Why Should We Care About Development Finance? ... because it's our money! Volume 9, Issue 20, November 28, 2025

## The Union government's move to notify the long-pending Labour Codes

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

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

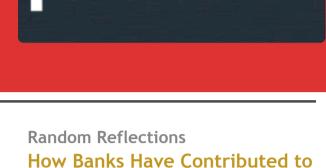
states competing to attract investment by lowering protections, a "race to the bottom" that harms workers and weakens India's democratic balance. Trade unions, farmer organisations, and several political groups have called the Codes an assault on hard-won labour rights and on the federal structure of 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

through rule-making. This risks creating a patchwork of labour standards, with

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accountable for their economic policies and investments. Support us.

government and financial institutions





## which faced 20 years of antiincumbency, anger due to unemployment, massive poverty, low

the Election Victory in Bihar

Nobody anticipated a massive victory with 85% seats for the ruling alliance,

income levels, the highest outmigration, 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. De the Teople







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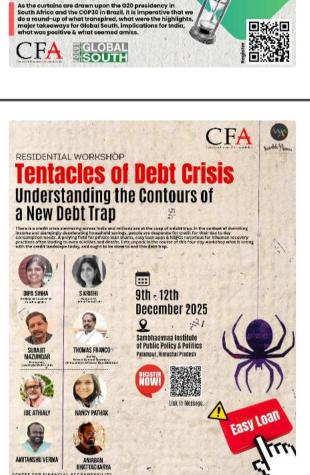
PEOPLE's DEBRIEF [India]

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

Event

As the curtains are drawn upon the G20 6th DECEMBER presidency in South Africa and the

BELEM



Residential Workshop **Tentacles of Debt Crisis:** 

Understanding the Contours of a New

📍 Sambhaavnaa Institute, Palampur,

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

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.

9th - 12th December

**Himachal Pradesh** 

**Debt Trap** 

<u>Hiring</u>

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

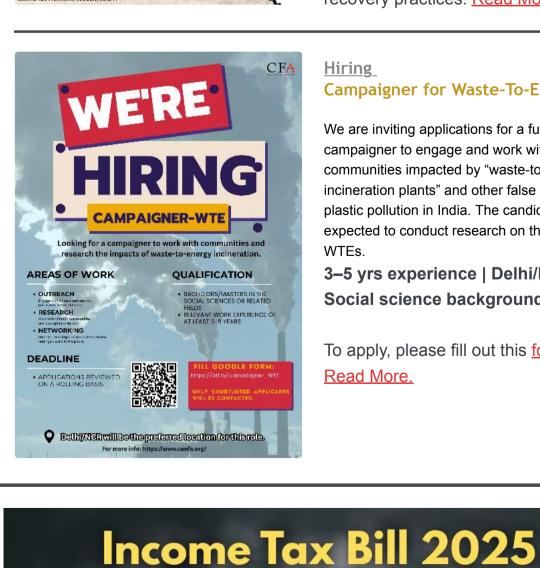
recovery practices. Read More.

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plastic pollution in India. The candidate is also expected to conduct research on the impacts of 3-5 yrs experience | Delhi/NCR | Social science background To apply, please fill out this form. Read More.

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communities impacted by "waste-to-energy (WTE) incineration plants" and other false solutions to



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