

## **Rangoli: Dissemination of Indian Tradition & Cultural Values**

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Decoration is the act of changing something into something aesthetically different in essential characteristics. To decorate is to spiff something up, making it more colorful and attractive, like hanging streamers in a room or ornaments on a tree. Decorations are things used in this way.

Home decoration such as interior décor is very important in life. Decorations at an event are necessary for setting the occasional mood, framing the emotion and underscoring the importance of the event. Decorating homes can assist conceal design flaws and even customize homes to suit a homeowner's lifestyle and needs. It is also possible to give interior spaces a perfect layout during interior design and decoration. There are several elements of design and décor that aid the decorating process of homes ranging from accessories like throw pillows and rugs to paint colors, to furniture and lighting to different design styles, among others.

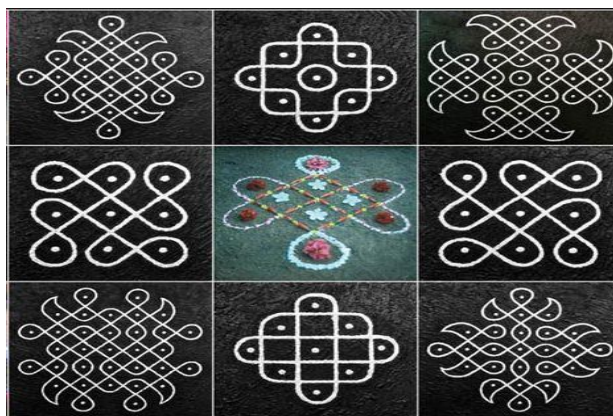
One of certain ways of decoration styles rangoli is the part of floor decoration and an expression of the creative self, often viewed as a form of self-portraiture. It is a traditional form of welcoming good luck and its popularity has remained unaffected over the years. Designs are composed of geometric and curvilinear patterns, usually derived from nature. The emergence of this creative art can be attributed to Hindu mythological literature works. The word rangoli is a derivation of the Sanskrit word 'rangavalli' and signifies a creative expression of art by the means of colours. Rangoli, one of the most beautiful and most pleasing art forms of India, is comprised of two words, 'rang' meaning 'color' and 'aavalli' meaning 'colored creepers' or 'row of colors'. Rangoli is also considered a lucky omen. However, traditional rangoli designs were two-dimensional; the modern three dimensional designs are attractive.

Rangoli is a very popular folk art that has several religious connotations across the expanse of India. Rangoli is an art form India in which patterns are created on the floor in living rooms or courtyards using materials such as coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand or flower petals. Rangoli competitions are one of the most popular activities during festivals. Rangoli is a spiritual distribution of colours and thus is considered a harbinger of good luck. Most of the rangoli designs maintain symmetry like a yin and yang symbol or a swastika. And, worldwide, across all religions, symmetrical designs are considered as a symbol of prosperity, luck and growth.

Indian is a big country & land of many languages and hence, this art form has different names in different regions.

### **In Tamil Nadu (Kolam)**

The Kolam, which is also known as the Rangoli or Muggu, is a type of Indian folk art. Kolam is traditionally made with rice flour that becomes a food for ants and birds. In Indian philosophy, there is a concept of living in harmony with creatures around you. kolams are also a way to keep people more active. Kolam is a great exercise. When you walk by a street in the morning, you can see which women are active and which ones are lazy just by looking at the kolams. This keeps the women on their toes and motivates them to be on an active lifestyle.



Kolam was traditionally drawn using rice flour or chalk powder. With modern times, use of synthetic coloured powders is also used. Native to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerela and some parts of Goa, traditionally, the main purpose of Kolam was not decoration. Earlier, Kolams were drawn in coarse rice flour so that the ants would not have to walk too far for a meal. Along with ants, Kolam encouraged harmonious existence by setting an invitation to birds and other small creatures for a meal.

#### **In Rajasthan (Mandana)**

Mandana is a type of Rangoli. Rangoli in Rajasthan is called Mandana. It is kept through out the year on walls as it was initially used for decorating the mud houses. The material "Chuna" (chalk paste) is used to draw the mandana with cotton balls. Named after the popular art of Mandana paintings, this kind of Rangoli is native to the areas of [Rajasthan](#). Mandana is drawn to protect health, welcome Gods and mark the celebration of festivals. Mandana is basically drawn using chalk powder. Women draw this beautiful piece of art form with the help of a piece of cotton, a tuft of hair or a rudimentary brush made out of a date stick.



#### **In Chhattisgarh (Chowkpurana)**

In the northern parts of India, Rangoli designs are made with traditional wet colors. On the other hand, in the southern parts of the country, Rangoli patterns drawn with the help of powder colors are more common. Popular for its kaleidoscopic designs, Chowkpurana is drawn using dried rice flour or other forms of white dust powder. Although there are numerous traditional [Chaook](#) patterns, designs have evolved over the years depending on the creativity of younger generation. Considered auspicious, Chaook also signifies showering of good luck and prosperity in the family.





### In West Bengal (Alpana)

West Bengal is a state of India which also popular for this human art 'Rangoli'. In West Bengal rangoli is popular as a name of alpana or alpona. The word **Alpana** is derived from the Sanskrit word 'alimpana'. Alimpana means 'to plaster' or 'to coat with'. Traditionally, women of the house made alpana before the sunset. Strictly drawn in white colour, to draw an alpana that stays for longer duration, fabric colours along with a portion of glue can be used. Other natural colours that can be used are green and red – green to be obtained from leaves and red from sindoor.



### In Odisha (Jhoti)

This traditional art is known as Jhoti or Chita in Odisha. *Jhoti* or *Chita* is the traditional *Oriya* art on the floor and walls, very popular in the rural areas. *Jhoti* is quite different from rangoli. Unlike in other areas, jhoti can also be drawn on walls as well and is traditionally a line art drawing. The white colour is obtained from a semi-liquid paste of rice flour to draw this traditional line art. Apart from several designs and patterns used in jhoti, small foot marks of goddess Lakshmi are a must. It is highly symbolic and meaningful. Jhoti was drawn by women of the house to establish a relationship between the mystical and the material.



### **In Bihar (Aripana)**

Aripa is a variation of *Rangoli*, practised in *Bihar*. Aripa patterns are integral to almost every celebration in a Bihari household. Drawn in the courtyard or the entrance, any ritual or celebration is considered incomplete without aripa in Bihar. Traditionally, aripas were drawn to make the cultivated land fertile and fruitful by magical performances. Made with fingers, the delicate designs are made with the help of rice paste or pittha.



### **In Andhra Pradesh (Muggu)**

*Muggu Rangoli in Andhra Pradesh* Making rangoli on the various occasions is the best part of any celebration. Known as Muggupindi, these rangoli patterns are drawn with a mixture of calcium or chalk powder. During festivals, the mixture is made of rice flour as an offering to ants, insects and sparrows. This gorgeous traditional art is transferred over the generations.



At last this article provides information about the importance of drawing rangoli during various festivals and auspicious events in different states.

### **References:**

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