

Onam Pookkalam Contest 2026

Rules & Regulations

DATE	VENUE	TEAM SIZE	ENTRY FEE
23rd August 2026	Express Avenue Mall, Royapettah, Chennai	Maximum 5 Members	₹500 per Team

Please read the following rules carefully before registering. By completing the registration, all participants agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the competition.

1. Team Composition

- Each team can have a maximum of 5 members.
- All members participating in the competition must be part of the registered team.
- Only registered team members will be permitted to participate in the competition.

2. Date, Venue & Competition Timing

- The competition will be held on Sunday, 23rd August 2026 at Express Avenue Mall, Royapettah, Chennai.
- Participant Registration/Reporting: 9:00 AM; Competition: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM; Judging: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM; Prize Distribution: 3:00 PM.
- All participants are required to report at the venue by 9:00 AM.

3. Floor Marking & Allocated Space

- Floor marking will commence at 7:00 AM.
- Each team will be allotted the space required to prepare its Pookkalam within the permitted dimensions.
- Teams must restrict their Pookkalam and all related activities to the space allotted to them.

4. Pookkalam Size

- The Pookkalam must have a minimum diameter of 5.5 feet (66 inches).
- The Pookkalam must not exceed 6 feet (72 inches) in diameter.
- Participants must ensure that the completed Pookkalam remains within the specified dimensions.

5. Materials Permitted

- Only natural flowers and leaves may be used for the competition.
- Participants are encouraged to showcase their creativity through the arrangement and design of natural floral materials.

6. Prohibited Materials

- Sand, salt, artificial colour powders, artificial flowers, artificial decorative materials and any other non-natural material used to embellish the Pookkalam are strictly prohibited.

7. Drawing / Outlining the Pookkalam

- Only chalk may be used to outline or mark the Pookkalam design on the floor.
- Permanent marker pens or other materials that cannot be erased are not permitted.
- Participants must ensure that the floor markings can be removed after the competition.

8. No Pre-Made Templates or Stickers

- Participants must create the Pookkalam design at the venue.
- Pre-made stickers, templates or similar ready-made materials may not be used to draw or create the outline of the Pookkalam.

9. No Additional Embellishments

- The Pookkalam must not be embellished with additional traditional or decorative items such as Kuthuvilakku, Chirath, Nirapara, diyas, lamps or other decorative objects.
- The competition entry should remain a Pookkalam created using permitted natural flowers and leaves.

10. Preparation of Flowers

- A separate designated space will be provided for teams to prepare/sort their flowers.
- Participants must use the designated area for such preparation wherever instructed by the organisers.

11. Discipline During the Competition

- All participants are expected to maintain discipline and decorum throughout the competition.
- Participants must maintain silence and avoid disturbing other teams during the competition and judging process.
- All instructions given by the event organisers and venue authorities must be followed.

12. Competition Completion & Clean-Up

- All teams must complete their Pookkalam within the stipulated competition time of 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
- After completing their Pookkalam, each team will be allowed 5 minutes to clean up its allotted area.
- Teams must leave their space clean and free of excess flowers, leaves and other waste.

13. Vacating the Competition Area for Judging

- Once the competition and clean-up period are completed, all teams must vacate the competition area as instructed by the organisers.
- Participants must not remain around the Pookkalam during the judging process.
- The judging process will take place from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

14. No Identification During Judging

- No signs, banners, logos, names or other material revealing the identity of the team, organisation, association or individual participants may be placed near or around the Pookkalam during judging.
- Pookkalams will be identified through the official number/card issued by the organisers.

15. Display of Competition Number

- Each team will be provided with a competition/number card by the organisers.
- The number card must be displayed next to the completed Pookkalam as instructed.
- Participants must not display any other identifying information alongside the Pookkalam.

16. Judging & Evaluation

- Judging will be conducted by the appointed celebrity judges.
- The evaluation process will take place between 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM.
- Participants must ensure that their Pookkalam remains undisturbed during the entire judging process.
- The decision of the judges will be final and binding.

17. Prize Distribution

- The results of the competition will be announced by the organisers.
- Cash awards will be presented to the First, Second and Third Prize winners, along with any other prizes announced by the organisers.
- The prize distribution ceremony is scheduled for 3:00 PM on 23rd August 2026.

18. Authority of the Organisers

- Chennai Times and the Onam Pookkalam Contest Organising Committee shall have the authority to interpret, amend or modify these rules where necessary.
- The organisers shall have the final authority on any matter relating to the conduct of the competition.
- The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any team or entry that violates the rules and regulations.
- The decision of the organisers/judges on matters relating to the competition shall be final and binding.