



# World Heritage Institute of Training and Research - Asia Pacific

## Why in News

Recently, the **World Heritage Institute of Training and Research - Asia Pacific (WHITR-AP)** has recognised **CEPT (Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Gujarat)** University's programme in conservation and regeneration as a **commended case of Global Innovation on World Heritage Education**.

- The World Heritage Education Programme was initiated as a [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) special project in 1994. It gives young people a chance to voice their concerns and to become involved in the protection of common cultural and natural heritage.

## Key Points

- **About:**
  - The WHITR-AP is a **non-profit organization** specialized in the area of **heritage conservation**.
  - It is an **institute under the auspices of UNESCO**, it is the **first one established in the developing countries**.
  - It is an **autonomous institution** at the service of member states and associate members of UNESCO.
- **Mission:**
  - To strengthen implementation of the **World Heritage Convention 1972** in the Asia and the Pacific region.
- **World Heritage Convention:**
  - It is one of the most important **global conservation instruments which was created in 1972**.
    - Its mission is to **identify and protect the world's natural and cultural heritage** considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value.
  - It **sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them**.
    - By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage.
  - The Convention is **governed by the World Heritage Committee supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre**, the secretariat for the Convention, and **three technical advisory bodies** to the Committee:
    - [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)
    - [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\)](#)
    - [International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration Cultural Property \(ICCROM\)](#)
  - India is a signatory to the convention and has 40 [world heritage sites](#), which includes 32 cultural, 7 natural and one mixed property.
    - [Ramappa Temple](#) in Telangana was the 39<sup>th</sup> and [Dholavira](#) in Gujarat was India's 40<sup>th</sup> world heritage site.

## UNESCO

- **About:**

- It seeks **to build peace through international cooperation** in Education, the Sciences and Culture. It was founded in 1945 and is **located in Paris, France.**

- **Major Initiatives:**

- [Man and Biosphere Programme](#)
- [World Heritage Programme](#)
- [Global Geopark Network](#)
- [Network of Creative Cities](#)
- [Atlas of World Languages in Danger](#)

**Source: IE**

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