

3 New Indian Sites Added to UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

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Why in News?

Recently, the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO announced the inclusion of three new Indian properties into the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Comparative Overview of the 3 New Sites

Property Name	Location	Type	Significance
Karst-Mud-Volcano Complex of Baratang	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Natural	Features intricate limestone caves and speleothems (stalactites/stalagmites) formed via chemical dissolution. Houses unique mud volcanoes (<i>locally called "Jalki"</i>) that expel gas, water, and mud rather than molten lava due to underground tectonic and compressed sediment pressures.
Andaman Subduction Volcanoes	Barren Island & Narcondam Island (Andaman Sea)	Natural	Represents active tectonic subduction processes where the Indian Plate subducts under the Burma microplate. Barren Island contains India's only active volcano with a collapsed caldera and basaltic flows. Narcondam Island displays unique volcanic geology and serves as an important bird and key biodiversity area.
Sirpur Cultural and Archaeological Landscape	Mahasamund District, Chhattisgarh (banks of Mahanadi River)	Cultural	Ancient riverine trade and urban center showcasing rich inter-religious interactions (Hindu and Buddhist monuments). Situated within the Proterozoic Chhattisgarh Basin, notable for localized stromatolite geology formed by cyanobacteria.

Strategic Significance

- **Showcasing Unique Geodiversity** - The inclusion of Baratang and the Andaman Subduction Volcanoes elevates India's geological heritage, highlighting active tectonic processes, rare mud volcanism, and unique island ecosystems on the global stage.
- **Recognizing Multi-Faith Archaeological Landscapes** - Sirpur underscores ancient India's civilizational deep roots, riverine trade connectivity, and structural urban evolution across multi-faith traditions.



Reference

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