



Madhubani Paintings

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Why in News

Recently, artists from **Madhubani district of Bihar** became famous for making masks with **hand-painted Madhubani motifs**.

Motif is a **decorative image or design**, especially a repeated one forming a pattern.



Key Points

- **Origin:** Madhubani painting has its origins in **Mithila region of Bihar**.
 - The painting is one of the oldest and most famous Indian art forms which is also practised in Nepal.
 - Traces of Madhubani art can also be noticed in the Ramayana, the Indian epic.
 - It is also known as **Mithila or Madhubani art**.
- **Characteristics:** These paintings are popular because of their **tribal motifs and use of bright earthy colours**.
 - Traditionally the **women of the village** drew these paintings on the walls of their dwelling, as a demonstration of their feelings, hopes, and ideas.
 - Today men are also involved to meet the demand.
- **Style:** It includes **geometrical patterns, floral, animal and bird motifs**.

- **Colours:** The colours used in paintings comprise **natural extracts from plants and other natural sources**. E.g.: Black colour is obtained by mixing soot with cow dung; blue from indigo; white from rice powder; orange from palasha flowers, etc.
 - The colours are applied flat with no shading and no empty space is left.
 - These are usually **dark and bright with pigments** like lampblack (obtained from coal) and ochre (earthy yellow pigment).
 - These paintings are not made with modern brushes but rather with twigs, matchsticks, and fingers.
 - But now artists use brushes, nib-pens and synthetic colours as well to paint.
- **Themes:** It is based on the **mythological characters** which depict the life of **Hindu deities** like Krishna, Rama, Lakshmi, Shiva, Durga, and Saraswati.
 - The designs widely painted are of Tulasi plant, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc.
 - Also, **heavenly bodies like the Sun and the Moon** often form the centrepiece of paintings.
- **Eminent Artists:** Karpuri Devi, Mahalaxmi and Dulari.

Source: TH