

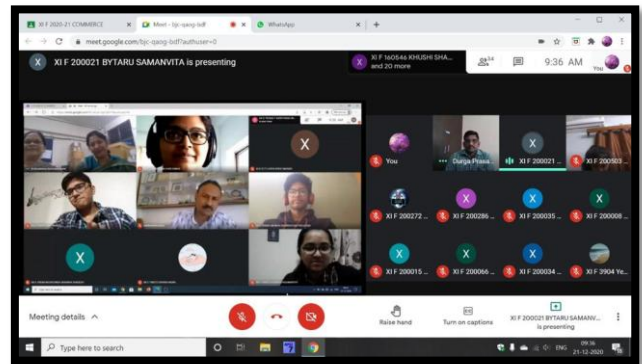
DDMS P OBUL REDDY PUBLIC SCHOOL

A meet with Padmashri Sri Chintakindi Mallesham : An ISA Initiative



The school organised a webinar on Ikat, as part of its ISA Programme, Ikat- The Threads that Blur and Blend. This project involves learning through interaction with various people associated with Ikat. This webinar was organised on 21 December, and the Resource Person was none other than Padmashri Sri Chintakindi Mallesham, who brought in a revolution in Ikat Weaving Technology.

It all started with observing his mother working many hours to produce an exquisite Ikat saree. He mulled over the idea of improving certain fundamental techniques in Ikat weaving, which incidentally took up more time and labour compared to other aspects of Ikat. He invented the Lakshmi Asu machine, which brought down the time of producing Ikat fabric from 6 hours to 90 minutes.



Speaking to students, Sri Mallesham said that this success came to him after 27 years of hard work. He urged students not to look for quick success, but to have patience and perseverance to overcome all challenges and difficulties. He also advised them to have passion for their goals and to work step by step to achieve success. He praised the efforts of the Telangana Government which is promoting the use of Ikat through various schemes, and revealed that the Government is also planning to encourage the study of Ikat through professional institutions. He urged students to promote Ikat and other traditional weavers, visit such centres of handloom work and encourage the weavers. Answering the queries of students, he said that a lot could still be done to improve the status of Ikat weavers and urged the students to help in keeping the traditions up by supporting local weavers.