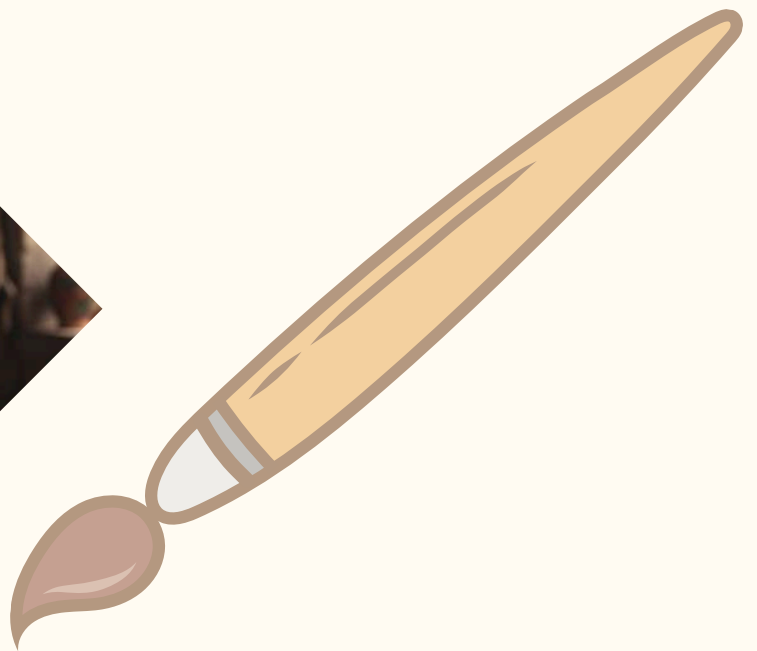


# The Timeless Journey of Kashmir Paper Machie: A Craft Through Centuries



**14th century:**  
The Persian Arrival

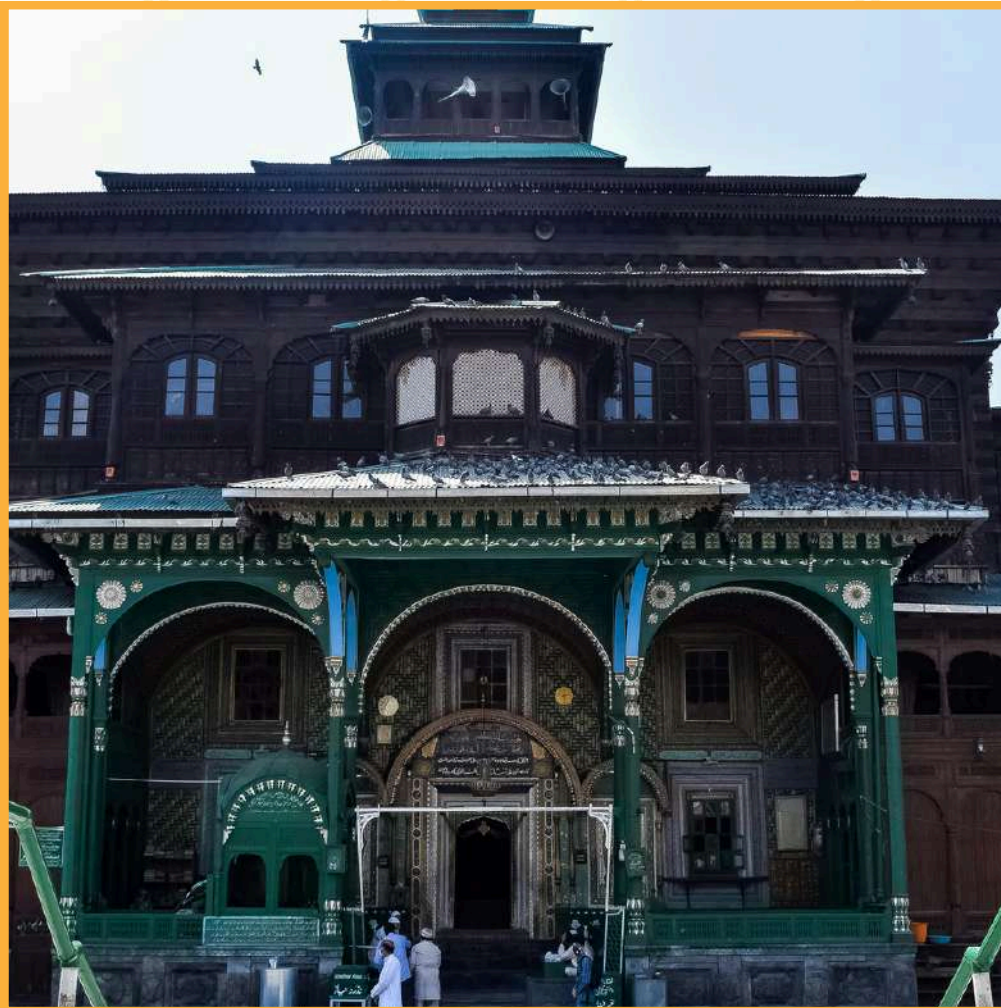
**15th Century:**  
Royal Nurturing Under  
Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin

**16th-18th Century:**  
Mughal Period Influence

**British Empire Era**

**Post-independence  
(1947)**

**Current Era:**  
GI Protection and Cultural  
Revival



## 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.



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سلسلہ کی خوش معیار اشیاء

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HANDICRAFTS  
MIEMI  
RHOELAI  
میں اشیاء کی خوش معیار اشیاء  
میں اشیاء کی خوش معیار اشیاء



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