

Kalinjar Fort

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Kalinjar Fort Latest News

The hill region surrounding the Kalinjar Fort in Banda was officially declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) recently.

About Kalinjar Fort

- It is located in the **Banda district** of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is situated on an **isolated hilltop, surrounded by the Vindhya Mountains** and the **Ken River**.
- It is **one of the oldest** and most impressive forts in the country.
- **Many decisive battles** were fought for the possession of this strategically located fort in **ancient, medieval, and modern times**.
- **History:**
 - The history of Kalinjar Fort is **more than 1500 years old**.
 - Historical documents and inscriptions indicate that a strategic fort was **established during the Gupta period (4th-6th century)**.

- Later, Kalinjar **came under the Chandela dynasty (9th-13th century)** and became **one of their capitals**.
- During the rule of the **Chandela kings**, the fort **developed into a military fort** on one side **and a religious centre** on the other.
- **Mahmud Ghaznavi, Qutubuddin Aibak, and Humayun attacked** it and wanted to win it but **could not succeed**.
- Finally, in **1569 AD, Akbar won this fort** and **gifted it to Birbal**. **After Birbal**, this fort came **under the Bundel king Chhatrasal**.
- After them, the fort was occupied by Hardev Shah of Panna.
- **In 1812**, this fort became **under the British**.
- The fort also houses **mosques, temples, palaces, and stepwells**.
- One of the main attractions of Kalinjar is the **Neelkanth Temple**.
 - It was **built by Chandela ruler Paramaditya Dev**.
 - The **Shiva lingam is of blue stone** in addition to the giant 18-arm statue in the temple.

Source: TOI

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