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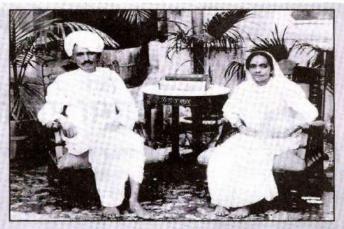
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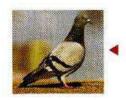
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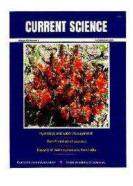
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Argentina's Economic Shock Therapy

The case of Milei's Argentina should raise questions for orthodox economists who advocate for neo-liberal agendas with significant austerity measures, impacting long-term productivity growth negatively. — Cem Oyvat, T Sabri Öncü & Joel Rabinovich

DeepSeek's Disruptive Intervention

15 By offering artificial intelligence tools that bypass the need for expensive infrastructure, DeepSeek undermines the capitalist logic that has driven big tech's dominance. — Avantika Tewari

The Indian Test-prep Industry

19 Regulations in the test-prep industry will only be a kind of "symptom management," while the malaise pertains to deeper issues of the quality of public schooling and higher education. — Ankur Sarin, Vinayak Kishore

Voluntary Carbon Market for Agriculture

24 The Indian voluntary carbon market in agriculture must address challenges faced by existing carbon-farming projects. Learnings from these can prevent low-quality credits, enhance credibility, and benefit farmers. — Adeeth A G Cariappa

V K Natraj (1939-2024)

29 V K Natraj made immense contributions in the field of development economics, decentralisation, and panchayati raj institutions. — Jos Chathukulam

Dalit-Bahujan Cultural Appropriation

36 The growing support for right-wing political ideals among Dalits, Bahujans, and Adivasis in North Indian states has been orchestrated by addressing intra-caste tensions through innovative cultural strategies that develop a bond between Hindutva nationalism and local caste histories. — Harish S Wankhede

Advanced Technology in Financial Intermediation

43 The burgeoning use of technology in the finance sector poses a host of governance and policy challenges in terms of regulatory compliance, risk mitigation, and systemic stability. This paper explores the governance challenges faced by financial entities, examining regulatory frameworks, ethical considerations, and practical implications for stakeholders. — Avdhesh Kumar Shukla, Snigdha K, Shubham Mehta & Vijay Singh Shekhawat

Construction of Small-family Norm

The evolution of India's small-family norm since independence is traced, examining its development from concept to official policy. The initial promotion by institutions like the Indian Army and influential figures is explored and the role of Ford Foundation-funded campaigns in creating public consent is highlighted. — Sushant Kumar

Aspirational Districts and SDGs

This paper investigates the progress of districts under the Aspirational Districts Programme using data from two rounds of the National Family Health Surveys by constructing a composite index score that factors in 25 development indicators across four dimensions. — Rabiul Ansary, Mohd Feroze Khan & Md Zakaria Siddiqui

Adoption of Artificial Insemination in Livestock

68 This systematic review synthesises and analyses existing research to identify the key determinants influencing livestock artificial insemination adoption. The findings suggest that targeted interventions, such as educational programmes and awareness campaigns, should be tailored to address the specific needs of different farmer groups. — Payal Seth, Bharath Chandran, Bhaskar Mittra & Prabhu Pingali

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Where Medicine Is Poison

Every few years, inclusive finance goes through a crisis with issues of excessive lending, coercive recovery practices, and high interest rates. — M S Sriram

Comparison of PLFS and TUS Estimates

14 To investigate the volatility and address the missing links in the employment statistics provided by labour surveys, a comparison has been drawn between the Periodic Labour Force Survey and time-use survey estimates. — Bharat, Narendra Kumar Bishnoi & Babloo Jakhar

The Updated Environmental Regulations

19 Three environmental laws passed by the Indian Parliament in 2023 have diluted the safeguards for forests, biodiversity, and marine ecosystems. — Jeet Singh

Platform Capitalism and Free Speech Absolutism

22 Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) and its platform capitalism float on free speech absolutism that fans Islamophobia. His forays into European politics push a sinister far-right agenda. — Amir Ali

Empowering Local Governments

The approaches employed by finance commissions have fallen short in substantially bolstering the resources available to local governments.

— Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra, Brajaraj Mishra

Review of Urban Affairs

39 Six papers challenge the conventional wisdom that informality is a problem to be eradicated, calling for policies that acknowledge the role of informality in sustaining cities while ensuring greater security and rights for those within it. — Anant Maringanti, Partha Mukhopadhyay

Spatial Embeddedness and Production Networks

41 The centrality of an artisan's household within the geography of traditional bangle-making is analysed by spatially locating it within the networks of production in the context of the Firozabad artisanal cluster in Uttar Pradesh. — Anjali Mittal

Inform(alis)ing Cyberabad

50 The processes described as "Informality from Above" and "Informality from Below" have been co-constitutive of the development of Cyberabad, and that while the former is most visible, the latter has been integral to the process of urbanisation. — Nikhilesh Sinha

Land Rights amid Urban Development

59 Amid multiple resettlement attempts, residents of a slum in Visakhapatnam have successfully defended their rights to their houses and the land they have occupied for the past three decades, employing multifaceted strategies to engage with a bureaucratised local state. — Aarathi Ganga

Political Economy of Urban Land-grabbing

68 The incidence of land-grabbing by local developers, leading to illegal colonies and unauthorised housing in the informal land markets of the National Capital Region, particularly in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad, is examined.

—Ajay K Gautam

Settling a Propertied Neighbourhood

76 Through Jaitpur, an "unauthorised colony" in Delhi, this paper explores how neighbourhoods are co-produced and settled via response and retaliation. It reveals forms of settling that transcend the binaries of people-versus planningled processes. — Sunny Kumar Gupta

Navigating Modernity

85 The impact of Srinagar's smart city project on the Hanji community of Kashmir is examined, exploring the intersection of urban development, traditional livelihoods, and cultural preservation. How this indigenous community, historically tied to Dal Lake, adapts to rapid urbanisation is investigated. — Najam us Saqib, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani

Postscript

95 Avantika Tewari on algorithms and informal work in Zwigato; Dhanesh Mankulam on Neru and the hegemony of visual evidence; Anee Bhattacharya on the queer narrative in Barzakh; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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The Trump Plan for Ethnic Cleansing of Gaza

Trump's plan fits with Benjamin Netanyahu's cartographic desires of more land and a greater Israel, a demand he has been reiterating, including in the United Nations. — Anuradha Chenoy

Lost in Spontaneity

12 The decline in popular resistance in Assam between the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and its implementation is analysed in the context of Hindutva identity politics and economic populism. — Mridugunjan Deka

Water Management and Development

15 This article examines opportunities and challenges in water management systems in the context of socio-economic development discourse and Sustainable Development Goals. — L S Sridhar, D Raja Jebasingh

Caste Diversity in Corporate Boards

20 Board diversity is calculated using a Blau Index based on caste affiliation, and the findings reveal a positive relationship between caste-based board diversity and corporate social values. — Ajit Dayanandan, Han Donker & Sayantani Mukherjee

Seeds of Change

24 To harness India's demographic dividend, local development think tanks and agricultural hubs should be created to integrate innovative practices and technologies. — A M Jose, Jos Chathukulam

Multidimensional Poverty Disparities

31 The analysis of social group-based disparities in changes in India's multidimensional poverty index reveals a decrease in absolute levels of poverty headcount across all groups, but with growing disparities.
— Akarsh Arora, Md Zakaria Siddiqui

Loss of an Alternative Vision of Urban Property

41 In the aftermath of the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, a number of dilemmas have arisen with regard to the exemptions granted under it for industrial purposes. The paper argues that what is unfolding today is the growing consolidation of a single homogeneous ideal of what owning land should mean. — Priya Sangameswaran

Broiler Contracting in Punjab

48 Though broiler contract farming in Punjab was inclusive, as growers were less resourceful, less literate and less experienced than their non-contract counterparts, value sharing with small growers did not happen. As a result, profitability from broiler rearing was lower in contract farming. — Naresh Singla, Sukhpal Singh

Serving a Pipe Dream

55 Centralised piped water supply is a key technology for supplying water in many Indian cities, including Kolkata and Chennai. A closer examination of water consumption patterns in these cities reveals that households across classes routinely access water from alternative sources, such as packaged drinking water and groundwater. — Sachin Tiwale, Karthikeyan R & Kriti Batra

Love Actually?

63 The complexities of abduction and seduction cases in the court illuminate the maleficent agenda of regressive societal norms and repressive state interventions on autonomy and agency. The paper attempts to apprehend the connection between seduction and abduction as a legal category. — Swapnil Singh

Quantitative Insights on Dalit Assertion

70 While qualitative analysis helps us understand the processes that lead to coordinated and systematic group violence against Dalits, the context-specific substantive findings may be strengthened and integrated using insights from recent quantitative studies. — Simantini Mukhopadhyay, Pintu Kabiraj

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The Tribal Development Paradox

By examining the Madia community's activism and the judicial response, the article emphasises the importance of legal frameworks that facilitate easier access to justice. — Bodhi Ramteke

Pink Tax in India

14 Using household-level data from 2015 to 2022, second-order evidence regarding the existence of a pink tax in the Indian context is provided. — Saibal Ghosh

Trump's 'America First' Trade Policy

President Donald Trump's "America First" trade policy poses a challenge to the global trading system that it has not faced since the end of World War II.
— Biswajit Dhar

A Gendered Framing of Animal Sexual Abuse

28 The manner in which feminist theory intersects with animal studies in framing the discussion on animal sexual abuse is examined, particularly in the context of the substitution of the Indian Penal Code with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in December 2023. — Nivedita Ghosh

Prices, Poverty Lines, and Poverty

34 In the absence of new official poverty lines, the updated official Tendulkar Committee poverty lines for 2022–23 are provided, along with alternate estimates of poverty based on updated Rangarajan Committee poverty lines for 2022–23 using the consumption expenditure survey. While poverty has continued to fall post-2011–12, the pace of poverty reduction has slowed. — Himanshu, Peter Lanjouw & Philipp Schirmer

Elevating Non-academic Roles

43 Through a comprehensive review of literature on the role of non-teaching staff in higher education institutions, key themes around professionalising the non-academic workforce are explored. A new nomenclature for non-academic staff is proposed to appropriately reflect their professional contributions. — Jai Mohan Pandit

Emergent Plutonomy in India

51 The problem of plutonomy in contemporary India is spelled out. The inclusion of economic rights, justice, and equality in national constitutions is surveyed to evaluate their effectiveness in preventing wealth inequality. The debates in the Constituent Assembly of India are studied to foreground the fears that interspersed around economic inequality. — Rouf Ahmad Dar, Aejaz Ahmad Wani & Javid Ahmad Dar

Women's Participation in Van Panchayats

Despite active involvement in forest-related movements and government policy promoting representation, women's low involvement in van panchayats has been understudied. This paper integrates the gender as seriality framework with the concepts of practical and strategic needs to critically examine women's representation in leadership roles and their participation in community forums. — Gautam Prateek

Postscript

71 Amiliya Theres Chacko and Sreemoyee Sarkar on British rule and environmentalism in Wayanad; Prerna Subramanian on popular sitcoms and their normalisation of the Hindu upper-caste identity; Ganesh Gaigouria on "Begampura" in the ballads of Ambedkar Summer School; and Last Lines by Ponnappa.

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Overwork Culture

The intensifying overwork culture clouding white-collar jobs in India's corporate sector and new economy is akin to Karoshi, a unique occupational hazard and social phenomenon reported in Japan since the 1980s. — Babu P Remesh

Value Realisation of Ecosystem Services

The article stresses the need for monetary valuation for resource allocation decisions and discusses the problems in monetary valuation for services in each group. — Ulaganathan Sankar

Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024

17 The JMM-led coalition has emerged victorious in the recent Jharkhand assembly elections, indicating that public memory against perceived assaults on protective legislation is still alive. — Sujit Kumar

Industrial Relations Code of 2020 and Industrial Adjudication

20 The Industrial Relations Code of 2020 represents a transformative shift in India's industrial dispute resolution system, consolidating labour courts and industrial tribunals into a single entity. — Santanu Sarkar

Relationship between Growth and Inequality

28 Empirical findings seriously challenge some popular prevailing notions that higher inequality has been an unintended outcome of higher growth in the post-reform period and that lower inequality can support higher growth. — Ravindra H Dholakia, Sitikantha Pattanaik & Shrujan Rajendra Rajdeep

Measuring Inflation Inequality

35 This paper tracks the inflation rates of the distribution of Indian households based on the consumption weights of different fractiles of rural and urban households from 2015 to 2023. Computing the consumption expenditure shares of different fractiles of Indian households and the inflation faced by them, we show that the volatility of inflation is higher for the poor. — Rohan Bansal, Prachi Bansal

Fintech Solutions for Supply Chain Financing

43 A crucial gap in current research is addressed by exploring the potential of digital supply chain financing—specifically factoring and reverse factoring to alleviate challenges faced by small and medium enterprises, including delayed payments, high-interest costs, and prolonged turnaround times. — Naveen Kumar K

The Case for Grid-connected Solar Irrigation Pumps

52 Off-grid solar pumps waste two-thirds of the energy they generate. Gujarat's innovative pilot, the Suryashakti Kisan Yojana, has net-metered 4,300 solarised tube wells and now purchases surplus solar power from farmers under a 25-year guarantee. We present unassailable statistical evidence revealing sky's significant behavioural impacts. — Tushaar Shah, Rahul Rathod, Shilp Verma, Arnab Paul Chawdhry & Gyan P Rai

Reversing India's Industrial Decline

60 India's industrial output growth and fixed investment rates have declined with clear signs of premature deindustrialisation. Policy efforts have failed to stave off the hollowing out of manufacturing, with an unabated rise in import dependence. There is a need to reconfigure industrial policy beyond tariffs and subsidies. — R Nagaraj

How Inclusive Is the Public Distribution System?

This article is based on a primary survey in Uttar Pradesh, the findings of which raise serious concerns regarding the cancellation of ration cards for eligible beneficiaries, the misuse of eligibility criteria, the shortcomings of the One Nation, One Ration Card scheme, and the persistent leakages of rations during distribution. — Roli Misra, Ankit Upadhyay

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A Potential Delimitation Compromise

10 Using the number of eligible voters as a basis for delimitation rather than population might provide a politically expedient solution to the crisis of malapportionment of seats in the Lok Sabha. — Alok Prasanna Kumar

The 'Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendment'

13 The decision of the Israel Supreme Court in the Movement for Quality Government bears wider comparative messages and carries some salient takeaways. — Upendra Baxi

Climate Change: Looking beyond NDCs

16 The extant nationally determined contributions fall short of accomplishing the requisite mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. — Sakshi Tewari

Serious Issues with PLFS 2023-24

20 The 5-digit unique identification for first stage units in the revisit data of the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023–24 presents some serious issues. — Panchanan Das

Retail Lending and Commercial Banks

22 Regulatory controls, insights into the socio-economic attributes of borrowers, and the end use of funds can minimise risks associated with high growth in the unsecured category of retail loans. — Elizabeth James

Relocating the Hindi-Urdu Debate

30 Every time World Hindi Diwas is celebrated, not only does it evoke the idea of the monolingual identity of the Indian nation but also invents certain linguistic claims and imaginaries about the Hindi-Hindu past.
— Aqsa Agha, Maanvender Singh, Bikku & Ugen Bhutia

Developmental Spending and Income Inequality

35 The relationship between development and non-development expenditures at the state and union government levels from 1980 to 2020 is examined to identify their impact on income disparity. Results show that the state government spending on development, social, and economic services reduces income inequality, whereas the union government spending increases it.

— Sahil Verma, Bimal Kishore Sahoo & Sunandan Ghosh

Does Convergence Remain Elusive?

45 This paper ranks and compares Indian states based on their macroeconomic performance beyond growth and per capita income, assessing its relationship with human development and examining interstate convergence. Rankings based on overall macroeconomic performances differ quite significantly from those based on traditional measures. — Suchismita Bose, Somnath Chattopadhyay

Borderland Mobility

53 The internal migration of indigenous people from hilly border villages to foothill plain areas in Arunachal Pradesh has been intense and critical. According to official estimates, more than 500 villages along the Indo-China border in the frontier state have been depopulated and turned into ghost villages.
— Ingo Mitalo, Rajan Sarma & Jayanta Krishna Sarmah

Are Greens Healthy for Banks' Balance Sheets?

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GIFTED CHILDREN: URGENT! ENABLE INDIA'S REAL DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND NOW

To a nation with education and economy in the doldrums, India's 10–25 million gifted children offer hope of inventing and innovating sock-it-to-'em killer products and services that will leapfrog the country to the forefront of the global economic development race



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Union Budget 2025-26

HALF PRESCRIPTION FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

Constructing enabling infrastructure is a necessary but not sufficient condition of GDP growth. There's little awareness in the budget that hard infrastructure requires to be maintained and managed by soft infrastructure — well—educated and trained human resources to optimise return on investment

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LANGUAGE WEAPONISATION IN LINGUISTIC POLITICS

Go to any school, and you will sense the problem: most teachers don't treat language as a means to think and express. Reading and writing are taught as mechanical skills

– Krishna Kumar





EMBED NET ZERO EDUCATION IN K-12 CURRICULA

Net-zero education necessitates weaving environmental sustainability into K-12 curricula. However, climate literacy is noticeably absent as a core subject in mainstream education — **P. GopalaKrishnan**

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YOUNG ACHIEVERS

Tanish Kumar Sahu Garuda Balaji

WISDOM HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SERENE MEADOWS, NASHIK

Currently celebrating its silver jubilee year, WHIS-SM is ranked Nashik's #1 co-ed day school and among the Top 50 in Maharashtra in the EW India School Rankings 2024–25



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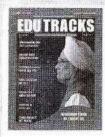
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आवरण : क्या हो कि नया साल नया हो — दिखे भी और महसूस भी हो? जवाब है : जब वह कागज से धरती पर उतरे! गांधी जब आजाद भारत के गांवों के निर्माण की बात करते थे, ग्रामस्वराज्य का नक्शा खींचते थे तब जर्मन कलाकार एंड्री वूल्फ का जन्म भी नहीं हुआ था. लेकिन एक खुशहाल सामूहिक जीवन को आंकने वाली उनकी यह पेंटिंग गांधी की कल्पना के करीब पहुंचती है जहां विज्ञान हमला नहीं करता है बिल्क प्रकृति के साथ धुलमिल कर जीता है.

वार्षिक शुल्क: भारत में 200 रुपये, दो वर्ष के 350 रुपये, आजीवन-1000 रुपये (व्यक्तिगत), 2000 रुपये (संस्थागत), एक प्रति का मूल्य 20 रुपये, डाक खर्च निःशुल्क. दो माह तक न मिलने पर शिकायत लिखें. अपना शुल्क चेक, बैंक ड्राफ्ट, मनीऑर्डर द्वारा 'गांधी शांति प्रतिष्ठान' के नाम भेजें. ऑनलाइन भुगतान के लिए केनरा बैंक खाता नं. 0158101030392 IFSC CODE: CNRB 0000158.

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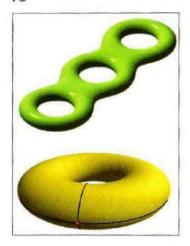
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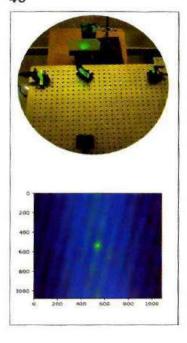
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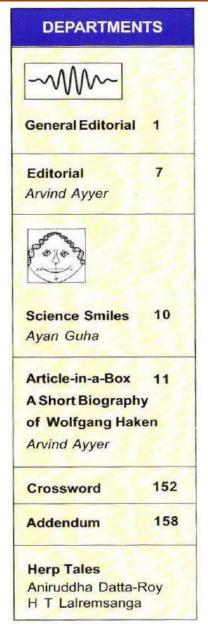
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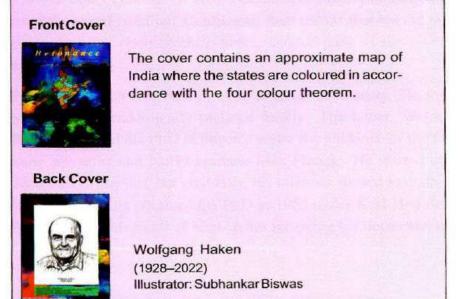
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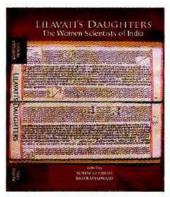
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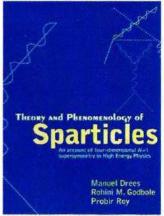
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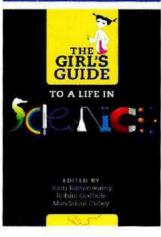
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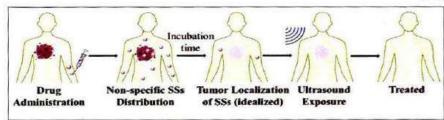


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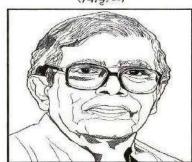
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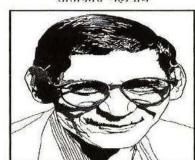
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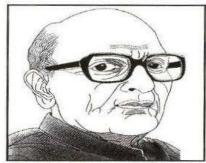
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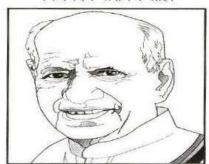
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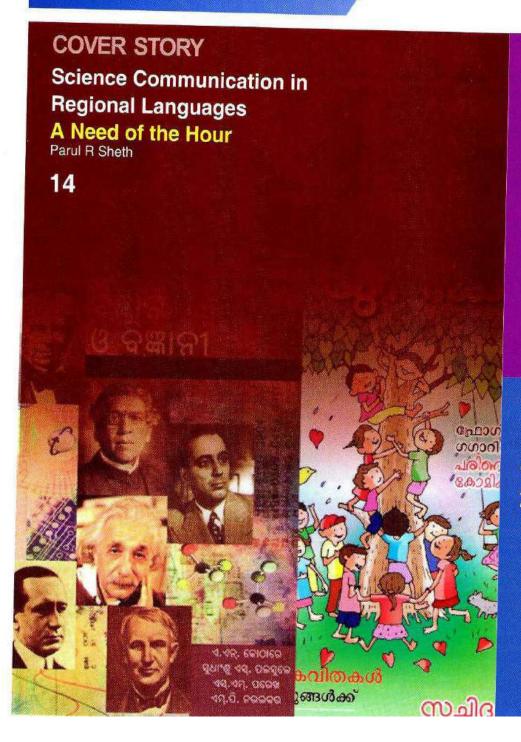


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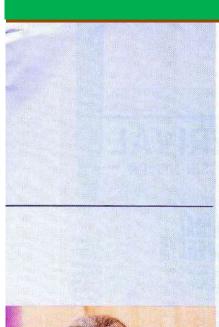
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मासिक

न हि ज्ञानेन सदशं पवित्रमिह विद्यते- श्रीमद्भगवदगीता ४/३८ इस संसार में ज्ञान के समान पवित्र करने वाला नि:संदेह कुछ भी नहीं है। In this world there is no purifier as great as knowledge.

वर्ष : 65

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फाल्गुन-चैत्र २०८१-८२

मार्च, 2025

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शिविरा पत्रिका में व्यक्त विचार लेखकों के अपने विचार होते हैं। अभिव्यक्त विचारों से शिक्षा विभाग राजस्थान का सहमत होना आवश्यक नहीं है। -वरिष्ठ संपादक

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Enhancing Academic Excellence: An Analysis of UGC's Draft Regulations, 2025 in the Context of Global Policies

J Madegowda*

In higher educational institutions (HEIs), the quality of education directly impacts the competency and employability of graduates. Unlike the corporate sector, where defective products can be replaced or rectified, the outcomes of educational deficiencies are irreversible. Employers, often seen as the 'customers' of HEIs, cannot return underprepared graduates for remedial education. Therefore, the role of faculty members becomes critical. Recruiting qualified and competent teachers is essential for maintaining academic standards and ensuring graduates are well-equipped to meet industry demands. Faculty quality significantly influences student learning, research outputs, and institutional reputation.

To achieve and sustain high educational standards, HEIs must recruit an adequate number of qualified faculty and invest in their continuous professional development. This involves providing competitive salaries, opportunities for research, and professional growth, as well as creating a supportive work environment. Non-monetary benefits such as recognition, academic freedom, and a healthy work-life balance also play a crucial role in faculty retention. By adhering to regulations and best practices, HEIs can ensure that they attract, develop, and retain top talent, thereby fostering a culture of excellence and accountability in higher education.

The quality of higher education is, therefore, intrinsically linked to the qualifications and performance of its teaching and academic staff. Establishing and maintaining minimum qualifications for appointment and promotion, coupled with effective measures for upholding standards, are paramount. This necessitates a multifaceted approach encompassing legal regulations, accreditation processes, and performance evaluation systems (Igbojekwe & Ugo-Okoro, 2015; Pam & Scott, 2013; Makhoul, 2019). However, the landscape is far from uniform, with significant variations in approaches across different countries, disciplines, and even within institutions (Mishra, 2011; Craft, 1994; Aggarwal et al. 2016; Cass, 2014).

In the above context, the notification of the draft "UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025" on January 6, 2025, is of significant importance. Once implemented, these regulations will apply to all universities established or incorporated by

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Transforming Indian Higher Education: 21st Century Reforms and Future Trends

Manas Ranjan Panigrahi*, Mukesh K Sharma**, and Sandeep Chaurasia***

Education is the cornerstone for sustainable development. It is essential not only for individual growth but also for societal development. Higher education plays an important role in nationbuilding. Since independence, the country's literacy rate was a mere 18% in 1951, which increased to 72.98% in the year 2011according to the Census of India (Census India, 2011). Indian higher education is the highest in the world, with over 1192 universities and 45,000 colleges (UGC Report, January 2025). Despite its scale, we are able to serve only 4.3 crore postgraduate students. If 25 crore students, who enroll for school education, have to go for higher education, therefore we need to double this educational network and infrastructure. At present, India's Gross Enrollment ratio is 26.3%. The government is planning to reach the goal of 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2035 (NEP 2020). We need a large number of universities the system faces significant issues such as uneven quality, outdated curricula, insufficient research output, and limited employability of graduates. With the increasing importance of a knowledge-based economy, it is imperative to reform higher education to foster innovation, critical thinking, and inclusivity (World Bank Report, 2022).

Historical Evolution of Indian Higher Education

Pre-Independence Era

Before independence, British rule brought significant changes in Indian Higher by focusing on colonial-era institutions where emphasis was given to the English language and literature, science, and mathematics. In this era, the Guru Shiksha System was replaced by a Formal Degree Examination. Based on the British university system, the British founded universities such as the University of Bombay (1857), the University of Madras (1857), and the University of Calcutta (1857). These universities had little room for local studies and were largely devoted to Western expertise. Instead of encouraging general education for the public, the focus was on creating a small, educated elite (Miller, 1984).

Post-Independence Developments

After independence Government of India took an initiative to build the nation through education and emphasize quality education by establishing key institutions such as IITs (1950s), IIMs, AIIMS, and universities under the UGC-1956 to standardize and regulate education.

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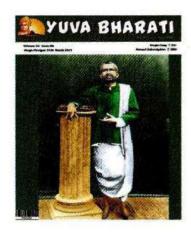


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