

Seven Indian Natural Sites Added to UNESCO's Tentative List

Prelims - Current events of National and International importance| Indian and World Geography.

Why in News?

Recently, 7 remarkable natural heritage sites from across the country have been successfully included in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.

- **UNESCO Tentative List** - It is a prerequisite for any site to be nominated for the prestigious World Heritage List.
- India has a total of 69 sites under consideration by UNESCO, comprising 49 cultural, 17 natural, and 3 mixed heritage properties.
- The newly added sites include

Site	State	Description
Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is home to some of the best-preserved and studied lava flows in the world. • These sites form part of the massive Deccan Traps and are located within the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. • Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary - It is already a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster	Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is Known for its <u>rare columnar basaltic rock formations</u>. • This island cluster dates back to the <u>Late Cretaceous period</u>, offering a geological snapshot from around 85 million years ago.

Meghalayan Age Caves	Meghalaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cave systems of Meghalaya, particularly the Mawmluh Cave, serve as the global reference point for the Meghalayan Age of the Holocene Epoch. • It reflecting significant climatic and geological transitions
Naga Hill Ophiolite	Nagaland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a rare exposure of ophiolite rocks. • These hills represent oceanic crust uplifted onto continental plates. • Its offerings a deep insight into tectonic processes and mid-ocean ridge dynamics.
Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills)	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a visually striking red sand formation located near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. • It showcases unique paleo-climatic and coastal geomorphological features that reveal Earth's climatic history and dynamic evolution.
Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills	Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring the Eparchaeon Unconformity and the iconic Silathoranam (Natural Arch). • This site holds immense geological significance, representing over 1.5 billion years of Earth's history.
Varkala Cliffs	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It refers to the scenic cliffs along Kerala's coastline that expose the Warkalli Formation of the Mio-Pliocene age. • It features natural springs and striking erosional landforms, offering both scientific and touristic value.

Reference

[PIB| 7 Natural Heritage Sites in UNESCO Tentative List.](#)



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