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- Mains Questions:
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 - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
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Summary:

- **World Craft City Nomination:** Srinagar is a contender for the World Craft City title, recognizing its rich tradition of craftsmanship.
- **Srinagar's Crafts:** The city is known for Pashmina shawls, papier-mâché, wood carving, and other crafts that reflect its cultural identity.
- **Economic and Social Impact:** The craft sector significantly contributes to Srinagar's economy and the social well-being of its artisans.
- **Challenges Ahead:** Srinagar must address infrastructure development, skill upgradation, and sustainability to secure the World Craft City status.

What is the news?

- Srinagar, the heart of Kashmir, is making headlines for a prestigious recognition – the World Craft City (WCC) title bestowed by the World Crafts Council International (WCCI). This coveted designation acknowledges cities with a rich tradition of craftsmanship, highlighting their contribution to cultural heritage, economic growth, and social development.

- So, what makes Srinagar a potential WCC, and what does this recognition signify?

Srinagar's Rich Craft Legacy:

- Kashmir boasts a centuries-old legacy of exquisite crafts, passed down through generations. From the world-renowned Pashmina shawls, intricately woven with the finest cashmere wool, to the vibrant papier-mâché work depicting local stories, Srinagar's artisans possess a unique skillset. This diverse craft ecosystem encompasses wood carving, carpet weaving, Kani shawls, and more, each reflecting the region's cultural identity.

What are the Arts and Crafts of Srinagar City?

Srinagar boasts a rich tapestry of arts and crafts, each reflecting the skill and artistry passed down through generations. Here's a glimpse into some of the most celebrated ones:

- **Pashmina Shawls:** The crown jewel of Srinagar's crafts, Pashmina shawls are world-renowned for their unparalleled softness, warmth, and intricate designs. Woven from the fine underfleece of Changthangi goats, these shawls are a luxurious and timeless treasure.

- **Papier-mâché:** Papier-mâché craft involves creating decorative items using layers of paper and paste. Srinagar's artisans excel in this art form, crafting beautiful boxes, vases, lamps, and other objects adorned with vibrant floral patterns, geometric shapes, and local scenes.
- **Wood Carving:** Kashmiri walnut wood is a favorite medium for skilled wood carvers in Srinagar. They create intricate furniture pieces, decorative items like wall hangings and tableware, often featuring nature-inspired motifs and delicate floral patterns.
- **Carpets and Rugs:** Woven carpets and rugs are another significant craft of Srinagar. Kashmiri artisans use traditional techniques to create beautiful floor coverings with intricate designs and vibrant colors. These carpets and rugs are known for their durability and aesthetic appeal.
- **Embroidery:** Crewel embroidery is a widely practiced art form in Srinagar. Using colorful threads and intricate patterns, artisans create stunning embroidered shawls, jackets, cushion covers, and wall hangings, often depicting traditional floral motifs and geometrical designs.
- **Metalware:** Copperware, known locally as "Traam," is a traditional craft of Srinagar. Skilled coppersmiths create beautiful utensils, decorative items, and even jewelry using copper and brass. These items are known for their intricate designs and lasting quality.
- **Willow Wicker Craft:** This unique craft involves using willow reeds to create various handmade items like baskets, furniture pieces, and decorative objects. It's a sustainable and locally practiced craft that adds a touch of nature to homes.

These are just a few examples of the many arts and crafts that Srinagar is famous for. The city's rich cultural heritage and skilled artisans continue to produce breathtaking pieces that are not only beautiful but also tell stories and traditions passed down through generations.

Economic & Social Significance of Crafts:

- The craft sector is not just a symbol of cultural heritage; it's a significant contributor to Srinagar's economy. Thousands of artisans find employment in this sector, and the sale of these handcrafted products generates substantial revenue. Furthermore, the recognition of traditional crafts empowers local communities and acts as a vital source of income, promoting social well-being.

The WCC Recognition and its Benefits:

The WCC title is a mark of distinction. It places Srinagar on the global map as a center for exceptional craftsmanship. This recognition can lead to several benefits:

- **Increased Tourism:** WCC designation can attract tourists interested in experiencing the cultural heritage and the creation process of these exquisite crafts.

- **Market Expansion:** Global recognition can lead to wider market access for Srinagar's crafts, providing artisans with a platform to showcase their work to a broader audience.
- **Skill Development & Preservation:** The WCC recognition can encourage initiatives to preserve traditional crafts and support skill development programs for future generations of artisans.

Challenges and the Road Ahead:

While the WCC title promises numerous benefits, challenges remain. Srinagar needs to focus on:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Upgrading infrastructure for showcasing and selling crafts is crucial to attract tourists and buyers.
- **Skill Upgradation & Innovation:** While preserving traditional methods, there's a need to incorporate contemporary design elements to cater to evolving market preferences.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring sustainable practices in sourcing raw materials and ethical treatment of artisans is vital for long-term success.

Conclusion:

- Srinagar's nomination for the WCC title is a testament to its vibrant craft heritage. If awarded, this recognition can be a catalyst for economic growth, cultural preservation, and global recognition for Srinagar's unique craftsmanship. However, addressing existing challenges and focusing on continuous development will be crucial for capitalizing on this opportunity and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Srinagar's craft sector.

About World Crafts Council International:

- It is a Kuwait-based organisation working on recognition and preservation of traditional crafts across the globe.
- It was founded by Ms. Aileen Osborn Vanderbilt Webb, Ms. Margaret M. Patch, and Smt Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay at the 1st World Crafts Council General Assembly in New York on June 12, 1964.
- Since its inception, the World Crafts Council AISBL has been affiliated with UNESCO under Consultative Status for many years.

About World Craft City (WCC):

The World Craft City (WCC) is a recognition program established by the World Crafts Council International (WCCI). This designation highlights cities with a remarkable tradition

of craftsmanship and acknowledges their significant contributions in various areas:

- **Cultural Heritage Preservation:** WCC designation recognizes cities that actively preserve and promote their unique craft traditions. These crafts represent a window into the city's history, cultural identity, and artistic heritage.
- **Economic Development:** A thriving craft sector contributes significantly to a city's economy. WCC cities often have a large number of artisans employed in craft production, and the sale of these handcrafted items generates substantial revenue.
- **Social Development:** Traditional crafts are often a source of livelihood for local communities, particularly in developing countries. WCC recognition empowers artisans and fosters social well-being by providing a sustainable source of income.

How Does a City Become a WCC?

Cities interested in becoming a WCC can submit their application to the WCCI. The application process involves demonstrating the city's strengths in various areas like:

- **Richness and Diversity of Crafts:** The city needs to showcase a well-established tradition of various crafts with a unique identity and cultural significance.

- **Infrastructure and Support System:** A strong infrastructure for showcasing, selling, and promoting crafts is crucial. This includes craft markets, museums, workshops, and training centers.
- **Commitment to Sustainability:** Sustainable practices in sourcing raw materials and ensuring ethical treatment of artisans are essential considerations for WCC designation.

Benefits of Being a WCC:

Earning the WCC title brings several advantages to a city:

- **Increased Tourism:** WCC designation attracts tourists interested in experiencing the cultural heritage and the creation process of these exquisite crafts.
- **Market Expansion:** Global recognition can lead to wider market access for the city's crafts, providing artisans with a platform to showcase their work to a broader audience.
- **Skill Development & Preservation:** The WCC recognition can encourage initiatives to preserve traditional crafts and support skill development programs for future generations of artisans.

Overall, the WCC program aims to recognize and celebrate the cultural and economic significance of crafts around the world. It serves as a catalyst for promoting traditional skills, fostering sustainable practices, and empowering artisan

communities.



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Read the Below Instructions

Carefully:

- Click on - Start Quiz
 - Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
 - After Attempting Last Question.
 - Enter Name & Email
 - Click on - Check Result
 - Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.
- Thank you.

Loading ...



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Category: General Studies

The World Crafts Council International (WCCI) awards the World Craft City (WCC) title to cities that demonstrate:

- A booming industrial sector and a large manufacturing base.
- A well-developed financial market and a focus on technological innovation.
- A rich heritage of traditional crafts and a commitment to their preservation.
- A large number of educational institutions and a highly skilled workforce.

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Category: General Studies

Srinagar's journey towards becoming a WCC requires focusing on:

- (1) Upgrading infrastructure for showcasing and selling crafts
- (2) Encouraging the use of synthetic materials in craft production to reduce costs
- (3) Prioritizing mass production over traditional techniques to meet market demands
- (4) Implementing initiatives to ensure fair wages and ethical treatment of artisans

Select the correct code:

- (1) and (4) only
- (1), (2), and (3) only
- (1) and (3) only
- (1) and (4)

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Category: **General Studies**

Which of the following is NOT a potential benefit of Srinagar achieving the WCC title?

- Increased government investment in the craft sector
- Wider recognition for Kashmiri crafts in the global market
- Decline in the demand for traditional handcrafted items
- Opportunities for skill development and training programs for artisans

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Category: **General Studies**

Srinagar's nomination for the WCC title highlights the significance of crafts in terms of:

- (1) Cultural identity
- (2) Economic development
- (3) Environmental sustainability
- (4) Technological advancement

Select the correct code:

- (1) and (2) only
- (1), (2), and (3) only
- (1), (2), and (4) only
- (1), (2), and (3)

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Category: General Studies

Consider the following statements about Srinagar's nomination for the World Craft City (WCC) title:

1. Srinagar's rich tradition of crafts like Pashmina shawls and papier-mâché is a key factor in its nomination.
2. If awarded the WCC title, Srinagar can expect increased tourism and market access for its crafts.
3. The WCC designation places no emphasis on sustainable practices in craft production.
4. The main challenge for Srinagar in achieving WCC status is the lack of skilled artisans.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2, and 3 only
- 1, 2, and 4 only
- 1 and 2 only

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Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

Please Rate!

Send feedback

Mains Questions:

Below Mains Question

Write in Comment Section



Question 1:

Srinagar's rich tradition of crafts has led to its nomination for the World Craft City (WCC) title. Discuss the significance of traditional crafts for a city's cultural heritage, economic development, and social well-being. Explain how achieving the WCC title can benefit Srinagar in these areas. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Traditional crafts hold immense significance for a city in several ways:

- **Cultural Heritage:** Crafts represent the cultural identity and artistic legacy of a place. They tell stories about the region's history, traditions, and skillsets passed down through generations. Srinagar's exquisite Pashmina shawls and papier-mâché work are prime examples of this cultural significance.
- **Economic Development:** A thriving craft sector can contribute significantly to a city's economy. Artisans find employment in production and sales, generating income and boosting local businesses. Srinagar's vibrant craft industry employs thousands and attracts tourists interested in these unique products.
- **Social Well-being:** Traditional crafts often provide a sustainable source of livelihood for local communities. This fosters social well-being by empowering artisans and reducing poverty. Srinagar's nomination for the WCC title highlights the potential of crafts for uplifting local

communities.

Achieving the WCC title would further enhance these benefits for Srinagar:

- **Increased Tourism:** WCC recognition attracts tourists interested in experiencing the city's crafts firsthand. This can boost tourism revenue and create a demand for local crafts.
- **Market Expansion:** Global recognition as a WCC can open new markets for Srinagar's crafts. Artisans can gain access to a wider audience and potentially higher prices for their work.
- **Skill Development & Preservation:** The WCC designation can encourage initiatives to preserve traditional crafts and support skill development programs for future generations. This ensures the continuation of this valuable cultural heritage.

Therefore, Srinagar's nomination and potential achievement of the WCC title is a positive step towards preserving its cultural heritage, fostering economic growth, and empowering local communities.

Question 2:

While Srinagar's rich craft tradition offers unique opportunities, challenges exist in its path to becoming a WCC. Discuss some of these challenges and suggest measures to address them. (250 words)

Model Answer:

Despite its rich craft heritage, Srinagar faces challenges in becoming a WCC:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Upgrading infrastructure for showcasing and selling crafts is crucial. Srinagar needs better craft markets, museums, workshops, and training centers to attract tourists and buyers.
- **Skill Upgradation & Innovation:** While preserving tradition, incorporating contemporary design elements is necessary to cater to evolving market preferences. Skill development programs can train artisans in innovative design techniques.
- **Sustainability:** Ensuring sustainable practices in sourcing raw materials and ethical treatment of artisans is vital for long-term success. Srinagar can explore eco-friendly materials and fair trade initiatives.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach:

- Government investment in infrastructure development can provide the necessary facilities for promoting crafts.
- Collaboration with design institutes and craft schools can encourage innovation while preserving traditions.
- Promoting sustainable sourcing and fair trade practices can enhance Srinagar's global appeal and ensure the well-being of artisans.
- By effectively addressing these challenges, Srinagar can strengthen its position on the path towards becoming a WCC. This recognition can be a catalyst for the city's economic and cultural

growth while preserving its unique craft heritage for future generations.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

- **GS Paper I: Indian Economy:** Focus on topics like 'Growth and Development,' 'Globalization,' 'International Trade,' and 'Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).' Understanding the potential impact of the WCC designation on Srinagar's craft sector and its contribution to the local economy can be helpful for analyzing broader economic trends.

Mains:

- **GS Paper III – Indian Economy:** Analyze the impact of WCC recognition on Srinagar's economic prospects, considering factors like tourism, market access for crafts, and employment generation (as discussed in the sample question on Mains).
Discuss the broader role of traditional crafts in India's economic development and cultural heritage preservation.
- **GS Paper IV – International Relations:** Discuss the WCC designation as an example of promoting cultural exchange and international cooperation in preserving traditional crafts. You can analyze how this recognition can position India (and specifically Srinagar) in the global cultural landscape.



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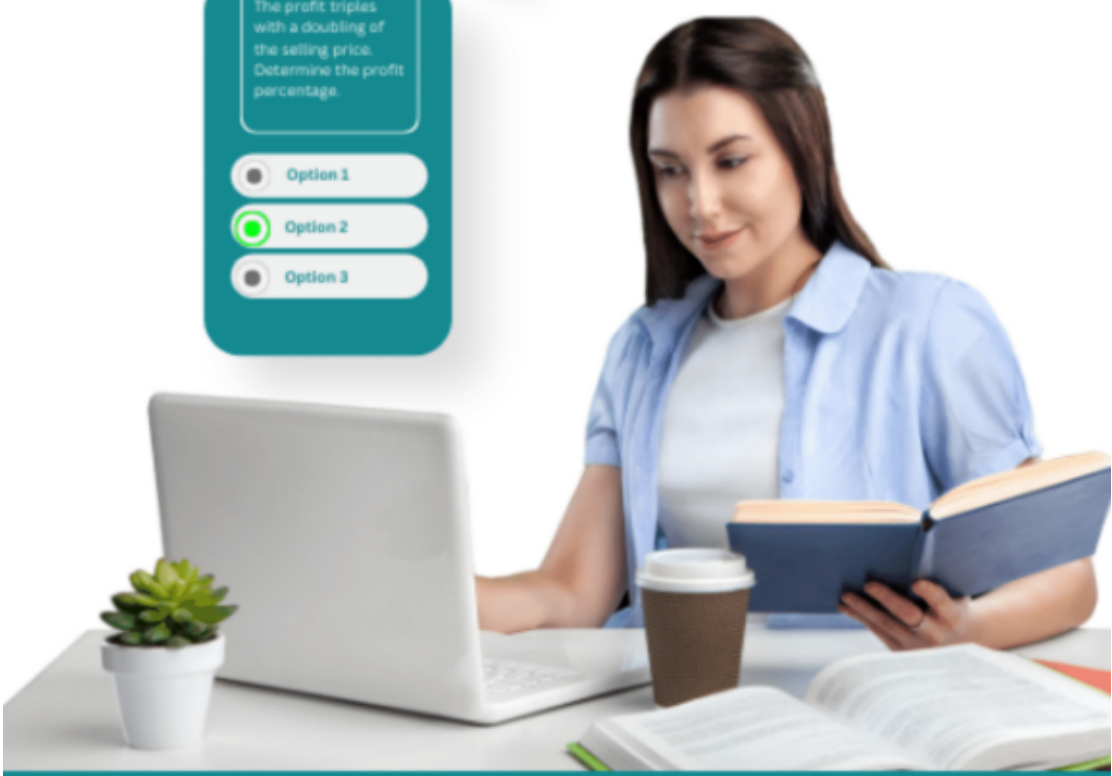
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Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3



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