

19– 06 – 2022

News: FATF Grey List

- Recently, Pakistan got a reprieve from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as FATF announced that the country could be removed from the grey list. FATF is expected to decide whether to take Pakistan off the ‘grey’ list at the end of its plenary session in Berlin in October.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of G-7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.**
- In 2012, it added efforts to **counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.**
- Objectives of FATF are **“Set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of international financing system”.**

- The FATF does not address all the issues related to the low tax jurisdiction or tax competition. The FATF mandate focuses only on the fight against laundering of the proceeds of crimes and the financing of terrorism.
- The secretariat of FATF is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- But, OECD and FATF are entirely different organisations, even though most members overlap each other.
- The Rupee denominated Masala bonds can only be issued in a country and subscribed by a resident of such country that is a member of financial action task force and whose securities market regulator is a member of International Organisation of Securities Commission.
- Members include 37 member jurisdictions (including India) and 2 regional organisations European Commission and Gulf Co-operation Council.
- Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism is an Associate member of FATF.
- The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year around February, June and October.
- There are 9 FATF-Style regional bodies to devise systems for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Eurasian Group, Asia/Pacific Group,

Caribbean FATF, MONEYVAL, ESAAMLG, FATF of Latin America, Middle East and African.

- It also assists jurisdictions in implementing financial provisions of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on terrorism.
- Since 2000, FATF has been maintaining the FATF Blacklist (Call for Action) and FATF Greylist (Other mentioned Jurisdictions).
- Only 3 objections are required to stop a proposal of including a country in Blacklist, but require 12 supporting nations to take one out of grey list.
- **Blacklist:** FATF describes “High-Risk jurisdictions subject to Call for Action” as having “significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation”.
- Putting a country on Blacklist means shutting all doors to international finance for that country. As of 2020, North Korea and Iran are listed as Blacklist countries.
- **Grey List:** A country is put on the grey list when it fails to curb terrorism financing and money laundering.
- Currently there are 25 countries in the Grey List, including Pakistan.
- The countries in the Grey List are Albania, Barbados, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Jordan, Haiti, Malta, Mali, Mauritius,

Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Group of 7 (G 7)

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven largest IMF advanced economies in the world.
- The major purpose of the G-7 is to **discuss and deliberate on international economic issues**. It sometimes acts in concert to help resolve other global problems, with a special focus on economic issues.
- Members: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US**. Japan is the **only Asian country** to be the member of the grouping.
- Seven countries involved represent **58%** of the global net wealth (\$317 trillion) and more than **46%** of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than **32%** of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity. The European Union is an invitee to G7.
- **Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis** by the group's members. The **host country not only holds the G7 presidency but also sets the agenda for the year**.

- **Invitations to Global leaders are sent by host nation** to participate in summit as special invitees. Countries like China, India, Mexico, and Brazil have attended summit at various occasions.
- The leaders of important international organizations like European Union, IMF, World Bank and the United Nations are also invited.
- **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** are established by G7 nations.

News: World Day to Combat Desertification and Droughts

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- **UN General Assembly** celebrates **17th June** of every year as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- Purpose of the celebration of this day is to **raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought highlighting the methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.**
- Theme for the year 2021 was "**Restoration, Land, and Recovery. We build back better with healthy land**" and same for the year 2022 is "**Rising up from drought together**".

- Implementing Agency of the program is **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**.

News: World Crocodile Day

- **World Crocodile Day is celebrated on 17th June**. The day is a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.

Crocodile Species in India

Salt Water Crocodile

- Salt water crocodile is also known as **estuarine crocodile, Indo-Pacific crocodile, marine crocodile, sea crocodile or saltie**.
- It is the **largest of the 23 species of 'extant' or living crocodylians**. This includes 'true crocodiles', alligators and caimans.
- It prefers **Saltwater/ Brackish water from India's east coast across Southeast Asia and the Sundaic region to northern Australia and Micronesia**.
- The 'saltie' is today found in **three locations in India — the Sunderbans, Bhitarkanika National Park and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- It is also found in **Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Solomon Islands**.

- During antiquity the species' range extended from the Seychelles and Kerala, India in the west through to southeastern China, Palau and Vanuatu in the east.
- Recent reports show that Saltie might be **extinct in Vietnam and Southern China**.
- It **can also tolerate saltwater in the oceans and can travel long distances** over the open ocean, making use of tidal currents.
- IUCN status: **Least Concern (LC)**.

Mugger Crocodile

- Mugger crocodiles are also called **marsh crocodile** or **broad-snouted crocodile**.
- It is **extinct in Myanmar and Bhutan, and possibly extinct in Bangladesh**.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- CITES Status: Appendix I
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule I
- **Vadodara is the only city in India, where crocodiles live in their natural habitat amidst human population**.
- Mugger crocodiles are included in the **Indian Crocodile Conservation Project** as a target species along with **Saltwater Crocodiles and Gharials**.

- Recently, **Muggers from Sardar Sarovar dam** were relocated to facilitate a **seaplane service at the Statue of Unity**.

Gharial

- Gharial is found in the **fresh waters of northern part of India** mainly in Chambal and Ghaghara rivers.
- Gharials, sometimes called gavials, are a **type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts which resembles a pot** (ghara in Hindi).
- Gharial **prefers deep fast flowing rivers**, however adult gharial have also been **observed in still water branches** (jheel) of rivers and in comparatively velocity-free aquatic environments of deep holes (kunds) at river bends and confluences.
- Population of Gharials **indicates the presence of clean river water**.
- Unlike other crocodiles, the **gharials feed on warm-blooded species** and even the largest gharial adults feed exclusively on fish, which they catch between the pointed interlocking teeth of their long jaws.
- It is also the **most aquatic of all crocodilians**, for it never moves far from the water.
- Females lay their eggs in steep, sandy river-banks.

- Historically, gharial were found in the river system of **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and southern part of Bhutan and Nepal**. Today they survive only in **the waters of India and Nepal**.
- The surviving population can be found within the **tributaries of the Ganges river** system: Girwa (Uttar Pradesh), Son (Madhya Pradesh), Ramganga (Uttarakhand), Gandak (Bihar), Chambal (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) and **Mahanadi** (Orissa).
- The **Rapti – Naryani River in Nepal** also hosts the Gharials.
- IUCN Status of Gharials is **Critically Endangered**.
- It is also enlisted in **Schedule I of Wildlife Protection act and Appendix I of CITES Convention**.
- A list of animals including Gharials are included in the '**list of priority species to be secured**' under the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- Gharials are **included in the Indian Crocodile Conservation Project** as a target species along with **Saltwater and Mugger Crocodiles**.
- In comparison to Crocodiles, **Gharials are very shy and unharmed species**.
- Gharial **eggs need incubation for 70 days**, and the hatchlings stay with their mothers for several weeks or even months.
- With the introduction of gharials in 1975, **Odisha had become the only state to have all the three species of the reptile —freshwater gharials, muggers and**

saltwater crocodiles. The first hatching of Gharial eggs was seen after 45 years from introduction in 2021.

- Breeding Centres of **Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, National Chambal Sanctuary (Gharial Eco Park, Madhya Pradesh)** are constituted to conserve the Gharials.

Threats faced by Gharials

- Gharials prefer sandbanks as suitable habitats. **Wild animals as well as humans often destroy their eggs.**
- Increased **river pollution, dam construction, massive-scale fishing operations and floods.**
- **Illegal sand mining and poaching.**