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# About the Centre for Education and **Communication**

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Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) is a labour resource centre dedicated to research. campaign and support on key concepts, ideas and policies that enhance dignified and sustainable livelihood options of workers, in particular informal workers, and small producers.

# What is the **Digital Labour** Archive, and Why

The Digital Labour Archive (DLA) is a repository developed by CEC with the support of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS)-South Asia. The objective of the DLA is to assist researchers, activists and authorities in accessing relevant documents in a systematic manner on the struggles and experiences of labour in contemporary India, to facilitate better understanding, analysis, research and strategy building. DLA especially focuses on the informal sector workers employed in global value chains, such as those of the garment and automobile sectors. DLA aspires to be a knowledge hub for researchers, scholars and activists.



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# **Accessing the Archive**

Materials collected in the DLA are in digital form, and they can be accessed via online as well as offline medium. Some of the sensitive materials are currently accessible only via offline, and can be consulted in the Library of the Centre for Education and Communication (CEC). Uploading of the materials to the DLA is an ongoing process.

#### Links to the materials of Digital Archive can be found through the website of CEC, at https://cec-india.org/our-work.php?wid=21



# Nature of Material in the Archive

DLA has a rich collection of materials, such as trade union correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, booklets, cartoons, letters, petitions, newspaper clippings, magazines, reports, interviews of trade union activists, labour scholars and worker leaders.

The materials are being catalogued on the basis of sources and subjects. DLA has materials from organisations such as the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Centre of India Trade Unions (CITU), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Peoples' Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) etc. It has materials on garment workers, automobile workers, domestic workers, construction workers, brick kiln workers, mine workers, Anganwadi workers, marginal farmers and others. DLA also has a collection of workers' magazines, journals and newspapers, such as Labour File, Shraam Jeevi, Toontati Sankaale, Nagrik, Mehnatkash, and so on.

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# Material according to Source and Media

The Archive has been built by collecting material from varied sources including newspapers and trade unions archives. The material gathered is of varied media, including audio-visual material, as well as posters, photographs, cartoons and pamphlets.

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ता निर्माण । सभी राजनीतिक पार्टियां अपने-अपने एजेंडे के साथ चुनाव मैदान में उत्तर रही हैं और ज ता चाहेगी विवासी इन राजनीतिक पार्टियों के सामने अपना एजेंडा पेश करें। चुनाव ही एक ऐसा मौका १ सरकारें <u>धरेल</u>ं पार्टियों से कह सकता है। चुनाव पूरा होने के बाद हमें राजनीतिक पार्टियां वा सांसदों, वि मजदूरी नहीं fिय में हम लोग अपनी समस्याओं को उम्मीदवारों तक पहुंचाने के रूप में उपयोग करना चार्त दूरों की तरह

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## **Trade Union Material**

This collection includes materials such as copies of organs of the central trade unions, such as the Trade Union Record (TUR), a fortnightly magazine published by AITUC, covering information on union activities across India, reports of labour conferences, meetings and news clippings of struggles. Currently, the DLA has TUR issues for 36 years i.e. for the period 1979-2019. Other important materials, such as correspondence among union leaders on matters related to workers' struggles, campaigns, court cases, documents on the Fifty Years of AITUC, engagements with World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) etc. also are also included in the DLA. Organisational initiatives and campaigns of women workers, such as Anganwadi workers, reports on celebration of International Women's Day, May Day etc. are also part of the collection.



## **Collection of News Clippings**

The Archive has a rich collection of newspaper clippings related to the transfer of small industries from Delhi to the adjoining areas and the related struggles of workers and owners of small enterprises, from 1990s onwards. The Archive also has a collection of clippings on workers' migration, struggles and daily lives throughout the Covid-19 period.



## **Audio-Visual Materials**

The Digital Labour Archive has a series of interviews of labour historians, trade union activists and workers on different dimensions of working class lives, struggles, challenges of new labour regimes and experiences of organising workers. The audio-visual materials also contain films made for workers' education, such as adult education, provident fund, medical insurance, bonded labour and others.

## **Material related to Covid-19**

This collection comprises of various notifications and orders issued by the state and central governments in the Covid-19 period, with regard to the workers, their wages, travel, food and other provisions. Reports, articles, petitions, and press releases during the lockdowns and unlocking periods have also been compiled in this collection.



## Photographs, Cartoons

Historical and contemporary photographs on labour struggles, everyday lives of workers in workspaces and communities, trade union leaders and workers' leaders are being collected and curated through the Digital Labour Archive.

# Material according to Subject

The source materials have been re-classified into subject categories, for the convenience of the user. The following is an indicative subject list, in alphabetical order.

## **Automobile Workers**

In this category, documents related to the struggles and campaigns of automobile workers employed in the different layers of the automobile value chain, especially in the Delhi-NCR region have been documented. These include news reports, letters exchanged between unions and authorities, copies of Constitution and related papers of auto unions, studies, petitions, court papers, photographs and interviews of worker leaders.

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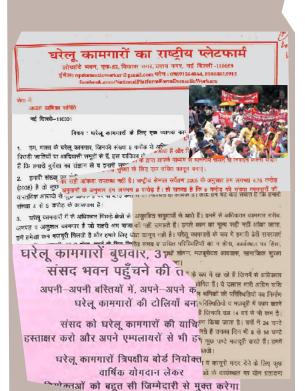
## **Domestic Workers**

Documents related to the struggles of domestic workers, initiatives of forming unions and forums of domestic workers unions, cases related to violation of rights of domestic workers, legal provisions and interviews of domestic workers.



### **EPF** Papers

Documents related to disputes and struggles for inclusion of different sectors, industries and firms under the provisions of the Employees Provident Fund. These also include disputes raised by workers about unfair cuts, irregularities and ambiguities related to Provident Fund provisions.



## **Factories and Fires**

A collection of newspaper reports, articles and studies on fire accidents in factories and slums in Delhi-NCR and other parts of the country.

#### Workers' Death and Working Lives

Accident at Virgo Washing Co., Okhla Industrial Estate

People's Union at Democratic Rights Delhi

October 1999

In one of the most serious industrial arcidents in Delhi in recent years, six workers died In order or ar more streter information reporting in Definition (report, view, use where the form an exploring and Fig in a first working factory working to Columbia Figure and September, Twelve working wave indice the factory at the imm. Two of than, Aire Lamby and In out of Samily Singht and the strete working the indices. The rest wave branch from an exploying. Subjects that the strete strete at ensure branc, four of bars, they change and four an exploying. Subjects that the strete strete at ensure branch. It is not strete the strete in the strete strete at ensure the strete interview. Anuc condemns the utter negligence in providing safety measures which led to death of over 10 workers in Pinkl Porsh Shoe factory in Udyon Vihar industrial area. The information gathered by AITUC unions in the area confirmed that only one exit gate which was locked from outside, windows with heavy iron grills, non-existence of fire fighting equipment led to death of the workers when fire broke out in the factory. They also reported that earlier three times the fire had broken out in the factory but neither the Factory Inspectorate of Delhi nor the Fire Service took any notice.

Udyog Vihar and Mangolpuri Industrial Area abounds with footwaar and plastic units but fire safety measures are not provided in most units. In this panicular factory more than 100 workers are employed but names of only 20 workers are shown on the muster roll and record of rest of the workers is not kept. The owner and the Factory inspectorale of Govt, of Delhi are the main et oulprits for loss of lives of the workers.

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गोदाम के मालिक दीपक जिंदल ने बताय कि संविवार को घजह में छुट्टी थी। जह साद अपने घर पर मौजद थे। करीय 11.30 बजे चौकीदार ने उन्हें फोन किया कि फैक्स्मी के अंटर मे a sa निकाल रहा है। सौकी दार से बात 🛛 पर दोनों जगत उमकाल की गाँदियां हों ही रही थी कि एक ध्यमका हुआ - ग्र्डची और आग बझाई।



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### **Garment Workers**

Documents, reports, studies on labour conditions, struggles and conflicts related to garment workers in India, especially in Delhi NCR.



#### **COVID-19: impact on brands and workers**

#### in garment supply chains

#### INTRODUCTION

Dear Mr. CMD.

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thops and are Kindly find enclosed herewith the letter dated from our affiliate, Coimbatore District Mill Workers U regarding no action being taken against Shri Mr. Orlong-term willful irregularities, abetment of frauds and other amaintaining indulged in by him during his tenure as General Mana vilas Ginning, Spinning and Weaving Mills, Coimbatore. that the management instead of taking serious acti simply transferred him to Kaleshwar Mills. nber brandt in

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Yours sincerely. (Same Das Gupta)

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## **Labour Laws**

Documents on campaigns and struggles related to changes made in labour laws. These include various versions and drafts of labour laws, submissions made by unions, reports on proceedings of tripartite consultations, impact studies, and so on.



## **Leaders and Papers**

These include letters, articles, essays and other papers of prominent trade union leaders of India.



## **Magazines**, Newspapers

Collection of mouthpieces of central trade unions, reports of human rights organisations, workers' magazines, journals and newspapers, such as TUR, Labour File, Shraam Jeevi, Toontati Sankaale, Nagarik, Mehnatkash.



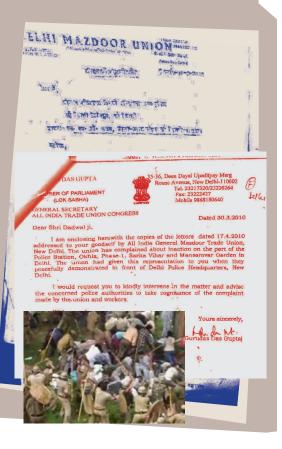
## **Pamphlets and Posters**

Pamphlets and posters released by workers organisations on various matters such as price rise, labour laws, policies, labour strikes etc. released during May Day demonstrations and other occasions across the recent years.



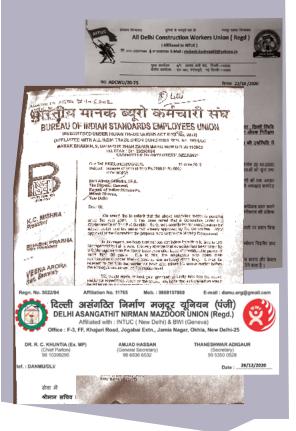
## **Police and Administration**

Letters, reports and news items related to police and administrative actions on workers, FIRs, complaints, permission letters for programmes etc.



## **Union Papers**

Documents of workers unions based on trade and sectors such as Construction Workers, Transport Workers, Medical Unions, University Workers, Gig Workers, and so on.



# **The Archive Team**

The Digital Labour Archive is being developed and maintained by a group of professionals associated with CEC. It includes historians, archivists, technicians and volunteers.

## **Contact Us**



http://cec-india.org/



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cec@cec-india.org

