

**DATE - 17th June 2021**

## **Humayun's Tomb**

- This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent.
- It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.
- It was built under the patronage of Humayun's son, the great Emperor Akbar.
- It is also called the 'dormitory of the Mughals' as in the cells are buried over 150 Mughal family members.
- It is an example of the charbagh (a four quadrant garden with the four rivers of Quranic paradise represented), with pools joined by channels.
- The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognized it as a World Heritage Site in 1993.

## **Mughal Architecture:**

- This is a building style that flourished in northern and central India under the patronage of the Mughal emperors from the mid-16th to the late 17th century.
- The Mughal period marked a striking revival of Islamic architecture in northern India. Under the patronage of the Mughal emperors, Persian, Indian, and various provincial styles were fused to produce works of unusual quality and refinement.
- It became so widespread especially in north India that these can be seen further in the colonial architecture of Indo-Saracenic style.

## **Important Features:**

- Mixed Architecture: It was a blend of Indian, Persian, and Turkish architectural style.

- Diversity: Different types of buildings, such as majestic gates (entrances), forts, mausoleums, palaces, mosques, sarais, etc.
- Building material: Mostly, red sandstone and white marble were used.
- Speciality: Specific features such as the Charbagh style of the mausoleums, pronounced bulbous domes, slender turrets at the corners, broadgateways, beautiful calligraphy, arabesque, and geometric patterns on pillars and walls, and palace halls supported on pillars.
- The arches, chhatra, and various styles of domes became hugely popular in the Indo-Islamic architecture and were further developed under the Mughals.

## **Some Examples:**

### **Taj Mahal:**

Built by Shah Jahan between 1632 and 1653, in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

UNESCO recognized the Taj Mahal as a World Heritage Site in 1983. It is located in Agra.

### **Red Fort:**

Built by Shah Jahan in 1639 when he decided to move the capital from Agra to Delhi. It was the residence of Mughal rulers.

UNESCO designated it as the World Heritage Site in 2007

### **Jama Masjid:**

Built by Shah Jahan in Delhi. The construction was completed in 1656.

### **Badshahi Mosque:**

Built during the reign of Aurangzeb. At the time of completion in 1673, it was the largest mosque in the world. It is located in Lahore, capital of the Pakistani province of Punjab.

# Unlawful Activities Prevention Act,

1967

## Context:

Delivering a judgment defining the contours of the otherwise “vague” Section 15 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (UAPA) a division bench of the Delhi High Court has laid down some important principles upon the imposition of Section 15, 17 & 18 of the Act.

The issue came up while granting bail to Delhi-riots accused who faced charges for being part of a “larger conspiracy” during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 protests which erupted into violence resulting in deaths across North-East Delhi.

## About

### The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:

- Passed in 1967, the law aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.

## IMP points

- Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.

- Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

### As per amendments of 2019:

- The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
- The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
- It also included the provision of designating an individual as a terrorist.

### Sections 15, 17 and 18 of UAPA:

- Section 15 engrafts the offence of 'terrorist act'.
- Section 17 lays-down the punishment for raising funds for committing a terrorist act.
- Section 18 engrafts the offence of 'punishment for conspiracy etc. to commit a terrorist act or any act preparatory to commit a terrorist act'.

### Key observations made by the court:

- "Terrorist Act" Should not be used lightly so as to trivialise them.
- Terrorist activity is that which travels beyond the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with under ordinary penal law. The court relied on the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Hitendra Vishnu Thakur.
- Every terrorist may be a criminal but every criminal cannot be labelled terrorist (Hitendra Vishnu Thakur judgment).
- Terrorist acts should not be equated with the usual law and order problem in the state.
- "Terrorist Act" Can't Be Casually Applied To Cases Falling Within Conventional Offences Under IPC.

### Implications of this judgment:

- With this, the court has raised the bar for the State to book an individual for terrorism under the UAPA.
- It also points out alleged misuse of the UAPA against individuals in cases that do not necessarily fall in the category of “terrorism” cases.
- This caution is significant given the sharp surge in the state’s use of this provision in a sweeping range of alleged offences – against tribals in Chhattisgarh, those using social media through proxy servers in Jammu and Kashmir; and journalists in Manipur among others.

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