



# Shehnai Secures GI Tag

## Why in News?

Varanasi's rich cultural and craft heritage gained national recognition as authorities recently granted [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tags](#) to the Banarasi Shehnai, and the Banarasi Tabla.

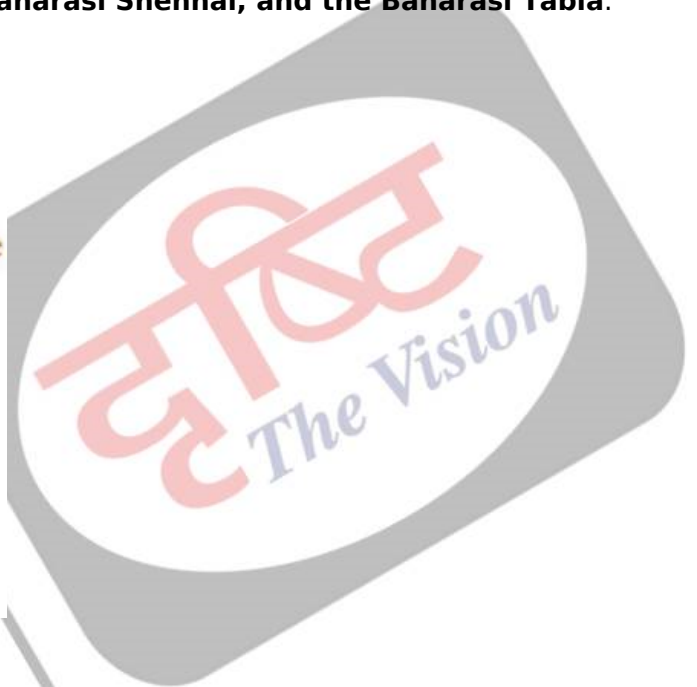
## Key Points

### ▪ Banarasi Shehnai:



- The Banaras Shehnai is a **traditional wind instrument** deeply rooted in the Banaras Gharana of [Indian classical music](#).
- It gained national prominence through [Ustad Bismillah Khan](#), who famously played the shehnai at **the Red Fort** on [India's first Independence Day](#).
- The instrument holds a divine and auspicious status, often **performed at weddings, religious ceremonies, and temple rituals**.
- It embodies the spiritual and artistic ethos of Varanasi, **contributing to the city's distinct cultural identity**.

### ▪ Banarasi Tabla:





- The Banaras Tabla Gharana, **also known as the Purab Gharana**, represents a unique and influential school of tabla playing that originated in Varanasi (Banaras).
- Known for its rhythmic sophistication and rich tonal clarity, this **gharana exhibits a strong pakhawaj influence**, setting it apart from other styles.
- Its expressive and dynamic compositions make it especially well-suited for accompanying **Kathak dance**, a classical form also rooted in North India.
- **The Banaras Gharana** is recognized as **one of the six principal tabla gharanas in Indian classical music**.
- Renowned Exponents are **Pandit Anokhelal Mishra, Pandit Kishan Maharaj, Pandit Samta Prasad**.

## Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- **About:** A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
  - The GI tag ensures that only authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory are **allowed to use the popular product name**.
    - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
  - A registered GI is **valid for 10 years and can be renewed**.
  - GI registration is **overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Legal Framework:**
  - **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**
  - **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.