Jestha Varna Mahavihar

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | History*

Why in News?

A Nepalese Buddhist monastery, rebuilt with Indian assistance after the 2015 earthquake, has won a 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Conservation Award.

- **Jestha Varna Mahavihar** – It is also known as Jyaba Bahi, a 17th century Buddhist Monastery.
- **Location** – Lalitpur, Nepal, located 300 meters from the UNESCO-listed Patan Durbar Square.
- **Reason for Recognition** – For its exemplary *community centered approach* by combining *modern earthquake safety upgrades* with the *preservation of traditional architecture* and detailed historical *Newari woodcarvings*.
- **Technical Expertise** – Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage as the project management consultant.
- **Architecture** – It features a traditional ***Bahi layout***, consists of a perfectly square quadrangle with a main shrine and an adjoining sattal (rest house) surrounding a sunken central courtyard.
- **Newar Buddhist Community** – They are the indigenous people of Nepal's Kathmandu Valley practiced the unique, householder-based Vajrayana tradition. They are associated with this monastery.

Reference

India Today | Jestha Varna Mahavihar