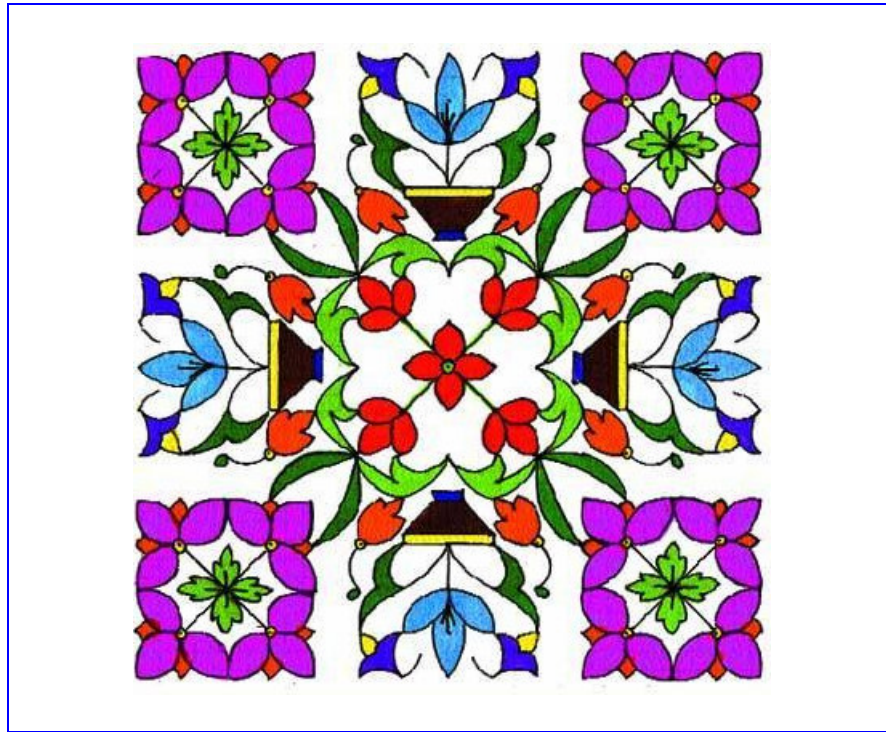


Cover Story Rangavalli

Picture captured by Atheeth.



During pongal season, we see lots of Rangavallis (designs made with rice flour or colored powders) in villages. These Rangavallis are not only for decoration, but also for hygienic conditions. Pongal festival is celebrated after harvesting. After harvesting, the pests loose their shelter and will spread around. During this season, families get together. In front of the house, water mixed with cow dung is sprayed to prevent pests. The cow dung may attract beetles. So they use rice flour on that, which prevents beetles and keeps most insects there itself. Instead of spraying rice flour, it is put in an attractive way. Thus the Rangavallis. Earlier cement flooring was very rare and soil floor is very common. On cement flooring, using cow dung may not be required. Using chalk for the Rangavalli is not appropriate. By using rice flour, indirectly feeding some insects. 'Bhuta daya' (showing mercy on insects and feeding them) is the basic idea behind Rangavallis.

- SuSri.