

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 satta (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](#)