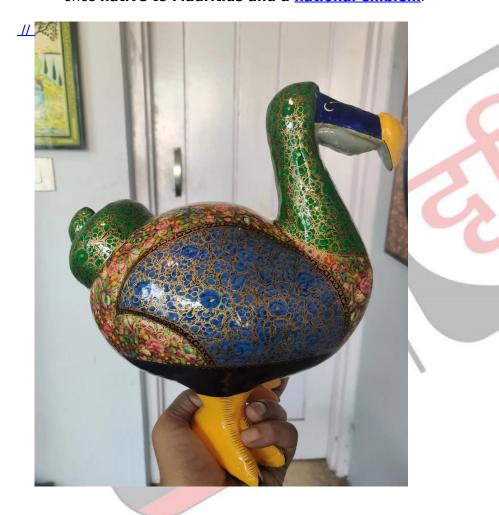


Kashmir Papier Mache

Why in News?

 Recently, The dodo has become a popular <u>papier mache</u> product in Srinagar. It was once native to Mauritius and a <u>national emblem</u>.



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.

The Vision

- 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 <u>lacquer</u> 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.

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