an assault on hard-won labour rights and on the federal structure of the Constitution. Their nationwide mobilisation on November 26 signals that these reforms will meet strong and sustained opposition. If economic growth is the goal, it must not come at the cost of workers' rights or India's democratic foundations.

- 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.



### Random Reflections

#### How Banks Have Contributed to the Election Victory in Bihar

Nobody anticipated a massive victory with 85% seats for the ruling alliance, which faced 20 years of anti-incumbency, anger due to unemployment, massive poverty, low income levels, the highest out-migration, and low-quality education. "The success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan," says a proverb. Now the pro-corporate, subservient media is bringing out stories behind the victory, but nobody has touched on the role the banks have played in the election results. [Read More.](#)



**Article:**  
**Wayanad relief: Why India needs climate-sensitive banking now more than ever**



**Article:**  
**Crores spent, Smart Cities Mission leaves behind more bills, superficial infrastructure**



**Article:**  
**संवैधानिक प्रावधानों से पारदर्शी एवं जवाबदेह व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित हो**

## The Tata Mundra Project: A Decade of Broken Promises

A decade of environmental destruction. Thousands of lives affected [9].

It's time for the World Bank to act.

Call to action

### 12 YEARS OF INJUSTICE: STILL NO ACTION ON TATA MUNDRA

Communities in Tata Mundra are still fighting for clean water, safe air, and justice. Add your voice — urge the World Bank and IFC to act now.

Follow the link or scan the QR code to sign the petition now: <https://wbtakeaction.cenfa.org/#petition>



### Event

**PEOPLE's DEBRIEF [India]**

**G20@Johannesburg: 4th Dec | 6:30 pm IST**

**COP30@Belem: 6th Dec | 2:30 pm IST**

As the curtains are drawn upon the G20 presidency in South Africa and the COP30 in Brazil, it is imperative that we do a round-up of what transpired, what were the highlights, major takeaways for the Global South, implications for India, what was positive & what seemed amiss. [Register here.](#)



### Residential Workshop

**Tentacles of Debt Crisis: Understanding the Contours of a New Debt Trap**

**9th - 12th December**

**Sambhava Institute, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh**

The workshop will be useful for activists, students, researchers, young bank officials and groups to understand how the most poor and vulnerable are being pushed into a new debt trap, are being subjected to usurious rates and inhuman recovery practices. [Read More.](#)



### Hiring

**Campaigner for Waste-To-Energy work**

We are inviting applications for a full-time campaigner to engage and work with the communities impacted by "waste-to-energy (WTE) incineration plants" and other false solutions to plastic pollution in India. The candidate is also expected to conduct research on the impacts of WTEs.

**3-5 yrs experience | Delhi/NCR |**

**Social science background**

To apply, please fill out this [form](#).

[Read More.](#)

