

### PAKISTAN IS OUT OF FATF 'GREY LIST' ON TERROR FUNDING

#### **In News:**

- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) excluded Pakistan from the grey list of the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering after four years.

#### **Financial Action Task Force**

- Set up in 1989, FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
  - It was established during the G7 Summit in Paris.
  - It currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations.
  - India became an Observer at FATF in 2006.
  - In June, 2010 India was taken in as the 34th country member of FATF
- The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society.
- The FATF functions as an independent guiding policy, with its president selected by the plenary for a one-year period.
- The FATF Secretariat is located at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

#### **Functions**

- The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism.
- It also works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse
- They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes.
- It also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.

#### **Grey list**

- FATF grey lists a country which it considers as a safe haven for terror funding and money laundering.

- A country is put into this list when strategic deficiencies are detected in a country's policies to prevent money laundering and terror financing.
- It is a warning to the country to tackle the issues, failing which it could be "blacklisted," the highest level of indictment.
- So far, only two countries have been blacklisted- Iran and North Korea.

### **Impact of Grey-listing**

- FATF stresses the need to consider associated risks when dealing with countries on grey-list.
- Once grey-listed, it becomes increasingly difficult for a country to get financial aid from multilateral institutions such as: IMF, World Bank, ADB and EU.
- E.g. - according to a research paper, Pakistan's frequent grey-listing by FATF from 2008 to 2019 may have resulted in a cumulative GDP loss of \$38 billion.
- Grey-listing could further lead to a downgrade in country's ability to float international bonds, receive or send remittances or conduct international trade.
- The status does little more than raising the compliance burden on counterparts, such as correspondent banks, dealing with entities within the financial system of a grey-listed country.
- Thereby, it attaches an additional cost to many external sector transactions.

### **Background:**

- Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June 2018 and was given a 27-point action plan to complete it.
- Since then, it has been in the same list as the Paris-based watchdog is not satisfied with the actions taken by the Pakistan to control terror financing.

### **Why FATF changed its position on Pakistan?**

- In October 2021, FATF had said that Pakistan had addressed 30 of the 34 areas where it had raised concerns and recommended further compliance.
- Till June 2022, Pakistan had completed most of the action items and only a few items that were left unfulfilled.
- This included its failure to take action against UN-designated terrorists:
  - Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar,

- Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and his trusted aide and the group's "operational commander", Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi.
  - When Pakistan, in recent months, announced new sentences for Hafiz Saeed and Sajid Mir - two top terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba, FATF expressed its satisfaction.
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## TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST HATE SPEECH – SUPREME COURT

### **In News:**

- The Supreme Court has directed the police and authorities to immediately and suo motu register cases against hate speech makers without waiting for a complaint to be filed.
- The two-judge bench of the Court ordered that any “hesitation” to comply with the direction would attract the proceedings for contempt of the Supreme Court against the erring officers.

### **Hate Speech:**

- Hate speech covers many forms of expressions which advocate, incite, promote or justify hatred, violence and discrimination against a person or group of persons for a variety of reasons.
- It poses grave dangers for the cohesion of a democratic society, the protection of human rights and the rule of law.
- If left unaddressed, it can lead to acts of violence and conflict on a wider scale.
- In this sense hate speech is an extreme form of intolerance which contributes to hate crime.

### **Article 19 and Hate Speech:**

- Article 19(2) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India.
  - This article is subjected to certain restrictions, namely, sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.
  - Provisions in clauses (2) to (6) of Article 19 authorizes the State to restrict the exercise of the freedom guaranteed under the article.
  - **Representation of the People Act, 1951:**
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- Section 8 disqualifies a person from contesting election if he is convicted for indulging in acts amounting to illegitimate use of freedom of speech and expression.
  - **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:**
    - Section 7 penalizes incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise.
  - **Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988:**
    - Section 3(g) prohibits religious institution or its manager to allow the use of any premises belonging to, or under the control of, the institution for promoting or attempting to promote disharmony, feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
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## JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently told the forest officials of Uttarakhand that it would direct the Union government to form a committee to initiate an investigation into “illegal tree cutting” in Jim Corbett National Park.



### About:

- The NGT’s move came after reports on the felling of trees in the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR).
- The report had quoted a Forest Survey of India (FSI) report stating that over 6,000 trees were illegally cut to pave the way for the Pakhro tiger safari project at the tiger reserve.

### Jim Corbett National Park:

- Jim Corbett National Park is a part of the larger Corbett Tiger Reserve
  - It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
  - The park encompasses the **Patli Dun valley formed by the Ramganga river.**
  - The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the **endangered Bengal tiger.**
  - It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
  - **Key facts:**
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- It is the oldest national park in India.
  - It was the first area to come under the Project Tiger initiative in 1973.
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## GREAT INDIAN BUSTARDS (GIBS)

The recent sighting of three Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) deep in Pakistan's Cholistan desert has given rise to speculation that the endangered birds might have flown across the international border from India's Desert National Park (DNP).



### **About:**

- The Great Indian Bustard, found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, is the flagship grassland species of India.
- It is one of the largest flying birds in the world, and India's heaviest flying bird.
- The male bird weighs upto 12-15 kg and female bird up to 5-8 kg.
- **Physical description:**
  - Black crown on the forehead contrasting with the pale neck and head.
  - The body is brownish and the wings are marked with black, brown and grey.
- **Diet:**
  - They feed on grass seeds, insects like grasshoppers and beetles, and sometimes even small rodents and reptiles. The species primarily feed on meswak, sewan grass.
- **Distribution:**
  - Its population of about 150 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population.
  - They are mainly in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, including the Desert National Park which is the natural habitat of the species.
  - Grasslands of Kutch in Gujarat which is home to second-largest bustard population in India.
  - Arid regions of Maharashtra (Solapur), Karnataka (Bellary and Haveri) and Andhra Pradesh (Kurnool)
  - It is the State bird of Rajasthan.
- **Conservation status:**
  - Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,

- Listed in Appendix I of CITES,
- Listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- **Breeding season:**
  - The breeding season spans from March to October.
- **Captive breeding:**
  - The captive breeding of GIBs was taken up in the DNP through a project executed by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India in 2019.
  - As many as 24 GIB chicks are being reared in DNP by a team supported by the International Fund for Houbara Conservation of United Arab Emirates.
- **Threats:**
  - Occasional poaching outside Protected Areas,
  - Habitat loss due to widespread agricultural expansion, infrastructural development such as irrigation, roads, electric poles, as well as mining and industrialization,
  - Bustards, with their poor frontal vision and heavy bodies, have also died due to collision with high tension electric wires.

## PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA - URBAN (PMAY-U)

In the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) awards 2021, Uttar Pradesh bagged the first position followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at second and third place, respectively. Gujarat won five special category awards.



### **About:**

### **Implementation:**

- The Mission will be implemented during 2015-2022.
- It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **Mission:** To achieve the goal of Housing for All in Urban areas by 2022, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.
- **Features:** Under it, central assistance will be provided to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other implementing agencies through States/UTs for:



- In-situ Rehabilitation of existing slum dwellers using land as a resource through private participation
- Credit Linked Subsidy
- Affordable Housing in Partnership
- Subsidy for Beneficiary-led individual house construction/enhancement.
- **Funding:** Credit linked subsidy component will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme while other three components will be implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- **Eligibility:** All statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently would be eligible for coverage under the Mission.

## JAL JEEVAN MISSION

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar recently described “quality, quantity and continuity” as the core principles for the success of Jal Jeevan Mission.



### About:

- **Mission Objective:** To ensure HarGharJal (piped water supply) to all rural households by 2024 under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- **Executing agency:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Mantralaya.
- **Strategy:**
  - This Mission will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.
  - The Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.
- **Funding Pattern:**
  - The fund sharing pattern is in the proportion of:
  - 50:50 between Centre and States,

- 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States.  
In case of UTs, 100% funding is provided by the Central government.
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## SAMPURNANAND TELESCOPE (ST)

The Governor of Uttarakhand recently highlighted the need for discussing future possibilities of the 104 cm Sampurnanand Telescope (ST), at a workshop organised to commemorate the completion of 50 years of successful operations of the telescope.



### About:

- It is a world-class telescope **located near Nainital**.
  - The telescope at **Manora Peak** was established in **1972** when ARIES was known as the UP State Observatory (UPS0).
  - It has been extensively used for optical observations of comets, occultation by planets and asteroids, star-forming regions and star clusters, variable stars, transients, active galactic nuclei, etc.
  - Some of the breakthrough science results contributed by the telescope include the discovery of new rings around Saturn and the rings of Uranus.
  - The instrumentation and science capabilities of ST have paved the way for setting up National and International facilities by ARIES, such as the 3.6m DOT and the 4 meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal.
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