



SOUTH INDIAN CRAFTS: ART & CULTURE

NEWS: *President Murmu's invite for this year's Republic Day reception set to honour crafts from South*

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

To commemorate 75 years of India's Republic, President Droupadi Murmu curated a special invitation box showcasing traditional crafts from five southern states, highlighting India's rich cultural heritage and artisan legacy.

1. Kalamkari Paintings (Andhra Pradesh)

- **Art Form:** A traditional hand-painted or block-printed textile art unique to Andhra Pradesh.
- **Themes:** Typically feature mythological stories, religious epics, and nature-inspired motifs like trees, animals, and flowers.
- **Craftsmanship:**
 - Created by Nimmalakunta artisans renowned for their intricate designs.
 - The process involves using natural dyes extracted from plants, roots, and minerals.
 - Painting is meticulous and time-consuming, reflecting fine artistic detail.

2. Ikat-Pochampalli Cover (Telangana)

- **Technique:** Uses the Ikat resist-dyeing method, where yarns are dyed before weaving to form patterns.
- **Tradition:** Pochampalli, a village in Telangana, is a globally recognized hub for Ikat weaving.
- **Features:**
 - Bright, geometric patterns are a hallmark of Pochampalli weaves.
 - The durable and reusable fabric aligns with sustainable practices.
 - Adds elegance and cultural sophistication to the invitation box.

3. Ganjifa Art Magnet (Karnataka)

- **Origin:** Derives from Mysore's traditional playing card art, "Ganjifa."
- **Designs:**
 - Features hand-painted intricate motifs and cultural themes.
 - Often portrays mythological stories, kings, queens, and deities in vibrant colors.
- **Craft Heritage:** Reflects Karnataka's historical and artistic richness.

4. Kanjeevaram Silk Pouch (Tamil Nadu)

- **Material:** Made from pure mulberry silk interwoven with gold zari (thread).
- **Features:**
 - Renowned for its vibrant colors, luxurious textures, and intricate motifs like temples, peacocks, and flowers.
 - Represents one of the finest forms of silk craftsmanship in India.
- **Cultural Significance:** A timeless legacy of Tamil Nadu's weaving community.



Art in a box

President Droupadi Murmu's guests are set to receive a gift box containing the best of south India's GI-tagged crafts. Here are some products featured in the hamper:



Pochampally Ikat on a pencil pouch: This Telangana staple is known for its distinct geometric patterns and bold colours



Etikoppaka toys: The soft wood and lacquer toys from the eponymous village in Andhra Pradesh are valued for the use of natural dyes and themes depicting everyday life



Kalamkari on bamboo: These goodies will arrive in a bamboo box decorated with Kalamkari motifs, pen-drawn with natural dyes



Kanchipuram silk as a pouch: The handloom silk, world renowned for its richness and elegance, makes its way from Tamil Nadu

5. Etikoppaka Dolls (Andhra Pradesh)

- **Craft:** Traditional wooden toys, also known as "Lacquerware," crafted in the Etikoppaka village.
- **Materials:** Made using softwood called "Ankudu" and natural lacquer extracted from trees.
- **Features:**
 - Eco-friendly and safe for children, emphasizing sustainable art practices.
 - Each toy is handcrafted with meticulous attention to design and detail.
- **Significance:** Represents Andhra Pradesh's vibrant artisan heritage.

6. Screwpine Leaf Bookmark (Kerala)

- **Material:** Crafted using screwpine leaves, locally known as "Tazha."
- **Process:**
 - Leaves are dried, sliced into thin strips, and intricately woven into handicrafts.
 - Represents Kerala's rich tradition of natural fiber weaving.
- **Features:**
 - Durable, eco-friendly, and reflective of Kerala's artisanal talent.
 - Promotes the use of sustainable, biodegradable materials.



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Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rashtrapati-bhavan-crafts-special-invites-for-75th-republic-day-reception/article69085073.ece>



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