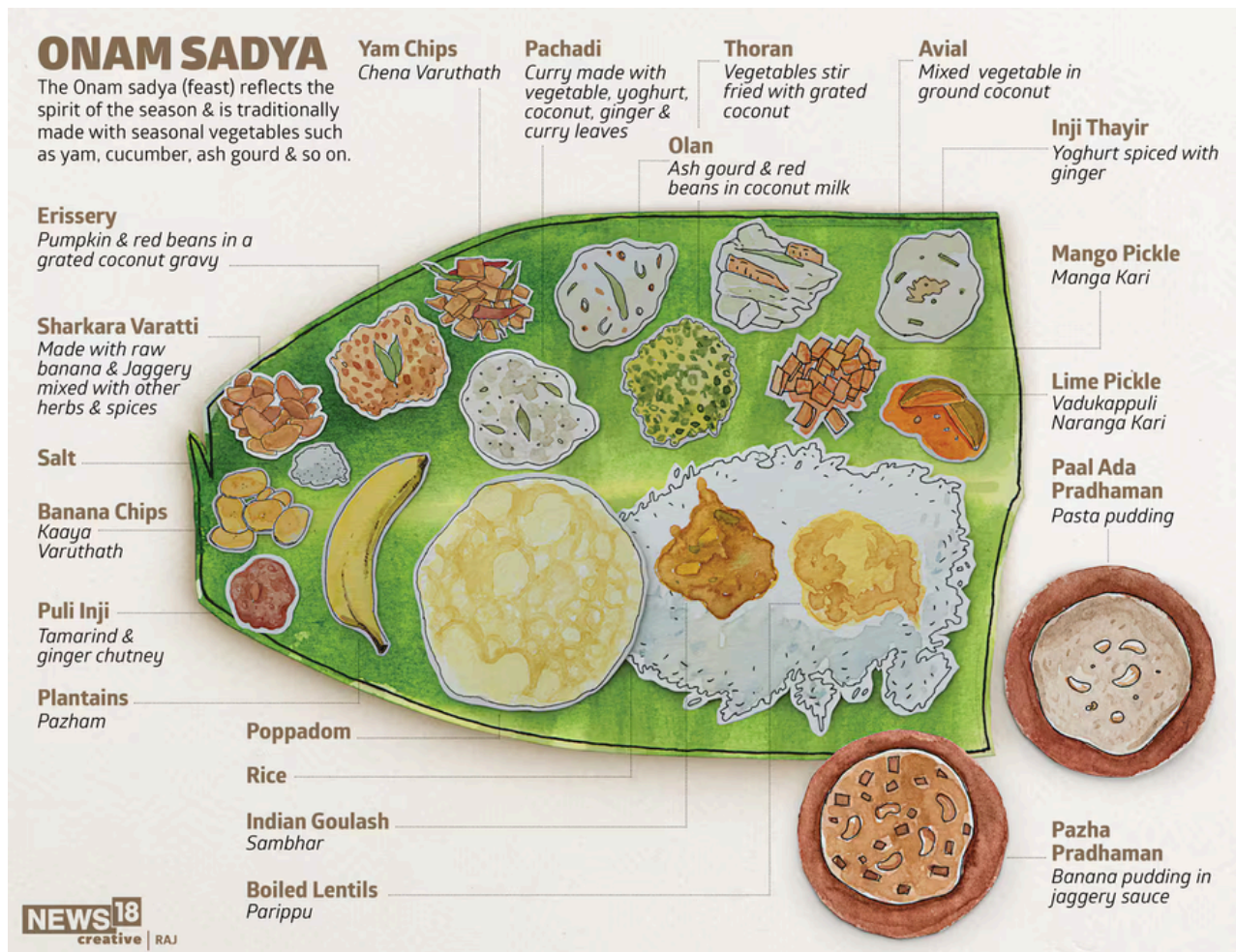


## Neythu - Project documentation

Neythu translates to "woven" in Malayalam. This Colour, Material, and Finish (CMF) project brings together language, culture, and sustainability through woven textiles. Rooted in the rich weaving traditions of Kerala, it explores how the Malayalam language can be represented in textures and patterns instead of direct lettering.

The project uses the color palette, materiality, and spatial arrangement of Kerala's traditional meal "Sadhya" as inspiration to create woven designs. This body of work investigates how sustainable and biodegradable materials like dried banana peels, dried grass and coir can be woven into contemporary home furnishing textiles.

This project aims for a design-for-change approach, promoting circular design principles and eco-friendly design while preserving cultural narratives through textiles. The outcome envisions applications in modern interiors, particularly small window curtains, lamp coverings and decorative panels, offering aesthetic and ecological value.



<https://www.moneycontrol.com/europe/?url=https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/onam-sadya-items-list-what-they-are-and-what-they-mean-7368681.html>



## Inspiration board



Malayalam language becomes a metaphor woven into the very fabric of the work. Instead of direct representation, language is abstracted through texture, structure, and composition, reflecting the rhythm and depth of regional identity. The arrangement and aesthetic of the woven samples take cues from the traditional Sadhya meal, where each element on the banana leaf has symbolic significance. This meal becomes a framework to explore order, layering, and storytelling.

# CMF Rationale

## 1. Colour

The colour palette is inspired by the natural, seasonal, and edible components of Sadhya, reflecting cultural symbolism and emotional memory:



Image credit: Arimofineart



**PANTONE®**  
17-0529 TCX  
Cardamom Seed



**PANTONE®**  
15-0628 TCX  
Leek Green



**PANTONE®**  
18-0428 TCX  
Peat Moss



**PANTONE®**  
13-0858 TCX  
Vibrant Yellow



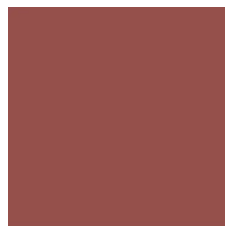
Image credit: Cecilie Karoline



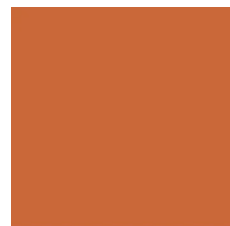
**PANTONE®**  
14-1602 TCX  
Peach Infusion



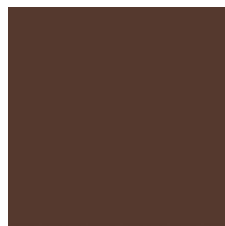
**PANTONE®**  
17-1744 TPG  
Calypso Coral



**PANTONE®**  
18-1438 TCX  
Marsala



**PANTONE®**  
16-1448 TPG  
Burnt Orange



**PANTONE®**  
19-1218 TCX  
Potting Soil



Image credit: Pinterest

Colour references sourced from Pantone® Color Finder:  
<https://www.pantone.com/uk/en/color-finder>

Together, this palette reflects a harmonious fusion of taste, memory, and cultural storytelling. The colour relationships are carefully orchestrated to represent the diversity and cohesion of Sadhya, not just as a meal but as a visual and emotional experience. In application, these colours will be distributed across handwoven textiles using dyed yarns and embellished with Natural dried materials ensuring the collection is tactile, narrative-driven, and sensorially engaging.



## 2. Materials

Materials have been selected for their natural origin, regional relevance, and tactile expression.

- The material selection reflects a balance of natural fibers, regional metaphors, and textural diversity, supporting both sustainability and sensory storytelling.

Warp:

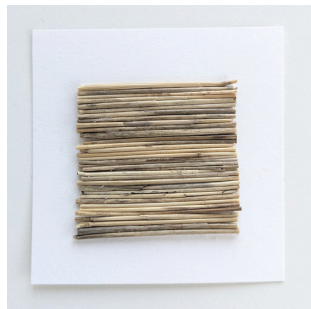
- Cotton – chosen for its versatility, softness, and clean base for structural stability.

Weft:

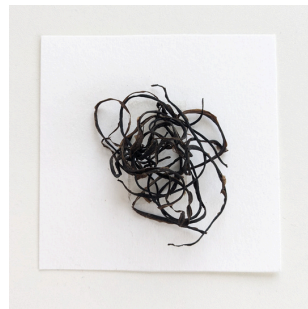
- British wool – adds tactile warmth, structure, and a connection to the UK's textile heritage.
- Cotton slub yarns – bring an uneven, raw texture, echoing the hand-crafted aesthetic of Kerala textiles.
- Coir (coconut fibre) – directly links to Kerala's natural environment and traditional mat weaving.
- Grass and dried banana peel – used as organic inclusions to evoke the materiality of the feast, adding both symbolic and textural value.



Cotton



Dried grass



Dried banana peel



Coconut coir



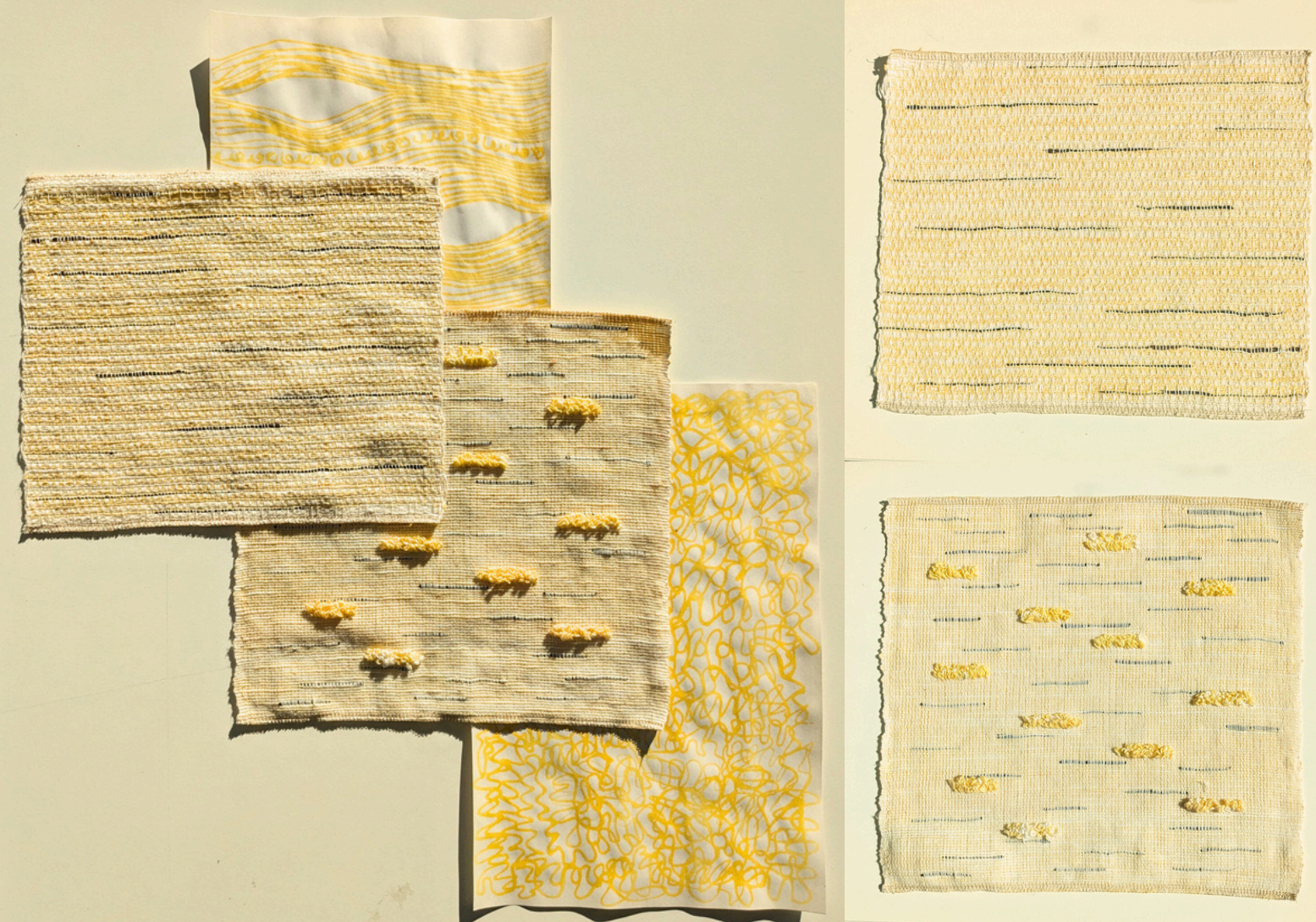
British wool

## 3. Finish

The finishes are dictated by the weaving process and post-finishing through:

- Open weave and tightly packed weave combinations, creating contrast and controlling translucency (suitable for window blinds).
- Stiff, unbendable structures in some samples (due to dried plant matter) are intentional to suggest preserved memory or ritual permanence.
- Softened finishes in cotton-based samples were achieved through hand washing with natural soap, allowing the fabric to feel more homely and approachable.





Turmeric-dyed cotton slub woven with dried banana peel strands, creating a layered texture reflecting cultural memory.







By combining stiff and soft fibers such as dried grass and cotton, the project examines how contrasts in texture can express the complexities of cultural memory and linguistic heritage.

Additional testing with coir and banana leaves to introduce textural variance and sustainable durability.

