

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF)

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (Indian and its neighbourhood. Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate)

CONTEXT: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced that Pakistan could be removed from the “grey list” after a visit by a fact finding team to verify the measures it has taken to deal with terror financing.

ABOUT FATF:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental organization established to set standards as well as promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- It was formed in 1989 by the G7 Summit held at Paris. The FATF is a policy-making body working with governments to bring about national legislation and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- **HEADQUARTERS:** Its Secretariat is located at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- **MEMBER COUNTRIES:** The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organizations – the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. **India** is a member of the FATF.

VARIOUS LISTS UNDER FATF:

1. **GREY LIST:** Formerly known as Other Monitored Jurisdictions, this list consists of countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering. Inclusion in this list serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist. Currently FATF has 17 countries in its grey list.
2. **BLACK LIST:** Formerly called the Call for Action, this list comprises of countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories. Such countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises its blacklist regularly. **Iran** and **Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)** are under High-risk Jurisdiction or black list.

WHY PAKISTAN IS IN NEWS?

- It has been on the FATF grey list since June 2018. The FATF had issued the 27-point action plan after placing Pakistan on the ‘Grey List’.
- Pakistan's inclusion in the grey list had adversely impacted that country's prospect of obtaining financial assistance from world bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and Asia Development Bank.
- It was highlighted that Pakistan had completed 26 of 27 action items in its 2018 FATF action plan and of the seven action items in the FATF's Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering's 2021 action plan.

INTERPOL ANNUAL MEET

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (International Institutions)

CONTEXT: Preparations are afoot for the 90th Interpol General Assembly that is to be held in the Indian capital later this year.

- The arrangements for the event are being made by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in coordination with other government agencies.

ABOUT INTERPOL:

- Full Name: International Criminal Police Organization
- Interpol is the radio-telegraph code for the organization.

- It is an international police organization founded in 1923 and comprises of 195 member countries.
- It does not work under the UN but enjoys the Permanent observer status at the UN since 1996.
- Headquarter: Lyon, France and comprises of representatives from all its member countries.
- The General Assembly is Interpol's supreme governing body

FUNCTIONS:

- It is not a police force in the traditional sense but more of an information sharing network, providing a way for national police forces to cooperate effectively and tackle international crime.
- Sharing of information is done by colour-coded 'notices' in four languages – English, Spanish, French, and Arabic.
- The organization operates centralized criminal databases that contain fingerprint records, DNA samples and stolen documents.

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES:

- **Red Notice:** It is a request to locate and provisionally arrest an individual pending extradition. It is issued by the General Secretariat at the request of a member country or an international tribunal based on a valid national arrest warrant. However, the arrest of the fugitive is based on the rule of the member nation where he or she is located.
- **Yellow Notice:** A Yellow Notice is issued to help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves. This is highly useful in cases of human trafficking or in case of missing persons due to calamities.
- **Blue Notice:** Issued to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime. This does not guarantee extradition or arrest of the person.
- **Black Notice:** It is a request to seek information on unidentified bodies in member nations.
- **Green Notice:** A Green Notice is issued to provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.
- **Orange Notice:** Issued to provide warnings about warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.
- **Purple Notice:** It serves as a request to seek or provide information on the modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals. Last year the Interpol issued such notices to highlight human trafficking and modern day slavery prevalent in the fisheries sector.
- **INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice:** It is issued for individuals and entities that are subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. Its principal function is to alert national law enforcement authorities that sanctions such as assets freeze, arms embargo, and travel ban apply to designated individuals and entities.

INDIA AND INTERPOL

- India has been a member since 1956.
- The National Central Bureau (NCB) is the designated contact point for the Interpol in India.
- While CBI is the designated nodal body for the Interpol, NCB serves as the national platform for cooperation between domestic law enforcement units and the international police community.
- India has collaborated with the Interpol in tackling a myriad of organized crimes such as poaching, wildlife trafficking, spurious drugs, fake medicine rackets etc