

Restoring lost glory of Pashmina shawls

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In news- An initiative has been launched in Jammu & Kashmir to restore the lost glory of Pashmina shawls. The Centre For Excellence (CFE) has been set up by shawl trader Mujtaba Kadri, who owns the 'Me&K' brand and Aadyam-Aditya Birla Group to restore the lost hand-driven processes involved in the intricate shawl weaving industry.

About Pashmina shawls-

- Pashmina shawl is a **hand-made shawl** from Jammu & Kashmir.
- It refers to a fine variant of spun cashmere, the animal-hair fibre forming the downy undercoat of the Changthangi goat.
- The word pashm means "wool" in Persian, but in Kashmir, **pashm referred to the raw unspun wool of domesticated Changthangi goats.**
- This **goat is exotic and is only found at 15000 feet above sea level in Ladakh**, making the art of Pashmina even rarer and revered all over the world.
- Spinning on a traditional Kashmiri charkha allows longer threads of Pashmina wool with fine hair-like size, unlike machines, and adds to the softness and warmth of the product.
- A Kashmiri woman can spin up to five grams of wool a day.
- It is a **geographical indication (GI)-certified product.**
- It **also received a Minimum Support Price (MSP)** from Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir.

Changthangi Goat-

- The **Changthangi** or **Chagra** is a breed of cashmere goat

native to the high plateaux of Ladakh in India.

- The **cold temperatures in the region are the primary factor** in the growth of the fine pashmina grade of cashmere wool for which they are reared.
- These goats are generally domesticated and are reared by nomadic communities called the **Changpa** in the Changthang regions of Ladakh, including the Rupshu, Demchok/Skakjung and the Pangong Lake regions.

The **goats survive on grass** in Ladakh, where temperatures plunge to as low as $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-4.00\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$)