



56th Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 19 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Chhattisgarh has officially been declared as the **56th Tiger Reserve of the country.**

Key Points

- **About Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve:**
 - The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve spans from **Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh.**
 - Total area is **2,829.38 sq. km**, with core tiger habitat of 2,049.2 sq. km and buffer zone 780.15 sq. km.
 - It is the **third-largest tiger reserve in India**, after [Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam in Andhra Pradesh](#) and [Manas in Assam.](#)
- **Conservation and Connectivity:**
 - It forms a landscape complex of approximately 4,500 sq. km with the [Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve](#) in Madhya Pradesh.
 - It is connected to [Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh](#) in the west and [Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand](#) in the east.
- **Ecological and Faunal Diversity:**
 - Located in the [Chota Nagpur plateau](#) and partly in the **Baghelkhand plateau**, the reserve features diverse terrains, dense forests, streams, and rivers, providing critical [tiger](#) habitats.
 - **Zoological Survey of India documented 753 species:**
 - 365 invertebrates (mainly insects).
 - 388 vertebrates, including 230 bird species and 55 mammal species, several of which are threatened.
- Chhattisgarh now hosts **four tiger reserves**, enhancing tiger conservation efforts under [National Tiger Conservation Authority \(NTCA\) Project Tiger](#) initiative.

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National Parks & Sanctuaries of Chhattisgarh



Dhudmaras Village | Chhattisgarh | 19 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Dhudmaras, a village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, has been selected to **participate in the Best Tourism Village Upgrade Programme (BTVUP)** under the **United Nations Tourism for Rural Development Programme (UNTRDP)** by the [UN World Tourism Organisation \(UNWTO\)](#).

- This recognition marks its potential as a hub for [eco-tourism](#) and sustainable development.

Key Points

- **Dhudmaras Village:**
 - Located in [Kanger Valley National Park \(KVNP\)](#), is surrounded by dense forests, the **Kanger River**, and rich biodiversity, making it a prime eco-tourism destination.
 - KVNP is named after the Kanger River, which flows through it. It was designated as a **national park in 1982**.
 - KVNP is home to three notable caves **Kutumbasar, Kailash and Dandak** famous for their **stalagmites** (mineral formations that rise from the floor of a cave) and **stalactites** (mineral formations that hang from the ceiling of a cave).
 - The park is dominated by **Sal, Teak, and Bamboo**, forming a **moist deciduous forest**.
 - It is home to the Dhurwa Tribe, part of the [Gond Tribe](#), speak Paarji, a **Gond dialect**. Their lifestyle is closely tied to nature, relying on forests and natural resources for sustenance.
- **Recognition and Support:**
 - As part of the UNWTO's initiative under the BTVUP, Dhudmaras will now receive **assistance to enhance areas like economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and tourism development**, ensuring long-term growth.

▪ UN Tourism for Rural Development Programme:

- About:
 - UNTRDP promotes **development, inclusion, and innovation** in rural areas through tourism, aiming to combat depopulation and encourage sustainable practices.
- **Evaluation Criteria:**
 - Villages participating in the program are **evaluated under nine key areas**, which include cultural and natural resources, economic and social sustainability, tourism development, and infrastructure, among others.
 - This evaluation ensures that the selected villages meet standards of **sustainability, inclusiveness, and governance.**

United Nations World Tourism Organisation

- The UNWTO, established in 1975 and headquartered in **Madrid, Spain**, promotes responsible, sustainable, and accessible tourism.
- **It has 159 member countries, including India**, it serves as a global forum for tourism policy, advocates the [Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#), and aligns tourism with the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).
 - **Target 8.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** focuses on promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs and preserves local culture and products.

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