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**JANUARY 2022**

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# KONDAPALLI TOYS

## WHITE WOODCRAFT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

By: **Dr. Vibha Kalaiya<sup>1</sup> and Ms. Prashanthi Priyakumari V<sup>2</sup>**

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The following poster was presented by Dr. Vibha Kalaiya

### ABSTRACT

The toy heritage of Andhra Pradesh – Kondapalli Toys were famous for their lightweight, vibrant colors and age-old production techniques. Themed around mythology, rural life, and animals, these toys exhibit joyous and realistic expressions. The present research paper focuses on the rich heritage of Kondapalli toys. The researcher intends to document in detail the legacy of kondapalli toys with their special significance. The methodology adopted was the personal interviews conducted along with the observation method through field surveys. A multi-visit approach was implemented for authentic data collection. Results revealed the fact that this 400-year old tradition had passed on from generation to generation with every member taking part in the “Toy-making activity in the “Toy Colony” of Kondapalli. The village had also gained popularity for the manufacturing of dancing dolls, also known as Thanjavur Dancing Dolls – a form of art which had been adopted from the state of Tamil Nadu. The making of these wooden Kondapalli toys involved great craftsmanship at each stage of the production. They were made out of white wood which were soft in nature, used as the main raw material. The toys displayed various themes from the daily household work to the theme of dashavataar. The art shows the strong influence of Islamic style and the pointed nose of the human figures were reminiscent of the 17th century Rajasthan style. It is observed that over the years, the Kondapalli toy had become a collectible from a kid's plaything to attractive showpieces. Moreover, the shift ate into the repurchase market because, unlike children's toys, which tend to break, collectibles require little replacement. Before the traditional toys got absolutely redundant to the younger generation the researcher conceptualized the study in view of its relevance to the current times.

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**Keywords:** Andhra Pradesh, Dashavataar, Kondapalli, Thanjavur Dancing Dolls, Traditional Craft, Wooden toys

**Poster Presentation at:** Sangoshti 2021: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Recent Trends and Sustainability in Crafts and Design

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**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Sub-theme:** Toy Craft & Culture

**KONDAPALLI TOYS: WHITE WOODCRAFT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
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**INTRODUCTION**  
The white wood handcraft is famous for its lightweight, vibrant colours and age-old production techniques. This research paper focuses on the rich heritage of Kondapalli toys and to document in detail its legacy with their special significance.

**METHODOLOGY**  
The methodology adopted was the personal interviews conducted along with the observation method through field surveys. A multi-visit approach was implemented for authentic data collection. Results revealed the fact that this 400-year-old tradition had passed on from generation to generation with every member taking part in the toy-making activity in the “Toy Colony” of Kondapalli. The village had also gained popularity for the manufacturing of dancing dolls, also known as Thanjavur Dancing Dolls – a form of art which had been adopted from the state of Tamil Nadu. The making of these wooden Kondapalli toys involved great craftsmanship at each stage of the production. They were made out of white wood which were soft in nature, used as the main raw material. The toys displayed various themes from the daily household work to the theme of dashavataar. The art shows the strong influence of Islamic style and the pointed nose of the human figures were reminiscent of the 17th century Rajasthan style. It is observed that over the years, the Kondapalli toy had become a collectible from a kid's plaything to attractive showpieces. Moreover, the shift ate into the repurchase market because, unlike children's toys, which tend to break, collectibles require little replacement. Before the traditional toys got absolutely redundant to the younger generation the researcher conceptualized the study in view of its relevance to the current times.

**RESULTS**  
The data collected revealed that now there are only 200 artisans practicing this glorious art of toy making in Kondapalli.  
- Very few in this village had small shops wherein they produce and sell their toys.

**Artisans**  
The artisans crafting these wooden toys are called the *Ayar Kalithiras* who have been living in Kondapalli for more than 100 years since Mughal Empire.

**Process**  
The making of these wooden Kondapalli toys involved great craftsmanship at each stage of the production.  
White wood Logs → Chiselled into basic blocks → Ready to shape → Painting theme & Color scheme → Adorn blocks (Gemstones) → Sew thread

**Themes**  
- Daily household work, Village Scenario, Krishna with Gopi's, Sairavani, Dashavataar, Elephant Chariot, Wedding Ceremony, etc.

**CONCLUSION**  
- The process of making Kondapalli toys was quite exhaustive, which require attention to minute details. Due to the rampant exploitation of Sella Poulis tree, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had decided to set up a Wood Bank under the supervision of the forest department to bring the Kondapalli artisans.  
- The younger generation is reluctant to pursue this art further due to lack of profit and it's time taking process.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
I thank the Kondapalli artisans who have shared the knowledge of making the wooden toy craft. Though they incur a loss, they love what they do and are ready to share that knowledge with others in order to keep the craft alive.

**REFERENCES**  
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Kondapalli Toys: White woodcraft of Andhra Pradesh  
Source – <https://www.iicd.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Vibha-K-Kondapalli-White-Wood-Toys-01.jpg>

# TANMADE

## A JOURNEY OF LEATHER

By: **Gauthami Suresh**, B. Des Lifestyle Accessory Design, Semester VI, UID

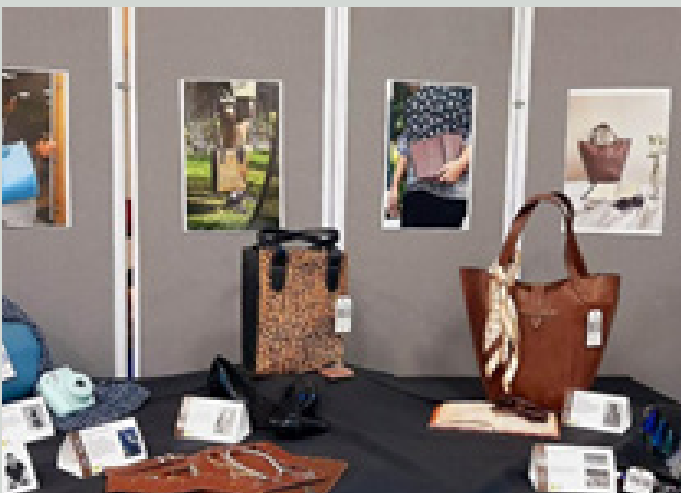


Handmade leather exhibition title board made out of left over leather pieces. Picture Courtesy: Khushi Jain & Soham Desai

Leather is a naturally durable material obtained from animal skin and hides and has a significant contribution to the world of fashion and lifestyle accessories.

We at the Lifestyle and Accessory Design department of UID came up with an exhibition titled 'TANMADE' that showcased magnificent and innovative outcomes in leather by the students of semesters III and V under the guidance of Prof. Sudeep Rawat and supported by the Head of Department, Prof. Ajay Kumar Chowdhury.

The exhibition unveiled the journey of leather from skin to the final product covering an array of tools, 2D and 3D mock-ups, and processes that were followed along the way to create an experience as to how the final accessories and lifestyle products were displayed.



Various designs of Leather bags for different occasion and leather jewellery organizer. Picture Courtesy: Khushi Jain & Soham Desai



Various designs of Leather bags for different occasion; Image Credits- Khushi Jain & Soham Desai

We wanted everyone to be part of a journey that starts and ends on a natural material – LEATHER.

Noted dignitaries including Dr. Deepak Shishoo, Mr. K K Singh & Col. Surojit Bose were immensely delighted and praised the team and the department for their contribution to the exhibition.



Students of Lifestyle accessory department with Dr. Deepak Shishoo, Prof. Ajay Kumar Chowdhury (HOD) and Prof. Sudeep Rawat. Picture Courtesy: Khushi Jain & Soham Desai

It was a great experience that TANMADE gave all of us. We learnt our material, alongside teamwork, group efforts, presentation skills, display, it was all great learning.



# THE ART OF STYLING

## FIVE WAYS TO DRESS A CHINO

By: Prajawal Kashyap, B. Des Fashion Design, Semester IV, School of Fashion design, UID

### 1) THE CLASSIC

Chinos with polos are the classic look. And nothing beats the classic, it is timeless and will last longer than any other trends. This is one of the best combinations you can have with a chino. You can wear it to a casual party or a formal party. That's its beauty. I like to dress my chino with a white polo which gives the look of a clean professional man.



The Classic Look. Picture Courtesy: Prajawal Kashyap

## 2) THE PLAYFUL LOOK

Want to go out to chill with your friends, but don't want to try too hard in thinking what to wear? Just wear a bright colour T-shirt / full sleeves with a chino. This is perfect for just casual meetings- it looks easy and is stylish. Fold the chino from bottom to step up your look.



The Playful Look. Picture Coutesy: Prajawal Kashyap

## 3) THE VACATION LOOK

Always confused about what to wear on vacation. Just grab a chino and a printed shirt. This is the perfect look for starting your vacation. Combinations are endless. You can pull off the same chino with a different shirt and you got yourself a vacation wardrobe. Add sneakers to get that vacation vibe going.



The Vacation Look. Picture Couresy: Prajawal Kashyap



## 4) THE GENTLEMAN LOOK

This is the best look for first dates, parties etc. It is a semi-formal look that makes you look sophisticated and confident. Just grab your chino and dress it up with a formal shirt. I would prefer a dark coloured shirt over light chino so that they can complement each other and then pair it with loafers to get that classic luxury vibe.



The Gentleman Look. Picture Courtesy: Prajawal Kashyap

## 5) BUSINESS CASUAL LOOK

This look gives an entrepreneur vibe. Just put on a blazer over the whichever t-shirt/polo/shirt you are wearing with a chino. Remember blazers should have a little contrast with chino pants for the look to stand out.



The Business Casual Look. Picture Courtesy: Prajawal Kashyap



# सफर & WALK

By: **Sambit Kumar Pradhan**, Assistant Professor, VC, UID, KU



जिन हाथों के खयाल को अब तक था थामा  
उन्हें उँगलियाँ अब उतारने ने लगीं हैं।  
जिन आँखों को नज़रों से यूँ तो कभी न छुँआ  
जाने क्यों उनका चेहरा नज़र आ रहा है।

सफ़हे सा जो शुरु हुआ था कोरा  
झुरियों में मुड़ा वो कागज़  
सियाही में डूब जाने को चला जा रहा है।

सफ़हे- Pages, उफ़क़- Horizon, ज़र्द- Yellow/  
Yellowed

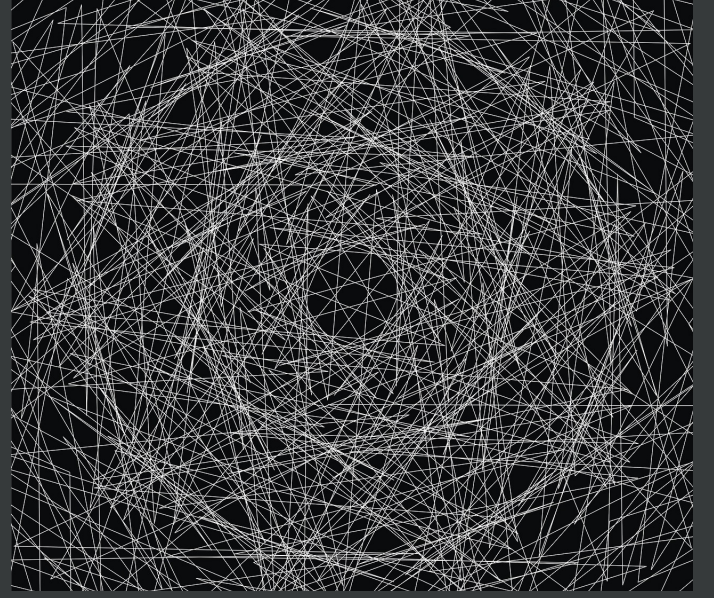
## सफर

सफ़हे गुज़रते जा रहें हैं  
ज़दिगियाँ पलटती जा रही हैं।  
सुफ़ैद बरफ़ से पल गरि रहे हैं परतों में  
वक़्त बजाए गुज़रने के यहाँ से यही ठंडा जमता जा  
रहा है।

क़दमों को इंतज़ार है उफ़क़ का,  
ज़र्द आँखों से सूखी नीद बह रही है।  
अरसा इक़ हो गया है यहाँ पानी को बरसे  
हवा पुरानी उन टहनियों में उलझ कर रह गयी है।

चाँद की चाँदी पर वैसे ही चमकती है  
जैसे सूरज रोज़ गर्म रौशन होता है।  
दनि मगर गलत पतों पे पहुँचते हैं,  
और रातों के मोड़ छूटते रहते हैं।

आवाज़ों की पुकार सी सुनाई तो पड़ती है,  
जुबाँ पर उनकी, और समझ नहीं आती।  
महसूस की छुअन सुन पड़ रही है,  
नसें थक हार कर अब सोने जा रही हैं।



## WALK

Pages keep drifting by  
Lives keep turning over.  
Moments fall layered like white snow,  
Time freezes right here instead of passing.

Feet await the arrival of horizon,  
Sleep flows dry off of aging eyes.  
It has been an age since it has rained here,  
The breezes too are caught tangled in old  
branches.

Moon's silver still shines just as  
The sun warms luminous.  
The days however arrive at wrong  
addresses,  
While the nights keep missing their turns.

The voices are kind of heard in the calls,  
Their meanings but, are no longer  
understood.  
The touch of feelings has been numbing,  
Nerves tired out, are leaving to go sleep.

The dreams of the hands which were held  
till now,  
Fingers have begun to peel them off.  
The eyes which as such were never felt  
with a gaze  
Wonder why now their face can be seen.

What had begun like a page, blank  
Crumpled and folded within wrinkles,  
That yellowed scrap of paper walks on to  
Drown away oblivious, in the ink.



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