



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

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Rising Heat, Rising Inequality

India's worsening heatwave crisis is no longer just an environmental concern, it is a deepening economic and social emergency. Rising global temperatures, driven by the accumulation of greenhouse gases, have made heatwaves more frequent, longer, and more intense across the country. Over the past four decades, both the number of heatwave days and their duration have steadily increased, while the geographical spread of "heat hotspots" has expanded by nearly 1.5 times. Regions like northwestern and central India, the Indo-Gangetic Plain, and coastal belts are now on the frontlines of this crisis. What was once an occasional extreme event is becoming a structural feature of India's climate reality.

Despite mounting evidence, policy responses remain inadequate and narrowly framed. India's Heat Action Plans (HAPs) largely focus on emergency responses, issuing alerts, opening cooling centres, and managing daytime exposure. But they fail to address the changing nature of heat itself, especially rising nighttime temperatures and the urban heat island effect. Poor urban planning, shrinking green cover, and unregulated construction are intensifying heat stress in cities. Policies have yet to evolve into comprehensive frameworks that integrate climate adaptation with housing, labour protection, and urban design. In effect, India is treating heatwaves as short-term disasters rather than a long-term developmental challenge.

The economic consequences are severe and unevenly distributed. Extreme heat reduces working hours, lowers productivity, and increases health-related expenditures. According to estimates by the [International Labour Organization](#), India could lose nearly 5.8% of its working hours by 2030 due to heat stress. This impact is equivalent to the loss of 34 million full-time jobs, with the agriculture and construction sectors being the most severely affected.

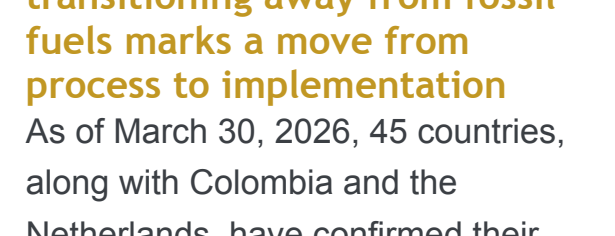
The burden falls disproportionately on the poor, especially women in the informal economy. With nearly 90% of India's workforce outside formal protections, most workers lack access to social security, healthcare, or income support during extreme weather. Women street vendors, in particular, face compounded vulnerabilities, reduced customer footfall, loss of perishable goods, lack of access to water and sanitation, and limited credit options. Recent evidence shows just how severe this impact has become. A study found that during peak summer, 96% of vendors reported fewer customers and 90% reduced their working hours. As incomes shrink and medical expenses rise, debt levels surge, more sharply for women than for men. For many, rising heat is no longer just a health hazard; it is a direct assault on their livelihoods.

This points to a deeper policy failure. The absence of climate-resilient infrastructure, such as shaded vending zones, rest areas, cooling spaces, and sanitation facilities, means that the burden of adaptation is pushed onto those least equipped to bear it. As heat intensifies, women vendors are forced into a vicious cycle of reduced earnings, rising health risks, and increased borrowing. Many fear the coming summers, knowing it will bring the same pattern of exhaustion and economic loss.

India's heatwave crisis exposes a fundamental gap in policy thinking: the failure to connect climate change with economic justice. Addressing this crisis requires more than advisories, it demands investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, worker protections, and gender-sensitive social security systems.

- 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.](#)



The first conference on transitioning away from fossil fuels marks a move from process to implementation

As of March 30, 2026, 45 countries, along with Colombia and the Netherlands, have confirmed their participation in the conference and in the launch of a coalition on transitioning away from fossil fuels. In addition, more than 2,600 organisations have expressed interest in being part of the process. Notably, while a few organisations from India are expected to engage, India itself — one of the world's largest coal producers — does not feature among the participating countries.

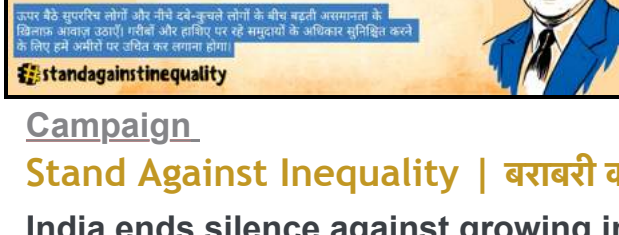
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Experts Say That Accountability and Monitoring Requirements Are Why Municipalities Are Not Leveraging Green Bonds



पृथ्वी का संकट: असंतुलित विकास और पारिस्थितिकी विनाश



Campaign Stand Against Inequality | बराबरी का बसंत

India ends silence against growing inequality
Barabari ka Basant Abhiyan led by the #TaxtheTop Campaign from 23rd March (Shahadat Diwas of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru) to 14th April Samta Diwas (Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti).

More than 20 organisations and networks demanded to tax the super rich during this campaign. **People went on streets in 14 states across the country demanding tax justice and an end to inequality.**

Wealth Tracker India 2026 came out as a powerful campaign material exposing wealth concentration in India.

The campaign has created an opportunity for various struggles and movements in the country to include the demand to tax the super rich and guarantee dignified lives for all Indians. The powerful slogan **अमीरों पर टैक्स बढ़ाओ, जनहित में जैसे लगाओ** has reached to people across the country.

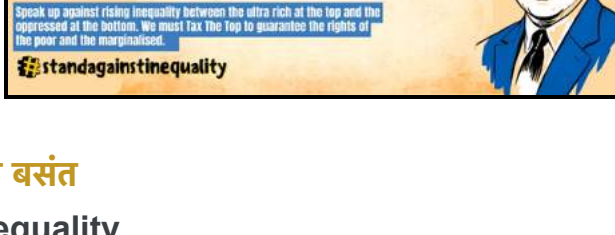
Tax Justice demand reached more than 40 thousand people on Social media platforms.

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Report वेल्थ ट्रैकर इंडिया | अमीरों पर टैक्स बढ़ाओ, गैरबराबरी खत्म करो

आज हम जो देख रहे हैं, वह आज्ञाद भारत में पहले कभी नहीं हुआ। बहुत महंगी शायियाँ, ज्यादा राजनीतिक ताकत, मीडिया पर काफ़ी हद तक नियंत्रण और बहुत ज्यादा दौलत, ये सब एक साथ दिखाई दे रहा है। भारत में अमीरी-गरीबी का फर्क बहुत बढ़ गया है, जो अंग्रेजों के समय जैसा लगता है। देश के सबसे अमीर 1% लोगों के पास 40% से ज्यादा संपत्ति है। ऊपर के 10% लोग लगभग 60% कमाई ले जाते हैं, जबकि नीचे के 50% लोगों को सिर्फ 15% ही मिलता है।

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Sign the Petition Progressive wealth tax on the ultra-rich

Sign the petition calling for the introduction of a Progressive Wealth Tax on the ultra-rich in India.

If you are concerned about the growing gap between a privileged few at the top and the rest of the country, make your voice heard by registering your support [here](#).

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Centre for Financial Accountability is looking for a Media & Communication Assistant.

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EXTREME WEALTH EXTREME INEQUALITY

Demand a Progressive Wealth Tax in India to ensure universal social & economic rights!

SIGN THE PETITION:

Use the link or scan the QR code: <https://bit.ly/taxthetop-sign>



Flipbook Pocket Money

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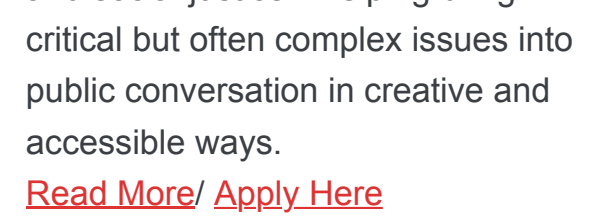
Brief on what they kept from you about your money this week

A weekly In-Digest from the Centre for Financial Accountability

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01 RBI Raises Concern Amid Falling Deposits in Banks

The Reserve Bank of India has held discussions with scheduled commercial banks amid concern over a noticeable slowdown in savings deposit growth, driven largely by households shifting their money into higher-return options like equities and mutual funds; while this reflects increasing financialisation of savings, it is worrying regulators because credit demand remains strong, and weaker deposit growth could strain banks' ability to fund loans, prompting the RBI to explore ways to improve



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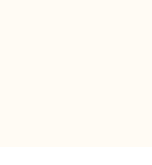
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