



Karikot Village Wins ICRT Award 2025

Why in News?

Karikot village, located in the **Bahraich** district of Uttar Pradesh, has been selected for the prestigious **Indian Subcontinental Responsible Tourism (ICRT) Award 2025**.

- This award is presented by the **ICRT India Foundation** and is supported by the **Ministry of Tourism**.

Key Points

- **ICRT Award 2025:** The award honors leaders in [sustainable tourism](#), emphasizing the reduction of negative impacts and the enhancement of positive ones, and will be presented in **New Delhi** on 13th September 2025.
 - **Categories:** The awards ceremony will recognize institutions under various categories, like **One to Watch, Silver, and Gold**.
 - **Criteria:** The panel evaluated entries based on **authenticity, replicability, community involvement**, and long-term impact.
 - Karikot stood out for its **innovative and community-driven approach** to rural tourism, making it a prime example of sustainability and impact.
- **Karikot Village Model:** Karikot, located near the [India-Nepal border](#) and adjacent to the [Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary](#), sees tourism initiatives driven primarily by the [Tharu tribal community](#), focusing on homestays, eco-tourism, and cultural immersion experiences.
 - These initiatives have helped revive traditional Tharu crafts, cuisine, and **folk arts**, turning Karikot into a living museum of Tharu heritage.
 - Karikot's community-driven and sustainable tourism model has created **long-term benefits** and new livelihood opportunities, especially for **women and youth**.
- **Uttar Pradesh's Rural Tourism Strategy:** Karikot's recognition underscores the state's effort to make rural tourism a key development focus, supported by initiatives like the **UP Bed & Breakfast and Homestay Policy 2025** and **eco-tourism promotion**.

Tharu Tribe

- **Meaning of 'Tharu':** The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavir, meaning followers of [Theravada Buddhism](#).
- **Habitat:** The Tharu community belongs to the **Terai lowlands**, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas.
 - Terai is a region of northern India and southern Nepal running parallel to the lower ranges of the Himalayas.
 - The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- **Scheduled Tribe:** Tharu is a scheduled tribe in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- **Occupation:** Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- **Language:** They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the **Indo-Aryan subgroup**, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.

ICRT India Foundation

- ICRT India Foundation was founded in 2017 to support and expand **Responsible Tourism in India**.
- It backs the **Cape Town Declaration of Responsible Tourism (2002)** and promotes its principles.
- The Foundation signed and supports the **2022 Responsible Tourism Charter**, signed on Magna Carta Island.

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