Samriddh Gram: Global Winner of WSIS 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) flagship initiative, Samriddh Gram, has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026 under Action Line C6.

WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society)

- **WSIS Forum 2026 –** Held in Geneva
- **WSIS Prizes –** Honours information and communication technologies (ICTs) to advance sustainable development.
- **Categories –** 18 award categories; only 2 Indian projects were selected as Champion Projects.
- **Global Winner –** Samriddh Gram (Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment).
- It showcases India's model of using ***digital public infrastructure + telecom connectivity*** for integrated rural service delivery.

Samriddh Gram

- **Samriddh Gram –** A flagship ***integrated rural digital transformation*** initiative built on the BharatNet network**.**
- **Integration –** Combines telecom infrastructure, local facilitation, and community participation to generate socio-economic outcomes.
- **Samriddhi Kendras –** Village-level one-stop centres providing ***digital + assisted physical services***.
- **Services Delivered –**
    - **Healthcare –** Teleconsultation, health ATMs, and PM Jan Aushadhi medicines.
    - **Education –** Smart classrooms, AR/VR skill development.
    - **Agriculture –** IoT soil testing, drone spraying, app-based smart

irrigation.
- **Financial inclusion –** CSC services, banking correspondents, and digital banking.
- **E-commerce – S**upport for local products.
- **Connectivity –** FTTH, PM-WANI Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance.

Quick Facts

• **BharatNet -** Flagship rural broadband initiative and the world's largest rural telecom project**.**
• Expands digital access, converts connectivity into opportunity, supports e-governance and livelihoods.

Reference

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