Humayun's Tomb

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Why in News?

Recently, six people were killed and four others injured after a wall of a dargah near Humayun's Tomb in Delhi's Nizamuddin.

- It is also known as ***Maqbara-e Humayun, a burial site*** of the Mughal emperor Humayun.
- **Location –** It is located in Nizamuddin East, ***Delhi***.
- **Period –** The construction took place during **1569-70** after 14 years of Humayun death.
- **Designed by –** ***Mirak Mirza Ghiyath,*** a Persian architect.
- **Commissioned by –** His wife, *Hamida Banu Begam*, also known as Haji Begam, commenced the construction of his tomb, with the patronage of Humayun's son, Akbar.
- **Architecture -** This tomb is an example of the *charbagh* (a four-quadrant garden with the four rivers of the Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.
- The mausoleum itself stands on a high, wide, terraced platform with two bay deep vaulted cells on all four sides.
- It has an irregular octagon plan with four long sides and chamfered edges.
- Humayun's garden-tomb is also called the *'dormitory of the Mughals'* as in the cells are buried over 150 Mughal family members.
- **Integrity –** It comprises the gateways, pavilions and attached structures pre-dating Humayun's Tomb, such as
    - The Barber's Tomb
    - Nila Gumbad and its garden setting
    - Isa Khan's Garden tomb
    - Bu Halima's garden-tomb
    - Afsarwala garden-Tomb.

- **Architectural Style -** The architecture showcases a blend of Persian and Indian styles.
    - Evident in the use of red sandstone, marble, and the charbagh layout, along with Persian features like the double dome and arched alcoves.
    - Indian elements such as chhatris (kiosks) and the raised terrace platform.
- It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.



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- **Authenticity –** It is a highly authentic example of Mughal funerary architecture.
- It lies in the mausoleum, other structures, and the garden retaining its original form and design, materials, and setting.
- **Protection and management requirements –** It were managed and protected by the Archaeology Survey of India (ASI).
- There is adequate protection through various legislations such as
    - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959
    - Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957
    - Land Acquisition Act 1894
    - Delhi Urban Art Commission Act 1973
    - Urban Land (Sealing and Regulation) Act 1976
    - Environmental Pollution Act, 1986.
- The conservation project of Humayun's Tomb has been undertaken in partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).
- UNESCO List – The tomb was declared a **World Heritage Site** in **1993**

References

1. Archaeology of India| Humayun Tomb
2. UNESCO| Humayun Tomb Architecture

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