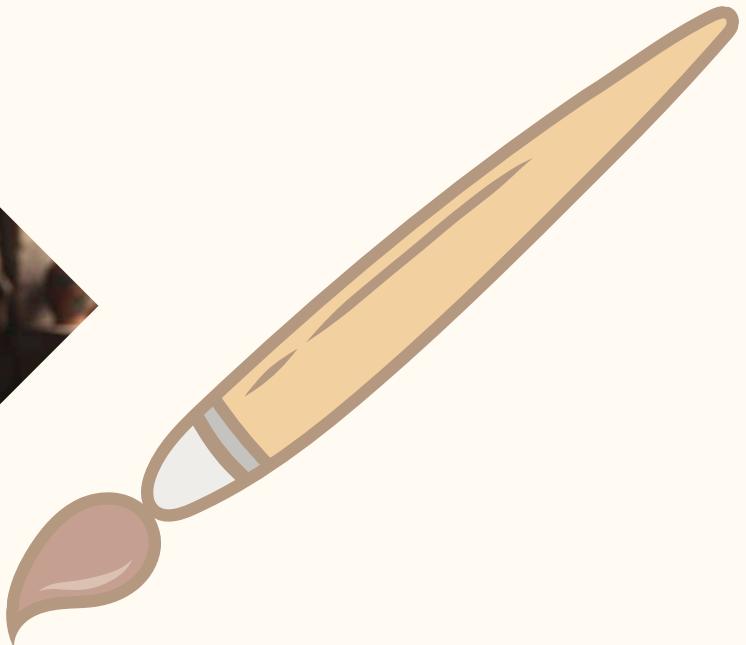
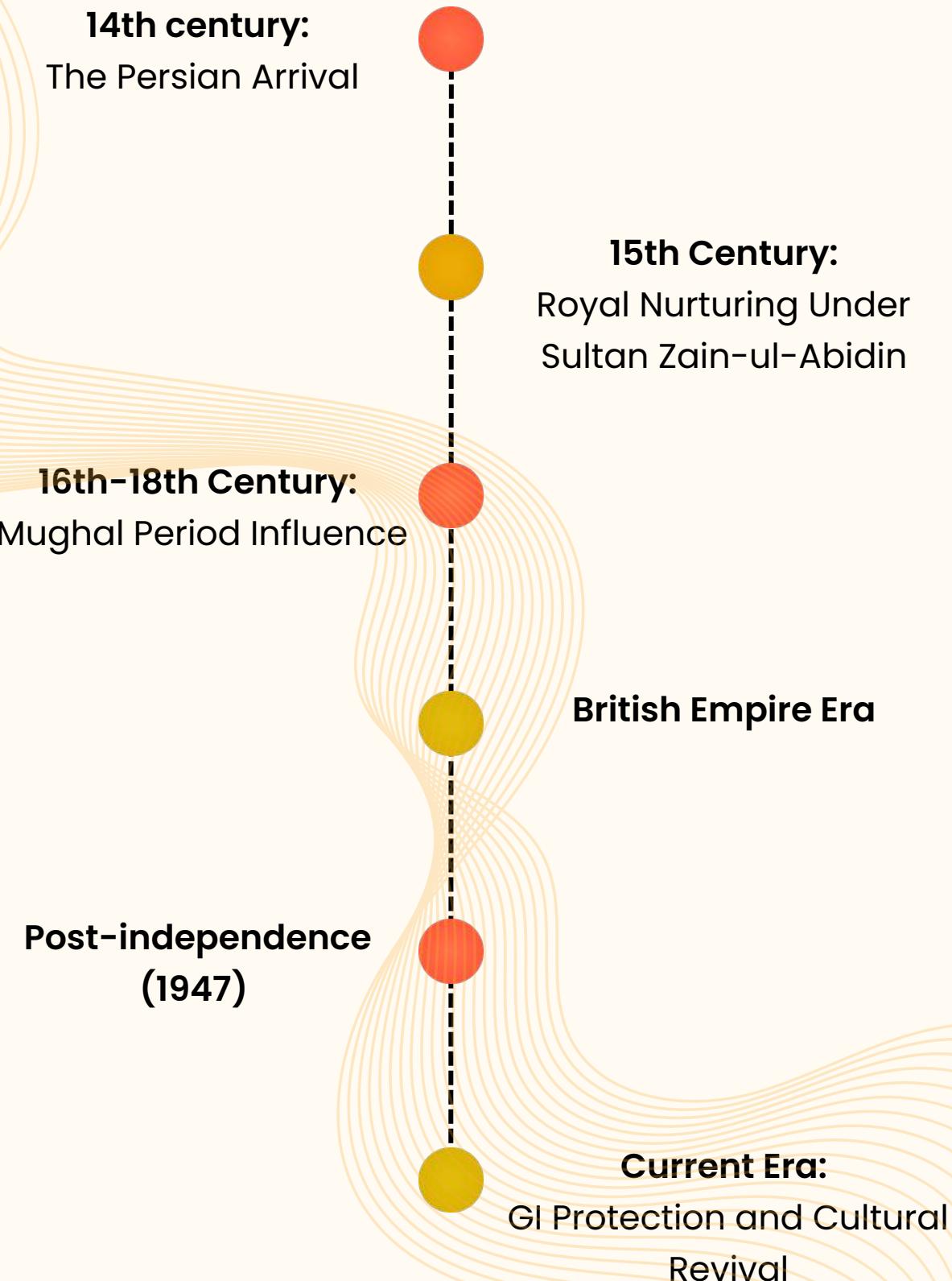
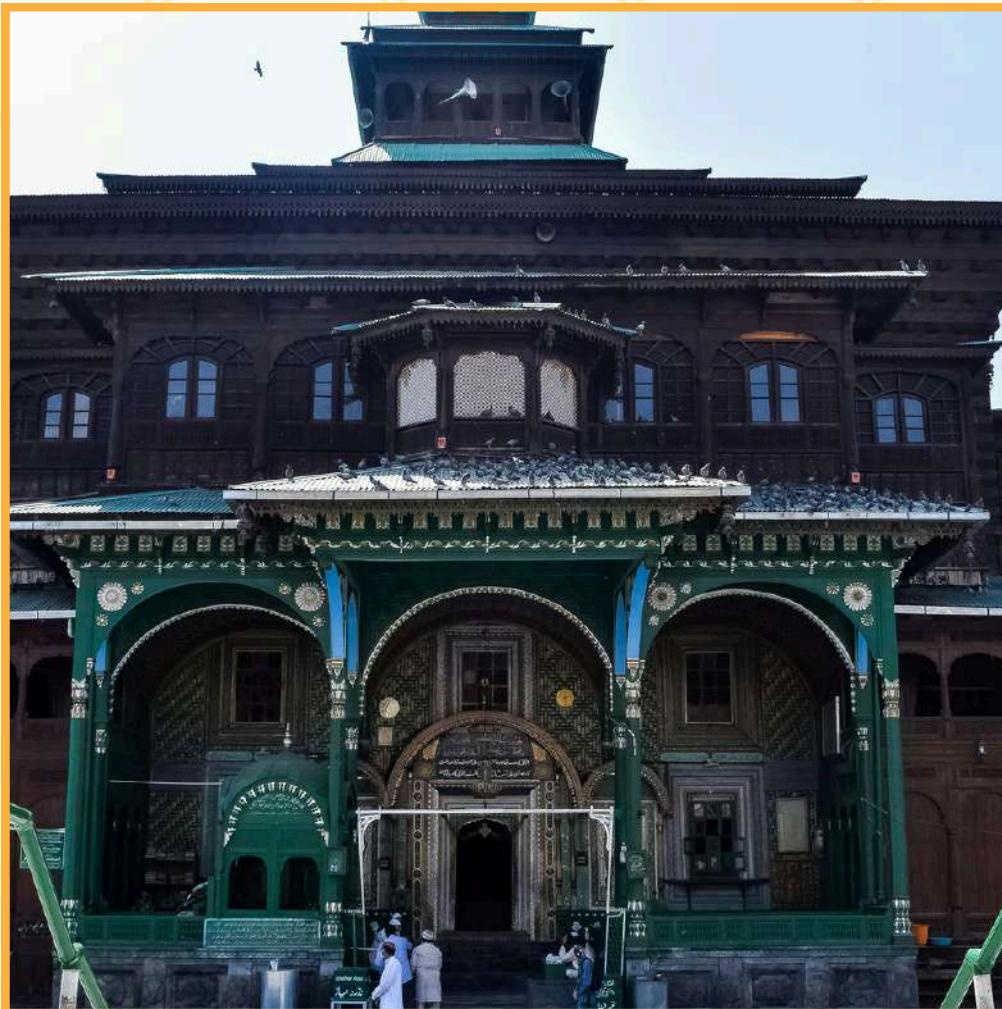




The Timeless Journey of Kashmir Paper Machie: A Craft Through Centuries







14TH CENTURY: THE PERSIAN ARRIVAL↓

Persian saint Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani introduced the art, alongside 700 craftsmen, from Persia to Kashmir. The oldest paper machie can be found in the Shah Hamdan Mosque (Srinagar).



15th Century: Royal Nurturing Under Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin↓

Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin brought artisans from Uzbekistan. A new technique, often called **kar-i-qulamdan** (pen case work), came into existence.



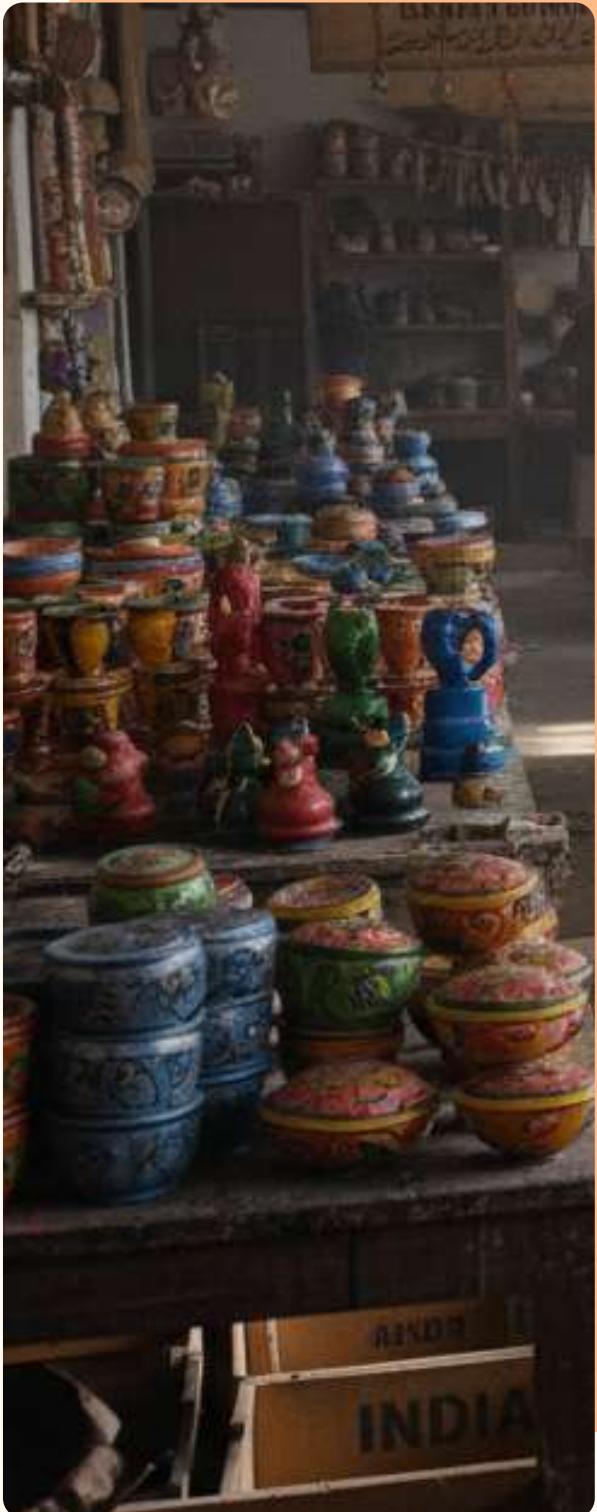
Mughal Period Influence (16th-18th Century) ↓

The Mughal influence brought refined Persian aesthetics and motifs (floral designs, birds, intricate patterns) to the existing craft.



British Empire Era↓

During British rule, Kashmiri paper mache adapted to European tastes. Production shifted toward decorative pieces.



Post-independence (1947) ↓

After India's independence in 1947, Kashmiri paper machie shifted from an elite to a commercial handicraft sector. Over the years, craft faced mass production, declining authenticity, reduced incomes for artisans, and competition from machine-made alternatives.



Current Era: GI Protection and Cultural Revival↓

A small group of artisans is still keeping this craft alive.

To safeguard this century-old craft, the government recognised Kashmir Paper Machie with a Geographic Indication (GI) tag. This recognition not only promotes the craft but also provides fair trade options and protection from cheap imitation.

EXPORT QUALITY

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