



Date – 2 November 2022

Attack of Dirty Bomb

Moscow to New Delhi and Beijing, about the dirty bomb attack by Ukraine

Syllabus

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance, topics related to the scene and.

Mains: GS paper II: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora

Significance of Prelims: Dirty bomb, the atomic bomb.

Significance of Mains: Ukraine and Russia relationship, India counter step, use of Dirty bomb, a difference between of dirty bomb and the atomic bomb.

Context:

- Russian defence minister convey Moscow's concern about a purported Ukrainian plan to use a "dirty Bomb" to Mr Sergei Shoigu, the Defence Minister of China and Rajnath Singh, the Defence minister of India.

What does Russia allege?

- Moscow sent a letter detailing its allegations about Kyiv to the United Nations late on Monday, and diplomats said Russia planned to raise the issue at a closed meeting with the Security Council on Tuesday(22nd October).
- Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, the head of Russian nuclear, biological and chemical protection troops, stated before the media briefing Ukraine's aim for such an attack would be to blame Russia.

- “The aim of the provocation would be to accuse Russia of using a weapon of mass destruction in the Ukrainian military theatre and by that means to launch a powerful anti-Russian campaign in the world, aimed at undermining trust in Moscow.”

What is the response of Ukraine and the West?

- Kyiv and its Western allies say Moscow’s allegation that Ukraine would intentionally make some of its own territory uninhabitable is absurd, especially at a time when Ukrainian forces are recapturing territory on the battlefield.
- In a joint statement, the United States, Britain, and France called the Russian allegations “transparently false” and warned Moscow against using them as a “pretext” for escalation.
- The Kremlin warned the West on Tuesday(22nd October)it was dangerous to dismiss Moscow’s position.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky suggested Moscow might be using the allegations as cover for plans for a similar attack of its own:
- “If Russia calls and says that Ukraine is allegedly preparing something, it means one thing: Russia has already prepared all this.”

About Dirty Bomb

- It is a dispersion device that contains radioactive material, mostly uranium, but more expectedly low-grade material like caesium -137 or other radioactive materials which are commonly used.
- It is used in a nuclear bomb, it does not require to contain highly refined radioactive material. As an alternative, it can use radioactive material from hospitals, nuclear power stations or laboratories.
- Because of this reason, it becomes cheaper as well as it is easier to put it together in comparison to other nuclear weapons.
- For: they are so small they can be carried in the back of a vehicle

What are the concerns:

- As most of the people in the targeted area will have sufficient time to escape prior to the lethal doses of radiation, the instantaneous health impact is expected to be limited.
- As humans cannot see, smell, feel or taste radiation, it could be dangerous to health if it is inhaled because the radioactive dust and smoke can diffuse in the air and spread farther away.
- Evacuation from an urban area or abandoning a whole city can massively damage the economy.

Why are dirty bombs used?

- A dirty bomb has not been used to date.
- These bombs might be used to create mass panic as a weapon of terror
- The contamination and decontamination of victims, along with this decontamination of the effects on the area can take a long time and expense too.

- Restoring the areas partly unusable and causing economic damage

How dirty bomb is different from the atomic bombs used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

They are totally different

Atomic bomb	Dirty bomb
The atomic explosions that occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki were caused by nuclear weapons	A dirty bomb is a conventional explosive device that has been adapted to spread radioactive material and contaminate only a small area.
involves the splitting of atoms and a huge release of energy that produces the atomic mushroom cloud.	the material will disperse as a result of the explosion, areas near the blast will be contaminated.
When the dynamite or other explosives are set off, the blast carries radioactive material into the surrounding area.	The level of contamination will depend on how much radioactive material was in the bomb, as well as the weather conditions at the time of the blast.

What are the Indian government's steps

- New Delhi issued an advisory on 19th October,
- Warning its citizen against travelling to Ukraine
- and asking students who returned to the country to leave in view of the “deteriorating security situation”.

Sources

The Indian Express

NDTV

Further, read:

Russia -Ukraine War

Geopolitical relations between Russia and Ukraine

Geographical locations.

FATF's grey list

Pakistan's removal from the FATF grey list signifies.

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance, international bodies. about FATF

Mains: GS paper II: Important International institutions and function, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate

Significance of Prelims; FATF, grey list and black list, FATF Recommendations

Significance of Mains: objectives of FATF, enlisting of the grey list and black list, the geopolitics of Pakistan, India's reaction.

Context:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has recently announced that they will remove Pakistan from its "Grey List".
- This announcement of FATF was unexpected and it also raises concerns for India.

What is FATF?

- The FATF stands for Financial Action Task Force was established in 1989,
- It is an intergovernmental body formed in Paris during the G7
- Its Secretariat is situated at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- The purpose of FATF are as follows:

The objectives of the FATF are to

- (a) set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures
- (b) To combat money laundering
- (c) check the finances provided to the Terrorist groups, and
- (d) Other threads related to the integrity of the international financial system.

At present the FATF is made up of 37 members jurisdiction and 2 regional organizations, representing nearly all of the major financial centres across the world

This is the reason why FATF is a "policy-making body", which functions to generate the necessary political will to bring about the national legislative and regulatory reforms in these regions

Two Listing by FATF:

Grey List:

- The countries which are taken into consideration as safe havens for sustaining terror funding and money laundering are listed in the grey list.
- When a country is added to the Grey list it is considered a warning to the country that may enter into the black list in future.

Black List:

- The countries which are involved in terror funding and money laundering activities were enlisted to the blacklist.
- These countries are termed as Non-Cooperative.
- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly adding or deleting entries.

Objectives of FATF

- It pulls out a list of guidelines termed the “FATF Recommendations or FATF standards”
- This FATF recommendation consists of a range of regulatory and enforcement actions that countries are supposed to implement
- More than 200 countries and jurisdictions are devoted to implementing the recommendations of FATF.
- The consensus between the FATF and its associate or regional member like the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) takes the decision against a country.

Implementation of the recommendations of FATF

It monitors the implementations through the periodic evaluation

- Anti-money laundering (AML)
- Combating the financing of terrorism (CFT)
- Proliferation financing system (PF system).

Enlisting the countries into the Grey and Black list

- When the FATF finds the countries have strategic deficiencies in AML/CFT/PF regimes are put under a scheme of increasing monitoring which is also called a ‘Grey listing’
- Once the countries were put on the grey list are supposed to take the needed steps to address their deficiencies on the basis of the “Action plans” pulled out and checked by FATF
- This Grey list functions like a warning to countries
- Countries that have major strategic deficiencies in their AML/CFT/PF regimes are enlisted to “High-Risk Jurisdiction” also known as “Black list” put through a Call for Action.
- The black list has serious economic consequences by increasing heck on the transaction made to the labelled country
- At present, there are 23 countries enlisted on the FATF’s “Grey list” excluding Pakistan, and 3 countries names North Korea, Iran and Myanmar enlisted on the “Black list”

How grey list helped to counter terrorism in Pakistan?

- Till now Pakistan has been put 3 times on the grey list and taken off it. In June 2018, it was put on the list for 3rd time.
- In June 2010, when it was removed from the list after it supposedly “demonstrated progress” in improving its AML/AFT regime.
- The FATF members have stated that the adherence to FATF standards by a country should be judged on the basis of the “effectiveness” of action taken against individuals and entities of concern, rather than pro-forma-based “technical compliance”.
- FATF’s approach was taken against Pakistan which escalated a further threat of being blacklisted. These efforts made Pakistan prosecute, convict, fine and jail, the wanted terrorists.

Geopolitical favours to Pakistan

- The good relations of Pakistan with FATF members like China, Malaysia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia helped Pakistan in moving from the grey list to the black list.
- The decision of Moving Pakistan from the grey list to the black list could have been opposed by them.

How should India react?

- In spite of the fact, that there has been a reduction in terrorist activities across the Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir. But frequent observation of drones carrying weapons payloads and infiltration along the LAC indicates the future danger for India
- Hence, India must be prepared and should continue with accessible opportunities to counter the terrorist attacks

Sources

The Indian Express

Further reading

- What are LOC and LAC?
- India and Pakistan diplomatic relations.
- G7
- Members of FATF

Farhin

Invasive Species

Relevance for Prelims: Agriculture, Environmental Conservation, Tiger Reserves

Relevance for Mains: Conservation of Environment, Afforestation

Context: An invasive species, *Senna spectabilis*, an exotic tree, has taken over between 800 and 1,200 hectares of the buffer zones of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) in the picturesque Nilgiris hill district.

About *Senna Spectabilis*:

- It is an invasive deciduous tree native to tropical areas of America which grows upto 15-20 metres in short period of time.
- The thick foliage of the plant arrests the growth of other indigenous tree and grass species which further creates problem such as food scarcity for wildlife population (Herbivores).
- In IUCN Red List, it is categorised as “Least Concern”.



About Mudumalai Tiger Reserve:

- It is located at the tri-junction area of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- It shares boundary with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary on the west, Bandipur Tiger Reserve on the North forming a large conservation landscape.
- **Mudumalai** Tiger Reserve is one among the 14 tiger reserves that was CA|TS status for efficient management of tigers. CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check whether their management practices lead to tiger conservation.

14 Tiger Reserves which have been accredited are:

- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar,
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala,
- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang Tiger Reserve in Assam,
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh,
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal,
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra,

- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka,
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

Rishabh

