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MAGAZINE NOTES

EPW March 2026 — Higher Education, Poverty, Displacement & West Asia

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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EPW March 2026 — Higher Education, Poverty, Displacement & West Asia

**Economic & Political Weekly**

March 2026 (Vol. 61, Nos. 10–13)

GS1**GS2****GS3****Economic & Political Weekly**

EPW · Weekly

EDITION

March 2026 (Vol. 61, Nos. 10–13)

MAINS:

GS Paper 1**GS Paper 2****GS Paper 3**

Economic & Political Weekly's March 2026 issues (Vol. 61, Nos. 10–13) cover higher education governance, caste-based poverty, development-induced displacement, digital surveillance in criminal justice, rural women's employment, and West Asia geopolitics.

ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhithan Bill, 2025: In Search of an Alternative** — Centralisation of higher education, federalism concerns, commercialisation risks
- 2 **Do Caste-based Disparities Influence Multidimensional Poverty?** — Chamba (H.P.) case study; SC/ST/OBC gaps in income, consumption, welfare schemes
- 3 **Displacement without Rehabilitation: Upper Indravati Project, Odisha** — Development-induced displacement; dam-affected tribal communities
- 4 **Bail without Liberty: Digital Surveillance and the Changing Meaning of Release** — Electronic monitoring alters bail jurisprudence; civil liberties vs. surveillance
- 5 **Agricultural Growth and Rural Women Employment** — Productivity gains ≠ women's employment gains; gender-disaggregated analysis
- 6 **From Asset to Liability: Rethinking the US–Israel Alliance** — West Asia conflict drivers; Israeli lobby; US strategic calculus

KEY THEMES

THEME	GS PAPER	KEY ARGUMENT
Higher education centralization	GS2	VBSAB 2025 violates cooperative federalism; PMO control over universities
Multidimensional poverty & caste	GS2, GS3	SC/ST/OBC households significantly worse on all indicators; MPI > income thresholds
Development displacement	GS2, GS3	Upper Indravati dam (Odisha): tribal communities displaced without adequate rehabilitation
Digital bail surveillance	GS2	Electronic monitoring = conditional freedom; privacy vs. state control
Rural women in agriculture	GS3	Productivity growth without gender-inclusive employment policy
US–West Asia	GS2	Alliance reconfiguration; Iran war risks; India’s energy exposure

4 Chapters in this Edition

1
Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhithan Bill 2025: Centralisation of Higher Education
2
Caste Disparities and Multidimensional Poverty: Evidence from Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
3
Displacement without Rehabilitation: The Upper Indravati Dam, Odisha
4
Bail without Liberty: Digital Surveillance and Criminal Justice Reform



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