



## Prelim Bits 22-10-2022 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Pakistan Off the FATF Grey List

*Pakistan was taken off from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) "Grey list" after four years.*

- After delisting Pakistan from the FATF grey list, 23 countries remain under this watch list.
- The list includes Philippines, Syria, Yemen, UAE, Cambodia, and South Sudan, and the tax havens of Barbados, Cayman Islands, and Panama.
- **Consequences of FATF grey list**
  1. Economic sanctions from IMF, World Bank, ADB
  2. Problem in getting loans from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other countries
  3. Reduction in International trade
  4. International boycott

### Financial Action Task Force

- Financial Action Task Force (FATF), commonly referred to as the world's terrorism financing watchdog, is an inter-governmental decision-making body.
- It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- Its Secretariat is located in Paris.
- It set standards and promotes effective implementation of:
  1. Legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering.
  2. Identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.
- In 2010, India became the 34<sup>th</sup> member country of FATF.
- FATF maintains two types of lists.
- **Black List** - Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist.
- These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- **Grey List** - Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
- This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

### References

1. [Business Standard | What is FATF?](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Pakistan off the FATF Grey List](#)

## Migration of Great Indian Bustard

*The recent sightings of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Pakistan's Cholistan desert have raised speculation that the birds are migrating from India's Desert National Park (DNP).*

### Great Indian Bustards

- Great Indian Bustards (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is the State bird of Rajasthan.
- Historically distributed throughout Western India, as well as parts of Pakistan, its population is presently confined to mostly Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Its population of about 150 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population.
- Bustards generally favour flat open landscapes with minimal visual obstruction and disturbance, therefore adapt well in grasslands.
- Hunting, intensive agricultural practices, laying of power lines and industrialisation pose some serious threats to the species' survival.
- The captive breeding of GIBs was taken up in the Desert National Park (DNP) through a project executed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in 2019.
- GIB is listed in the
  1. Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
  2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
  3. Appendix I of CITES
  4. Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List
  5. The National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)

### Desert National Park

- Desert National Park (DNP) is located within the great Thar Desert
- It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest national park in India.
- It is a sandy wonderland spread across the towns of Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan.
- The park is a haven for migratory and desert's resident birds.

### References

1. [Times of India | A unique National Park](#)
2. [WWF | Great Indian Bustard](#)
3. [The Hindu | GIB's possible migration to Pakistan](#)

## Viral spillover risk increases with Climate Change

*According to a new research, climate change may increase the risk of "viral spillover" in some regions that could cause new pandemics over the next few years.*

- Spillover event is the term used to describe when a virus has overcome the many naturally occurring barriers necessary to "spill over" from one species to another.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, SARS and MERS outbreaks and H1N1 are all examples

spurred by spillover events, generally from animals to humans.

- **Study Highlights** - As temperature increases, the melting of glaciers increases as well.
- Due to this, there is a greater possibility for previously ice-trapped viruses and bacteria to come in contact with new environments and to find new hosts.
- It increases the risk of viral spillover events in high Arctic lakes.
- The High Arctic zone (regions of Canada within the Arctic Circle such as the Northern islands) could become fertile ground for emerging pandemics.

## References

1. [The Indian Express | Viral Spill Over Risks](#)
2. [Aljazeera | Heating climate increases viral spill over](#)
3. [Deutsche Welle| Could melting glaciers cause future pandemics?](#)

## Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

*An international framework is now being used to evaluate the financial and social cost of local disasters in eight states in India.*

- Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is a joint product of the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Group (UNDP).
- It is a mechanism for joint assessment and recovery planning following a disaster.
- Through this, the parties involved seek to assess the impact of a disaster and define a strategy for recovery.
- It pulls together information on the socio-economic aspects of damages and highlights recovery priorities from a human recovery perspective.
- The PDNA is envisaged as a country owned and led process, supported by international agencies and other stakeholders.
- PDNA was first adopted in India during the Kerala floods of 2018.

## Disaster Recovery Framework

- In addition to the PDNA, the EU, UNDG and WB have supported the development of a Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF).
- It builds upon the information generated through the PDNA and it serves as a means for prioritizing, sequencing, planning and implementing recovery.

## References

1. [Down to Earth | How to assess disasters?](#)
2. [UNDP | PDNA Brouchure](#)

## G20 Religion Forum

*In a first-of-its-kind event, Indonesia will host a global summit of religious leaders modelled on the G20 forum.*

- It was called the 'G20 Religion Forum', or R-20.
- The first summit is scheduled on November 2 and 3, 2022, in Bali, Indonesia.

- It will be a parallel event to the annual G20 summit that Indonesia will host for 2022.
- It will be organised and hosted by Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), one of Indonesia's most influential Islamic think tanks.
- The R20 aims to facilitate harmonious relations between religious groups and to open new hopes for reconciliation, brotherhood and peace.
- The R20 this year will focus on four major topics
  1. Historical grievances, truth-telling, reconciliation and forgiveness;
  2. Identifying and embracing values shared by the world's major religions and civilisations;
  3. Recontextualisation of obsolete and problematic teachings of religion; and
  4. The values we need to develop to ensure peaceful co-existence

## References

1. [The Print | You Know G-20, now there is R-20](#)



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