



## Current Affairs of the Day

### ‘This is renovation, not restoration’

The new-look Jallianwala Bagh memorial that Prime Minister dedicated to the nation in August 2021 was a distortion of the history of the site where British troops massacred Indians on April 13, 1919, historians said.

#### Sense of pain and anguish

1. “People visiting Jallianwala Bagh should go with a sense of pain and anguish. They have now tried to make it a space for enjoying, with a beautiful garden. It was not a beautiful garden,” one professor said.
2. Instead of restoration, the government has renovated the place, adding new features, he said.
3. “It is absolutely gaudy...Why should there be murals on the wall? Changes the whole idea of the place from where Dyer entered to kill. Adding glamour to the little corridor changes the whole visual history. History itself is being rewritten and renovated. This is the corporatisation of monuments,” Irfan Habib said.
4. Kim A. Wagner, a London-based professor of history and author of Amritsar 1919 – An Empire of Fear and the Making of a Massacre, said that the revamping of the site “means that the last traces of the event have effectively been erased”.

### A new initiative in J&K to restore the lost glory of Pashmina shawls

1. Over a period, the number of women associated with hand-spinning of yarns for Pashmina shawls has dwindled significantly in Kashmir, but a rare initiative to double the wages and ensure round-the-year orders is likely to see the re-engagement of women artisans in a critical production process of the world-famous hand-made shawls.
2. Plans are afoot to re-engage women artisans in the critical production process by doubling wages and announcing MSPs for GI-certified products.



3. In the backdrop of this trend, the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for geographical indication (GI)-certified hand-made Pashmina shawls “to sustain the old techniques”.
4. 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.