



POOKALAM COMPETITION RULES

1. The competition is open to all KERA member colleges and is limited to one entry per college.
2. All participating teams are required to register online on or before 10th October, 2026.
3. The maximum number of team members allowed for flower decoration is five (at a time). Presence of more than 5 people in the designated area will call for disqualification. Additional members can assist their team from outside the designated area. In case there arises a need for substitution, the competing member(s) of the requesting team need to exit out of flower decoration area and only then their replacements can enter.
4. Only natural flowers or/and flower petals or/and leaves are allowed to prepare the pookalam. Usage of artificially coloured flowers/petals/coconut powder/vegetables/fruits/seeds are not allowed and if used, will attract disqualification. Leafy Vegetables such as Amaranthus Dubious, Spinach, Cabbage, Kale etc. are considered as vegetables and hence cannot be used. Any clarification needed arising from the selection of flowers or leaves can be checked and approved from the committee.
5. The natural flowers/petals/leaves can be chopped or grinded; but blending and using it as a paste form will call for disqualification. Any additives, colours or chemicals found to be mixed with the flowers/leaves shall result in immediate disqualification.
6. All participating teams should submit their inventory list of flowers/leaves to the Pookkalam committee before entering the preparation area and the competition. Participating teams are also required to submit the sample of the complete flower/leaves mentioned in their respective inventory list. If the flowers/leaves are prepared before the competition date, the participating college has the responsibility to provide proof of any colour/texture change with respect to the sample flower/leaves submitted as part of the inventory list submission. Any malpractice detected during the competition or at the end of the competition shall call for disqualification.
7. Prefabricated or pre-moulded elevations are not allowed. Any artificial elevations using clay or such materials are not permitted.
8. Display of traditional 'Nilavilakku, Nirpara, Pookula, icons, Chirag or Oil lamps are not allowed outside or inside the pookalam area.
9. The organizing committee will supply a one meter in diameter plywood or MDF base for the pookalam, and the date & place for its distribution will be advised to the participants.
10. Pookalam should be arranged in allotted places, and within the size of the supplied pookalam board. The edges of the plywood board can be covered with flowers or leaves to a maximum allowance of one inch.



11. The place allotment/numbering for each team will be done by draw at the venue at 9:15 AM.
12. All the plywood or MDF boards should be displayed at the allocated area by 9:45 AM for the organisers to inspect the board. The board can be fixed on to the ground using adhesive tapes before the start of the competition at 10:00 AM. Any board displayed after 10:00 AM will require a minimum 10 minute time for the organisers to inspect and hence the timing of floral decoration of the respective team could be reduced by a maximum of 10 minutes. All the materials required to install or fix the board on the floor is the responsibility of the participants.
13. **Pookalam competition (actual floral decoration) will start at 10:00 AM and should be completed by 1:00 PM.** Teams are not allowed to place any flower on the board before 10:00 AM. The premises should be vacated by 1:00 PM after cleaning up the allotted areas for the judges to assess the pookalam. Continuation of the decoration and the members staying around after 1:00 PM will call for disqualification.
14. If any team has finished the pookalam before or within the specified competition time, one representative person from the participating college should be available at the pookalam area and it is the responsibility of that representative to protect the pookalam from any kind of disturbances.
15. After the competition is completed, only one member (nominated by the teams) should always be available near the area of the pookalam to answer any queries by the Judges. The nominated person available should be able to provide proper justification to the usage of any flower/item on the pookalam when questioned by the judges. It would be advisable to have a sample of the flower/petal/leaf used. Failure of proper justification might attract disqualification. Judges' discretion in this case is full and final.
16. Entire work on the given plywood or MDF board except the drawing or layout of the design shall be done at the pookalam venue during the competition time. The drawing or the layout of the design should be done on top of the given board only and no other material including paper should be glued/placed on top of the board for this purpose. The color/code could be mentioned in the board/layout (with BLACK INKPEN only) before the start of the competition.
17. Any violation of the clause #16 may be intimated to the respective team representative by the committee and may be rectified within the completion time or else the team would be disqualified.
18. In case of a request from the judges/organizers, the teams **should be prepared to prove the authenticity** of the materials used in their pookalam.
19. Any theme for the pookkalam can be adopted but it is not necessarily a criteria for assessment.
20. Any grievances regarding the competitions (other than the judgement), must be raised by the teams in writing to the pookalam committee convener before 02:30 PM on the same day of the competition.



21. The decisions of the judging committee would be final and binding.

22. The judging criteria:

Creativity & Originality of Design – 25 Marks
Colour Combination & Flower Selection - 25 Marks
Symmetry, Neatness & Precision - 20 Marks
Overall Visual Appeal & Presentation - 15 Marks
Appropriate Use of Flowers - 15 Marks

➤ For further details, please contact **Mrs. Lakshmi (050 8901974)** or **Mr. Rajesh (055 8779584)**