

TEACHER ACHIEVER- KV TIRUMALAGIRI

The largest display of origami peacocks is 1,776 and was achieved by Ravi Kumar Toleti (India) in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, on 15 November 2020.



Ever since Ravi became a teacher in 1988 he aimed to find creative projects for his students. In the same year Ravi bought a book of origami written by Paul Jackson, (a world-renowned Origamian). 'I was attracted to an advanced fold in it, and it took nearly 15 days to master it. With that I designed a poster for my home (which is still in my workplace). The age of this poster is 32 years, and is still intact. I used handmade papers to make it and I enjoyed the project a lot. The project was well appreciated by all and it triggered me with the thought of introducing this activity to my students. Since then there was no looking back and it is still on.'

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ravi created a Youtube channel which encouraged students to learn mathematical concepts through origami. In addition this YouTube channel was an opportunity to showcase videos of his projects, exhibitions and models. 'With the applauds I received for my work, I felt I should reach more peaks in this field and make origami more popular among the students. While I was browsing through internet and exploring more about origami, I have come across the great Guinness World Records.'

On average Ravi spent four hours per day from 29th October 2020 to 14th November 2020 making 1800 Peacock Folds. 'It was a challenging task, but my passion for origami was the driving force.'

Ravi conducted several exhibitions of origami, in all the schools he worked in. Two of these exhibitions were exclusively for animal folds. One was named "Caravan", a procession of Camels. 'I like the fold very much. We could display about 100 camels. The other one was "Animal Planet", where we displayed animals like foxes, Pandas, Gazelle, and many more. Among all, there was the display of a poster of about 50 Pandas. To create awareness of the animal under extinction, we made a life size model of a Gazelle.'

In 1995, Ravi created a poster (a mosaic of a Peacock - two dimensional), which has three thousand folds in it. Ravi spent six hours per day for 23 days to create it. 'This is my favorite project. I got it framed and still preserved it at home.'

'I strongly feel young students should be taught origami and they learn the importance of it. They have to make the models and submit them as projects for their academic subjects. They have to correlate origami with them. They should use their creativity to interrelate subjects. Also they have to do research on the web regarding the latest developments taking place in the world with respect to origami. origami is used in medical diagnosis, the Space department for solar modules, Aerospace for parachute folds, DNA helix, Fabrication, engineering work, and many creative doors are made with origami folds. There is no end to this field. It's spreading everywhere. 32 years back when I started there were hardly any books to explore. Now you should have only 'time' to explore and learn. Origami develops creativity and innovation in the young minds. I suggest that beginners learn origami with patience. The end results would be fascinating.'

