

28
YEARS OF
AKCAF
ONAM

The Largest
Onam
Celebration

Outside
India is
Back

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പൂഷ്പഗന്ധങ്ങൾ
പരത്തിക്കൊണ്ട്

അക്കാഡിക്
പൂക്കള
മത്സരം
2026

AKCAF PONNONAKAZCHA 2026 POOKKALAM COMPETITION

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. The competition is open to only AKCAF Association member colleges and is limited to one entry per college.
2. All participating teams are required to register online at www.akcaf.org
3. The participating team members should be alumni members of their own college.
4. The maximum number of team members allowed for flower decoration is five (at a time). The 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 can their replacements enter.
5. Only natural flowers or/and flower petals or/and leaves are allowed to prepare the pookkalam. 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 by the organizing committee.
6. The natural flowers/petals/leaves can be chopped or grinded; but blending and using it as a paste form will call for disqualification.
7. Flowers should not be fried/cooked/dried or microwaved. Also, additives, colours or chemicals should not be mixed with the flowers/leaves. Any of these cases found shall result in immediate disqualification.
8. 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 attempt detected during the competition or at the end of the competition shall call for disqualification.

9. Prefabricated or pre-molded elevations are not allowed. Any artificial elevations using clay, or such materials are not permitted.
10. Display of traditional 'Nilavilakku, Nirpara, Pookkula, icons, Chirag or Oil lamps are not allowed outside or inside the flower decoration area.
11. The organizing committee will supply a one meter in diameter plywood or MDF base for the pookkalam (which ONLY must be used for the competition), and the date & place for its distribution will be advised to the participants.
12. Pookkalam should be arranged in allotted places, and within the size of the supplied pookkalam board. Edges of the plywood board can be covered with flowers or leaves to a maximum allowance of one inch.
13. The mode of place allotment and numbering for each team will be done by draw at the venue.
14. All the Plywood or MDF boards should be displayed at the allocated area for the organizers to inspect the board. The board can be fixed on to the ground using adhesive tape before the start of the competition. All the materials required to install or fix the board on the floor are the responsibility of the participants.
15. If any team has finished the pookkalam before or within the specified competition time, one representative person from the participating college should be available at the pookkalam area and it is the responsibility of that representative to protect the pookkalam from any kind of disturbances.
16. After the competition is completed, only one member (nominated by the teams) should always be available near the area of the pookkalam 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 pookkalam 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. The Judge's discretion in this case is full and final.



17. All participating teams are required to complete the affidavit form with the names of their participants and a detailed inventory list of the flowers and leaves they will be using, The required details must be submitted at least 3 days before the event.
18. Entire work on the given plywood or MDF board except the drawing or layout of the design shall be done at the pookkalam venue during the competition. 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.
19. In case of a request from the judges/organizers, the teams should be prepared to prove the authenticity of the materials used in their pookkalam.
20. Any theme for the pookkalam can be adopted but it is not necessarily a criteria for assessment. The theme must be compatible with point no.25
21. A total of 3 prizes (First, Second and Third) would be awarded to the winners. Pookkalam must not be disturbed and should be left as it is for the public view even after the event
22. Any grievances regarding the competitions (other than the judgement), must be raised by the teams in writing to the pookkalam committee convener before 12:00 PM on the same day of the competition.
23. The Pookkalam committee convenor & coordinators should not be part of their college team.
24. The decisions of the judging committee would be final and binding.
25. The design of Pookkalam must remain strictly cultural, inclusive, and secular. Should not feature religious deities, faith-based iconography, political emblems, or sub-community/caste identifiers. Strict compliance with UAE Media Council and Dubai CDA regulations is required.

The judges' decision is final and binding.

AKCAF Association and Ponnonakazhcha team reserve the right and permission to use Photographs and Videos of the participant shot from the venue for its promotional and advertising purposes.

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Note: Any team/individual violating the rules & regulations will be automatically disqualified from the competition.