



Kashmir Papier Mache | Jammu & Kashmir | 26 Dec 2024

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.

Efforts to Mitigate Risks Due to Glacial Lake | Jammu & Kashmir | 26 Dec 2024

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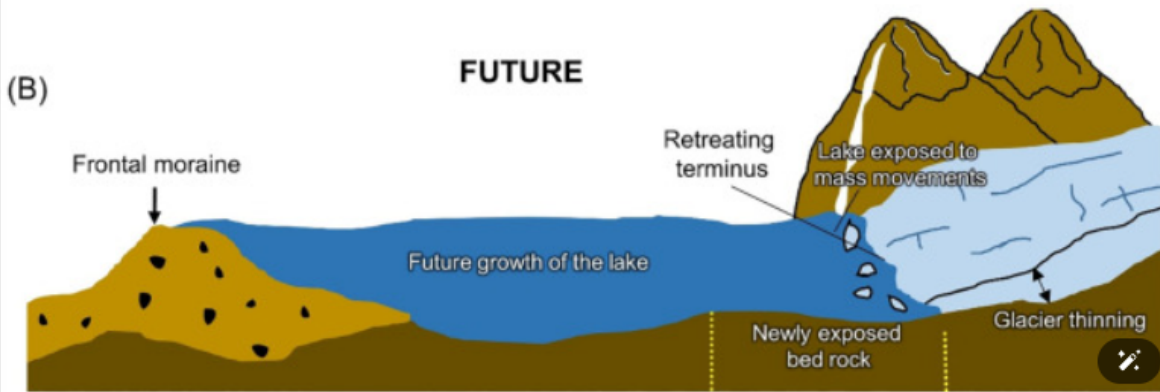
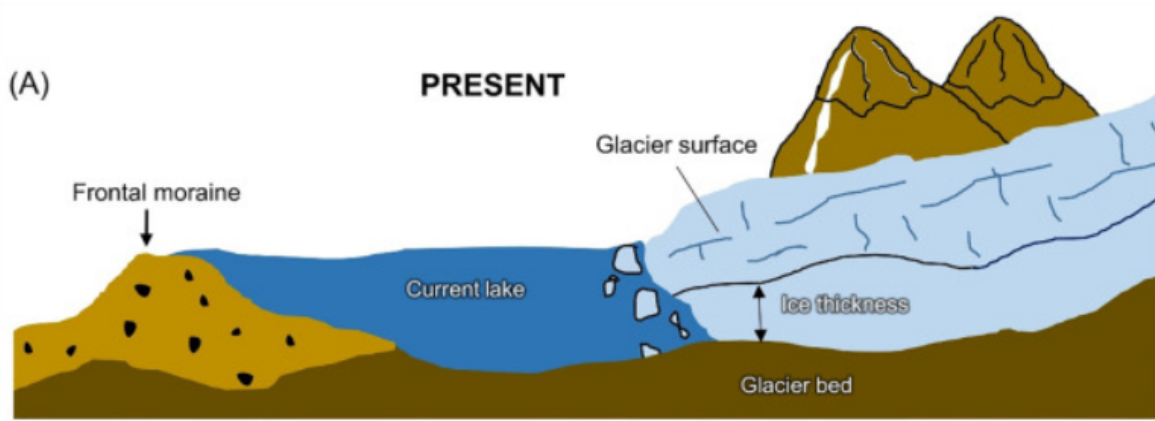
The **Jammu & Kashmir government** has intensified efforts to monitor and mitigate the risks of **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** in response to the growing threats posed by **glacial lake overflows.**

Key Points

- **Scientific Expeditions for Hazard Preparedness:**
 - [The Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction](#) has initiated scientific expeditions to enhance preparedness and understanding of **GLOF hazards**.
 - These expeditions are collecting valuable data on **lake conditions, environmental factors, and potential GLOF risks**.
- **Study of Glacial Lakes in Kishtwar District:**
 - The Department of Environmental Sciences at the Central University of Jammu, led a comprehensive study on **three critical glacial lakes: Mundiksar, Hangu, and an unnamed lake**.
 - These lakes have been flagged as **high-risk areas for GLOFs**.
 - [Geological Survey of India \(GSI\)](#) conducted a detailed study of Bram Sar Lake in Kulgam district to assess its potential GLOF risks.
- **Kashmir Field Expeditions:**
 - In June 2024, the University of Kashmir's Department of Geography & Disaster Management studied two additional glacial lakes in the region.
 - The **expeditions aim to formulate risk mitigation strategies and enhance early warning systems** based on the data collected.
 - **Phase-Wise Implementation:**
 - **Phase One:** Focuses on identifying high-risk glacial lakes using assessments from the [National Disaster Management Authority \(NDMA\)](#), [National Remote Sensing Centre \(NRSC\)](#), and [Central Water Commission \(CWC\)](#).
 - **Phase Two:** Develops and implements specific mitigation measures, including lake-lowering techniques.
 - **Early Warning System (EWS):**
 - A fully functional **GLOF Early Warning System** will be established to enhance preparedness and ensure effective responses to potential GLOF events.
 - In April 2024, the government constituted the [Focused Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Monitoring Committee \(FGMC\)](#) to implement targeted mitigation measures for glacial lake overflows.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood

- A GLOF is a type of **flood** occurring when **water dammed** by a **glacier** or a **moraine** is released suddenly.
- When glaciers melt, the **water** in these glacial lakes **accumulates** behind loose naturally formed '**glacial/moraine dams**' made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue.
- Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the **abrupt failure** of the moraine dam on top of the **glacial lake**, which holds a large volume of water.
- A catastrophic failure of the dam can release the water over periods of minutes to days causing **extreme downstream flooding**.



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