Ladakh’s First Heritage Village

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in News?

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, has officially declared Kumik village in Zanskar as the region's first designated ‘Heritage Village’.

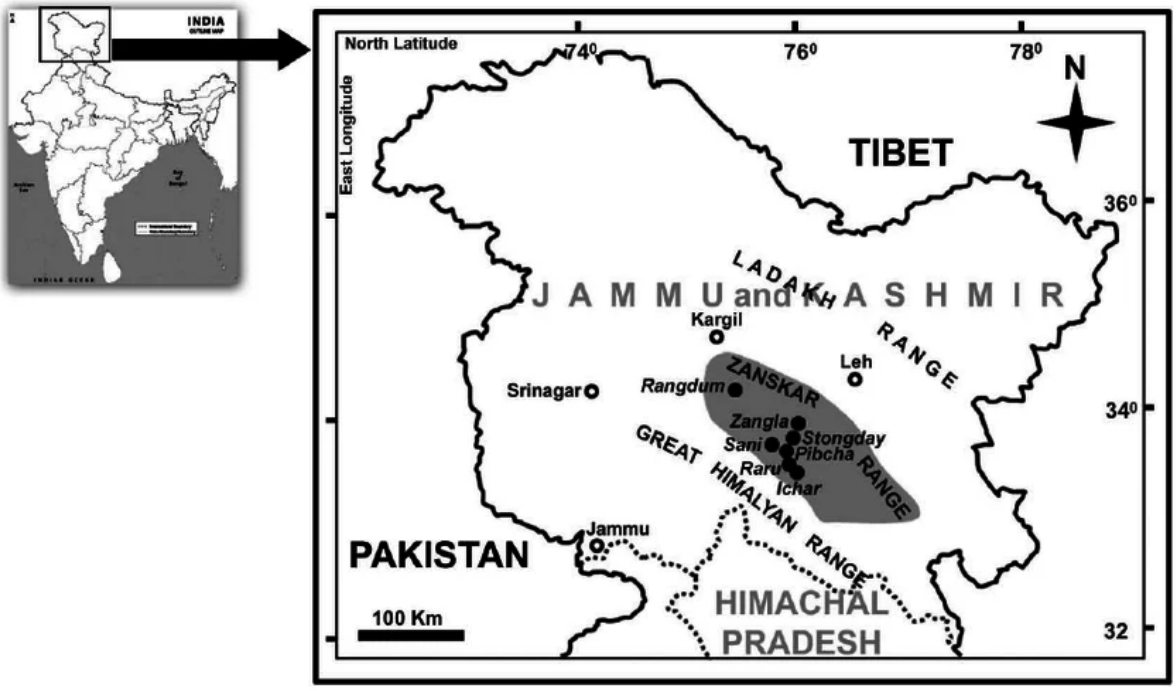
Cultural Significance

- Kumik is recognized for the preservation of the following:
  - Kanjur manuscripts
  - Tibetan Buddhist texts
  - Traditional Buddhist textual heritage
  - Local cultural traditions of the Zanskar region
- **Kanjur (Kangyur) –** It denotes the Tibetan Buddhist canonical collection comprising texts considered to be the words or teachings of the Buddha.
- **Distinction between Canonical Collections:**
  - **Kanjur/Kangyur –** Contains teachings attributed to the Buddha
  - **Tengyur –** Comprises commentaries and treatises authored by Indian and Tibetan Buddhist scholars
- Both collections are integral components of Tibetan Buddhist literature.

Geographical Context

- Zanskar is a high-altitude region located within Ladakh.
- It is situated in the Trans-Himalayan region.
- The region is notable for the following features:
  - High-altitude valleys
  - Buddhist monasteries
  - Tibetan Buddhist cultural traditions
  - Mountainous terrain

Pragpur in the Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh is officially recognized as ***India's first heritage village****, having received the title in 1997.*



Reference

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