

In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.

In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Composition:

The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe. It also has observers and associate members.

What is a blacklist and grey list?

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.

Considered in the grey list may face:

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.

INSTALINKS:

PRELIMS LINK:

1. G7 vs G8 vs G20.
2. Black vs Grey list.
3. Are FATF's decisions binding on member countries?
4. Who heads the FATF?
5. Where is its secretariat?

MAINS LINK:

What is the mandate and objectives of the Financial Action Task Force? Discuss.

SECTION 33(7) OF THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ACT:

Context:

Recently, the Election Commission of India asked the Union Law Ministry to **consider limiting the seats from**

which a candidate can contest to just one.

Who has the power in this regard?

Constitution allows the Parliament to make provisions in all matters relating to elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.

In accordance, the Parliament has enacted the following laws:

1. Representation of the People Act 1950.
2. Representation of the People Act 1951.
3. Delimitation Commission Act of 1952.

Section 33(7) of RPA 1951:

Section 33(7) of the Representation of People's Act permits a candidate to contest any election (Parliamentary, State Assembly, Biennial Council, or bye-elections) from up to two constituencies.

1. The provision was introduced in 1996 prior to which there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.
2. **Section 70** bars candidates from representing two constituencies in the Lok Sabha/state.

Why candidates should be barred from contesting from more than one seat?

- One person, one vote & one candidate, one constituency is the dictum of democracy. However, as per the law, as it stands today, a person can contest the election for the same office from two constituencies simultaneously.
- When a candidate contests from two seats, it is imperative that he has to vacate one of the two seats if he wins both. This, apart from the consequent unavoidable financial burden on the public exchequer, government manpower and other resources for holding bye-election is also an injustice to the voters of the constituency which the candidate is quitting from.

Alternative suggested by the Election commission:

The ECI has alternatively suggested that **if existing provisions are retained then the candidate contesting from two seats should bear the cost of the bye-election to the seat that the contestant decides to vacate in the event of his/her winning both seats.** The amount in such an event could be Rs 5 lakh for assembly election and Rs 10 lakh for parliament election.

SC's views:

The Supreme Court had in December 2017 issued notices seeking replies from the Election Commission and

