

**31<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

### Art & Culture

#### India's First Sunken Museum at Humayun Tomb Inauguration

- ❖ Scheduled to open its doors to the public on July 30, 2024.
- ❖ Grand opening ceremony on July 29, 2024, coinciding with the 46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee session.
- ❖ Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Prince Rahim Aga Khan to attend the launch.



#### Humayun's Tomb: A Historic Site

- ❖ A UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its architectural brilliance and historical significance.
- ❖ Built in the 16th century, it stands as a prime example of Mughal architectural grandeur and intricate design.

- ❖ Represents a pivotal cultural landmark in Delhi, showcasing the artistic and cultural achievements of the Mughal era.

#### Museum Design Concept

- ❖ Inspired by traditional Indian 'baolis' (stepwells or water tanks).
- ❖ Combines historical architectural elements with contemporary exhibition techniques.
- ❖ Designed to enhance visual appeal and connect visitors with historical architectural styles.

### Governance

#### Project Tiger and Displacement of Tribal Communities

#### Displacement Statistics

- ❖ RRAG report estimates displacement of 550,000 Scheduled Tribes and forest dwellers due to Project Tiger.
- ❖ Pre-2021 data shows displacement of 254,794 people from 50 tiger reserves, averaging 5,000 per reserve.

- ❖ Post-2021, average displacement in six reserves jumps to 48,333, a 967% increase.



### Areas Most Affected

- ❖ Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan: 160,000 people displaced.
- ❖ Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh: 72,772 people displaced.
- ❖ Ranipur Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh: 45,000 people displaced.
- ❖ Other reserves like Ramgarh Vishdhari and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai also face significant displacement.

### Human Rights Violations

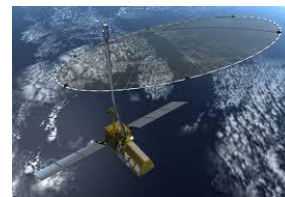
- ❖ RRAG report highlights forced evictions, loss of homes, resources, and cultural sites for indigenous communities.

- ❖ Government accused of bypassing Forest Rights Act's free and informed consent provision.
- ❖ Affected people face threats, violence, and arbitrary arrests for resisting displacement or engaging in subsistence activities.

### Science & Technology

#### NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Satellite

**Context:** NASA has announced a postponement of the NISAR satellite launch to a date after February 2025. This delay is attributed to ongoing refinement of the satellite's large deployable antenna and orbital requirements.



#### Mission Objectives

- ❖ NISAR, a collaborative venture between NASA and ISRO, will employ advanced radar technology to monitor Earth's dynamic processes.

- ❖ Key areas of observation include glacier movements, volcanic activity, and other surface changes.
- ❖ The satellite's ability to map the entire planet every 12 days will significantly contribute to Earth science research.

### Satellite Capabilities

- ❖ NISAR will utilize a dual-frequency radar system to detect surface changes as minute as a few centimeters.
- ❖ It will map diverse features such as forests, glaciers, and potential hazards.
- ❖ With an operational lifespan of over three years, NISAR is poised to provide invaluable data for climate change studies.
- ❖ The mission underscores the importance of international collaboration in advancing Earth science research.

### International News

#### South Africa's New Climate Change Law

**Context:** South Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, has enacted a new Climate

Change Bill, which mandates significant reductions in emissions from major fossil-fuel industries. Additionally, it compels local governments to develop strategies for climate change adaptation. This legislation underscores South Africa's commitment to the Paris Agreement, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.



### South Africa's Emissions Landscape

- ❖ South Africa's dependence on coal for electricity positions it among the top 15 GHG emitters globally.
- ❖ In 2022, the country released 405 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, slightly lower than previous years. The energy sector is responsible for approximately 80% of these emissions.

### Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

- ❖ Countries are required to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining their emission reduction strategies.

- ❖ South Africa submitted its first NDC in 2016 and updated it in 2021. The revised plan targets a 31% reduction in emissions, with goals of limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 398-510 million tonnes by 2025 and 350-420 million tonnes by 2030.



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