



NewsWatch on Livelihood, Food Security, Land Rights, Gender, Identity &amp; Social Exclusion

## About Us

### Vision

"Where there is justice in the land, fields and forest every living being will dance and sing"



### Mission

In the spirit of service and sacrifice of Christ, CNI-SBSS would like to accompany DBSS and its partners to engage with the reference communities, so that they will develop the capacity (skills and assets) to negotiate with the policy makers and to realize their rights and emerge as an alternative political force. To move towards this direction, communities would be sensitized socially, politically, economically and culturally to organize themselves and claim their rights over livelihood means while protecting their identity.

### Our Resource Centres

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Livelihood and Food Security, Agra

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Land Rights and Dalit Studies, Pune

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions and Research, Kolkata

### Contact Us

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## News of the Fortnight

### India – EU Free Trade Agreement

Studying the details of Indo-EU agreement one is reminded of the colonial India. When India was forced to sell cheap raw material and buy expensive finished goods from its colonial masters. Thus effectively destroying its own cottage industry and depriving many of the right to livelihood. From the looks of it things have not changed much for India. Although there is a slight difference, pre independence, exploitation was thrust upon India. Whereas post-independence, India invites, rejoices and celebrates being exploited.

A case in point is the Indo-EU bilateral trade agreement. Hailed by the business communities of both the countries as "path breaking", this bilateral trade talks between the world's largest trading entity and the biggest democracy has thrown up so many possibilities that it had blinded the government to the ominous effects it would have on the poor who are often left standing on the margins of prosperity and growth.



The agreement includes not only goods but also services, investment, trade facilitation, technical standards, intellectual property rights, and dispute settlement. It includes lowering of tariffs, doing away with protectionism, fostering health competition. The cooperation is expected to be focused on pharmaceuticals, shipping, financial services, and seafood.

On the face of it, this agreement seems phenomenal but the question we need to ask is for whom is it and who benefits the most? Definitely not the poor farmers who are forced to commit suicide due to the increased volatile situation brought about by the presence of foreign players in the domestic market. Or the poor who are deprived of low costing medicines due to the rigid implementation of Intellectual property Rights. Or the people on the verge of losing their jobs to "reforms". Or the small business owners who are fighting a losing battle with foreign conglomerates. But if the terms of the agreement do not benefit the above mentioned how and why is it being cheered on?

The present United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government led by the Congress headed by economist first and politician as an afterthought, Dr Manmohan Singh was responsible for bringing about the new economic policy in the 1990's. He supposedly represents the party whose favourite tag line is "Congress ka Haath, Aam Admi ke saath". Considering the kind of policies

## Resources

### FCFC Position Paper on EU-India-FTA

EU and India have been engaged in extensive political dialogue on a comprehensive trade, investment and economic co-operation agreement for a long time now. [Read More](#)

### Towards Human Rights-Consistent Trade Policies

Samples and suggestions for engaging with human rights treaty bodies [Read More](#)

### Qualitative analysis of a potential Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India

[Read More](#)

### Economic Impact of a potential FTA between the EU and India

[Read More](#)

### Critical Considerations in a Time of Crisis

[Read More](#)

### Servicing the Rich

How the EU will wreck the WTO talks [Read More](#)

### Getting Growth Right: Christian Aid

[Read More](#)

### Inequality and the State: Christian Aid

[Read More](#)

### India-EU FTA Hands off Retail

Global retail sales crossed US\$12 trillion in 2007. Global retail sales grew in the last five years (2001-06) at an average nominal growth of about 8 per cent per annum in dollar terms. [Read More](#)

being followed by the Government, the congress should change their tag line to "Congress ka Haath, Ameer Admi ke saath". UPA is being foolhardy in trying to make India shine at the cost of the 25% who are constantly pushed below the poverty line due to the policies championed by the government. Unless this 25% is taken care of and protected and nurtured, India has no hope of shining. And will fail to make a transitional shift from the list of "developing countries" to the list of "developed countries".

**Special Report on India-EU-FTA**  
Should India open banking sector?  
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NewsWatch is an electronic News Bulletin, a collection of previously published news and views from the print as well as the electronic media, transmitted by Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS), a justice and development arm of the Church of India (CNI) to keep a watch on various issues related to people and communities and draw the attention and the greater participation of civil society organisations to bring change in the lives of people. Visit us at [www.cnisbss.org](http://www.cnisbss.org)

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