



## Petta Thullal

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The **chemical-based colours** used during the **Petta Thullal ritual** are proposed to be banned by the Kerala State Pollution Board recently.

- The presence of **hazardous metals**, including **lead, arsenic** and **cadmium** in the colours used during the ritual, causes **skin troubles as well as pollution of water and soil**.
- The usage of an **organic vermilion** has been suggested to minimize the environmental impact  
Vermilion is a **red colour pigment**, originally made from the **powdered mineral cinnabar**.
- Petta Thullal is the **ritualistic sacred dance to celebrate the victory of good over evil** in the legend of Lord Ayyappa.  
It also denotes the beginning of the last leg of the **annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season** in **Kerala**.

Source: TH