

**PASHMINA PRODUCTS RECEIVE BIS CERTIFICATION**

**Prelims:** Economics

**Mains:** GS-III- Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

**Why in News?**

- ▶▶ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity.

**Pashmina:**

- ▶▶ Pashmina is a fine type of cashmere wool. The textiles made from it were first woven in Kashmir.
- ▶▶ The wool comes from a number of different breeds of the cashmere goat; such as the changthangi or Kashmir pashmina goat from the Changthang Plateau in Tibet and part of the Ladakh region and few parts of Himachal Pradesh.
- ▶▶ Often shawls called shahmina are made from this material in Kashmir and Nepal; these shawls are hand spun and woven from the very fine cashmere fibre.
- ▶▶ Traditional producers of pashmina wool are people known as the Changpa.

**Benefits:**

- ▶▶ The certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina and also protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.
- ▶▶ It will also assure the purity of Pashmina for customers.
- ▶▶ It will ensure better prices for the goat herding community in Ladakh as well as for the local handloom artisans producing genuine Pashmina products.

**Pashmina Goat:**

- ▶▶ The Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a special breed of goat indigenous to the high-altitude regions of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ▶▶ They are raised for ultra-fine cashmere wool, known as Pashmina once woven. The Textiles are handspun and were first woven in Kashmir.

- ▶▶ The Changthangi goat grows a thick warm undercoat which is the source of Kashmir Pashmina wool – the world’s finest cashmere measuring between 12-15 microns in fiber thickness.
- ▶▶ These goats are generally domesticated and reared by nomadic communities called the Changpa in the Changthang region of Greater Ladakh.
- ▶▶ The Changthangi goats have revitalized the economy of Changthang, Leh and Ladakh region.

### **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):**

- ▶▶ The BIS is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- ▶▶ It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 which came into effect on 23 December 1986.
- ▶▶ The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.

