

Preah Vihear Temple Complex

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Why in news?

India has expressed concerns over the damage caused to the Preah Vihear temple complex in the disputed border region between Cambodia and Thailand.

- **Temple of Preah Vihear** - It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** renowned for its exceptional Khmer architecture and dramatic cliff-top setting.
- **Location** - On the edge of the Dangrek Mountains plateau of **Cambodia**, near the Thai border.
- **Dedication** - The temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, reflecting Hindu spiritual traditions.
- **Construction** - It traces its origins in the 9th century when a hermitage (secluded dwelling) was founded, but a major construction in the 11th century.
- **Structure** - A series of sanctuaries connected by pavements and staircases along an 800-metre axis.



- **Preservation** - Its remote location has helped keep the site remarkably well preserved.
- **Significance** - It is an *exceptional Khmer architecture*, pure in plan and decoration and outstanding stone-carved ornamentation.
- **India's engagement** - Since 1986, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been working to conserve and restore *Cambodia's ancient Khmer temples*.
- Its projects include the restoration of **Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm**, and the work has now entered its third phase.
- **Khmer Temples** - Cambodia is home to over 4,000 Khmer temples, which were built between the 9th and 15th centuries by Khmer Kings and Khmer people and influenced by both Hinduism and Buddhism.
- The most prominent temples are located near Siem Reap in the **Angkor Archaeological Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

References

1. [The Hindu | India expresses concern over damaged Preah Vihear complex](#)
2. [UNESCO | Temple of Preah Vihear](#)

