

Session 5- SLO 2

Assignment

**Images of Pookalam:**



## **Session 6- SLO 1 & 2**

### **Assignment**

#### **1. What is Mehendi?**

Mehendi, also known as henna, is a form of body art originating in ancient India, in which decorative designs are created on a person's body, using a paste made from the powdered dry leaves of the henna plant (*Lawsonia inermis*). Traditionally, mehendi is applied on the hands and feet of women, particularly during weddings and other festive occasions.

#### **2. What is the history behind Mehendi?**

The history of Mehendi dates back over 5,000 years in the Indian subcontinent and has been used for both its natural cooling properties and its expressive art form. It was originally used to cool the skin in the desert climate, and the art form of mehendi was highly popularized in India during the 12th century AD through trade and cultural exchanges with the Middle East.

#### **3. Comment on the significance of Mehendi in Hinduism.**

In Hinduism, mehendi holds a deep spiritual and ritualistic significance. It is a symbol of the outer and the inner sun. As weddings are considered a sacred and spiritual event, the application of mehendi represents the divine bond of marriage and signifies the love between the couple and their families. It is also associated with the transformation of the goddess Parvati into her most beautiful form to charm her consort, Lord Shiva. The intricate patterns symbolize the blessings of the gods and are considered auspicious.

#### **4. What is the procedure of Mehendi application?**

The procedure of Mehendi application involves creating a paste from henna powder, which is then filled into a cone-shaped tool or applied with a stick or brush. The paste is carefully applied onto the skin to form intricate patterns and designs. After application, the paste dries and flakes off, leaving a temporary stain that ranges from orange to dark maroon in color on the skin. The stain lasts from a few days to several weeks, depending on the quality of the henna and the care taken after application. The area is often wrapped with tissue, plastic, or medical tape to lock in body heat, creating a more intense color on the skin. The wrap is worn three to six hours, or sometimes overnight, and then removed. After this, the skin is washed with water to reveal the final design.