



Dhudmaras Village

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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.

What are the Key Facts About Dhudmaras Village?

- **Location:** Dhudmaras, 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**.
- **Cultural Significance:** Dhudmaras, home to the Dhurwa Tribe, offers visitors a chance to experience authentic tribal life through homestays, traditional food, and guided tours.
 - 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.

What is the 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**.
- **Three Pillars of UNTRDP:**
 - **Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism:** Recognizes rural tourism destinations for their cultural and natural assets, community values, and commitment to innovation and sustainability.
 - **BTVUP:** Assists villages in improving weak areas to fast-track applications for Best Tourism Village recognition.
 - **The Best Tourism Villages Network:** Offers a platform for sharing experiences and collaborating on best practices in rural tourism, connecting experts, communities, and stakeholders.

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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