



UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

Why in News?

Recently, the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) **Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022** has been announced which included **four winners from India**.

Award-Winning Countries: What's the Scenario?

- **Global Performance:**
 - **Thirteen projects from six countries** that have been acknowledged for awards were:
 - **Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal and Thailand.**
- **India's Performance:**
 - **Award of Excellence:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
 - **Award of Distinction:** Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad
 - **Award of Merit:** Domakonda Fort, Telangana, and Byculla Station, Mumbai
- **Significance of Heritage Sites:**
 - There is a **nature and culture linkage that heritage sites demonstrate**. They can **address [climate change](#) with [net-zero](#) water requirements**.
 - The restoration of wells shows how **conservation of [heritage sites](#) can have multiple objectives**.

What is UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation?

- Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has **recognised the efforts of private individuals and organisations** in restoring, conserving and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.
- It **encourages other property owners to undertake conservation projects** within their communities, either independently or by public-private partnerships.
 - The awards give **people a sense of pride and sense of ownership of their own heritage**.

Note

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai:**
 - The museum is a **part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles** of Mumbai's world heritage property.
 - It was **established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922**.
- **Byculla Station, Mumbai:**
 - The station was built in 1853. The **first train of the country passed through Byculla station** almost one-and-a-half centuries ago. It has been restored to its original Gothic, heritage, architectural glory.
- **Domakonda Fort, Telangana:**
 - The Domakonda Fort is **private property and was built in the 18th century** with an amalgam of styles including stucco work, arched pillars, flat ceiling, and a courtyard with a water garden pond.

Source: TH

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