

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

Volume 9, Issue 26, March 26, 2024

Rising Temperatures, Falling Safety Nets

India is once again being caught unprepared by a climate crisis that is no longer "unusual" but increasingly routine. From the snow-deficit Himalayas to storm-hit plains, the warning signs are clear: rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and fragile crop cycles. Yet, the policy response remains reactive, fragmented, and insufficient. While advisories and alerts from the India Meteorological Department are important, they do little to protect farmers who are already facing crop losses, rising costs, and growing uncertainty. Early budding in apple orchards, damaged mango flowers, and heat-stressed wheat are not isolated events, they are signals of a systemic failure to prepare agriculture for a warming world.

The government's approach continues to rely heavily on short-term crisis management rather than long-term resilience. Crop insurance schemes remain unreliable and inaccessible for many small farmers, often failing to compensate for losses in time. Procurement policies are inconsistent, leaving farmers vulnerable to price crashes when production is good and helpless when crops fail. Despite repeated climate shocks since 2022, there has been little visible effort to diversify cropping systems or support region-specific climate adaptation. Instead, monoculture practices continue, increasing vulnerability to both weather shocks and pest attacks.

Equally concerning is the neglect of public investment in irrigation and local water systems. As temperatures rise and rainfall becomes erratic, farmers are forced to depend more on groundwater or expensive private solutions. This not only raises cultivation costs but also deepens inequality, as small and marginal farmers are the worst affected. At the same time, rising input costs, fertilisers, pesticides, and seeds, are quietly being passed down to farmers and eventually to consumers, fueling food inflation. The burden of climate change is thus being shifted onto the most vulnerable, while policy remains disconnected from ground realities.

There is also a dangerous lack of preparedness for larger climatic risks such as a potential El Niño event, which could further disrupt monsoons and push India toward drought-like conditions. Despite clear scientific warnings, there is no visible nationwide strategy to manage its agricultural and economic fallout. Strengthening local storage, decentralised procurement, and climate-resilient seed systems should be urgent priorities. Instead, the policy discourse remains focused on exports, trade, and market signals, often ignoring the lived realities of farmers.

What India needs now is a decisive shift toward a pro-people, climate-resilient agricultural framework. This means investing in public irrigation, ensuring universal and effective crop insurance, promoting crop diversity, and building robust local food systems. Farmers must be treated not as passive recipients of relief, but as central stakeholders in climate adaptation. Without such a shift, the country risks not just periodic crop losses, but a deeper crisis of food security, rural livelihoods, and economic stability.

- 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.](#)



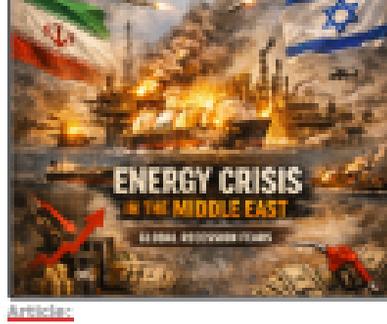
Banking Industry on the Brink of a Nationwide Strike Again - DFS Responsible

The United Forum of Bank Unions, in their letter to the Central Labour Commissioner, which is communicated via a circular to its members, has stated, "It frustrates the process already underway before your office, defeats the purpose of the proceedings recorded on 09.03.2023, and seeks to create a fait accompli on a live industrial-relations issue that directly concerns the sanctity of settlements, fairness in treatment, industrial discipline, and respect for collective bargaining, besides non-adherence to provisions of law."

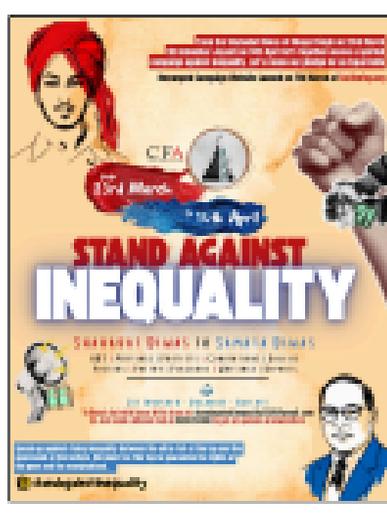
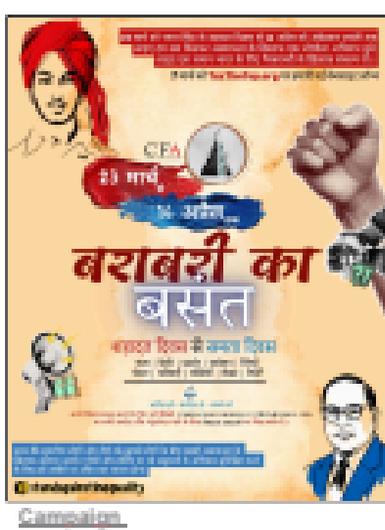
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[Interview:](#)
Are Indian Corporations Complicit in Israel's Genocide in Gaza?



[Article:](#)
ऊर्जा संकटों पर हमारे: दुनिया को बंदी की ओर धकेलता युद्ध



[Campaign](#)

Stand Against Inequality | बराबरी का बसंत

From 23 March (Martyrdom Day of Bhagat Singh) to 14 April (Samata Diwas / birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar), the #StandAgainstInequality campaign calls for nationwide action against economic and social inequality.

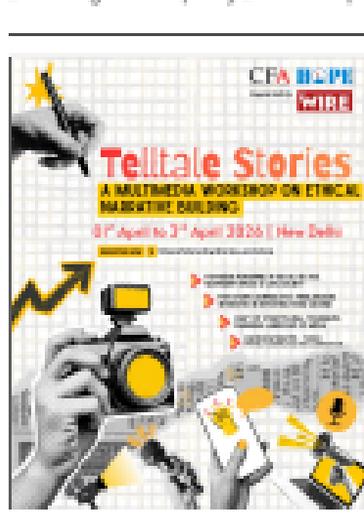
Key Announcements

- Revamped Campaign Website Launch – 7 March at TaxTheTop (TaxTheTop.org)
- Joint Action Day – 23 March (common placards & banners across India)
- Competitions – Poster, Rael & Poetry contests
- Nationwide Actions – Street meetings, discussions, public gatherings & online events
- Launch of WealthTracker – A new resource highlighting the potential of taxing the ultra-rich
- Paint Against Inequality – Giant public canvas action on 14 April

To participate or receive campaign resources:

standagainstinquality2024@gmail.com | Missed Call: 89510 50308

#StandAgainstInequality #TaxTheTop



Workshop: Telltale Stories | A Multimedia Workshop on Ethical Narrative Building

Date: 1st-3rd April

Venue: New Delhi

Telltale Stories: A Multimedia Workshop on Ethical Narrative Building, supported by The Wire and co-organised by Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA) and Holistic Approach for People's Empowerment (HOPE), is a three-day residential workshop to be held in New Delhi.

[Read More](#)

Workshop: Beyond Burning Waste

April 07, 2024 | 9:30 AM

Venue: National Foundation for India, India Habitat Centre, Core 4A, Upper Ground Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

This workshop creates space through a short film screening, followed by participatory discussions bringing stakeholders. It explores opportunities for longer-term collaboration, especially in research and action-oriented studies involving CSOs, waste pickers, and the political economy of MLPs and BUPs.

[Register/Read More](#)



A Message from Nikhil Dey from Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

Let us come together to fulfill the dream of Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar. Join the [#StandAgainstInequality](#) Campaign starting from 23rd March.

