

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 21, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram - has earned the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under the category 'musical instruments of class 15'.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu's traditional wind instrument Nagaswaram, dating back to the 13th century, is an ancient musical instrument handmade by artisans with intricate craftsmanship
- ✓ The unique feature of the nagaswaram is its production process — it is hand crafted in Narasingapettai village in Tiruvidaimarudur taluk in Thanjavur, unlike the other machine-made ones.
- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry of Government of India accorded the recognition based on an application from Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Cooperative Cottage Industrial Society Limited
- ✓ The nagaswaram is made of a special wood, a type of ebony, which is 200 years old, and does not absorb moisture.
- ✓ A major portion of the 'Narasinghapettai nagaswaram' is made from the aacha (*Hardwickia binata*) tree and the artisans also use the wood from parts of old houses

- ✓ 'Aacha' wood, which is naturally water-resistant, is procured specifically from the Cauvery river basin for making the instrument
 - ✓ It is a unique bell form that provides the nagaswaram with its characteristic volume and captivating tone.
 - ✓ The reeds themselves are made from the leaves of a locally grown plant called 'naanai', a bamboo variety.
 - ✓ According to the artisans, it takes three days and three artisans to make one nagaswaram, whose length is two and a half feet
 - ✓ The nagaswaram now being used by artists throughout is called 'pari nagaswaram', which is longer than the 'thimiri'.
 - ✓ In the early Independence period, classical music virtuoso Rajaratnam Pillai had designed the nagaswaram with help from Ranganathan Achari, who was originally from Narasinghapettai.
 - ✓ After a trial and error method, they achieved perfection by introducing the 'madhyamam' range to the instrument, which was not present in others.
 - ✓ The State's nodal officer for GI Registration of Products, Sanjai Gandhi, who specialises in intellectual property rights, had been instrumental in securing GI tag for 27 products in Tamil Nadu, 10 of them from Thanjavur district.
- **Archaeology researchers - have identified Chola and Pandya era stone inscriptions on the walls of the sanctum sanctorum of Vaalaivaneswarar temple in Rajagiri, a village near Thirukattupalli in Thanjavur.**

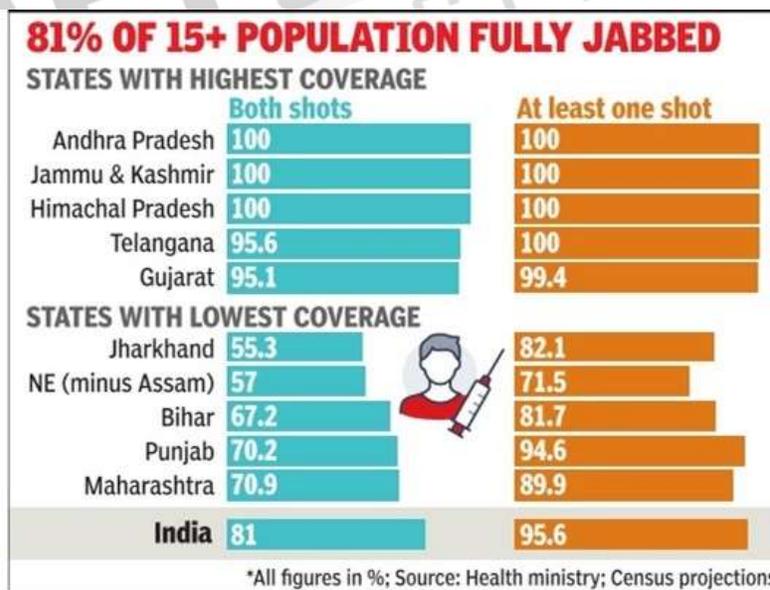


- ✓ The village was originally named after Chola king Rajakesaripuram, which became Rajagiri over the centuries.
- ✓ The Chola-era inscription dated back to the 10th century and the Pandya era one to 13th century.
- ✓ The Chola inscription identifies and names the temple deity as Rajakesaripurathu Mahadevar by referring to the honorary name of Chola king

- ✓ However, the Pandya's inscription names the temple deity as Kothandameeswarar, referring to an honorary name of Pandya king.
- ✓ The Chola-era inscription was estimated to belong to the period of Uttama Chola and Pandya era inscription to be from the period of Sundarapandian.
- ✓ According to the Pandya inscription, the village was referred to as Rajendrapuram
- ✓ Incidentally, the Pandyas who dethroned Cholas have not changed the name Rajendrapuram, named after a Chola king as per the inscription's record.

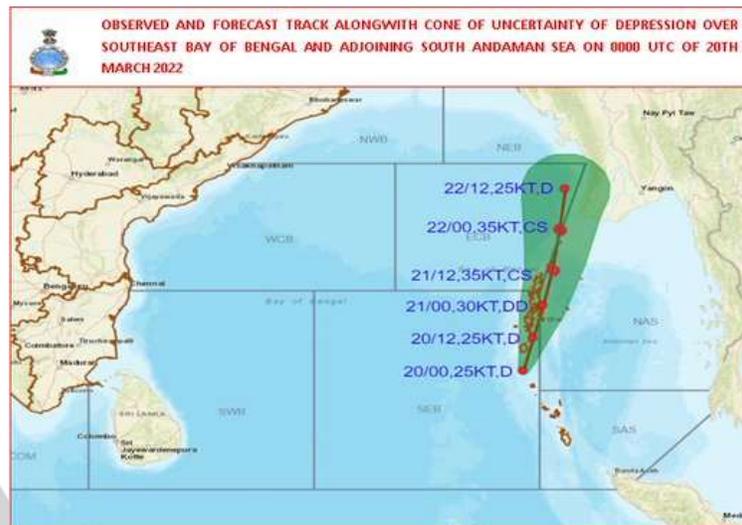
NATIONAL

- **The government's top vaccination advisory panel, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) - has recommended reducing the interval between the two doses of Covishield from 12-16 weeks to 8-16 weeks.**
- ✓ The recommendations of the NTAGI also need to be accepted by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19.
- ✓ The final decision to reduce the gap between two doses of Covishield will be made by the Union Ministry of Health
- ✓ On May 13 last year, the Centre increased the interval between the two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks, citing real-life evidence from the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Prior to that, the prescribed gap between two doses of Covishield was 6-8 weeks.
- ✓ Reducing the gap between two doses of Covishield will significantly result in increasing the coverage of the precautionary dose to priority groups.



- ✓ The Serum Institute of India locally manufactures the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine under the brand name Covishield.
- ✓ It is one of the two Covid-19 vaccines being used in the national Covid-19 immunisation programme in India.
- ✓ No change has been recommended in the interval of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin that the company has co-developed with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

- ✓ The two doses of Covaxin are administered at an interval of four to six weeks.
 - ✓ Presently, around 83% of India's adult population of 18 years and above is fully vaccinated with two doses, whereas over 92% has received at least the first dose.
 - ✓ Besides, in the 15-17 age group, 47% are fully vaccinated with Covaxin and 76% have initiated vaccination with at least the first dose.
 - ✓ After the government recently opened vaccination for those aged between 12 and 14 years, nearly 18 lakh doses have been administered to adolescents in this group.
- **Cyclone Asani - is likely to form over north Andaman Sea on March 21 and bring strong winds and heavy rainfall in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**



- ✓ The depression over south Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea has intensified into a deep depression and is moving north-northeastwards towards the Myanmar coast during the next 48 hours
- ✓ Asani will be the first cyclonic storm of this year in India
- ✓ The Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea together witnessed only eight such cyclones in the past 130 years.
- ✓ Cyclone Asani, meaning 'wrath' in Sinhalese language, has been named by Sri Lanka.
- ✓ As per IMD, there are 169 names that can be used for nomenclature of cyclones
- ✓ These names are proposed by thirteen member countries - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- ✓ India issues names for tropical cyclones forming over the north Indian Ocean, including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ A total of six regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs), which includes the IMD, and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) have the authority to name tropical cyclones.

SPORTS

- **Lakshya Sen – loses to Denmark’s Viktor Axelsen and settles for Silver in the Men’s singles final at the All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham on March 20.**
- ✓ The Denmark World No.1 won his second singles title in his fourth final appearance at the prestigious event



- ✓ Sen was the first Indian in 21 years to reach the men's singles final at the All England Championships.
 - ✓ After entering into the final, Sen is now only the fifth Indian - after Prakash Nath (1947), Prakash Padukone (1980 and 1981), Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Saina Nehwal (2015) - to make the title clash of All England.
 - ✓ The last Indian man in a men's singles final at the All England was the former Indian chief coach Pullela Gopichand.
 - ✓ The last time an Indian reached the All England final was in 2005 when Saina Nehwal reached the summit clash and finished runners-up.
 - ✓ Prakash Padukone (1980) and Pullela Gopichand (2001) are the only players to win the All England Open Badminton Championships
 - ✓ The All England Championships is the world's oldest and most prestigious badminton tournament.
 - ✓ Sen secured his maiden world championships bronze in December, before winning his first Super 500 title at India Open in January and finishing runner-up at the German Open last week.
- **Hyderabad FC – defeated Kerala Blasters on penalty shoot-out to win their maiden Indian Super League (ISL) title at the Fatorda Stadium in Goa on March 20**
 - ✓ Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time.



- ✓ While Hyderabad won the trophy in their first final appearance, this is Blasters' third defeat in an ISL final and their second in a shootout

REPORT

TN HAS HIGHEST NUMBER OF ATMS IN THE COUNTRY

With a strong base and rapid growth as a key financial services market, Tamil Nadu leads the country in terms of deployment of automated teller machines (ATMs). Tamil Nadu had a total of 28,540 ATMs located across the state as of December 31. Maharashtra comes next with 27,945 ATMs, and Uttar Pradesh follows with 23,460.



► The state particularly leads its rival industrialized states in the number of ATMs set up by private sector banks and white label ATMs. White label ATMs are the ones operated by non-banking entities in order to provide services to customers based on debit/credit cards issued in partnership with banks

► After a dip during 2020 due to the pandemic, the use of ATMs for cash withdrawals has steadily increased in 2021. Demand for ATMs and use of ATMs has especially been rising in rural areas due to an increase in Jan Dhan Yojana accounts and distribution of RuPay cards

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF ATMS

	Tamil Nadu	Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Karnataka
Public sector banks	13,089	12,456	12,964	10,826
Private sector banks	10,331	11,702	5,135	6,713
Foreign banks in India	653	247	47	298
Payment banks	0	10	37	135
Small finance banks	261	212	155	0
State Co-operative banks	0	0	0	1
Urban Co-operatives	0	13	0	0
District Central Co-operatives	0	0	0	0
Regional rural banks	0	0	59	268
Local area banks	0	0	0	10
White Label ATMs	4,206	3,305	5,063	1,361
TOTAL	28,540	27,945	23,460	19,613

Source: RBI data as of December 31, 2021.