



Current Affairs of the Day

- Terror funding: Saeed gets 10 years in jail
- Willow warbler spotted for the first time

Terror funding: Saeed gets 10 years in jail

GS III: Role of External State and Non-state Actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed were on Thursday sentenced to 10 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in two more terror financing cases.

Highlights:

1. Saeed, an UN-designated terrorist on whom the U.S. has placed a \$10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17 last. He was sentenced to 11 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in February this year in two other terror financing cases.
2. Thursday's sentencing comes weeks after the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog — the Financial Action Task Force — retained Pakistan on its grey list till February 2021 as Islamabad failed to fulfil the agency's six key obligations, including failure to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists — Saeed and Maulana Masood Azhar.

Background:

FATF

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society. As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.



With more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them. The FATF has developed the FATF Recommendations, or FATF Standards, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism. They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes. The FATF also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.

The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity. The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively and holds countries to account that do not comply.

The UNSC 1267 committee

1. It was first set up in 1999 and strengthened after the September 11, 2001 attacks.
2. It is now known as the Daesh and Al Qaida Sanctions Committee.
3. It comprises all permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC.
4. The 1267 list of terrorists is a global list, with a UNSC stamp. It is full of Pakistani nationals and residents.
5. Saeed was designated as a global terrorist under this list last year.

Willow warbler spotted for the first time

Prelims Only

The migratory bird, from northern and temperate Europe, has not been seen in India before.

Highlights:

1. The willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), one of the longest migrating small birds that breed throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic, has been sighted for the first time in the country in Thiruvananthapuram.





2. The bird weighs around 10 g and it has long wing feathers that help it fly long distances. Usually seen in European and the Palearctic regions, the birds migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.
3. Warblers are generally difficult to identify owing to the small size and change in plumage twice a year. They are also the most difficult groups of birds to identify in the field for their striking resemblance to each other.