

BATHUKAMMA - THE FLOWERS FESTIVAL OF TELANGANA

Bathukamma is Telangana's floral festival celebrated by the Hindu Women of the Telangana and its neighbouring states in India. Every year this festival is celebrated as per Telugu version of Hindu calendar in the Bhadrapada Amavasya, also known as Mahalaya Amavasya, usually in September–October of Gregorian calendar. Bathukamma is celebrated for nine days during Durga Navratri. It starts on the day of Mahalaya Amavasya and the 9-day festivities will culminate on "Saddula Bathukamma" or "Pedda Bathukamma" festival on Ashwayuja Ashtami, popularly known as Durgashtami which is two days before Dussehra. Bathukamma is followed by *Boddemma*, which is a 7-day festival. Boddemma festival that marks the ending of Varsha Ruthu whereas Bathukamma festival indicates the beginning of Sarad or Sharath Ruthu.

Bathukamma represents cultural spirit of Telangana. Bathukamma is a beautiful flower stack, arranged with different unique seasonal flowers most of them with medicinal values, in seven concentric layers in the shape of temple [gopuram](#). In Telugu, 'Bathukamma' means 'Mother Goddess come Alive' and Goddess Maha Gauri-'Life Giver' is worshipped in the form of Bathukamma – the patron goddess of womanhood, Maha Gauri Devi.



Bathukamma Celebrations at EPTRI

Government of Telangana state has declared the Bathukamma Festival as Telangana state festival. The first bathukama festival in Telanagana celebrated officially on a grand scale. Chief Minister Mr. K Chandrasekhar Rao released 10 core for the same. The Government offices in Telangana state celebrated Bathukamma in their office permises. Special Chief Secretary to Government,

Government of Telangana along with the staff participated in the Bathukamama festival celebrations at EPTRI.

It is the festival for feminine felicitation. On this special occasion women dress up in the traditional sari combining it with jewels and other accessories. Teenage Girls wear Langa-Oni/Half-Sarees/Lehenga Choli combining it with jewels in order to bring out the traditional grace of the attire.



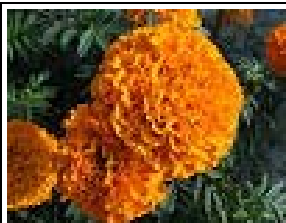
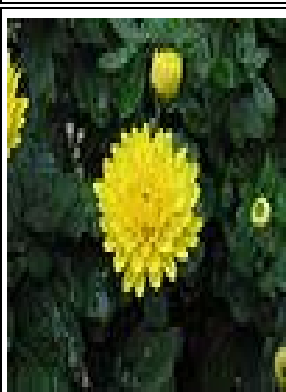

Preparation







On first five days women will clean their vakili ([courtyard](#)), cow dung mixed with water is spread in the courtyard as a ground-base, decorate the ground-base with managala aakara or muggu patterns or rangoli made of rice flour. For the first five days Batukamma is prepared with cow dung. Five small lumps in cone shape are arranged in the vakili.

Men in the house gather flowers from the wild plains like Celosia, Senna, Marigold, Chrysanthemum, Indian Lotus, Cucurbita leaves & flowers, Cucumis Sativus leaves & flowers, Memecylon edule, Tridax procumbens, Trachyspermum ammi, Katla, Teku Flowers, etc., which bloom in this season in various vibrant colors all across the uncultivated and barren plains of the region.

Preparing a Bathukamma is a folk art. Women start preparing Bathukamma from the afternoon. They cut the flowers leaving the little length base, some dip Gunugu ([Celosia](#)) flowers in various vibrant colours, some scented and arrange them on a wide plate called *Thambalam* spread with big leaves, and stack them up in a conical mound, filling the cone with leaves and stems of the flower stalks, decorated with a Lotus or Pumpkin Flower on top of the stack along with Gouramma (a symbolic idol of Gowri made of turmeric). One interesting aspect of the preparation of the flower arrangement is that the arrangement usually floats in water for sometime, and the arrangement is not disassembled until it drowns in water.

Flowers used in Bathukamma

Flower Image	Flower Name	Telugu Name	Additional Information
	Celosia	గునుగు	Celosia has medicinal properties: Antibacterial, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-diabetic, Wound Healing, Antioxidant. ^[1] Leaves of celosia, bruised and applied as poultice, are used for treating of infected sores.
	Senna	తంగెడు	Sennas have for millennia played a major role in herbalism and folk medicine ^[2]
	Marigold	బంతి	Marigold is a potent antiseptic herb. Several of the active chemical constituents found in the herb are fungicidal or mycotic toxins - especially the resins, in addition these compounds are also bactericidal and anti-viral agents.
	Chrysanthemum	చామంతి	It is an excellent source of antioxidants that help prevent and treat a number of diseases and disorders. It contains essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, folate, iron, sodium, potassium, phosphorus, manganese, zinc, and copper
	Indian Lotus	తామర పువ్వు	Lotus flowers contain linoleic acid, protein, phosphorus, iron and vitamins B and C. Practitioners of ayurvedic medicine often use lotus flowers on the face for the flowers' soothing, cooling properties.

	Cucurbita	గుమ్మడి పువ్వు	Used as anti-diabetic, anti-tumor, anti-hypertensive, anti-inflammatory and an anti-bacterial agent.
	Cucumis	దోస పువ్వు	Used in folk medicine to treat ailments of the stomach
	Ipomoea	కట్ల	A valuable medicinal plant having anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory properties.
	Luffa	బీర పువ్వు	Roots are used for dropsy and as a laxative. The leaves are used to treat jaundice.
	Tridax	గడ్డి పువ్వు	Antiviral, anti oxidant antibiotic efficacies, wound healing activity, insecticidal and anti-inflammatory activity. Some reports from tribal areas in India state that the leaf juice can be used to cure fresh wounds, to stop bleeding, as a hair tonic.
	Ajwain	వామ పువ్వు	Reduces the gaseous effects