

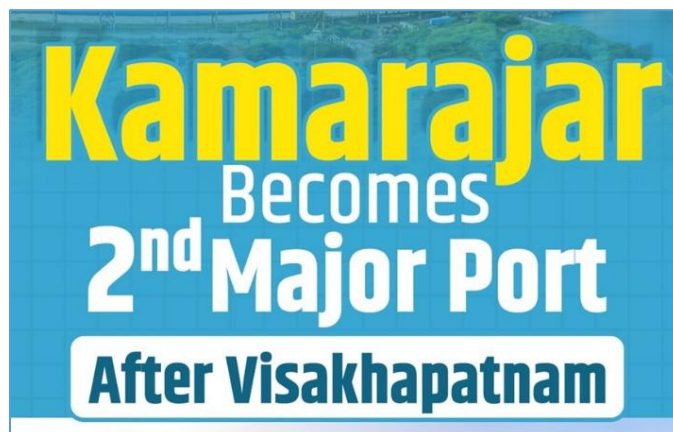
July - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has started the third Long Shutdown (LS3) of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) from 2026 to 2030 for major upgrades.
 - The LHC will be transformed into the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider (HL-LHC), which will increase its luminosity up to 10 times the original design capacity.
- ❖ The Indian Navy will commission INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ IIM Bangalore will establish its first overseas campus at the Singhasari Special Economic Zone, Indonesia, to strengthen higher education cooperation between India and Indonesia.
- ❖ Aswath S from Kanyakumari became India's 98th Chess Grandmaster (GM) after achieving his final GM norm at the 2026 Pune International Grandmaster Round Robin tournament.
- ❖ Sirsa Kinnow has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, becoming Haryana's first fruit to get this recognition.
 - Sirsa Kinnow is known for its sweet taste, high juice content, large size, and bright colour due to the region's unique climate.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

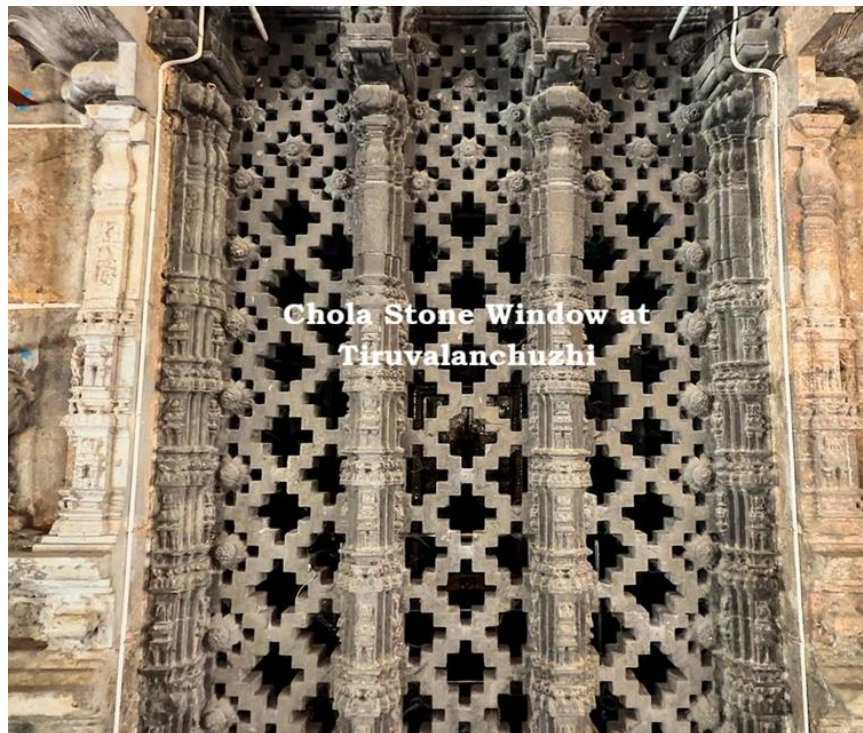
India's Deep-Water Port Milestone



- ❖ Kamarajar Port has become India's second major port with an 18-metre draft capability.

- ❖ It achieved this milestone after the successful completion of the Capital Dredging Phase VI project.
- ❖ The port can now handle Capesize vessels carrying cargo of up to 1,70,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT).
- ❖ An 18-metre draft allows larger, deeper-draft ships to enter the port, improving cargo handling capacity.
- ❖ Visakhapatnam Port is the first major port in India to have an 18-metre draft.
- ❖ Kamarajar Port, formerly known as Ennore Port, is located near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and is India's first corporatized major port.

Chola Stone Window at Tiruvalanchuzhi

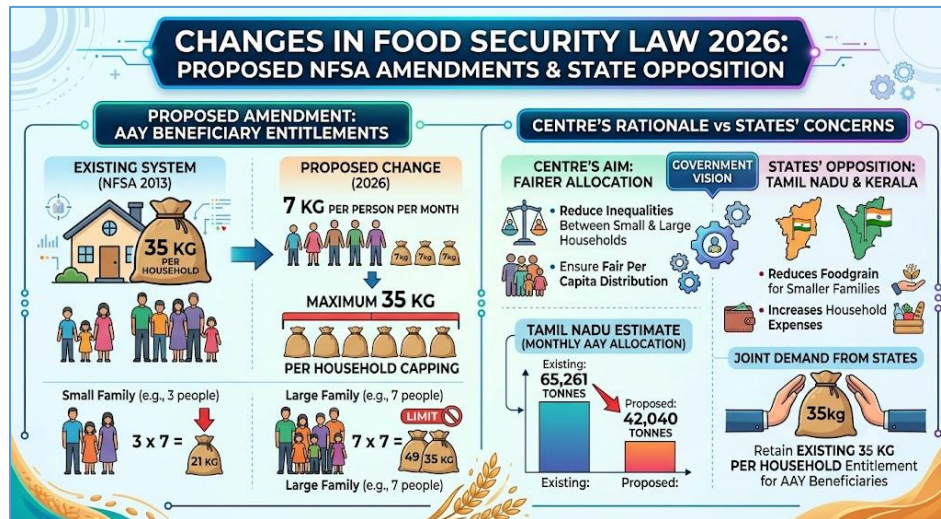


- ❖ The stone lattice window (palakani) at the Nurai Pillaiyar shrine in Tiruvalanchuzhi, Tamil Nadu highlights the exceptional craftsmanship of the later Chola period.
- ❖ The window is located within the Sadaimudinathar Temple complex near Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district.
- ❖ The palakani features four stone pillars, intricate lattice work, floral designs, and sculptures of yazhis (mythical lion-like creatures).
- ❖ The two central pillars are carved from single blocks of stone, showcasing advanced stone-carving techniques of Chola artisans.

- ❖ The shrine contains around 50 inscriptions, with the earliest dating to the reign of Kulothunga III.

Changes in Food Security Law

- ❖ The Union Government has proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, which are opposed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ The draft amendment proposes 7 kg of foodgrains per person per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.
- ❖ The Centre says the change aims to ensure fairer per capita allocation by reducing inequalities between small and large households.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu and Kerala argue that the amendment will reduce foodgrain allocations to their smaller-sized families and increase household expenses.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu estimates its monthly AAY allocation would decline from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes under the proposed system.
- ❖ Both States have urged the Centre to retain the existing 35 kg per household entitlement for AAY beneficiaries.



NATIONAL NEWS

ABHA Digital Health Milestone

- ❖ The Government announced that over 104 crore health records have been linked to more than 93 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) accounts.
- ❖ ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) is a 14-digit unique digital health ID under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

- ❖ It securely links an individual's health records with hospitals, doctors, insurers, and other healthcare providers.
- ❖ More than 104 crore health records have been linked to over 93 crore ABHA accounts.
- ❖ The Government aims to expand the ABDM network to cover all patients and healthcare facilities across India.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATO Summit 2026



- ❖ The 2026 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit was held in Ankara, Türkiye, with members reaffirming collective defence commitments.

- ❖ NATO leaders reaffirmed their "ironclad commitment" to Article 5, under which an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.
- ❖ The summit announced billions of dollars in defence and arms agreements among member countries.
- ❖ The United States stated that Ukraine would be allowed to produce Patriot missile systems to strengthen its air defence.
- ❖ NATO countries also agreed to send minesweepers to the Strait of Hormuz to enhance maritime security.

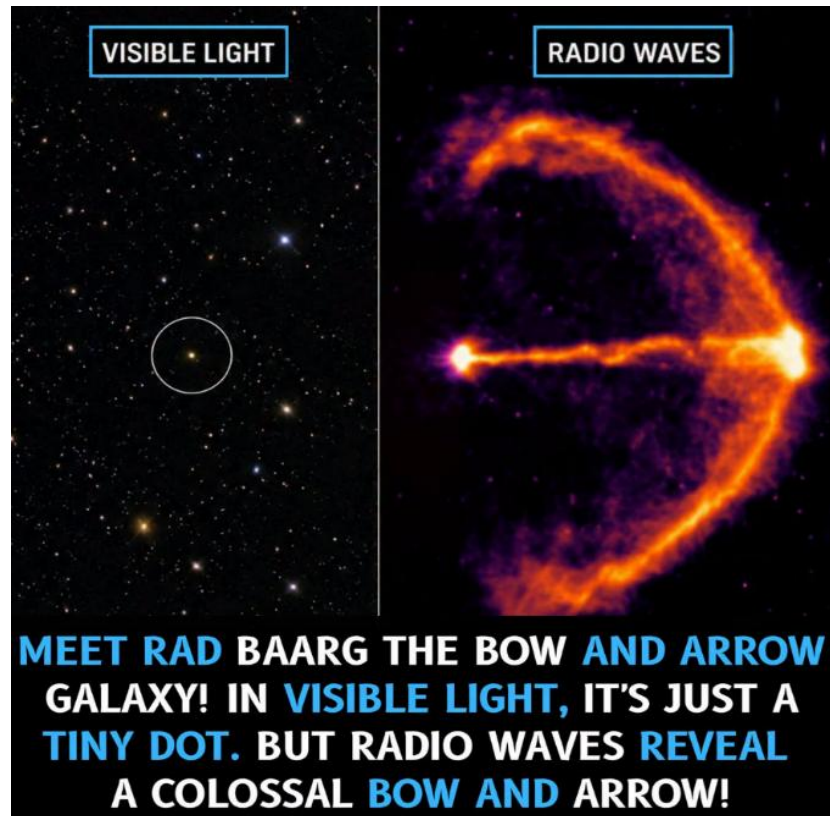
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Oldest Quasars by Euclid

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the oldest known quasars using the Euclid Space Telescope, helping to study the early universe.
- ❖ Astronomers discovered 31 quasars, including the two oldest ever observed, dating back to when the universe was about 670 million years old.
- ❖ A quasar is the extremely bright core of a distant galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole.
- ❖ The discoveries were made using the European Space Agency (ESA)'s Euclid Space Telescope, launched in 2023.
- ❖ The quasars belong to the Epoch of Reionisation, when the first stars and galaxies formed after the universe's "dark ages."



Rare Radio Galaxy – RAD BAARG



- ❖ An Indian research team has discovered a rare bow-and-arrow-shaped radio galaxy (RAD-BAARG) about 2 billion light years from Earth.
- ❖ RAD-BAARG (Bow And Arrow Radio Galaxy) is about 1.8 million light years wide and was discovered using data from the LOFAR (Low Frequency Array) Two-metre Sky Survey.
- ❖ It was discovered by researchers from RAD@home Astronomy Collaboratory, India's first citizen science astronomy research platform.
- ❖ A radio galaxy is an active galaxy powered by a supermassive black hole that emits large amounts of radio waves.
- ❖ Scientists believe the galaxy is moving supersonically through a galaxy cluster, creating a giant bow shock, similar to the shock wave produced by a supersonic aircraft.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Biofuel Trends 2035

- ❖ The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2026-2035 report stated that food crops will remain the main source of global biofuel production until 2035.

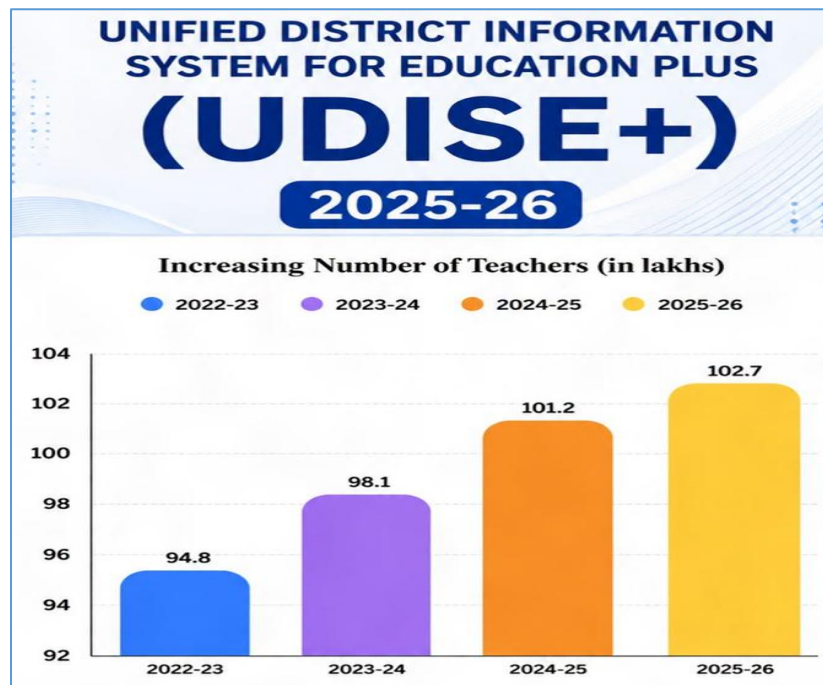
- ❖ First-generation biofuels made from maize, sugarcane, cereals, and vegetable oils will continue to dominate global biofuel markets.
- ❖ Second-generation biofuels from crop residues and woody biomass are not expected to see a major rise in production share.
- ❖ Global ethanol production is projected to reach 162.5 billion litres by 2035, with maize as the major feedstock.
- ❖ Emerging economies, including India, Brazil, and Indonesia, are expected to contribute 80% of global biofuel demand growth.
- ❖ The report was jointly released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).



UDISE+ Report 2025-26

- ❖ The Union Education Ministry released the comprehensive report on the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for the academic year 2025-26.
- ❖ It is the Ministry of Education's official database that tracks school infrastructure, enrolment, and teacher-related data across the country.
- ❖ The report is based on data voluntarily uploaded by schools with active UDISE+ codes for the 2025-26 academic year, with March 31, 2026, as the reference date.
- ❖ Gross Enrolment Level Ratio (GER) – At the secondary level surged to 71.7% from last year's 68.5%.

- ❖ Zero-Enrolment – 5,663 institutions with zero student enrolment.
- ❖ The highest is West Bengal (4,133) & others include Chandigarh, Goa, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Haryana.
- ❖ Girls' Enrolment was Increased to 48.4% in 2025-26 from 48.3% a year earlier.
- ❖ India's school dropout rates declined at both the preparatory and secondary levels in 2025-26, continuing the downward trend of the past three years.
- ❖ There is a notable improvement across several indicators in Infrastructure like Ramps & handrails for disability students, Internet Connectivity and Other basic facilities such as Electricity, toilets for girls and boys and access to safe drinking water.
- ❖ For the first time, India's teacher workforce crossed 1.02 crore in an academic year.
- ❖ 1,00,843 schools across the country were found to be functioning with only a single teacher.



World LNG Report, 2026

- ❖ The World LNG Report for 2026 was released recently by the International Gas Union (IGU).
- ❖ It aims to provide a comprehensive, authoritative review of the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry and markets.

- ❖ Asia led the global LNG regasification capacity additions in 2025, due to the new capacity from China and India, representing 24% and 11.3% of global additions, respectively.
- ❖ Europe's imports jumped due to the loss of Russian pipeline transit through Ukraine (which expired in early 2025)
- ❖ Global LNG Trade has reached a record of 437 million tonnes in 2025.
- ❖ Trade Growth was driven by expanding supplies from the United States, Qatar, Australia, Russia and other producers.
- ❖ Canada and Mauritania/Senegal joined as First new LNG export markets since 2022.
- ❖ India added 52.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity across eight terminals.
- ❖ With this expansion, it surpassed Spain to become the 4th largest market for regasification capacity in 2025.
- ❖ Dahej LNG Terminal, Gujarat ranks as the 6th largest regasification facility globally and stands out as India's premier ultra-large energy hub.
- ❖ There is a rising demand for fertilizer, city gas and utilities in India
- ❖ The Government's push is for enhanced share of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the energy mix.

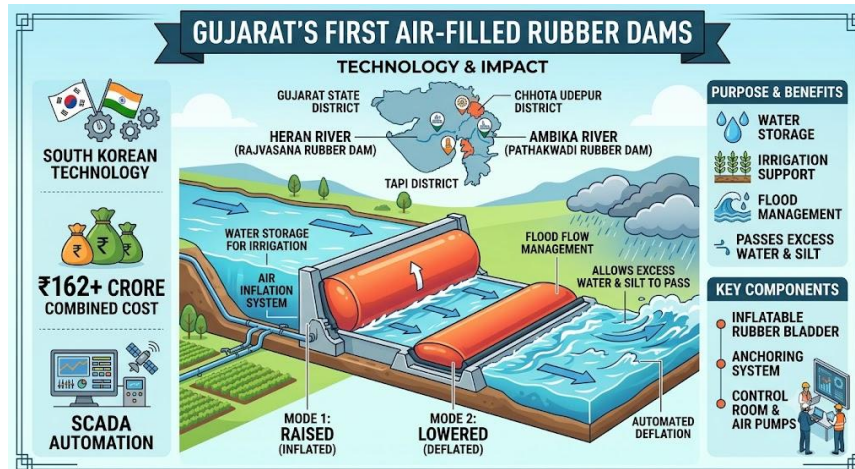


STATE NEWS

First Air-Filled Rubber Dams - Gujarat

- ❖ Gujarat is constructing its first two air-filled rubber dams across the Heran River in Chhota Udepur district and the Ambika River in Tapi district.

- ❖ The Rajvasana Rubber Dam and Pathakwadi Rubber Dam use South Korean technology for water storage, irrigation, and flood management.
- ❖ An air-filled rubber dam uses an inflatable rubber bladder that is raised or lowered to control water flow.
- ❖ The two projects have a combined cost of over ₹162 crore and use SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) automation systems.
- ❖ The dams will support irrigation and help manage flood flows by allowing excess water and silt to pass during heavy rainfall.



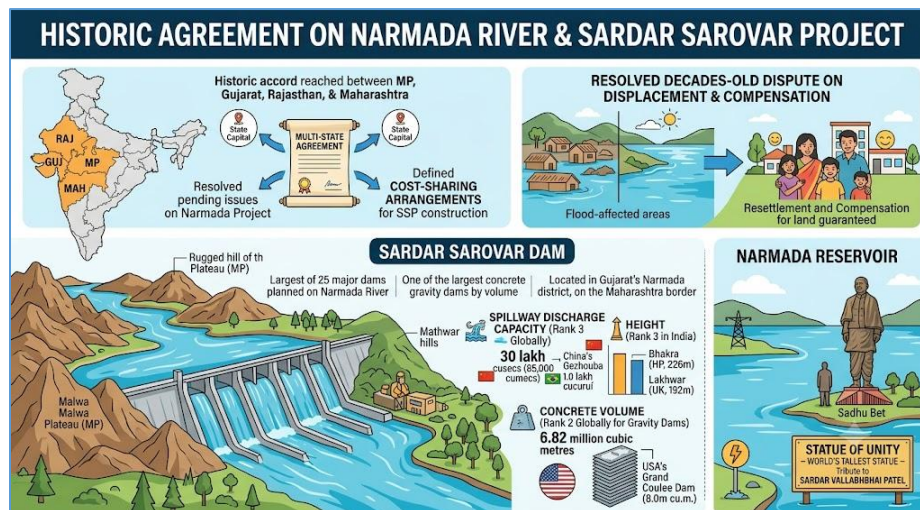
TribeX platform



- ❖ Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ It was India's 1st digital learning platform dedicated to tribal arts, culture, languages, and traditional knowledge.
- ❖ It offers structured courses, certificate programmes, and UGC recognized PG diplomas

- ❖ Among them is one course in Tribal Language – Santali (Ol Chiki).
- ❖ Recently Constitution was also released in Santali language using Ol chiki script.
- ❖ It is the first-ever official translation of the Constitution of India in the Santhali language.
- ❖ Santhali was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.
- ❖ December 25, 2025, which also marked the birth centenary year of the Ol Chiki script created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu.

Historic agreement on Narmada River

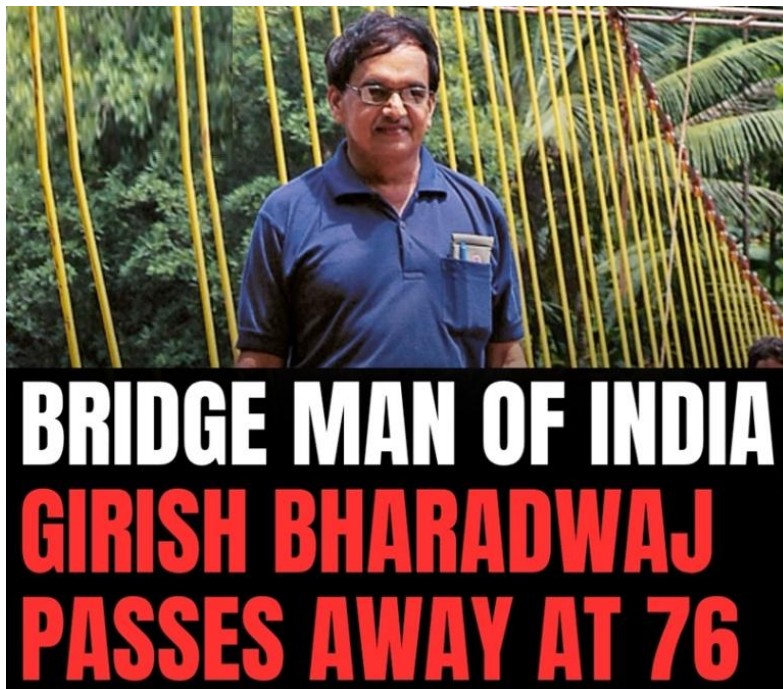


- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra governments reached an agreement on pending issues related to the Narmada Project.
- ❖ It relates to the cost-sharing arrangements for the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project.
- ❖ This also resolved the decades-old dispute regarding the displacement of people from flood-affected areas and compensation for land in the Narmada River Project.
- ❖ The Sardar Sarovar Dam is one of 25 major dams planned on the Narmada River and stands as the largest among them.
- ❖ It is the one of the largest concrete dam in the world by the volume of concrete used in its construction.
- ❖ Sardar Sarovar Dam is located in Gujarat's Narmada district, right on the border between Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ To its west lies the Malwa plateau of Madhya Pradesh, where the Narmada River cuts through rugged hill tracts before reaching the Mathwar hills.

- ❖ With a spillway discharge capacity of 30 lakh cusecs (85,000 cumecs), it ranks third in the world, behind China's Gezhouba (1.13 lakh cumecs) and Brazil's Tucuruí (1.0 lakh cumecs).
- ❖ At 163 metres, the dam is India's third-highest concrete dam, after Bhakra (226 metres) in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar (192 metres) in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ By volume of concrete used in a gravity dam, it is the second largest globally with 6.82 million cubic metres — only the Grand Coulee Dam in the United States (8.0 million cu.m.) is larger.
- ❖ Overlooking the reservoir stands the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, built as a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Girish Bharadwaj Demise



- ❖ Girish Bharadwaj, popularly known as the "Bridge Man of India", for his contributions to rural connectivity and social engineering.
- ❖ He built more than 140 low-cost suspension bridges, connecting remote villages across India.
- ❖ He constructed his first suspension bridge across the Payaswini River in Karnataka in 1989.
- ❖ His bridges improved access to schools, hospitals, and markets for rural communities.

- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2017 for his contribution to rural infrastructure and social service.

2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation Award



- ❖ Jestha Varna Maha vihar is a Nepalese Buddhist monastery, rebuilt with Indian assistance after the 2015 earthquake.
- ❖ It has won a 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation Award.
- ❖ Jestha Varna Maha vihar is also known as Jyaba Bahi, a 17th century Buddhist Monastery
- ❖ Newar Buddhist Community are the indigenous people of Nepal's Kathmandu Valley.
- ❖ They practice the unique, householder-based Vajrayana tradition.
- ❖ They are associated with this monastery.
- ❖ In Buddhist rock-cut architecture, a Chaitya is a sacred prayer hall or shrine centered around a stupa.
- ❖ A Vihara is a monastery serving as the residential dwelling and gathering space for monks
- ❖ Ajanta Caves: Features both World Heritage rock-cut Chaityas and elaborately painted Viharas.
- ❖ Karla Caves: Contains the largest and most complete ancient Chaitya Hall.
- ❖ Ellora Caves: Houses massive multi-story Viharas alongside Chaitya halls.
- ❖ All the above are in Maharashtra.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

2,000-Year-Old Indian Gold Rings

- ❖ Two 2,000-year-old Indian gold rings were discovered at the Don Yai Thong archaeological site in Phetchaburi Province, Thailand.
- ❖ One gold ring bears the ancient Brahmi script inscription "pusarakhitasa", meaning "the one protected by Pushya", while the other ring is plain.
- ❖ The rings were found with human skeletal remains from the Iron Age, indicating early burial practices.
- ❖ The discovery provides evidence of early maritime trade and cultural links between India and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Brahmi is one of the earliest writing systems of the Indian subcontinent, and Pushya is one of the 27 Nakshatras (lunar mansions) in Indian astronomy.

