



Kashmir Papier Mache

Why in News?

- Recently, **The dodo** has become a popular [papier mache](#) product in **Srinagar**. It was once **native to Mauritius** and a [national emblem](#).



Key Points

- **Craftsmanship and Production:**
 - Creating large papier mache dodos in Kashmir's workshops takes 5-10 days.
 - The colourful designs, featuring floral and forest motifs, highlight the **ecological causes of the dodo's extinction**.
- **History of Papier Mache in Kashmir:**
 - **Papier-mâché** is a [traditional handicraft in Kashmir](#) that involves the **use of paper pulp** to create colorful, intricately decorated objects.
 - **Origin:**
 - The tradition of papier-mâché in Kashmir is said to have **begun in the 15th**

century when **Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin invited artists and craftsmen from Central Asia** to teach the locals their skills.

- **Objects:**
 - Papier-mâché objects in Kashmir can include vases, bowls, cups, boxes, trays, and lamp bases. They are **often coated in lacquer to protect them from water** and make them more durable.
- **Designs:**
 - Popular designs include the **Hazara pattern, which is meant to depict every type of flower**, and the **Gul-i-wilayat pattern, which features flowers, stems, foliage, and sometimes birds.**
- **Protection:**
 - The **Government of India protects papier-mâché under [the Geographic Indication Act of 1999.](#)**

Dodos



- **Scientific name:** *Raphus cucullatus*
- **Characteristics:** It had **grayish feathers** and a distinctive **large, hooked beak.**
- **Habitat:** Endemic to the **island of Mauritius** and lived in forests.
- **Evolutionary History:** It evolved to be **flightless due to the absence of predators** on Mauritius.
 - The dodo likely **had strong running abilities.**
- **Extinction:** **Extinct** in 1681.