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.



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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:

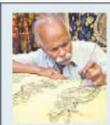


Pochampally Ikat on a pencil
pouch: This Telangana staple is known
for its distinct geometric patterns and
bold colours



Etikoppaka toys: The soft wood and lacquer toys from the eponymous village in Andhra Pradesh are valued for the use

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 renown for its richness and elegance, makes its way from Tamil Nadu

5. Etikopakka Dolls (Andhra Pradesh)

- Craft: Traditional wooden toys, also known as "Lacquerware," crafted in the Etikopakka 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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 $Source: \underline{https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rashtrapati-bhavan-crafts-special-invites-for-75th-republic-day-reception/article 69085073.ece$

