

Topic 1: Pulli Kolam (Dot Kolam) - The Foundation



1. Definition and Core Concept

- **Art Form:** A traditional, geometric floor art from South India. It is the foundational style for many other kolam variations.
- **Technique:** A grid of dots (*pulli*) is placed on the ground first. These dots then serve as a guide or template. Lines are drawn to either connect the dots (creating geometric shapes) or loop around them.
- **Material:** Traditionally drawn with coarse rice flour (*arisi maavu*).

2. Role in Daily Life & Festivals

- **Daily Ritual:** Drawn every morning at the home's entrance as a ritual of purification and to welcome positive energy.
 - **Festivals:** Serves as the base for more elaborate designs during Pongal, Diwali, and the Margazhi month.
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Topic 2: Sikku Kolam (Knot/Tangled Kolam)



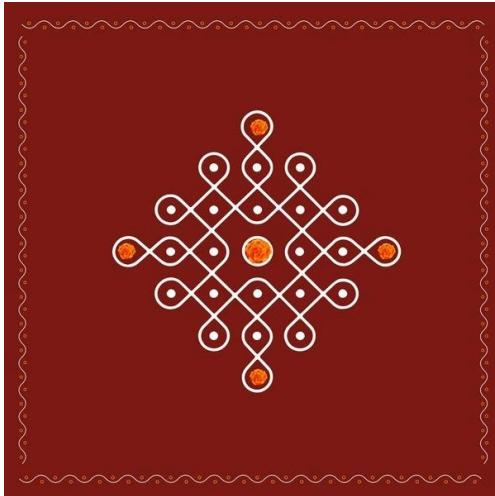
1. Definition and Core Concept

- **Art Form:** A complex and intricate type of Pulli Kolam, famous for its "knotted" or "tangled" appearance. "Sikku" in Tamil means "knot" or "tangle."
- **Technique:** A single, continuous line is skillfully woven around a grid of dots without the line ever crossing itself. The line loops around the dots, creating a beautiful, interwoven mesh that appears knotted.
- **Material:** Primarily rice flour.

2. Role in Daily Life & Festivals

- **Practice:** Due to its complexity, it is less common for daily use but is a popular choice for showcasing skill and devotion.
- **Occasions:**
 - **Margazhi Month:** A favorite during this holy month, as its complexity is seen as a higher form of devotional offering.
 - **Fridays & Auspicious Days:** Often drawn on days dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi to provide extra spiritual protection.
 - **Festivals:** Used during Pongal and Navaratri by experienced practitioners.

Topic 3: Chikku Kolam (Loop Kolam)



1. Definition and Core Concept

- **Art Form:** A decorative variant related to Sikku Kolam, but with a focus on creating patterns through distinct loops and swirls.
- **Technique:** While it can be drawn around a dot grid, the emphasis is on forming beautiful, interlaced patterns made of individual or connected loops. It often appears more fluid and less rigidly geometric than a classic Sikku Kolam.
- **Material:** Rice flour or colored powders.

2. Role in Daily Life & Festivals

- **Practice:** Used when a more decorative or flowing design is desired, acting as a bridge between the strict geometry of Sikku Kolam and freehand styles.
 - **Occasions:**
 - **Festivals & Celebrations:** Its aesthetic, swirling patterns are well-suited for festive decorations during Diwali and Pongal.
 - **Special Days:** Drawn to add an extra layer of beauty and artistry to the daily ritual on special occasions.
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Topic 4: Kambi Kolam (Line Kolam)



1. Definition and Core Concept

- **Art Form:** A free-hand style of kolam drawn without a dot grid. "Kambi" means "line" or "border."
- **Technique:** It is composed of simple, elegant straight and curved lines. It typically forms borders around a central design but can also be a standalone pattern.
- **Material:** Rice flour.

2. Role in Daily Life & Festivals

- **Daily Use:** Very common for everyday kolams as it is quick to draw.
 - **Borders:** Its primary role during festivals is to serve as a beautiful frame for larger, more complex central kolams.
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Topic 5: Rangoli Kolam (Color Kolam)



1. Definition and Core Concept

- **Art Form:** A vibrant, free-form style of kolam that emphasizes bright colors, creativity, and pictorial designs. It is the most widespread form of floor art across India.
- **Technique:** Designs are outlined and then filled in with colored powders, colored rice, sand, or flower petals. Patterns are often large, non-symmetrical, and can depict deities, nature scenes, or floral motifs.
- **Material:** Specially prepared colored powders (*kolapodi*), flowers, and grains.

2. Role in Festivals & Special Occasions

- **Practice:** Exclusively reserved for festivals and grand celebrations due to its complexity and use of materials.
- **Occasions:**
 - **Diwali:** The quintessential art form for Diwali, where bright colors and lamps create a dazzling welcome for Goddess Lakshmi.
 - **Pongal, Navaratri, Weddings:** Used to create a grand, celebratory atmosphere.
 - **Onam:** In Kerala, this style is known as *Pookalam* and is made entirely of fresh flower petals.