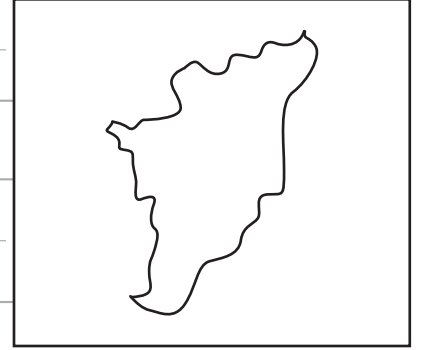
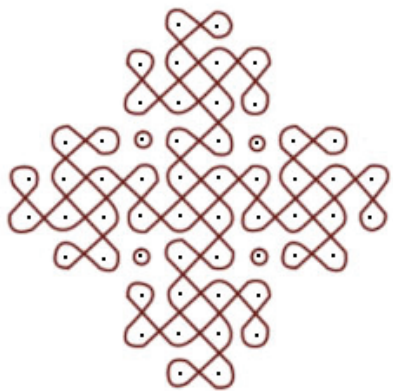


Chennai is the capital of Tamil Nadu.



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Kolam (Tamil word) is a geometrical line drawing composed of curved loops, drawn around a grid pattern of dots. Kolams are a symbol of auspiciousness. It is a Hindu belief that designs applied with rice flour at the entrance to a home invite Goddess Lakshmi into the household and drive away evil spirits. It is widely practiced in South India. Finely ground rice powder is used to draw kolams. Rice flour also provides food for the ants & other small insects. Usually, women draw these kolams. They do not use any devices such as a ruler or a thread to draw them. Rather, they freely move their fingers to create various shapes with ease.