



Kashmiri Pashmina Shawl

Why in News?

Kashmir's famed pashmina shawls, known for centuries for their signature intricate buta or paisley patterns, **got a French touch**.

- The transformation, where Kashmiri shawls were adorned with abstract paintings rather than intricate embroidery, has **re-introduced the fabric with new-age** aesthetics.

What is Pashmina?

▪ About:

- Pashmina is a [Geographical Indication \(GI\)](#) **certified** wool that has its origin from **Kashmir region of India**.
 - Originally Kashmiri people used Pashmina shawls to **keep themselves warm during the winter season**.
- The term 'Pashmina' has been derived from a **Persian word "Pashm"** meaning a **weavable fiber** precisely wool.
- Pashmina Shawls are very costly **due to their fine quality of wool** and the hard work involved in making one single piece.
 - Weaving a single Pashmina Shawl takes a long time depending on the type of work involved. It generally takes around 72 hours or more to complete one shawl.

▪ Source:

- The wool that is used in weaving the Pashmina Shawl is obtained from the **Changthangi goats (Capra Hircus) domesticated in Ladakh** by the Changpa tribes.
 - The Changpa are semi-nomadic community which inhabit Changthang (which is spread across Ladakh and Tibet Autonomous Region) or other regions of Ladakh.
 - The Changpa were classified as a Scheduled Tribe under the Indian Government's affirmative action reservation program.

▪ Significance:

- Pashmina is one of the **finest and highest quality wool in the whole world**.
- Pashmina Shawl attracted the attention of people from all across the world and hence this became one of most demanding shawls in the whole world.
 - Its high demand boosted the local economy.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements: (2014)

1. They live mainly in the State of Uttarakhand.
2. They rear the Pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
3. They are kept in the category of Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Source: TH

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