



The Preah Vihear and Prasat Ta Muen Thom

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Thailand and Cambodia have called a **ceasefire** after clashes near **Preah Vihear and Prasat Ta Muen Thom in the Southeast Asian Emerald Triangle**, a region long disputed due to colonial-era borders and cultural claims.

- **Southeast Asian Emerald Triangle:** It refers to a geographically sensitive area where the **borders of Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos meet**, known for its dense **forests** and ancient temples.
- **Preah Vihear:** It is a **Hindu shrine** dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in Cambodia, along the **Thailand-Cambodia border** in the **Dangrek Mountains**.
 - The temple was built around the 11th century by the **Khmer kings Suryavarman I and II**, it is now a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).
 - The [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) ruled in 1962 (reaffirmed in 2013) that the temple belongs to Cambodia. However, **Thailand has rejected the ICJ's jurisdiction**, keeping tensions alive.
- **Prasat Ta Muen Thom:** It is a 12th-century temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, later adapted for Buddhist use. It is part of a temple group that includes **Prasat Ta Muen (a pilgrim rest house) and Prasat Ta Muen Tot (a hospital shrine)**.
 - Built by Khmer kings **Udayadityavarman II and Jayavarman VII**, the complex reflects [Angkorian](#) architecture.



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