

Headlines

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Caste Census and Social Justice - Page No.6 , GS 2
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**Be so good they
can't ignore you.**

— Steve Martin

India to apprise FATF of latest evidence on terror infrastructure in Pakistan

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Pahalgam killings have necessitated sharing of information about existing terror bases in Pak. with the watchdog, a govt. official says; country was removed from the FATF Grey List in 2022

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Indian authorities are planning to apprise the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of the latest evidence related to the terror bases in Pakistan that were destroyed by the defence forces during the precision attacks as part of Operation Sindoor, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

“Although the decision making in the FATF is based on technical compliance of its anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) recommendations, which is evaluated through the measures taken by the country concerned and on-ground verification, the gruesome killings in Pahalgam have necessitated the sharing of information about the existing terror infrastructure in Pakistan with the international watchdog,” said a government official.

In the coming days, the official said, India is expected to highlight, at all



India on May 7 destroyed terror facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of Operation Sindoor. AP

the international forums, the latest evidence about the patronage being given by the Pakistani State machinery to banned terrorist organisations.

The FATF Plenary had removed Pakistan from the Grey List in October 2022, but with the reminder that Pakistan will continue to work with the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to further improve its AML/CFT system.

The last time the FATF had placed Pakistan on its Grey List was in June 2018. It found several strategic deficiencies with respect to

the AML and CFT recommendations. Pakistan was told to implement the action plan, which included demonstration of effective action against United Nations-designated terror outfits, individuals and their associates in terms of financial sanctions, asset seizures, investigation, prosecution, and convictions.

Retained again

However, owing to its failure to implement all the action points fully, Pakistan was again retained on

Greylisting by the watchdog is said to limit a country's access to loans from international bodies

the Grey List on October 21, 2021. The FATF Plenary noted that it had completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 plan. The one remaining issue was about continuing to demonstrate that the terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeted senior functionaries and commanders of UN-designated terror outfits.

Earlier, in response to the additional deficiencies flagged in Pakistan's 2019 APG Mutual Evaluation Report in June 2021, it had given further commitment to address them.

Pakistan was put on the Grey List for the first time in 2008, then removed in 2009, and again it was brought under increased monitoring from 2012 to 2015. Greylisting by the FATF is said to limit a country's access to international loans.

Content.

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- **The FATF Plenary had removed Pakistan from the Grey List in October 2022, but with the reminder that Pakistan will continue to work with the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to further improve its AML/CFT system.**

Fact

- **The last time the FATF had placed Pakistan on its Grey List was in June 2018.**
- **However, owing to its failure to implement all the action points fully, Pakistan was again retained on the Grey List on October 21, 2021.**
- **Pakistan was put on the Grey List for the first time in 2008, then removed in 2009, and again it was brought under increased monitoring from 2012 to 2015.**
- **Greylisting by the FATF is said to limit a country's access to international loans.**

- **The FATF is an inter-governmental body that sets international standards seeking to prevent international financial crimes that aid terrorism.**
- **The FATF was established in July 1989 by a G-7 Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.**
- **After the 9/11 attacks, the FATF in October 2001 expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.**
- **The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and two regional organizations (European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council), representing most major financial centers in all parts of the globe.**
- **India has been a member of the FATF since 2010.**
- **Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.**

With reference to the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, consider the following statements:

- 1.FATF is a legally binding treaty organization under the United Nations.
- 2.Countries placed on the "Grey List" face sanctions and trade restrictions similar to those on the "Black List".
- 3.FATF assesses countries primarily on measures related to anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** FATF is not a treaty-based organization and does not have legal enforcement powers. It is an inter-governmental body established by the G7 in 1989.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Being on the **Grey List** does not lead to sanctions but puts a country under increased monitoring. The **Black List** implies stricter countermeasures and potential economic sanctions.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** FATF's main objective is to develop policies to combat **money laundering** and **terrorist financing**.



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PYQ

Constitution is supreme, not judiciary or executive, says Chief Justice B.R. Gavai

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The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Sunday said it was the Constitution that was supreme and not the judiciary or the executive. The Constitution's pillars must work together, he added.

He said this at a felicitation programme organised by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in Mumbai.

The CJI expressed his displeasure at the absence of the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, the Director-General of Police, and the Mumbai Police Commissioner from the event.

"Judiciary, legislature, and executive are the three pillars of democracy and they are equal. Every organ of the Constitution must reciprocate and show respect to other institutions. When a person from Maharashtra becomes the Chief Justice of India and visits Maharashtra for the



Chief Justice B.R. Gavai

first time, if the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, the Director-General of Police or the Mumbai Police Commissioner do not feel it appropriate to be present, then they need to reflect on that. Protocols are not something new, it is a question of the respect one constitutional body gives to another," the Chief Justice said in his speech.

"It is a question of respect by the other organs of the institution to the judiciary. When the head of a constitutional institution visits the State for the first time, the way they are

treated should be reconsidered. Had it been any one of us in such a situation (meaning if judges broke the protocol), discussions about Article 142 would have taken place. These may seem like small things, but the public must be made aware of them," he said.

Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to pass "any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it" within the country.

After the release of a book chronicling 50 remarkable judgments pronounced by him, Chief Justice Gavai headed to Babasaheb Ambedkar's memorial, Chaitya Bhoomi, where Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sujata Sainik, DGP Rashmi Shukla, and Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti were present after learning about the CJI's remarks.

Content.

- **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Sunday said it was the Constitution that was supreme and not the judiciary or the executive. The Constitution's pillars must work together, he added.**
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- **The CJI expressed his displeasure at the absence of the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, the Director-General of Police, and the Mumbai Police Commissioner from the event.**
- **“Judiciary, legislature, and executive are the three pillars of democracy and they are equal. Every organ of the Constitution must reciprocate and show respect to other institutions.**

Fact

- **Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to pass “any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it” within the country.**
- **Article 50 of the Constitution directs the state to separate the judiciary from the executive in public services. This principle aims to safeguard judicial independence and impartiality, preventing undue influence from the executive branch.**

Mains Question :PYQ

Do you think that constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of ‘checks and balance’? Explain.

**“Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy.”
Comment.**

Fact

With reference to the doctrine of **Separation of Powers** in the Indian context, consider the following statements:

- 1.The Constitution of India explicitly mentions the phrase “separation of powers” under Article 50.
- 2.Judicial review in India exemplifies the system of checks and balances inherent in the doctrine.
- 3.The Indian Constitution strictly adheres to the classical doctrine of separation of powers as proposed by Montesquieu.

How many of the above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Fact

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 50 (Directive Principles) states that the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State — an indirect reference to separation of powers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Judicial review acts as a **check** on the legislature and executive, reflecting **checks and balances**, a key element of separation of powers.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India does **not strictly follow** the classical doctrine. Instead, it follows a **functional overlap** with **mutual checks** among the three organs—legislature, executive, and judiciary.

Tough timing

ISRO needs more resources to support
India's military needs

In contemporary spaceflight, cost, reliability and time form a tense triangle. Whether more money can ensure more reliability is tricky to answer, more so following the failure of ISRO's PSLV-C61 mission to launch the EOS-09 earth-observation satellite into a sun-synchronous polar orbit. EOS-09 was designed to produce high-quality radar images for civilian applications such as land-use mapping and hydrology studies and for defence surveillance, even if inclement weather prevailed over the areas of interest thanks to a synthetic aperture radar and a C-band data-link. Against the backdrop of tensions with Pakistan, such all-weather data would also have informed tactical decisions. The Department of Space had also invited several Members of Parliament to the launch event, which would have been unusual for a strictly civilian earth-observation satellite. ISRO chairman V. Narayanan later said that his team noted a glitch in the vehicle's third stage minutes after liftoff that prevented the satellite from reaching its intended altitude. While the cause is yet to be ascertained, the failure is a reminder that a "textbook" launch of a rocket even as well-understood as the PSLV is not a given.

India is just embarking on its ambitious Space-Based Surveillance-3 programme to launch 52 surveillance satellites; 31 are to be built in the private sector, which still needs ISRO's guidance. Focus on the programme also comes against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, which revealed at least one gap in the country's space-based military surveillance capabilities when it depended on a foreign commercial operator for more frequent data. Small margins of error in a rocket components' operations separate success from failure, and thus cost from reliability. Time, however, is a separate matter: the pressing need for surveillance capabilities, if not improving the understanding of climate change and disaster risk over India, means that developers lack the luxury of time while also coming under greater pressure to deliver across both civilian and military domains. The PSLV-C61 failure follows the failure in January to place the NVS-02 navigation satellite into its designated orbit. Between an increasingly crowded launch manifest, research and development, data acquisition and processing pipelines, limited access to manufacturing capacity, and the human spaceflight programme, it will not be remiss to increase the resources available to ISRO if only to ensure its ability to meet India's military needs while carrying on with other enterprises, all of which are becoming time-sensitive in a highly competitive global industry.

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A caste census is not a silver bullet for social justice

Page No. 6, GS 2

Census data have long been the backbone of public policymaking in India, offering critical insights into sectors such as health, education, employment and housing. In this context, the Narendra Modi government's recent announcement to include caste enumeration in the upcoming national Census has drawn considerable attention. For many, it represents a long-overdue move toward collecting substantive statistical data that are necessary to better address the needs of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). However, the disproportionate emphasis placed on the caste census raises concerns about the intent and the commitment of the ruling dispensation. It suggests that the formulation of welfare policies for marginalised communities has been unjustifiably deferred under the pretext of awaiting more precise data.

The merit of caste census

Proponents of a caste census argue that it will provide empirical grounding to assess the socio-economic status of various caste groups, particularly the OBCs. They believe that this data will enable more targeted affirmative action and help the state legitimise welfare programmes in the eyes of the judiciary, which has sometimes questioned the reliability of surveys and commission reports. Additionally, disaggregated data within the OBC category could help identify intra-group socio-economic inequalities, thereby informing new policies for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) within the OBCs.

While these arguments are not without merit, they risk overstating what a caste census can achieve on its own. Caste enumeration should certainly be a regular institutional practice in a diverse society such as India. But to elevate the Census data as a precondition for social and economic justice or as the central document for policymaking is a flawed and potentially dangerous misreading of its purpose.

The Registrar General of India's role is to collect and present neutral, factual data and not



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To elevate Census data as a precondition for social and economic justice or as the pivot for policymaking is a flawed and dangerous misreading of its purpose

to direct the government to design social welfare policies. Elevating the Census into a tool for political reform burdens the institution beyond its mandate and risks politicising its work. It is vital to maintain the objectivity of Census operations, especially in a polarised political environment. Importantly, it is the responsibility of the ruling political elites to have public policies for the welfare of vulnerable social groups, based on the available sources of information and empirical evidence.

Empirical evidence

More crucially, policies for social justice have historically not waited for perfect data. Landmark initiatives such as reservations, land reforms, and the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations were driven not by statistical revelations but by political struggle, mass mobilisation, and the moral commitment of the ruling political class. Public policy in India is often shaped more by electoral strategies, ideological inclinations, and public pressure than by spreadsheets or survey graphs. For example, the Modi government's decision to implement the reservation policy for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) was not based on any substantive statistical data or commission report. Instead it only shows that the ruling dispensation has an authoritative power to execute such policy.

Moreover, extensive data about caste-based inequality already exists. Since Independence, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been part of the decennial Census. But Census and complementary national surveys (such as the National Sample Survey Organization/Office, National Family Health Survey) continue to highlight their persistent educational, economic, and social disadvantages. The National Crime Records Bureau has documented a consistent rise in crimes against these communities – from sexual violence to atrocities under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Likewise, the Bihar Caste Survey and the earlier Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) have laid bare the deep economic vulnerabilities and heterogeneity within the OBC category. These reports show that a vast majority of OBCs remain stuck in informal, insecure, low-income employment, with little to no social security or opportunity for mobility.

Despite this abundance of data, the central government has yet to implement bold or transformative policy reforms. For OBCs in particular, there remains a conspicuous policy vacuum at the national level. Importantly, multiple academic researches and reports have demonstrated that in influential sectors of private economy (corporates, the IT industry, and media houses) the representation of SCs/STs and OBCs is marginal. However, no substantial measures have been taken to increase their representation in such institutions of power and privileges. Also, they lack participation in state-run institutions especially in higher education, the judiciary and the top bureaucracy.

Social justice needs robust political will

Available empirical evidence using various surveys, reports and research highlights a fundamental truth – that data does not necessarily drive public policy. Instead, it is the intent of the governing class and people's democratic pressure that crafts public policy. A caste census may help sharpen the diagnosis, but it cannot administer the cure. Data is only the map; it cannot chart the journey by itself. If India is to move toward a more just and inclusive future, the focus must remain on the moral and political imagination of its ruling class. Without political will, empirical evidence remains inert. The real test of the current national government lies not in collecting information on caste-based socio-economic stratification, but in executing effective policy measures, with courage and commitment, for the welfare of the worst-off social groups.

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- **Proponents of a caste census argue that it will provide empirical grounding to assess the socio-economic status of various caste groups, particularly the OBCs.**

Fact

- They believe that this data will enable more targeted affirmative action and help the state legitimise welfare programmes in the eyes of the judiciary, which has sometimes questioned the reliability of surveys and commission reports.
- Additionally, disaggregated data within the OBC category could help identify intra-group socio-economic inequalities, thereby informing new policies for the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) within the OBCs.
- The Registrar General of India's role is to collect and present neutral, factual data and not to direct the government to design social welfare policies.
- Elevating the Census into a tool for political reform burdens the institution beyond its mandate and risks politicising its work. It is vital to maintain the objectivity of Census operations, especially in a polarised political environment.

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