Current Affairs Magazine

Daily issue

18 November 2026

10 stories, 20 practice questions

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Contents

1. Bihar Building Bylaws Raise FAR to 3, Permit 100-Storey Apartments with Additional Fee 3

2. Bihar Sugar Industry: 10 Mills Operational, Five Planned and Digital Farmer Services Introduced 3

3. Jharkhand Health Recruitment: Over 10,000 Posts Planned, Including 6,000 for Women 3

4. Jharkhand Higher Education Laws: University Governance and Regulation of Coaching Centres Above 50 Students 4

5. Madhya Pradesh Plans Five Industrial Parks with ₹55,650 Crore Potential Investment 4

6. Rajasthan Contract Recruitment: 20 Recruitment Categories Across 10 Departments Cover Approximately 45,000 Posts 5

7. India's First Indigenous H5N1 Poultry Vaccine Developed in Bhopal, Launch Planned for 20 November 5

8. UGC Dual Degree Guidelines: Permitted Study Modes, PhD Exclusion and June 2025 Recognition 5

9. Bodhan AI Plans AI Literacy Training and Classroom Integration for One Million Teachers 6

10. India's Year-Round Air Pollution: Emission Reduction, Household Exposure and Institutional Action 6

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18 November 2026 | Polity | BPSC | BSSC

1. Bihar Building Bylaws Raise FAR to 3, Permit 100-Storey Apartments with Additional Fee

- Full form of FAR: Floor Area Ratio
- Full form of NOC: No Objection Certificate
- FAR under revised rules: 3
- Permitted apartment height: Up to 100 storeys with additional fee
- Access road width: 12 feet

Bihar has implemented new building bylaws after amending the relevant Act, raising FAR to 3 and permitting 100-storey apartments with an additional fee, a move aimed at boosting real-estate investment and lowering housing costs.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9301-bihar-building-bylaws-raise-far-3-permit-100

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18 November 2026 | Agriculture | BPSC | BSSC

2. Bihar Sugar Industry: 10 Mills Operational, Five Planned and Digital Farmer Services Introduced

- Operational sugar mills: 10
- Additional mills planned: 5
- Total mills planned: 25
- Planned foundation stones: Sakri, Madhubani and Raiyam, Darbhanga, on 11 December 2026
- Current context: Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary flagged off the Sugarcane Development Chariot 2026 for all Bihar districts.

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary flagged off the Sugarcane Development Chariot 2026 and announced that five more sugar mills will be opened, alongside the launch of digital services such as Sugarcane ID and an AI chatbot for farmers.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9308-bihar-sugar-industry-10-mills-operational-five-planned

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18 November 2026 | Polity | JPSC | JSSC

3. Jharkhand Health Recruitment: Over 10,000 Posts Planned, Including 6,000 for Women

- Responsible department: Jharkhand health department
- Permanent nursing vacancies: Approximately 35% of posts
- Posts planned for women: 6,000
- Proposed posts: 3,965, including 1,985 Auxiliary Nurse Midwife posts
- Community Health Officer applications: Approximately 1,000 contractual posts

The Jharkhand health department has announced plans to recruit for over 10,000 health-sector posts, including

6,000 for women, to address critical staff shortages in government hospitals and primary health centres, with applications already open for 1,000 Community Health Officer posts.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9336-jharkhand-health-recruitment-10000-posts-planned-including-6000

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18 November 2026 | Polity | JPSC | JSSC

4. Jharkhand Higher Education Laws: University Governance and Regulation of Coaching Centres Above 50 Students

- University Act issued: 28 April 2026
- University Act gazetted: 13 May 2026
- Private professional fee law: Jharkhand Professional Educational Institutions (Fee Regulation) Act, 2025
- Coaching law gazette identifier: Jharkhand Act-01 of 2026
- Coaching-centre threshold: More than 50 students

The Jharkhand government has enacted three major laws for higher education, a new university governance act, a fee regulation act for private professional institutions, and a coaching centre regulation act, but key implementation steps such as framing aligned statutes and forming the university service commission remain pending.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9337-jharkhand-higher-education-laws-university-governance-regulation

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18 November 2026 | Economy | MPPSC | MPESB

5. Madhya Pradesh Plans Five Industrial Parks with ₹55,650 Crore Potential Investment

- Preparing department: Madhya Pradesh Industries Department
- Potential investment: ₹55,650 crore
- Projected employment opportunities: 2.7 lakh
- Concessional land rate: ₹1 per square metre in selected parks
- Proposed water rate: ₹25 per kilolitre

The Madhya Pradesh government is scheduled to consider approval of five industrial parks at a destination cabinet meeting on Wednesday, with projected investment of ₹55,650 crore and 2.7 lakh jobs, along with concessional land and water rates.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9304-madhya-pradesh-plans-five-industrial-parks-55650-crore

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18 November 2026 | Polity | RPSC RAS | RSSB

6. Rajasthan Contract Recruitment: 20 Recruitment Categories Across 10 Departments Cover Approximately 45,000 Posts

- Departments affected: 10
- Recruitment categories changed: 20
- Posts in changed categories: Approximately 45,000
- Sanitation worker posts: 24,752 across 183 cities
- Community health officer posts: 3,150

The Rajasthan government has changed 20 recruitment categories across 10 departments from regular to contractual appointments, covering approximately 45,000 posts that were initially announced as permanent. This shift matters because it redefines the employment terms for a large number of public sector jobs and affects the state's promise of 4 lakh government jobs.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9305-rajasthan-contract-recruitment-20-recruitment-categories-across-10

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18 November 2026 | Science & Tech | MPPSC | MPESB

7. India’s First Indigenous H5N1 Poultry Vaccine Developed in Bhopal, Launch Planned for 20 November

- Developing institution: Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases
- Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Vaccine type: Inactivated H5N1 avian influenza vaccine
- Virus clade: 2.3.2.1a
- Target animal: Chickens

The planned launch of India’s first indigenous H5N1 poultry vaccine on 20 November 2026 marks a scientific achievement in animal health and disease control, with potential to protect the poultry sector and reduce zoonotic risks.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9303-india-first-indigenous-h5n1-poultry-vaccine-developed-bhopal

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18 November 2026 | Polity

8. UGC Dual Degree Guidelines: Permitted Study Modes, PhD Exclusion and June 2025 Recognition

- Full form of UGC: University Grants Commission
- Policy framework: National Education Policy 2020

- Earlier degrees decision: June 2025
- Excluded level: PhD
- Institutions permitted: Same institution or two different institutions

The UGC has issued guidelines permitting simultaneous degree programmes under the National Education Policy 2020, and in June 2025 it approved recognition of qualifying earlier simultaneous degrees. This affects students seeking multidisciplinary education and faster career progression.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9294-ugc-dual-degree-guidelines-permitted-study-modes-phd

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18 November 2026 | Science & Tech | CTET | BPSC TRE

9. Bodhan AI Plans AI Literacy Training and Classroom Integration for One Million Teachers

- Full form of AI: Artificial Intelligence
- Incubating institution: Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- Teacher training target: One million teachers
- Andhra Pradesh support: Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA)
- Current context: Bodhan AI partnered with education organisations to implement teacher AI literacy training.

Bodhan AI, an IIT Madras-incubated centre, has announced a partnership with education organisations to train one million teachers in AI literacy and classroom integration, marking a large-scale effort to embed AI into India's teaching workflows.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9283-bodhan-ai-plans-ai-literacy-training-classroom-integration

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18 November 2026 | Environment | UPSC

10. India’s Year-Round Air Pollution: Emission Reduction, Household Exposure and Institutional Action

- Author: Shahzad Gani, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi
- Seasonal sources: Fireworks and agricultural residue burning
- Year-round sources: Transport, household fuels, waste burning, industry, power plants and construction

Shahzad Gani of IIT Delhi has published an analysis arguing that India’s air pollution requires year-round emission reduction and institutional action, not just seasonal or technological fixes, and that scientific research should not delay action on already identified sources.

Full story, analysis and quiz: https://supercurrentaffairs.com/en/story/9287-india-year-round-air-pollution-emission-reduction-household

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Practice questions

1. What does floor area ratio measure in Bihar's building regulations?

(A) The ratio of setback distance to parking area

(B) The ratio of total floor area to plot area

(C) The ratio of road width to building height

(D) The ratio of parking area to road width

2. Consider the following statements about Bihar's new building bylaws:

1. Parking is included in the floor area ratio calculation.

2. Builders can construct 100-storey apartments by paying an additional fee.

3. Owners surrendering land for widening narrow access roads can receive additional floor area ratio without charge.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 1 and 2 only

(C) 2 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

3. Which administrative authority has been directed to arrange land for Bihar's planned sugar mills?

(A) Sugar mill managers

(B) Chief Minister's secretaries

(C) Village farmer groups

(D) District magistrates

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4. Consider the following statements about Bihar's sugarcane development measures:

1. The Sugarcane Mechanisation Scheme provides grants for purchasing agricultural machinery.

2. The Chief Minister Sugarcane Development Programme provides subsidies for certified seeds.

3. Free seeds are intended to expand sugarcane cultivation into new areas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

5. Under which programme have applications opened for contractual Community Health Officer posts in Jharkhand?

(A) Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
(B) National Health Mission
(C) Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme
(D) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

6. Consider the following statements about Jharkhand's health workforce:

1. More than 2,500 doctor posts are vacant.

2. Approximately 35% of permanent nursing posts are vacant.

3. All planned health-sector appointments have been completed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

7. Which Jharkhand law seeks to organise the administrative and academic operations of universities?

(A) Jharkhand State Universities Act, 2026
(B) Jharkhand Coaching Centre (Control and Regulation) Act
(C) Jharkhand Professional Educational Institutions (Fee Regulation) Act, 2026
(D) Jharkhand Professional Educational Institutions (Fee Regulation) Act, 2025

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8. Consider the following statements about Jharkhand's higher education reforms:

1. The coaching law covers institutions teaching exactly 50 students.

2. The coaching law covers offline, online and hybrid institutions teaching more than 50 students.

3. Formation of the university service commission remained pending despite a direction in July 2026.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

9. Which planned industrial park is located near the PM MITRA park in Madhya Pradesh?

(A) Kurlasi chemical park
(B) Bhaisola textile and allied industries park
(C) Basai agro park
(D) Palsodi bio-pharma park

10. Consider the following statements about the proposed Madhya Pradesh industrial parks:

1. The Palsodi bio-pharma park proposes land at ₹1 per square metre.

2. The Basai agro park proposes a 25% land concession.

3. The Sausar industrial area proposes land on a 25-year lease.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

11. At which local-government level are Rajasthan's forest friends to be engaged?

(A) Municipal corporation
(B) Gram panchayat
(C) Panchayat samiti
(D) Zila parishad

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12. Consider the following statements about Rajasthan's recruitment arrangements:

1. The sanitation worker recruitment covers 183 cities.

2. The 3,150 community health officer posts are described as regular cadre appointments.

3. Forest friends are to be engaged at the gram panchayat level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

13. Consider the following statements about India’s indigenous H5N1 poultry vaccine:

1. It was developed using an inactivated virus.

2. It is intended to protect chickens.

3. Its launch was planned for 20 November 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

14. Which H5N1 clade was used to develop the indigenous poultry vaccine in Bhopal?

(A) 2.3.2.1
(B) 2.3.2.2a
(C) 2.3.1.1a
(D) 2.3.2.1a

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15. Consider the following statements about simultaneous academic programmes under UGC guidelines:

1. Two full-time programmes require non-overlapping class schedules.

2. The facility extends to PhD programmes.

3. Qualifying degrees obtained before the guidelines may be recognised subject to applicable rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

16. When did the UGC approve recognition of qualifying simultaneous degrees obtained before its guidelines?

(A) June 2020
(B) June 2024
(C) June 2025
(D) June 2026

17. Which institution incubated Bodhan AI, the Centre of Excellence in AI for Education?

(A) Vidya Shakti
(B) Centre for Teacher Accreditation
(C) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
(D) Learning Links Foundation

18. Consider the following statements about the Bodhan AI teacher programme:

1. It plans to provide AI literacy to one million teachers.

2. The Centre for Teacher Accreditation will support rollout in Andhra Pradesh.

3. Vidya Shakti incubated Bodhan AI.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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19. Consider the following statements about air pollution in India:

1. Weather creates the emissions that cause air pollution.

2. Household solid-fuel use can contribute to outdoor air pollution.

3. Rooftop monitors may not reflect pollution exposure during indoor cooking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 1 and 2 only

(C) 2 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

20. Why should air pollution policy in India study personal exposure alongside ambient monitoring?

(A) Ambient monitoring makes emission inventories unnecessary

(B) Personal exposure can differ from outdoor readings, especially during solid-fuel cooking

(C) Personal exposure studies eliminate the need for emission reduction

(D) Ambient readings always measure indoor cooking exposure accurately

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Answer key

1. (B) The ratio of total floor area to plot area

Floor Area Ratio relates a building's floor area to its plot area under applicable rules. Parking, road width and setback distance are separate planning considerations.

2. (C) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is incorrect because parking is excluded from FAR. Statements 2 and 3 are correct: additional fees apply to 100-storey apartments, while eligible road-widening land attracts free additional FAR.

3. (D) District magistrates

District magistrates of the concerned districts have been directed to make land available for the planned mills. Mill managers, farmer groups and the Chief Minister's secretaries are not the authorities identified for this direction.

4. (D) 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Machinery grants, certified seed subsidies and free seeds for new cultivation areas address different aspects of sugarcane development.

5. (B) National Health Mission

Approximately 1,000 contractual Community Health Officer posts are being filled under the National Health Mission.

6. (C) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: doctor vacancies exceed 2,500 and permanent nursing vacancies are approximately 35%. Statement 3 is incorrect because recruitment is at application, proposal or preparation stages.

7. (A) Jharkhand State Universities Act, 2026

The Jharkhand State Universities Act, 2026 addresses university governance. The 2025 fee law concerns private professional institutions, while the coaching law regulates qualifying coaching centres.

8. (C) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is incorrect because the threshold is more than 50 students. Statement 2 is correct for all three modes, and statement 3 correctly identifies the pending commission and the July direction.

9. (B) Bhaisola textile and allied industries park

The proposed Bhaisola textile park in Dhar is near the PM MITRA park. Basai, Kurlasi and Palsodi are proposed for agro-processing, chemicals and bio-pharma respectively.

10. (B) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Palsodi proposes the ₹1 rate, while Basai proposes a 25% concession. Statement 3 is incorrect because the Sausar proposal envisages a 99-year lease.

11. (B) Gram panchayat

Forest friends are to be engaged at the gram panchayat level on honorarium and contractual terms. A gram panchayat is a village-level local government institution; the other options are not the specified level.

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12. (C) 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: sanitation recruitment covers 183 cities, and forest friends are to be engaged at gram panchayat level. Statement 2 is incorrect because the community health officer appointments are contractual rather than regular cadre appointments.

13. (D) 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct: the vaccine is inactivated, targets chickens and was planned for launch on 20 November 2026. A planned launch is distinct from a completed launch.

14. (D) 2.3.2.1a

The vaccine was developed from inactivated highly pathogenic H5N1 of clade 2.3.2.1a. The other numerical designations differ from the specified clade.

15. (C) 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: schedules must not overlap, and earlier degrees are subject to recognition conditions. Statement 2 is incorrect because the facility excludes PhD programmes.

16. (C) June 2025

The UGC approved conditional recognition in June 2025. The decision concerns degrees that meet applicable UGC regulations and university rules.

17. (C) Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Bodhan AI was incubated by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. Learning Links Foundation and Vidya Shakti are implementation partners, while the Centre for Teacher Accreditation supports rollout in Andhra Pradesh.

18. (C) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: the planned reach is one million teachers, and CENTA will support the Andhra Pradesh rollout. Statement 3 is incorrect: IIT Madras incubated Bodhan AI, while Vidya Shakti is an implementation partner.

19. (C) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is incorrect because weather affects dispersion and accumulation rather than creating emissions. Statements 2 and 3 are correct: household pollution can also affect outdoor air, and rooftop readings do not capture every indoor exposure.

20. (B) Personal exposure can differ from outdoor readings, especially during solid-fuel cooking

A rooftop monitor cannot necessarily show the particulate matter inhaled inside a home during solid-fuel cooking. Ambient monitoring and inventories remain useful, while emission reduction remains necessary.

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