

Kashmiri Papier-mâché

December 24, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Kashmiri Papier-mâché

- **Kashmiri Papier-mâché** is a **traditional handicraft** of the Kashmir Valley.

- It was introduced in the 14th century by **Muslim saint Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani** from Persia.
- This craft is known for its **intricate designs** and use of **paper pulp** to create colourful, richly decorated items.

Features of Kashmiri Papier-mâché

- **Materials and process:** Made primarily from **paper pulp**. Items are handcrafted in **homes and workshops**, mainly in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir Valley.
- **Common products:** **Vases, bowls, cups** (with or without metal rims), **boxes, trays, and lamp bases**.
 - Recently, products like **papier-mâché models of extinct birds (e.g., dodos)** have also gained attention.
- **Artistic elements:** The designs feature **floral motifs, forest prints**, and other intricate patterns symbolizing cultural and ecological themes.
- **Market:** While the products have a significant **domestic market**, they are also highly demanded **internationally** in Europe, Mauritius, and other regions.

Legal and Cultural Recognition

- Protected under the **Geographical Indication (GI) Act, 1999**, ensuring authenticity and cultural preservation.
- Registered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks**.

The Dodo Connection

- **Christmas exports:** Over **50,000 papier-mâché dodo models** were shipped to markets in **Europe** and **Mauritius** for Christmas.
 - Dodos, extinct since 1681, are the **national emblem of Mauritius**, making these items culturally significant.

Q1: What is a GI Tag?

A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a certification granted to products that are uniquely associated with a specific geographical location, region, or community. It signifies the product's origin, quality, or reputation, which is intrinsically linked to its place of origin. Examples include Darjeeling Tea and Pashmina Shawls.

News: 343 years after its extinction, Kashmir artisans give wings to the dodo in papier mache – The Hindu.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kashmiri-papier-mache-2/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.