

SHORTNEWS:

1.SAMRAS MODEL

Context: Recently, **761 out of 4,564 Gram Panchayats** which went for panchayat election in Gujarat elected leaders **unopposed** under the **Samras Gram Yojana** through a **consensus-based selection process**

About the Samras Gram Yojana

- It encourages villages to elect Panchayat leaders through consensus, avoiding formal elections **to promote harmony and reduce political rivalry.**
- **Origin:** It was **launched in 2001** by then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi.
- **Selection Criteria:** All Panchayat members and the Sarpanch must be **chosen unanimously by village residents without any electoral contest.**
- **Eligibility and Grants:** Villages opting for the Samras model receive financial incentives **ranging from ₹3 lakh (for populations below 5,000) to ₹13 lakh (for larger villages).**
- **For Example:** Raningpara Village, Junagadh **elected eight panchayat members (four men, four women)** unopposed and adopted a **rotational Sarpanch model between two women.**

Role and Responsibilities under the Model

- **Strengthening Local Participation:** The model enables inclusive leadership, often empowering women and marginalized groups through rotational leadership arrangements.
- **Enhancing Service Delivery:** Leaders focus on urgent local needs such as water supply, school expansion, and drug abuse prevention among youth.
- **Promoting Cooperative Governance:** The consensus approach minimizes conflict, allowing unified planning for agriculture, irrigation, and education development.

2.INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY 2025

Context: International Tiger Day is **observed annually on July 29** to unite tiger range countries in global efforts for tiger conservation and habitat management.

About International Tiger Day

- The day raises awareness about the urgent need to protect tigers and their rapidly shrinking habitats across the globe.
- **Established in:** 2010, during the **Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia**, with participation from **13 tiger-range countries, including India.**

- **Theme for 2025:**“Securing the future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the heart.”
- **Global Cultural Significance:** Like **Western India’s Waghoba** and the Sundarbans’ **Dakhin Rai**, indigenous groups in **Russia venerate the Amur tiger** (‘Amba’) as a spiritual guardian.

Tigers of India

- **Subspecies Found in India:** India is home to the **Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris tigris)** which is also the **most populous subspecies globally**.
- **Habitats:** Tigers in India inhabit diverse ecosystems, including **mangroves (Sundarbans), grasslands, tropical and subtropical forests, and the Shivalik foothills**.
- **Current Status:** As of 2022, **India has an estimated tiger population of 3,682**, constituting over **75% of the global wild tiger population**.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (India):** Schedule I
 - **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):** Appendix I

Major Conservation Initiatives in India

- **Project Tiger (1973):** Launched to safeguard tigers in the wild, it **began with 9 reserves** and now covers **58 tiger reserves** across 78,135 sq. km.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Provides the legal framework for tiger protection, and post-2006 amendments introduced Critical Tiger Habitats and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (2006):** Established to implement a holistic approach to tiger conservation, ensuring ecological sustainability and community involvement.
- **Tiger Task Force (2005):** Formed to reassess conservation policies, shifting focus from militarized protection to inclusive forest and wildlife governance.

3.MERA GAON MERA DHAROHAR (MGMD) PROGRAMME

Context: Recently, the Union Culture Minister informed Lok Sabha that **4.7 lakh villages** are now listed on the **MGMD portal**.

About Mera Gaon Mera Dharohar (MGMD) Programme

- **Introduction:** MGMD is an initiative under the **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** to preserve and promote India's rural cultural heritage.
- **Aim:** To culturally map **6.5 lakh villages** across India, **documenting both tangible and intangible heritage elements**.
- **Started By:** Launched in **June 2023** as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the programme is being implemented by the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** under the **Ministry of Culture**.

4.FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS CHAMPION 2025: DIVYA DESHMUKH

Context: Recently, **Divya Deshmukh** won the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 after defeating **Koneru Humpy at Batumi, Georgia**.

- The FIDE Women's World Cup is a major knockout chess tournament organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) for the world's top female players.

Achievements of Divya Deshmukh

- **First** Indian woman to win the **FIDE Women's World Cup**.
- **Fourth** Indian woman to become a **Grandmaster**.

About FIDE

- The **International Chess Federation**, commonly known as **FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs)**, is the governing body for international chess competitions.
- **Establishment:** Founded in Paris, France, in 1924
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **Recognition:** Recognized as a **Global Sporting Organization** by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** in 1999.

5.OPERATION MAHADEV

Context: Recently, three Pakistani terrorists involved in the Pahalgam (Jammu and Kashmir) massacre were killed during 'Operation Mahadev'.

About Operation Mahadev

- Operation Mahadev was a **joint counter-terror operation by the Indian Army's Chinari Corps, CRPF, and J&K Police**.
- **Objective:** Neutralize terrorists linked to the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack and prevent future attacks.