

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Andhra Pradesh: Poniki plantations to rescue toy makers across NTR district

TNN | May 25, 2022, 03.30 AM IST



VIJAYAWADA: Poniki, the wood used to make Kondapalli and Etikoppaka toys, will soon be cultivated in forest areas across NTR district. The forest department plans to start a dedicated nursery to graft the saplings for planting in the Kondapalli forest area. The district administration, through this initiative, intends to give a new lease of life to Kondapalli toys, which are considered as the identity of the newly formed NTR district.

Kondapalli toys command a significant global market. The lightweight wooden toys depicting Hindu mythology are crafted using Poniki wood, available only in the Kondapalli forest region. But the ready availability of Poniki wood has seen a decline over the last two decades with mining activity in the Kondapalli area. Of the 600 identified artisans, only 70 practise the trade. Faced with the scarcity of wood, hundreds have taken

to alternate professions. Many work as unskilled labourers in industrial estates in the district. After receiving requests from artisans, forest and district officials decided to take up Poniki plantations on a large scale.

District collector Dilli Rao said artisans were given the responsibility of protecting the saplings in forest areas. “Kondapalli toys are handmade without harmful paints and chemicals. Dancing idols made by Kondapalli artisans have huge demand across the globe. We should take this art to the next generations. This should not stop because of scarcity of Poniki wood. We will ensure that plantation of Poniki becomes a regular affair,” Dilli Rao said.

Congratulations!

You have successfully cast your vote

Login to view result

The district forest officer will monitor the plantation drive, he added.