



Kanger Valley National Park UNESCO Recognition

Why in News?

[United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) has added [Kanger Valley National Park \(KVNP\)](#) in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region to its [Tentative List of World Heritage Sites](#) under the **Natural Heritage** category.

Key Points

- **UNESCO Tentative List Inclusion:**
 - The state Chief Minister expressed pride in this achievement, highlighting KVNP's role in [biodiversity conservation](#), **tribal culture promotion**, and [eco-tourism](#).
 - He emphasized that **global recognition would boost tourism** and bring prestige to Bastar and Chhattisgarh.
- **UNESCO Criteria Fulfillment:**
 - KVNP qualified for the UNESCO listing based on three critical criteria:
 - **Natural beauty** – landscapes, waterfalls, and valleys.
 - **Geological significance** – Unique rock formations and limestone caves.
 - **Biodiversity** – Rich flora and fauna, including rare species.
- **Proposal Submission Process:**
 - The park's management submitted a proposal to [the Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) under the Ministry of Culture, leading to UNESCO's selection of KVNP for the tentative list.

Kanger Valley National Park

- **Location:**
 - Situated in Jagdalpur, **Bastar district, Chhattisgarh**.
 - It lies on the banks of **the Kholaba River**, a tributary of [the Godavari River](#).
 - It is named after [the Kanger River](#), which flows through its length.
 - It was **declared a national park in 1982**.
 - The entire park is a **core area with no buffer zone**.
- **Topography:**
 - It features diverse landscapes, including **plateaus, valleys, steep slopes, and stream courses**.
 - It houses three famous limestone caves—**Kutumbasar, Kailash, and Dandak**—known for [stalactites and stalagmites](#).
 - **Stalactite** is an icicle-shaped formation that hangs from the ceiling of a cave and is produced by the **precipitation of minerals** from water dripping through the cave ceiling. Most stalactites have **pointed tips**.
 - **Stalagmite** is an **upward-growing mound** of mineral deposits that have precipitated from water dripping onto the floor of a cave. Most stalagmites **have rounded or flattened tips**.
 - It hosts **Tirathgarh Waterfall**, a major tourist attraction and is home to a significant **tribal population**.
 - It contains **underground limestone caves with dripstone and flowstone**.

formations.

- **Flora:**
 - Characterized by mixed **humid deciduous forests**.
 - Abundant tree species include **Sal, Saugaun, Teak, and Bamboo**.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Major mammals:** **Tigers**, Mouse Deer, **Leopards**, **Wildcat**, **Sambar**, Chital, Barking Deer, Langurs, Jackals, **Rhesus Macaque**, and Flying Squirrel.
 - **Aerial fauna:** Common Hill Myna, Red Jungle Fowl, **Spotted Owlet**, Racket-Tailed Drongos, and Parrots.

UNESCO's Tentative List

- UNESCO's tentative list is an **inventory of properties which each state party intends to consider for nomination**.
 - As per Operational Guidelines, 2019 of **UNESCO**, it is **mandatory to put any monument/site on the tentative list for one year before it is considered** for the final nomination dossier.
 - Once the nomination is done, it is **sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC)**.

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