

What is Namda Art?

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Why in news?

- The Namda craft of Kashmir is being **successfully revived** under a Skill India's Pilot Project as part of the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**, with nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form.

About Namda Art:

- It is said to have begun in the 16th century when Mughal Emperor Akbar wanted to get a covering for his horses to protect them from the cold.
- It was introduced by a Sufi saint named **Shah-e-Hamdan** to Kashmiris.
- Namda is a type of **traditional Kashmiri felted carpet** that is **created using sheep wool** and has colourful hand embroidery.
- The distinct feature of this Kashmiri craft is that **wool is felted and not woven**.
- **How it is made?**
 - It is usually a **sandwich of many layers** of wool flattened over each other.

- After a layer is spread, it is sprinkled homogeneously with water and pressed with a **tool known as 'pinjra'** (woven willow wicker).
 - Unique themes and **floral patterns** provide the themes for these masterpieces **and flowers and leaves, buds and fruits** are the essence of the designs.
 - It is practised as a craft in several cultures, especially in the countries throughout **Asia, viz. Iran, Afghanistan and India.**
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Q1) What is Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)?

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is a flagship skill development program launched by the Government of India. It aims to empower the country's youth by providing them with industry-relevant skills to enhance employability and bridge the skill gap in various sectors.

Source: [Skill India project successfully revives the dying Namda Art of Jammu and Kashmir](#)

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