

UPDATE ON THE KALAMKARI CLUSTER IN SRIKALAHASTI

The kalamkari cluster in association with the Sri Arunachal Kalamkari Society was inaugurated on 8th December at 11 am , venue - B . P Agrahamram , Srikalahasti. The cluster was inaugurated by the Asst. Director Handicrafts , Mr D . V Sreenatha, he was accompanied by the Asst. Instructor Handicrafts, Mr. B . Dharmaraju.



After the inauguration the 30 artisans were given notebooks to keep a record of the designs practiced and painted on the cloth.

Process of preparing the kalamkari fabric :

The fabric selected for the products are first left to soak in a tub containing water.



After soaking it for nearly half a day it is taken out and the beaten against a rock to remove the starch. this is to completely remove the starch and dirt present in the fabric.



Since we are also using semi silk fabric, these fabrics go through a extra process of boiling to remove the oil present in the fabric.

The presence of oil and starch hinders the artisans while doing the painting as it spreads the colors.

For the next step myrobalan is soaked in whatever over night.



It is then taken the next day morning and ground into a paste.



The next process is the dyeing of the fabric in milk and myrobalan mixture.



The fabrics are soaked until the mixture is completely absorbed and then is left to dry.



The fabrics should be allowed to dry in direct sunlight for better results.

The fabrics were then taken, sized into the specific products they are supposed to be made in.



Now the fabrics will be cut and the respective designs will be made on the using charcoal.