Hogenakkal: glass bridge and artificial waterfall planned for tourists

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News

To draw more tourists to Hogenakkal in Dharmapuri district, a glass bridge offering wide views of the landscape and an artificial waterfall – meant especially for elderly visitors – are planned, DT Next reported on 21 November 2026, citing Daily Thanthi. The Tourism, Public Works and Forest departments are jointly studying feasibility, including safety; work will begin only after the required recommendations and clearances. No cost has been announced. Tourism infrastructure works worth ₹17.57 crore have already been completed and opened to the public. Hogenakkal receives about 15 lakh visitors a year; bathing in the falls and coracle rides are the main draws. The project is still only at the planning stage.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Place	Hogenakkal, Dharmapuri district (Karnataka border)
Proposals	Glass bridge, artificial waterfall
Studied by	Tourism, PWD and Forest departments
Status	Feasibility study; work after clearances
Works done	₹17.57 crore tourism infrastructure

Point	Details
Visitors	About 1.5 million a year
Attractions	Falls bathing, coracle rides
Name	Kannada: 'hoge' (smoke) + 'kal' (rock)

Background

- Geography: the Cauvery, flowing in from Karnataka, enters Tamil Nadu at Hogenakkal. It flows all year, so the falls can be seen at any time. It is 46 km from Dharmapuri. The spray looks like smoke rising from the rocks, hence the name meaning 'smoking rocks' (Dharmapuri district website).
- History: in the Sangam age Dharmapuri was called 'Thagadur'; Neduman Anji of the Adhiyaman line ruled it and patronised the poet Avvaiyar. It later passed under the Cholas, Hoysalas, Vijayanagar, the Madurai Nayaks, Mysore, Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan and finally the British. Once a taluk of Salem district, Dharmapuri became a separate district on 02.10.1965; Krishnagiri district was carved out of it on 09.02.2004.
- Tourism economy: coracle rowing, fish eateries and oil-massage baths support local livelihoods. New attractions such as a glass bridge can make visitors stay longer. But coracle rides and bathing are banned during floods, so the safety study is crucial.
- Glass bridge: the Kanniyakumari bridge (77 m, ₹37 crore), described as India's first glass bridge over the sea, links the Vivekananda Rock Memorial with the Thiruvalluvar statue; it was opened on 30.12.2024 for the statue's silver jubilee (News On AIR).

Tamil Nadu link: This is entirely a Tamil Nadu story. Hogenakkal is where the Cauvery enters Tamil Nadu; Mettur dam lies downstream. Kanniyakumari already has a glass bridge over the sea (2024).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

To draw more tourists to Hogenakkal in Dharmapuri district, a glass bridge offering wide views of the landscape and an artificial waterfall – meant especially for elderly visitors – are planned, DT Next reported on 21 November 2026, citing Daily Thanthi.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Place: Hogenakkal, Dharmapuri district (Karnataka border); Proposals: Glass bridge, artificial waterfall; Studied by: Tourism, PWD and Forest departments; Status: Feasibility study; work after clearances.

What is the background to this news?

Geography: the Cauvery, flowing in from Karnataka, enters Tamil Nadu at Hogenakkal. It flows all year, so the falls can be seen at any time.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. What does the Kannada name 'Hogenakkal' mean?

A) White rocks

B) Singing falls

C) Elephant rock

D) Smoking rocks

Answer: D – Explanation: 'Hoge' = smoke, 'kal' = rock. The spray of the falls looks like smoke rising from the rocks.

2. Where is the bridge described as India's first glass bridge over the sea, opened in December 2024?

A) Rameswaram

B) Mamallapuram

C) Kanniyakumari

D) Thoothukudi

Answer: C – Explanation: Kanniyakumari – 77 m long, ₹37 crore; it links the Vivekananda Rock with the Thiruvalluvar statue.

3. Which Sangam-age chieftain ruled Thagadur (today's Dharmapuri) and patronised Avvaiyar?

A) Adhiyaman Anji

B) Vel Pari

C) Valvil Ori

D) Vaiyavik Pegan

Answer: A – Explanation: Adhiyaman gave Avvaiyar the rare gooseberry said to grant long life. Pari ruled the Parambu hills; Ori the Kolli hills.

4. The round 'parisal' boats that carry tourists at Hogenakkal are known in English as what?

A) Catamaran

B) Kayak

C) Coracle

D) Gondola

Answer: C – Explanation: Coracle – a light, bowl-shaped boat of woven bamboo. A kayak is a narrow paddled boat; the gondola is Venice's canal boat.

5. Which district was carved out of Dharmapuri district in 2004?

A) Salem

B) Krishnagiri

C) Namakkal

D) Tirupathur

Answer: B – Explanation: Krishnagiri – on 09.02.2004. Dharmapuri itself was a taluk of Salem and became a separate district on 02.10.1965.

Sources: DT Next (citing Daily Thanthi), 21 Nov 2026 – dtnext.in; Dharmapuri District Administration – dharmapuri.nic.in; News On AIR (31 Dec 2024) – newsonair.gov.in. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.